



Epsom Town House, Dover Road, Epsom, NH

In 1845 the Congregational Society elected to build a new meetinghouse and no longer had interest in the old meetinghouse on Center Hill. The old meetinghouse had been used for town functions, and held early religious meetings for both the Congregationalists and early Baptists. The support and upkeep of the old meetinghouse was dependent upon monies from the early churches, and with their departure, the old meetinghouse was sold, the town receiving \$1.80 for its share of the sale. The town voted to erect a new town house, and bought land on the turnpike from Robert Knox for \$25.15. The printed town report for the period shows that J.A. Knowles was paid \$654.00 for building the town house; H.F. Sanborn for 158 feet of stone for the same; and Seth Eastman \$2.45 for insurance. The following year A.W. Perkins was paid \$1.75 for taking care of the Town House. The first town meeting was held there in March of 1852. In 1854, for six years, the hall was outfitted with seats purchased by citizens, and used as a school.

Through the years the town house was used for town functions and served for a meeting place for local organizations including the G.A.R., Women's Clubs and served as a rehearsal facility for the local town band. The hall was also available to individuals for use for various other meetings and receptions. A garage was added for housing town vehicles, and was later converted for use of local law enforcement and town offices. The facility became too small for town functions and was basically abandoned until restored in 2004. Photo circa 1924.

CHRONOLOGY of owners (not necessarily resident):

1765, Samuel Bickford from the Town of Epsom (John McClary, George Wallace and Ephraim Locke), sale of common land Lot No. 3; 1808, John Batchelder from Thomas Bickford, part of the estate of the late Samuel Bickford, included one quarter of an acre which said Batchelder bought of Col. J.H. McClary in March 1806 and took a deed from said Thomas Bickford for the same it being at the south-east corner of the said tract where said Batchelder now lives, containing 10 acres more or less; 1815, Richard Webster from John Batchelder, 14 acres with the buildings thereon; 1817, Alexander Salter from Richard Webster, 27 acres; 1818, Robert Knox from Alexander Salter (R. 217-401); 1850, a portion of the land sold to the town of Epsom for construction of a new town house.

GENEALOGY: Robert Knox was the son of William Knox and Elinor McDaniel, and Robert married an unknown Sarah and had son Harrison W. who lived but to 4 years of age. His wife died and he married second, Mary Dole Cilley, daughter of Daniel Cilley and Hannah Plumer. Robert and Mary Dole had for children: Mary Dole Cilley who married Asa Fowler; Sally C., who died young; Sarah who married Lewis Little; Robert William who removed to California and died unmarried; and Eliza Jane who married Joseph Bristol.

