



# The Rooms in Time Quest

## MOOSE HILL FARM, SHARON

### THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS

Moose Hill Farm is owned and cared for by The Trustees of Reservations. We are over 100,000 people like you who want to protect the places we love or who simply like to be outdoors. Since 1891, we have been committed to preserving and sharing the landmarks and landscapes of Massachusetts – a conservation effort funded solely through private support like yours.

Together with our neighbors, we protect the distinct character of our communities and inspire a commitment to special places like Moose Hill Farm across the Commonwealth. Our passion is to share with everyone the irreplaceable natural and cultural treasures that we care for. **Visit us at [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org).**

### DIRECTIONS:

Drive south on Route 1 to Sharon. Turn east on Route 27, cross over the Interstate, then turn right on Moose Hill Street. Moose Hill Farm will be on your right. This Quest begins at the kiosk.

### HOW TO QUEST

Use the clues and map that follow to find a hidden treasure and story at Moose Hill Farm. Along the way you'll have fun, and learn to see (and read) land use clues and history. At the end of this Quest you'll find a hidden treasure box, where you can sign in, collect a copy of our Quest's stamp, and then replace the box for the next visitor. We recommend you take 1 to 1 1/2 hours to enjoy this adventure. *Happy trails!*

## YOUR CLUES

Welcome to the Trustees' Moose Hill Farm,  
a place with hidden history and lots of charm.  
Before this was public, the Kendall family lived here  
running a dairy farm for more than twenty years.

Up three stone stairs, pass under apple boughs.  
Cross the driveway – you're searching for the cows!  
Keeping to the left of the old stone farm wall  
Head uphill to where the silos once stood tall.

Beyond the "red pine quartet" and a sugar maple tree  
The old milk house is, alas, all you can now see.  
But two baker's dozen steps northwest please look down –  
An old barn foundation sticks out of the ground.



By 1948,  
Moose Hill  
Farm's dairy  
had 60  
Guernsey  
cows.  
The barn  
complex  
burned  
down in  
1964.

### 1. The Dairy Room

Sixty plus Guernsey's once called this barn home.  
They grazed in the field where the deer now roam.  
With Henry P's passing the dairying ended –  
The herd was dispersed, but the fields were still tended.  
In the year '64 a blaze got out of hand  
And burned to the ground the barn where you stand.

Back to the trail and off to the right –  
Fire Tower Road is now in sight.  
Follow the gravel road up to the Y  
Then stay on the grass and seek open sky.

Keep moving along to the last apple tree  
On clear days, to the north, perhaps Boston you can see,  
Stay the course through hayfields to the second boulder.  
From this white rock find Blue Hills over your shoulder.

### 2. Hay Field Room

A wide open hayfield on top of the hill –  
Gone are the cows but the grass grows still.  
Cut twice a year, a critical place for birds.  
The room also feeds turkey, coyote and deer herds.

### 3. Wild Meadow Room

Flutter on o'er fields to a more wild meadow –  
Where butterflies show and goldenrod grow.  
Mowed once in fall, so wildflowers can bloom.  
Milkweed makes the perfect butterfly room.

### 4. Forest & Fern Room

Soon sky is replaced with a wooded ceiling.  
Ferns find the forest floor a home quite appealing.  
A part of the farm where no trees once stood,  
is now used for walking and cutting firewood.

Birds, insects and snakes you may discover...  
the woods are a great place for an animal lover!  
Move through with your senses – smell, sight and sound.  
What do you see and hear? What's moving around?

These pastures of yore have become forests of trees,  
filled with a richness of diverse species.  
The trail twists & turns; oak and sassafras abound.  
Keep on and find power lines stretching over the ground.

### 5. Power Line Room

Follow the cables along, traveling to the east;  
along a wildlife corridor where birds & insects feast.  
Mowed every 5 years since the 1940s;  
a nice sunny spot for sweet fern and blueberries.

Mice, voles, and moles enjoy this habitat.  
See hawks above, underfoot coyote scat.  
At the metal towers, turn left, head into woods.  
Stay on the path – that would be good!

## 6. American Chestnut Room

At the sharp right turn a chestnut family.  
Here the blight's story we can easily see.  
In the port of New York – in 1904 –  
arrived a disease from a distant shore.

People were safe, but chestnut forests were not;  
once strong and plentiful, now all but forgot.  
The few chestnuts around you are ghosts of the past;  
Spiky nuts, shaggy bark: some of the last.

## 7. Pine & Maple Room

Passing through a stone wall, imagine an old gate.  
You're traveling back in time to a forgotten estate.  
First, leaves crunch underfoot as you travel this trail.  
Next, soft, quiet pine needles are part of our tale.

Pass through yet another stone wall gap.  
You're nearing the goal of this treasure map!  
To the right of the rocks, spy a three-trunk white pine.  
And behind it? Sugar maples, planted in line!

One trunk was lost. From this three trunks survive...  
You can tell it is "white" from its needles of five.  
Imagine the work as spring maple sap runs,  
To get syrup you need to boil forty gallons for one.

More stone walls to your left, another threshold –  
beyond which our final room's story unfolds.  
Can you see the end? Do you feel it near?  
Tell me what you think used to live here.

## 8. Our Final Room

On top of this cellar a farmhouse once stood.  
The stones are still here, but gone is the wood.  
Hundreds of years ago, people worked in this place;  
the gardens and livestock gone, leaving no trace.

Up from their home have grown all these trees.  
Visitors here, we preserve their memories.  
Between cellar hole and farm yard, a big oak tree.  
A break in the stone wall you can surely see.

Look around carefully behind this wall's rocks.  
And you'll find the "Rooms of Time" treasure box.  
Sign into our guest book; take a copy of the stamp.  
Then close it up carefully so it doesn't get damp!

Re-hide the box precisely where it was found...  
There for the next visitor who comes looking around.  
Now pass the cellar hole; at the road turn right...  
In 15 more minutes Moose Hill Farm is in your sight.

The creation of the "Rooms in Time" quest was a collaborative community process. The Trustees would like to thank all the volunteers and staff that helped make the quest a success. Their teamwork along with Steve Glazer's leadership made this project a great learning experience and a lot of fun. Special thanks to Ronan Moore and his spectacular work on the map.

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