

Eliot, Maine

MAINE 200-PLUS-ONE HISTORIC SITE TOURS

SCHOOLS



1. **Sandy Hill School**, area of 28 Sandy Hill Road and 374 River Road. Located on part of Nicholas Shapleigh's 800 acre tract at "Sandy Hill" the first building is said to have been a log house and later a frame building. It is believed the school was in use from 1646 to 1655.
2. **Noah Emery's Woodshed**, 985 Goodwin Road. The school is believed to have been here in the mid-1700s. The woodshed is long gone but the ell to a much larger house built before 1650. Noah's great-great grandfather Anthony purchased the land from John Smith, a carpenter and entrepreneur who built a handful of houses in the emerging settlement known as the Piscataqua Plantation. Noah Emery was the first lawyer residing in Maine and his office was here. He was admitted to the bar in 1725 and served as the King's Attorney for the Province.
3. **#1 Schoolhouse**, 938 Goodwin Road. District #1 was one of six school districts already established in Eliot when we divided from the town of Kittery in 1810. Originally a one-story structure, it was probably re-built twice. The first replaced at some point during its first 73 years and the second due to a fire in 1884. When rebuilt in 1885 it was made into a two-story school with a meeting hall upstairs called "Emery Hall" and so led to its being called the "Emery School". An extension was put on in 1901 and when the district schools were being discontinued in 1934 the school closed. It was torn down in 1940.
4. **District # 2 Schoolhouse**, 1721 State Road. Site of the Lincoln School, built about 1896 and discontinued in 1940. This is the second schoolhouse for this district, the first was located at 1714 State Road and called the Frye School. Eliot's Governor John F. Hill attended this school, as did his father William. The Frye School was built on the land of Joshua Frye and was in use in 1810, when we became a town.
5. **District # 3 Schoolhouse**, 97 Brixham Road. Major Frost School. This is the 3rd building on this site, on land given by Simon Frost. The first, which was a Kittery school existing before the town of Eliot was formed in 1810, burned in 1873, was rebuilt and then burned again in 1878. This building was erected in 1880 and named for Maj. Charles Frost School, as shown on the plaque between the doors. This district school was closed in 1941, following the building of a new High School and conversion of some of the other school buildings. Today, a private home, it retains the original door and entry and the outhouse has been made into a laundry room.
6. **District # 4 Schoolhouse**, 198 Goodwin Road. The original structure was moved here about 1940 and converted into a home. The land behind this house was once owned by Jonathan Hammond's family and later purchased by Charles W. Moulton, another Hammond descendant through Moses Hammond. The property today (2010) is part of Echo Farm and still owned by direct Hammond descendants. Across the road, and a little south, at 167 Goodwin Road is the original site of the schoolhouse and the land was deeded by Oliver Staples

7. **District # 5 Schoolhouse**, 25 Pine Ave. The schoolhouse, with a 2-door entry sat facing Old Road. It was open from 1804 to 1928 and built on property belonging to the Fogg family. When the school closed students were bussed to Laura V. Dame school.
8. **District # 6 Schoolhouse**, 709 Main Street. Located at the corner of Varney Lane and Main Street. It was called the “Neck School”. Originally a one-story brick building with two doors and located across the street from the present building, it is mentioned in the 1808 deed leasing the land to the 6th School District. For some reason, this brick building was demolished in 1823 and the new school erected across the street, giving a clear view to the river. The present building was then erected in 1823 and served the district until 1928, when it was sold and the children then went to the Laura V. Dame School, on Main Street.
9. **District # 7 Schoolhouse**, 200 Pleasant Street. This may possibly be the second building built for this district. The first building is thought to be an old house, now added to, that sits at the end of Mitra Lane, according to Charles Remick. The second building we know was erected around 1871 and was originally a two-story building, located on the river side of the road, containing both a primary and a grammar school. It closed in 1925 when the Laura V. Dame School was built. In 1926 Alonzo and Stella Titus bought the building. In 1934 the roof was lowered and moved across the road to make the present 1 ½ story house.
10. **District # 8 Schoolhouse**, 67 Greenwood Street. The 8th District was created in 1841 when divided from the 5th and 6th. We believe, based on the construction elements of the building that it was probably built in the mid to late 1700s. It served many uses after the closing of the school in 1908 - home of the Eliot Country Club, fire station., Eliot Civil Defense storage and storage for the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.
11. **The Laura V. Dame School**, 525 Main Street. This was built in 1925 as an Elementary School, combining districts 6 and 7. It was named for a beloved teacher of the town. It closed in 1966 and students sent to the Eliot Elementary School and was converted into an apartment building. It sits on the hill overlooking Spinney Creek. Spinney Creek was earlier called Great Cove.
12. **Eliot High School/Central School**, 1333 Stare Rd 1906-1940 In 1905, 3 acres was purchased by the town, from Willard Dixon for the building of a new “Free High School” The school opened in 1906. It had 3 rooms on the first floor, a large main room or study hall, a laboratory and recitation room. The commercial department was located on the second floor with a recitation room and typewriting room. Graduations were held at the Congregational Church. When the new brick High School (now the Elementary School) was opened in 1940 this building became Eliot Central School, housing grades one and two The Vera Staples Wing addition to the New High School, in 1952, brought relief to the years of overcrowding and then was used as a town hall. It was torn down in 1987 and the present town hall building erected.
13. **Eliot High School/ Eliot Primary/Eliot Elementary School** 1298 State Road 1940-1966. Because of the large influx of workers at the Kittery Navy Yard there was a need for more classrooms and in 1940 a new High School was built and 126 students enrolled that year. The opening of this school ended the era of the rural one-room schools in Eliot. In 1947 the Gym Club has renovated the old Town Hall across the street and in 1956 a Multi-Purpose Building and Gym was added. The Verna Staples Wing was added, in 1952, providing four more classrooms and designated the town’s first Primary School. Another addition was built in 1955, due to increasing enrollment resulting in classrooms being established at the Grange Hall and Congregational Church vestry. With the creation of SAD #35, what had been the Primary School, High School and Multipurpose building became “Eliot Elementary School”. In 1982 the Mildred K. Obrey Wing was added.
14. **Marshwood Sr. High School/Middle School**, 626 Harold L. Dow Highway 1966 - The School district MSAD #35 was formed in 1964 and this High School, serving both towns was opened in 1966.