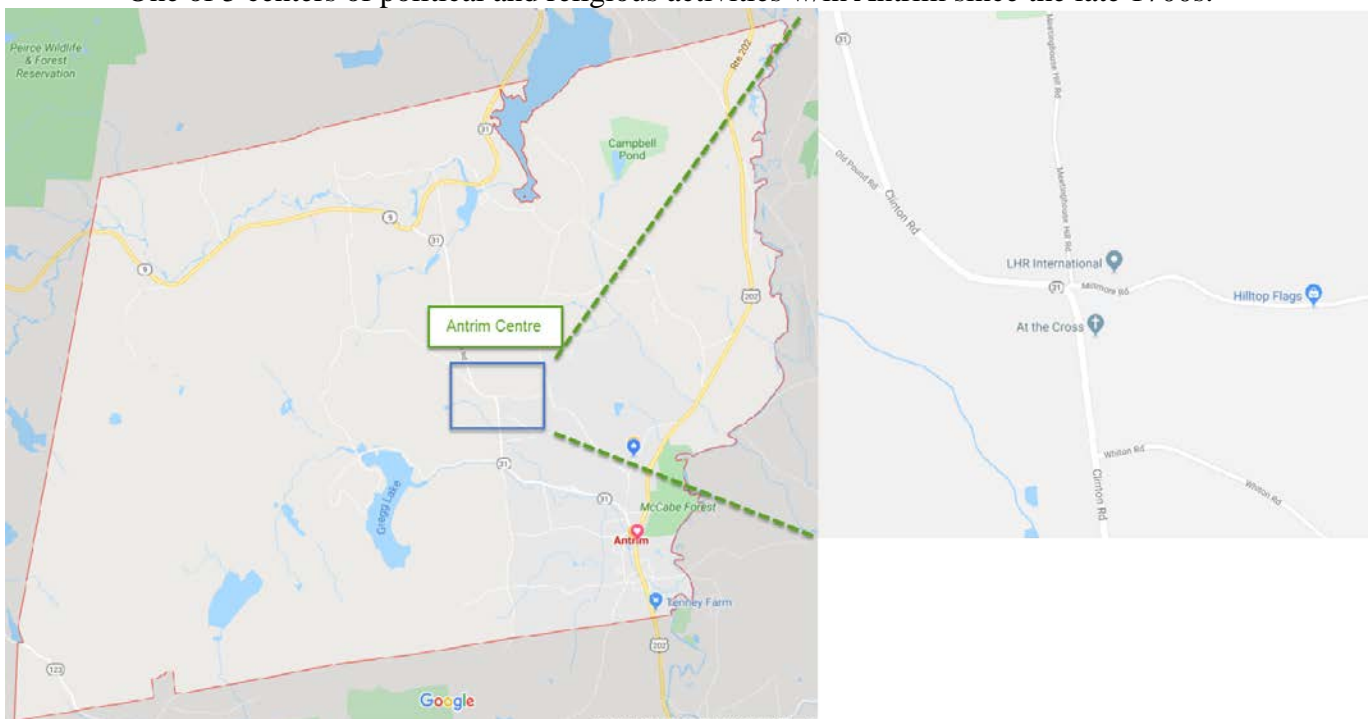


## WELCOME TO OLD ANTRIM CENTRE



One of 5 centers of political and religious activities w/in Antrim since the late 1700s.



You are standing in the geographic center of Antrim. The first meeting house was built at the top of the hill in 1785. Antrim Centre (Center) became the cultural, political, and religious heart of Antrim with its oldest burial ground being located at the crest of Meeting House Hill.

When religion and government split, a brick church (now gone) was built closer to Clinton Road. It was dedicated in November 1826 by Rev. John Whiton. In 1832 the old Town House was taken down

and moved to the bottom of Meeting House Hill. The building was purchased by the Grange in 1894. Thus the appearance of the hill was greatly changed, “leaving only the monuments of the dead to mark the spot.” (Cochrane)

A new church was built in 1898 of local fieldstone on this site. It served as the Antrim Congregational Church for nearly 100 years. The stained glass windows were made by a company in Boston and were donated by members of the church society.

East of the Grange, a log cabin was built in 1776. In 1798 a new two-story house was licensed as a hotel and tavern. Dances were held along with singing and dancing lessons. In 1846 the tavern was razed, and the Uplands inn was built. West of the Grange across Clinton Road from Antrim Centre cemetery a residence was built in 1826 with an attached store and post office. In 1843 it became the Manse, home of the minister of the Presbyterian Church.

Gradually, expanded commerce and access to the railroad in North Branch and South Village left the Centre a sleepy, charming reminder of the hub it once was.

Look for more detailed information at the Antrim Historical Society Website and selected locations throughout Antrim.

Sponsored by the Antrim Historical Society and the Antrim Congregational Church Society.

Town of Antrim

[www.antrimhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.antrimhistoricalsociety.org)

In early times, towns built their villages around the geographic center of the town. Meeting House Hill is just west of the geographical center of Antrim, and Antrim Centre (as it was spelled at the time) grew up on the south slope of Meeting House Hill. Originally, town business and worship took place in the meeting house with the first cemetery in Antrim located beside it on the hill.

Well known as a destination for summer boarders, The Center once included a store, a post office, the Presbyterian Church and manse, a school house, and a tavern. The stage coach ran daily between The Center and Antrim Depot. There were originally seven houses in The Center and two near the town house.

Ambrose Story moved a house up from the pond and built a barn which burned and was rebuilt. The house was “mostly built new” by Mrs. Sarah Perry and her daughter and used as a summer boarding house. The building was demolished in the 1960's when the new Route 31 was constructed. (*Located across from Ziegler's; photo available*).

The Whiton House was built in 1826. An addition was added which hosted a store and post office. This building became the Presbyterian Parsonage.

Jonathan Paige built the “Draper House” in 1828. Before building a separate space, part of the house was used as a harness shop. (*Edna Ryder's House?*)

Rev. Morris Homan lived in the house built by Samuel Gregg in 1777, and the 1778 town meeting was held here. The house was moved to Whiton Road and lived in for many years by John Parmenter. (*Liz*

*Roberson has a sketch of the original house.)*

The Newman House was built from the timbers of the Old Christie Tavern and was used as a parsonage at one time.

The seventh house was built originally as a farm, but in the 1790's Zacheus Fairbanks put up a large two story building and was licensed to run a hotel and tavern. Edward Vose used the Great Hall to give singing and dancing lessons as well as a school. He replaced the building with the present structure. Samuel Gove once owned this property and gave the land on which the Stone Church was built. Over the years additional buildings have been built or came to be considered part of The Center. Among these are the Stone Church, the Bass Farm, and the Rablin's.

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipN47-VC6jSARtdz7Rec38NLzSmiOvQc6fZ2POvEVpTjT6eDVnSs3mnW\\_8cgNbf1YQ?key=QmRjWIRscjZwN3RFbXhDcFd1aEc0UmluT2VrSC1R](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipN47-VC6jSARtdz7Rec38NLzSmiOvQc6fZ2POvEVpTjT6eDVnSs3mnW_8cgNbf1YQ?key=QmRjWIRscjZwN3RFbXhDcFd1aEc0UmluT2VrSC1R)

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