


Step Into a New England Landmark

Fruitlands Farmhouse Gallery



Situated on land first settled around 1690, the Fruitlands Farmhouse was built by Samuel Sprague in the 1820s.

The farmhouse gained historical significance in 1843 when **Bronson Alcott and Charles Lane** lived here with their families and followers for seven months. They gathered in the hopes of creating an austere, rural community based on transcendentalist principles and to live off the **“fruits of the land.”** Eventually known as Fruitlands, this utopian commune was one of several communities that existed in the 19th century, but it is the only one that still survives today. This experience was later recounted by Alcott's daughter, novelist Louise May, in *Transcendental Wild Oats*.

After the utopian experiment ended, Joseph Palmer eventually purchased the property. Briefly renamed **Freelands**, it became a refuge for wayward individuals and families, and then later a working farm and rope factory.

A LIVING PIECE OF HISTORY

The Fruitlands Farmhouse was designated as a **national landmark** in 1966, and today houses our unique collection of artifacts that celebrate the people, ideas and stories of this short-lived, but remarkable utopian experiment.



ONE VISIT IS NEVER ENOUGH

Become a member and get unlimited admission for one year, store, restaurant and program discounts and reciprocal admission to many New England museums. For details, contact our membership department at (978) 456-3924, ext. 289, or visit fruitlands.org

"I walked over our little territory of woodland, vale, meadow and pasture — all beautiful, the hills commanding one of the most expansive prospects in the country. One is transported from his littleness and the soul expands in such a region of sights and sounds."

— Abigail Alcott, wife of Bronson Alcott, 1843

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