

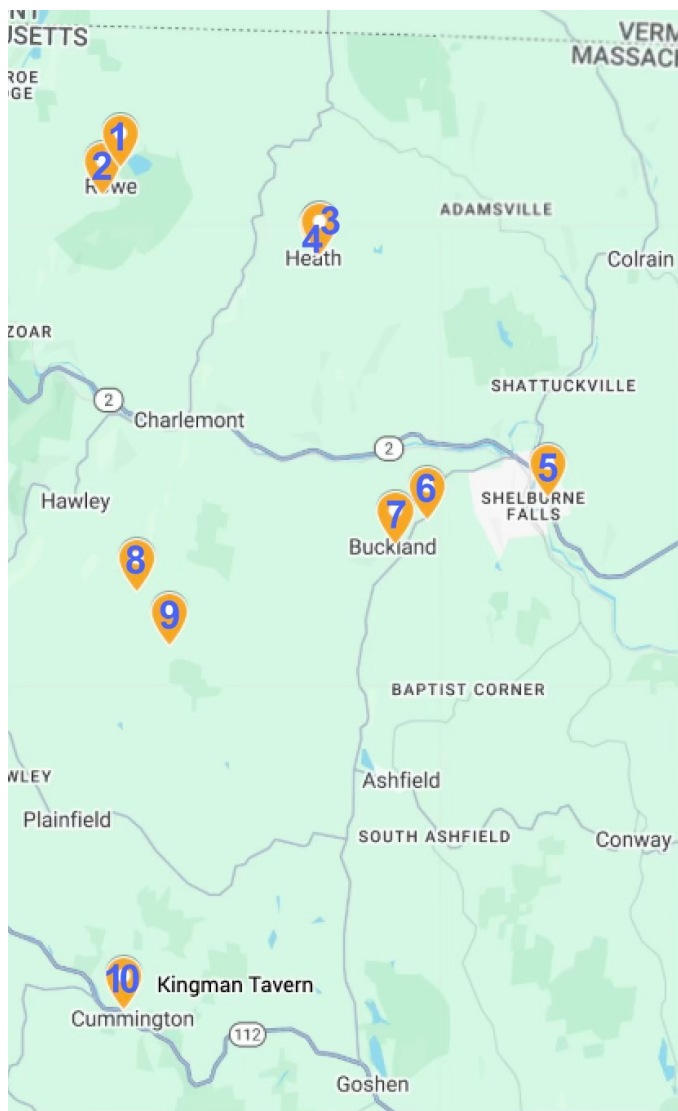
Hilltown History Trail

Saturday August 1, 2026

10 am - 4 pm

Western Massachusetts Hilltown historical societies will open their museum doors to the public on the same day for a **FREE** day of exploring!

www.HilltownHistoryTrail.org



Participating museums include:

1. Browning Bench Tool Factory
42.698448, -72.896166, Pond Rd., Rowe, MA
2. Kemp-McCarthy Museum
282 Zoar Rd, Rowe, MA
3. Heath Center Schoolhouse
11 East Main Street, Heath, MA
4. The Old Town House
6 East Main Street, Heath, MA
5. Shelburne Historical Society Museum
33 Severance St., Shelburne Falls, MA
6. Wilder Homestead
129 Ashfield Rd. (112 S), Buckland, MA
7. Buckland Historical Society Museum
20 Upper St., Buckland, MA
8. Hawley's Old Town Common
42.579615, -72.889864
~ 235 East. Hawley Rd., Hawley, MA
9. East Hawley Meetinghouse
332 East Hawley Road, Hawley, MA
10. Kingman Tavern
41 Main St., Cummington, MA



This program is funded, in part,
by the Local Cultural Councils of
Charlemont-Hawley, Cummington,
Heath, Rowe, & Shelburne



2026 Hilltown History Trail Museums

1. Browning Bench Tool Factory



42.698448, -72.896166,
Pond Rd., Rowe, MA

This 2½ story barn was once a carriage & wagon shop and later a bench tool factory. It was given to the town, moved to town park property and then restored during the nation's 200th Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. Since 2017 RHS has leased the building to house farm and homemaking implements, bench tools, sleighs, sleds, historic photos, etc.

6. Wilder Homestead



129 Ashfield Rd. (112 S),
Buckland, MA

Tour this furnished 1795 Buckland saltbox home with five fireplaces, the restored 1780 English barn, and the circa-1820 shoemaker shop, where boots were bartered for bushels of apples, cords of wood, or in one case, the work of digging a grave. The farm fields of the Clesson Brook and a 22- acre forest envelops the property.

2. Kemp - McCarthy Museum



282 Zoar Rd., Rowe, MA

Operating until 1962, the Village School was then given to Rowe Historical Society by the townspeople. It was the last one- room school in Franklin County. Having been added onto several times it now houses seven areas of collections/exhibits. The West School (b. 1797) on Tunnel Rd was joined to the complex in 1966.

7. Buckland Historical Society Museum



20 Upper St., Buckland, MA

Enjoy this former Greek Revival-style schoolhouse, which now houses three floors of artifacts and town records. You'll see exhibits on local industry, clothing, education (featuring Mount Holyoke College founder Mary Lyon), local artists Robert Strong Woodward and Edward Romanzo Elmer, and other local history and lore.

3. Center Schoolhouse



11 East Main St., Heath, MA

The Center Schoolhouse was built around 1867. It is an eclectic style building with two front doors—one for boys and one for girls. It was in use as a school until 1951 and in June 1970 became a Heath Historical Society museum. The building contains a wealth of artifacts, furniture, and items related to school life.

8. Old Town Common



across from 235 East Hawley Rd.,
Hawley, MA

Hawley's Old Town Common served as Hawley's town center from 1792 until 1848. The first meetinghouse stood upon it; the Sanford and Longley taverns on its borders. In 1848, these institutions moved elsewhere. In 2010, the Sons & Daughters of Hawley created a historic site on the common consisting of a kiosk and nine interpretive signs.

4. The Old Town House



6 East Main St., Heath, MA

Built by David Snow in 1834. Heath Center's most stylish Greek Revival institutional building and the interior has an arched ceiling. It has been a Heath Historical Society museum since 1901, containing photos, paintings, furniture, musical instruments, and artifacts donated to the town by Revolutionary War general William Heath.

9. East Hawley Meetinghouse



332 East Hawley Rd.,
Hawley, MA

Built in 1848, the East Hawley Meetinghouse served as a church until the mid-20th century. The Sons & Daughters of Hawley acquired it in 1980 and completed its restoration in 2021. Alice Parker, the nationally known choral director and composer, who held shape note sings in the meetinghouse, prized the building's excellent acoustics.

5. Shelburne Historical Society Museum



33 Severance St.,
Shelburne Falls, MA

Housed in the original Arms Academy school building on the corner of Maple and Church streets, the SHS museum has an expanding Indigenous history exhibit, including artwork on loan from Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association in Deerfield.

10. Kingman Tavern



41 Main St., Cummington, MA

The Kingman Tavern Museum's collection of more than 5,000 items shines a light on the history of Cummington. An historic early-1800s 17-room tavern (with a replica of a complete late -19th-century store), a barn full of tools, a carriage house with snow roller (the antecedent of the snowplow), a cider mill, and the Old Parsonage, where a special exhibit explores the history of the abolitionist movement in this small town.