

Aerial Observation Building

Resting on a farm located on Mumby Road near the Hopewell Town Line, rests a humble shingled wood building which has seen many duties in its roughly 84 year life. The 12-foot by 8-foot structure was built by Gilbert Wood to be used as a gas station south of the intersection of Route 247 and Co Rd 18 at Reed Corners. Shortly after the outbreak of Hostilities with the Axis Powers, the building was moved to the Vernon and Grace Bigham farm, half mile east on County Road 18. During the war years, local men and women occupied the post in 3 hours shifts, keeping watch for possible enemy aircraft. The building was furnished with a stove table chair, radio, telephone posters of friendly and enemy aircraft as well as an assortment of magazines.

The opportunity presented itself to purchase the building from the latest owner, Leroy Burkholder for \$200. The structure will be removed to the BOCES center in Flint where young people in the carpentry and electrical trades will rehab the building. The Gorham Town Board is supporting this endeavor by allowing us to place this building on Town property east of the old Gorham Post Office, a short distance east of the Gorham Free Library.

We are hopeful that the Boy Scouts will be able to paint the structure. The Historical Society views this project as a fitting tribute to not only the men and women in uniform but the civilians on the home front.

The projected cost of this project is \$1,800.00. Any donation -large or small- to assist in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to Town of Gorham Historical Society, PO BOX 176, Gorham, NY 14461.