

THOREAU FARM TRUST
BIRTHPLACE OF HENRY DAVID THOREAU

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Thoreau Farm, a nonprofit organization, finished a complete restoration and rehabilitation of the Henry David Thoreau birth house and surrounding two-acre landscape. The site opened to the public for the first time in June. Over 700 enthusiastic visitors toured the property over the summer and fall.

The house, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was meticulously restored and rehabilitated by historic architect Larry Sorli in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Most of the original interior elements survived and the exterior of the house was returned to its 18th-century appearance using physical evidence and historic photographs provided by Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library. The landscape was restored to an open, farm-like setting, enhancing the rural/agricultural esthetic of Virginia Rd. and symbolizing the local landscape that inspired Thoreau and the Transcendentalists. A small ell was added to the back of the house, providing ADA-compliant access to the building.

In honor of Thoreau's environmental legacy, the Trust integrated green materials and systems into the project wherever possible while maintaining the historic integrity of the structure. Examples include the installation

of a low temperature heat pump for heating and cooling and composting toilets, as well as the use of soy and cellulose based insulation, FSC-certified wood, roofing shingles made from 95% recycled materials and low VOC paints, sealants and adhesives.



The beautifully restored Henry David Thoreau Birth House at 341 Virginia Road.

Thoreau Farm offers a unique historic house experience for visitors. We believe Thoreau's extraordinary insights and ideas about life, nature and individual responsibility are as relevant today as they were during his lifetime and we will use his birthplace as a source of inspiration for living deliberately, practicing simplicity and exploring new ideas for positive change. Tours and interpretation focus on Thoreau's ideas, stimulate discussion and debate with visitors and encourage visitors to reflect on how they can live more deliberately in accordance with their own values.

The Trust is grateful for the \$925,000 in contributions received for the capital costs of the project from many individuals and grantors in Concord and beyond. This includes \$200,000 of Community Preservation Funds appropriated by the 2007 Town Meeting for historic preservation and \$10,000 in 2009 for landscape restoration. In addition, Mass Humanities, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Sudbury Foundation provided funding for interpretive planning and implementation of a core exhibit at the site.

The house is open May-October on Saturdays and Sundays, but guided tours can be arranged at any time throughout the year by appointment.