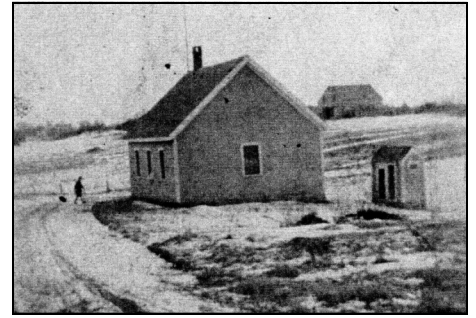


LITTLEFIELD SCHOOL

Built in 1853, this historic one-room schoolhouse served the Mill Cove District in the Town of West Bath until 1946. The West Bath Men's Club then used the building for their meetings for many years. Although eventually abandoned and nearly used as a practice burn, the school still had an intact interior, but sadly, its granite foundation had shifted and was falling in. The whole building was unsafe, and in danger of collapse. Despite some stop-gap fixes, the school, which is owned by the town, continued to decline and needed immediate attention.



The West Bath Historical Society, a volunteer organization, took on the challenge of saving the building. The scope of the Littlefield project included: lifting the school, performing extensive preparation to re-install the original granite foundation, and restoring the building within specific historic guidelines. Thanks in part to a generous bequest by a local man, Bruce Burden, whose mother attended the school, WBHS had money to begin the project. The Town was also awarded a Federal Community Block Development Grant to help finance the restoration.



The Society has been extremely proactive in taking the lead on this venture. As a result, the Town asked the WBHS (in conjunction with Town Administrator) to oversee the physical work at the site. Daily oversight (as well as creation of initial structural drawings) was handled by restoration architect Frank Roberts. His efforts were invaluable during the very difficult restoration construction, as many on-site decisions needed to be made during the project. The structure had to be raised by beam staging, and the work done underneath. Volunteers played an integral part in the process as well.

This restoration effort has garnered a number of awards, including Sagadahoc Preservation's award of excellence in their public buildings category for "... making a significant contribution to historical preservation in the Town of West Bath." The project was also honored with the *2009 Governor's Community Spirit Award*, from Maine's Office of Economic and Community Development. In 2011, the town received a *Maine Spirit of America Foundation Award*, for outstanding community service and for our efforts to promote volunteerism. Maine Preservation chose the Littlefield School project to receive a *2011 Statewide Historic Preservation Honor Award* for the restoration and rehabilitation of the old building. This is a special honor for WBHS and the Town of West Bath.

Open Houses are held and the restored school is also used occasionally as a "living history" school site for students. In addition, the building is available for use by the public as a gallery space and for special events.



Application for use of
LITTLEFIELD SCHOOL
363 BERRY'S MILL ROAD, WEST BATH, ME

Applicant(s) Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____

Description of use

Date(s) needed _____ Time needed _____

Special needs

Suggested donation for use, per day \$100.00 _____
(includes cleaning)

Total donation _____

___ cash ___ check # _____

Rec'd by _____

I understand that I am responsible for my own decorations, displays, etc., which must be placed so that the building is not harmed in any way. I agree that I will leave the building in the same shape as when it was rented. I understand that West Bath Historical Society and the Town of West Bath are not responsible for damage to, or loss of, any property brought into the building. I agree to report to a WBHS representative any problems with, or damage to, the building, as soon as possible.

Signature Date

WBHS Representative Date

A Certificate of Liability Insurance naming West Bath Historical Society as an additional insured group on your insurance is required and must be submitted before the rental agreement is finalized. You can obtain this certificate from your insurance company free of charge.
Certificate attached: _____

Please send to: **West Bath Historical Society, P.O. Box 394, Bath, ME 04530**

For more information: 207-389-4498

<http://www.westbath.govoffice.com/>

Click on the West Bath Historical Society tab.