

VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOLHOUSE

The Village primary schoolhouse was built in 1850 and originally located at the corner of South Main Street and Wallace Street. In 1908 when the town built the “new” Village School (known as school #1) the Primary Schoolhouse became vacant and was moved to its present location at 22 South Main Street.

At this time, the one room building became the home of the Newton Library. There is some confusion as to the correct name of the library at that time. Some written accounts refer to it as the “Newtown Social Library”, some accounts as the “Newton Free Public Library”. In any event, the building, which now had also become known as the “Marion Hatch” building, served as the home of the library until 1978. That year the “New” Village School became vacant and the library was relocated to that building at 16 South Main Street.

The Primary School building remained vacant until 1992 when it became the property of, and the home of, the Newton Historical Society. The society used the building as both its headquarters and a storage facility for some of the many historical artifacts, photos and documents in its possession. However, maintenance of the building had been minimal over the years and it eventually became unsafe for occupancy. In late 2007 this became obvious when two society members, who shall remain nameless, were standing together and the floor collapsed beneath them. At this time the building was closed and used only for storage. Monthly society meetings were moved to the Newton Branch office of the Merrimac Savings Bank.

In 2009 the officers and members of the society realized that they had a decision to make. Would they renovate the building or close it completely. It was quickly determined that the cost of the level of renovation required, was beyond the financial and mechanical capabilities of the society.

It was at this time that three Newton residents / contractors came forward and offered to donate their labor, effort and expertise to help renovate the building. Rob Hayes, Nick Giorgi and John Neveux unselfishly donated many hours to the renovation project. These three gentlemen, along with many society members and resident volunteers, deserve a great deal of credit and appreciation for their efforts. Without their efforts you would not be enjoying the offerings of this museum in which you are standing today.

NEWTON, NH HISTORICAL SOCIETY JULY 31, 2011

