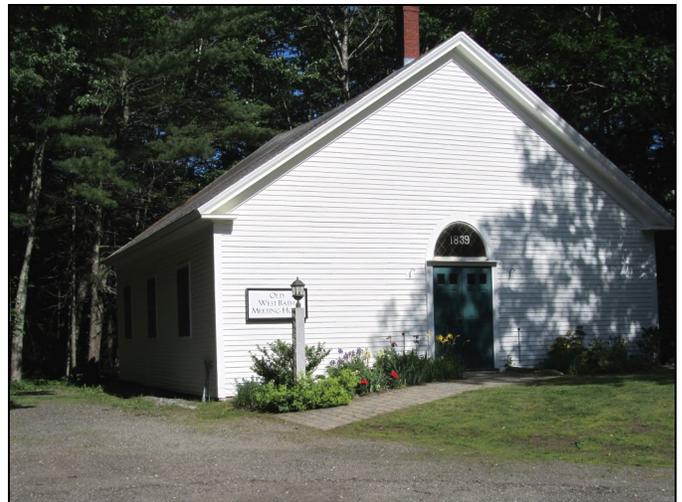


WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF WEST BATH



LITTLEFIELD SCHOOL

OLD WEST BATH MEETING HOUSE

BERRY'S MILL ROAD, WEST BATH, ME

For more information, go to
<http://www.westbath.govoffice.com/>
Click on the West Bath Historical Society tab.

LITTLEFIELD SCHOOL

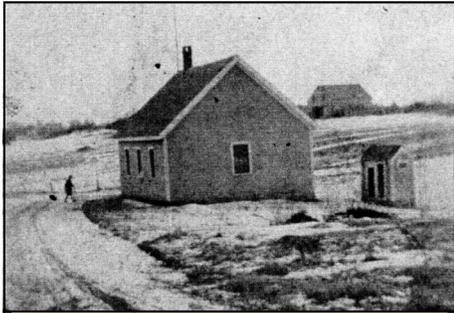
Built in 1853, this historic one-room schoolhouse served the Mill Cove District in the Town of West Bath until 1946. The West Bath Men's Club then used the building for their meetings for many years. Although eventually abandoned and nearly used as a practice burn, the school still had an intact interior, 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 rent to the public as a gallery space and for special events.



OLD WEST BATH MEETING HOUSE

The Old West Bath Meeting House was built in 1839 to serve the Phippsburg Circuit, including Dromore, Winnegance, and the Mill Cove area. The church was organized as a Methodist Episcopal Church on November 11, 1890 and was rededicated on October 17, 1894. The present benches date to 1895. The memorial windows were installed in 1902. A new floor was put in around 1912. The reed organ was a gift to the church in 1939.

In the early years people came from as far away as Harpswell, arriving by boat at Sabino landing and walking up to the services. Camp meetings were held nearby. In 1964, a special service commemorated the 125th anniversary of the church. In later years the building was only used sporadically during the summer and for weddings and baptisms. In 1991 the Methodist Church Conference deeded the building to the Town of West Bath and a small group of dedicated volunteers raised funds and began much needed repairs.

In 2004, an arrangement was made with the Town of West Bath for West Bath Historical Society to oversee the restoration and use of the Meeting House. After a very successful fundraising campaign, the building was completely restored. Much of the work was done locally with many tasks completed by volunteers, including Board members, their friends and families, and even young people. Today, the Meeting House stands bright and tall and is once more a center of community activity and pride. Events held there in recent years include quilt shows, hooked rug shows, garden club meetings, weddings, our Open House, and our annual Christmas service.

If your event needs include a rich, historic, friendly atmosphere, please consider renting the Old West Bath Meeting House for gatherings, such as weddings, christenings, art shows, meetings, lectures, and more.



Photos of Littlefield School from top to bottom: the earliest known photo of the school shows the separate outhouse, ca. 1880s; a teacher and his students, ca. 1930s; close-up of a class and the teacher, ca. 1940s; the school and the Mayo farm that used to stand across the road, ca. 1940s; Littlefield School at its worst, ca. 1990s; Littlefield School standing proud again.

Photos of Old West Bath Meeting House: a view of the Meeting House showing the horse shed, at far left, which stood from 1901 to ca. 1940 (note how few trees there were); a gathering to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the West Bath Church in 1939; the interior decorated for a wedding; the interior during restoration; the interior after restoration; the Meeting House ready to serve the Town for many years to come.

WEST BATH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The **West Bath Historical Society** was established in 2000 as a volunteer organization with a mission to preserve and promote the history of the town of West Bath and to serve as an educational resource. Since becoming a non-profit organization in 2001, it has also provided a forum for those interested in preserving historic buildings and sites, a source and collection point for historic information and research, and a conduit for state historic and preservation organizations.

The members of the **West Bath Historical Society** are dedicated to the documentation, preservation, and protection of West Bath's historical resources. Since the **Society** has an agreement with Patten Free Library, the **WBHS** archives will be available in the History Room at the Library in order to make them more accessible to researchers. More resources will be added as time allows.

The West Bath Selectmen honored us with a **Special Recognition Award**, offering "grateful appreciation" for our "dedicated service to the Town of West Bath" through our efforts to coordinate the restoration & continue the management of historical buildings; collect & preserve historical information & photographs; publish an historical community newsletter, and sponsor community events. The Award was signed by David Bourget, Paula Nelson, and Abbe Yacoben and was presented at the town's annual meeting on June 8, 2011.

The **West Bath Historical Society** brings together people interested in the history of West Bath. They may be intrigued by patterns of stone walls in the woods, anxious to hear and record what our elders remember of times past, or curious about gravestones. Others might be moved by experiencing a celebration in the simple 18th century Old West Bath Meeting House or by students enjoying a field trip to the Littlefield School. If you are interested in any of our goals, please consider becoming a member or making a donation.

To join the **West Bath Historical Society** and receive our publication, *The Middle Ground*, please fill out this application, or a copy of it, and send it along with a check, to: **West Bath Historical Society**, P. O. Box 394, Bath, ME 04530-0394.

New Member — \$10 Basic Annual — \$25 Supporting Annual
 Renewal Membership Membership

Name

Yes, I have information, photographs, or documents to share.

Address

Yes, I would like to volunteer.

Town, State, Zip Code

FMI: 389-4498 or go to:
<http://www.westbath.govoffice.com/>
Click on West Bath Historical Society

Telephone

E-mail