

Icehouse



The Dudley family used this wooden building to store ice harvested from the near-by pond which was built, not to supply water, but to supply ice. The ice harvest usually came toward the end of January or early in February, when the ice was about ten inches thick. The best temperature for cutting was a few degrees below freezing, so the water would freeze quickly on the cakes after they were taken out of the pond.

The blocks of ice were packed into the icehouse which was insulated with sawdust. The three doors allowed ice to be removed from the top down without letting in a lot of warm air during the warmer weather.

To carefully flood the ice pond each year (which was drained each spring and was located near the sugar house), the Dudleys used a 150 foot long earthen dam and sluice, which still survive. Refrigeration was not available in North Guilford until after electricity became available, after the Rural Electrification Act of 1936.

Grape Arbor

Farms in New England grew items not only for the animals to eat, but to feed the family, as well. Commonly grown fruit included not only apples (the Dudley Farm has a small orchard), but also grapes (Concord) for the family to enjoy. Today the grapes are used each fall to make grape pie for the annual meeting.



Even hops were grown for making beer. While the original temperance movement prohibited hard liquor, beer, wine and cider were often allowed for those who were not “teetotalers” (total abstainers).

Munger Barn



Available for weddings, rehearsal dinners, anniversary and birthday parties as well as meetings. Suitable for up to 85 guests, the Munger Barn was originally constructed in 1890 on the Munger Farm in Madison, CT and donated to The Dudley Foundation in the mid 1990s when the Munger Lumber Company ceased operation. The barn was dismantled and stored at The Dudley Farm Museum until an old fashioned barn raising brought it to life once again in 2002. The barn houses the Quinnipiac Tribal Museum and the main floor is used as a venue for special events and meetings.

Big Barn

The Big Barn complex is made up of three barns and additions assembled over a period of about one hundred and eighty years.

The first barn was an embankment barn facing south constructed shortly before the house was built in 1844. With a traditional hay loft on the west side with a threshing or wagon floor on the east. There are two stalls for the work animals below.



The northern portion of the east barn housed animals below and tools above. There is little sleigh shed on the north side.

The third and largest was likely built sometime after 1860 to house the milk cows that Erastus Dudley was breeding. Later the dairy was expanded for more cows and the east barn was lengthened to include a granary.