

Edited 9.30.2025

Characters: 738

Side One

Old White Meeting House

The Old White Meeting House was the first public building constructed in South Hero. It was built in 1816 during the “Year Without a Summer” by volunteer barn carpenters and used as a Protestant Church and a community meeting space. The wood-frame building stood two stories high with a crowning cupola and a U-shaped balcony overlooking a large open nave. When the congregation moved out in 1856, ownership of the building was transferred to the Town of South Hero. The church sanctuary was removed, and a second floor was installed with large illuminating windows. The building became commonly known as The Meeting House, continuing its use as a community space, including for town meetings.

(continued other side)

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Characters: 765

Side Two

Old White Meeting House

(continued from other side)

With interior changes to the Meeting House, from 1900 to 1911, the second floor became home to the Maple Lawn Academy, an accredited high school founded by Fanny Stevens. From 1920 to 1953, it served as the public school and until 1925 housed the Town Library. Granny’s Attic, a non-profit raising funds for community improvement projects, occupied the second floor for nearly 70 years beginning in 1955. The building was altered by the highway department in 1953 with garage bays cut into the east wall. From 1999 to 2018 the fire department parked fire trucks inside it. Recognizing the significance of the Old White Meeting House, the Town of South Hero began preservation efforts in 2012 with a restored cupola.

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