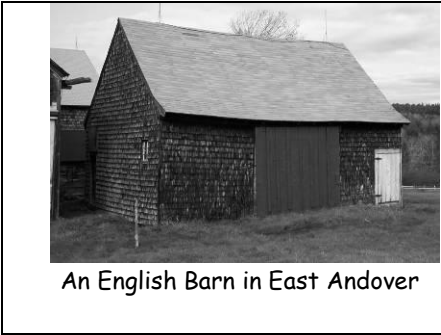


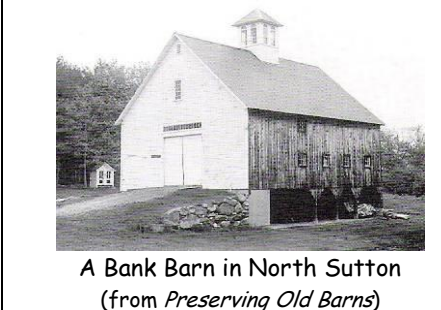
Common Barn Types in New Hampshire



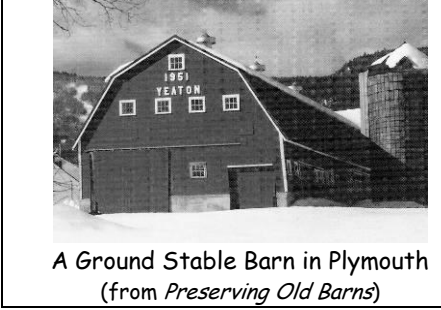
English Barns (1750's to late 1800's) This type of barn, built by early farmers, was based on English architectural traditions. Generally, English barns are characterized by their modest size (30' x40' was common), simple gable roof, hand-hewn framing, main entrance with a rolling or hinged door centered on the eaves' side, clapboard or shingle siding, few windows, and absence of a basement level. Interior space was divided into three bays - a center drive bay with threshing floor, animal stables along one side and storage area on the other. English Barns were enlarged by adding lean-to sheds along the back or sides, and/or connecting another English barn to a gable end.



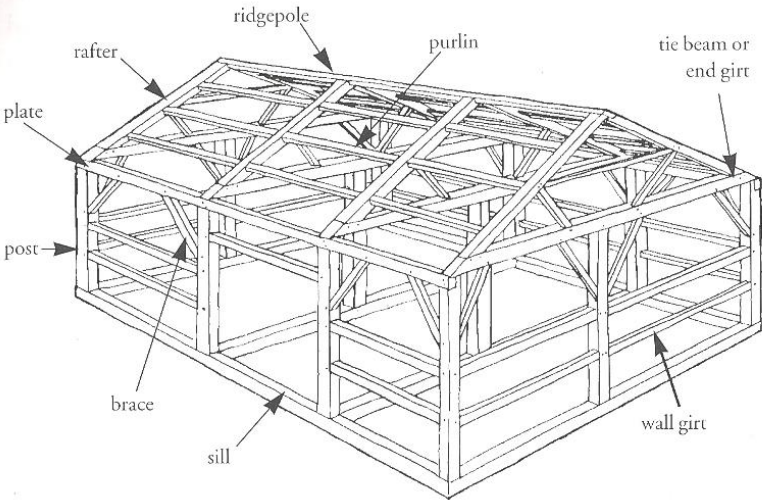
Gable-Front or Yankee Barns (beginning ca. 1820s) In these barns, the main entrance is on the gable end and the drive bay parallels the ridgeline. Yankee barns usually have a larger footprint than English barns, and are characterized by sawn timbers (circular or water-powered up-and-down), large doors on either end, roofs at half-pitch (45 degrees), and stables along an eaves' wall. They are sometimes banked with a basement level, and were often expanded by adding additional bays to the rear gable end. Rooftop cupolas and added windows help with light and air flow. Metal roofs became standard in the late 19th century.



Bank Barns (beginning ca. 1850s) Farms accommodated larger amounts of livestock by building barns into a natural hillside or a created embankment, giving the barn a cellar. Manure could easily be dropped down from the main floor into the cellar, then removed from the lower level for spring fertilizing. Some animals, such as pigs, could also be stabled in the cellar level. Ramps or high-drives provided access to the main and sometimes the upper levels of the barn. In later years, cupolas and other ventilation systems were added to increase air flow.



Ground Stable Barns (beginning ca. 1910s) These were typically built in areas where dairy farming continued into the 20th century. They are characterized by low, ground-level first stories and gambrel roofs, with easily cleaned concrete floors that ultimately became a public health requirement. Built with standard cuts of lumber, they were increasingly mechanized by electric-powered gutter cleaners, feed carts, silo unloaders, and conveyors. The gambrel roof allowed for a large hayloft and could be erected with pre-fabricated trusses.



We hope you find this information useful in helping to maintain and preserve your historic barn. And don't forget, the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance is here to help! Email barns@nhpreservation.org or call 603-224-2281 with questions.

Drawing at left from Thomas Durant Visser's *Field Guide to New England Barns and Farm Buildings* (University Press of New England, 1997).

