

Peacham Pathways Trailhead at the Roller Barn

71 Mack's Mountain Road

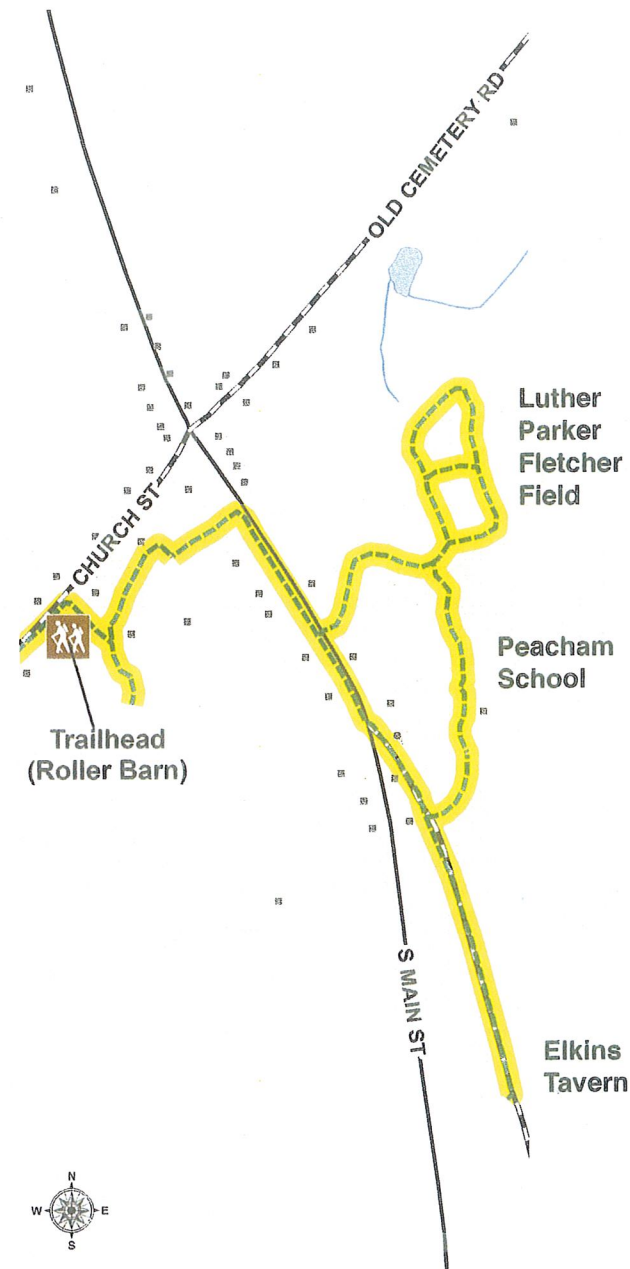


Story of Peacham Corner

Settled in 1776, two decades later Peacham was the largest town in Caledonia County. By the early 1800's the pioneer settlers had built a meetinghouse, today's Congregational Church, established the Caledonia Grammar School, better known as Peacham Academy, and constructed several one-room schoolhouses. Peacham's population reached its zenith of 1,443 in 1840, and was then a busy commercial center with stores, doctors, lawyers, a library, a blacksmith shop, and small businesses. Peacham Corner's Federal and Greek Revival styles homes are a legacy of its early prosperity.

Peacham Corner has remained a remarkably intact 19th century village. Today, Peacham is a vibrant community with about 675 residents and a large summer population.

Peacham Corner Walking Route Map



A walking tour
of a scenic
Vermont village

~ Peacham, VT ~

Peacham Corner Walking Route

This scenic tour of one of Vermont's most photographed villages begins at the historic Roller Barn, winds through the village past important landmarks such as the blacksmith shop and Town Hall and ends at the majestic building of the former Elkins Tavern.

You can find the trailhead next to the trail kiosk at the far side of the Upper Common next to the Roller Barn. The roller barn is one of the few remaining structures in the state and was used in the pre-plow era to house the "roller" that was used to pack the snow on the roads. From the kiosk, walk past the roller barn on the wooded path, in the direction of the village. Take a right on the Upper Common and you will pass two war memorials, the Soldier's Monument to Peacham's Civil War dead and a new monument devoted to Peacham's WWI, WWII, Vietnam and Korean war veterans. Many of these soldiers are buried in the Peacham Cemetery.

Continue along the Upper Common towards the village and begin down the hill. On your right you will pass the Historical House, now the home of the Peacham Historical Association and which earlier had served as a schoolhouse, coffin shop, and guest cottage. Immediately after the Historical House, take a right and walk towards a bench that you will see in the field ahead. Known as "Donnie Davis' bench" after a special Peacham farmer who passed away in 2009, the bench provides a beautiful view of the Davis's farmland, the valleys below and Roy Mountain in the distance. From Donnie's bench, turn around and walk on the grass behind the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith shop has been completely restored and if you are lucky you may catch a demonstration by a local blacksmith on your way past the smithy. Continue down the lawn and walk between the tennis courts and the Peacham Town Hall. The Town Hall was

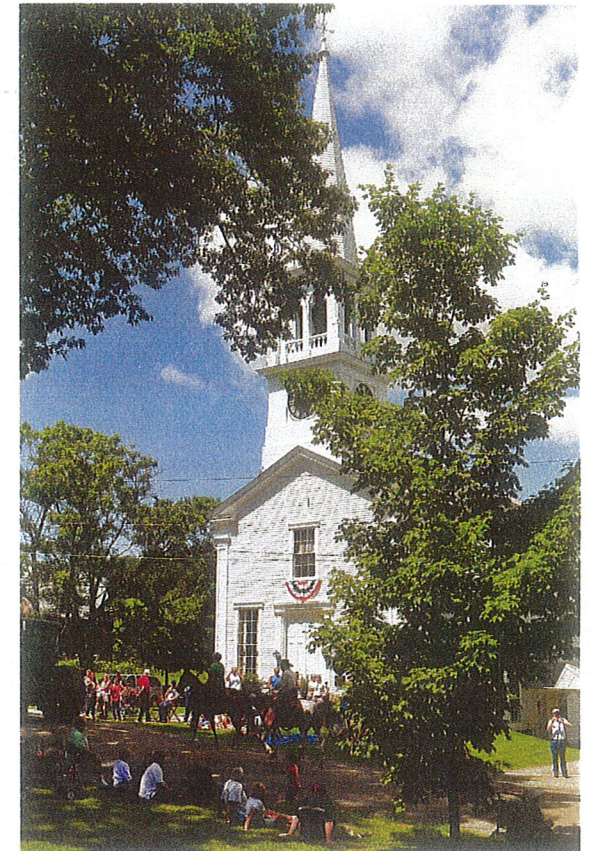
originally built in 1832 as a Methodist Church and is now home to the Post Office, Town Clerk's Office and a gymnasium used by local schoolchildren.

From the parking lot of the Town Hall, follow the Peacham Pathways signs and make your way to Main St. Take a right and walk down Peacham's Main St, taking time to note the beautiful, historic homes and the historical marker showing the former location of the Peacham Academy. The first building you will pass on your right was built in 1847 by William Mattocks, the son of Governor Mattocks. In the 1890's it was converted into a hotel, the Mountain View House, and later it was used as a dormitory by Peacham Academy.

Follow Main St until you see a sign on the left hand side of the road for the Luther Parker Fletcher Field. Cross the street here and walk down the path to the field, which is currently used by Peacham schoolchildren. To the right of the field there is an opening in the trees, go through this opening and you will find yourself on the Peacham Elementary school nature trail. This is a lovely walk through the woods that is maintained by the school children and local residents. This well-worn path will bring you to the back of the school.

Follow the stakes to the right and then across the parking lot until you turn left onto a former military road, the Bayley Hazen Road. Follow this historic, maple tree-lined road, looking out for the stockade marker on your left. From the marker, walk across the field and you will find the presumed site of the former stockade. Returning to the Bayley Hazen Road, take a left and continue towards the former Elkins Tavern. The Tavern is a beautiful home that was once a popular stopping place for those traveling North to Canada and South to Boston. You are welcome to walk just South of the red barn and into the field to the right where there is a lovely place to sit under a tree and enjoy the view below. To return, you can retrace your steps along the Bayley Hazen Road, taking a left at the fork

and returning to the Main Street. Alternatively, you can continue to walk South on Bayley Hazen Road, passing the Davis dairy farm. The dirt road will join South Main Street, which you may travel across onto Maple Tree Lane. Follow Maple Tree Lane until a four corners, where you will take a right onto Academy Hill Road. This Road will bring you back to the trailhead and will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes from Elkins Tavern.



Text by Alexandra Rossi
Design by Kate Monteith
Photographs by Peter Scott