

Canterbury Farm

1986 Fred Snow Road

42° 18'37.87"N 73° 05'41.2"W elevation 1553 feet

Canterbury Farm, built in 1780, in the Colonial-early Federal style architecture. This home was once operated as a tavern. It is of wooden construction, all pegged, no nails, with hand hewn mortised and tenoned supporting timbers. The roof was constructed with a rare "trussed roof." Flooring was random width; maple on the first floor and pine on the second floor. Stove pipe openings found during renovations indicate that at least 6 wood-or coal-burning stoves were used for heat and cooking. The windows and the panes were made of the old imperfect glass 12 over 12. Door latches and hinges are all of wrought iron. The foundation is of stone. The basement has an earth floor.

It is not known who built the house, however, previous owners included the Bartlett's, Morey's, Geer's and the Smithie families. In 1942, the Burgess family purchased the property, spending most summers renovating their second home and planting trees. Up to 1950, the building had neither electricity or plumbing, and until about 1965 had only a dug-well to supply water. As electricity and phone service came to the town, the Burgesses continued to improve the home and winterized it. Electric heat was installed room by room about 1970-1974. While enjoying the property as a retirement home for 10 years, the Burgesses became active members of the community; including the early years of the Becket Arts Center.



Dave and Linda (Burgess) Bacon were married here in 1985. Both having a background in outdoor-sports, they named it Canterbury Farm and started a ski touring and Bed and Breakfast lodging establishment. Each year major improvements in the home and landscape were made. Why do they call it the "Farm"? It is an active tree farm, forest managed for 80 years. Thousands of red pine trees were planted with the help of the CCC. On the 200 acres one can find a variety of trees, landscape plants, ornamental plants, blueberry bushes, fruit trees, a vegetable garden and wild flowers in abundance.



The site is surrounded by hills, with one-mile of frontage along Fred Snow Road. The house was built close to the road with about twenty apple trees surrounding the house. This historic home was once a sheep farm. There are numerous foundations and corrals in the woods which held the animals. There was a barn that was torn down in 1950. Initially there were several hand dug wells. It was originally

named Timberlake Farm because there was a 50-acre lake on the property. In 1927, the dam burst and flooded the North Becket Village [[North Becket Historic District](#)], destroying many homes and businesses.



<https://www.canterbury-farms.com/about-us>

For further information email the Becket Historical Commission:

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