

Script for Old Town Hall

This building was built in the 1840s near the site of the present Town Hall as an office for the Clerk. It was replaced by the present Town Hall in 1895. It was eventually moved here in 1975.

As you see we use it for our vehicle and farm tool collection.

Vehicles:

Horse Drawn Hearse:

This horse drawn hearse belonged to Asa Anthony, the Portsmouth town coroner. In the 1880s he used it to bring bodies back to his farm (Willowbrook - now Connors Funeral Home) until the families could arrange a funeral. It was originally built in the 1870s and was used in New Bedford. The family donated it to the SOCIETY in the 1940s. It won prizes when it was entered into the Newport Gay Nineties Parade. It is set for one horse but could also be drawn by two horses. Although it looks like it is painted gray, analysis of the paint has shown that it was originally black. We have been trying both to preserve it and begin some restoration.



The Last Mail Wagon:



This horse drawn mail wagon dates back to 1902 when Abner Anthony purchased it when a post office opened on the corner of Clearview Avenue and East Main Road to serve South Portsmouth. Abner served for many years, first delivering mail by bicycle and then by horse and wagon.

Farm tools from local farms:

For example, this Corn Sheller was used on a farm up the road on Union Street. It separates the kernels from the corn cob to feed to the chickens.

