



## The Trustees of the John Greenleaf Whittier Homestead

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*An Important Message  
Regarding  
Preservation  
of the  
John Greenleaf  
Whittier Birthplace*

## Trustees of John Greenleaf Whittier Homestead

305 Whittier Road  
Haverhill, MA 01830  
[www.johngreenleafwhittier.com](http://www.johngreenleafwhittier.com)

## How you can help:

Preservation of this vital community asset is of critical importance. The challenge of maintaining a more than 300-year-old historic home in the face of dwindling resources is compelling the Trustees of John Greenleaf Whittier Homestead to seek your support.

Your contribution of any amount you can afford will greatly assist efforts to preserve this important monument to one of the city's greatest sons.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Trustees of John Greenleaf Whittier Homestead, 305 Whittier Road, Haverhill, MA 01830

## Preservation of the birthplace of John Greenleaf Whittier

In 1688, in a small pleasant valley under the shoulder of Job's Hill, Thomas Whittier, the pioneer, built the house that was to be the Whittier family homestead. The family lived there for five generations and the Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, was born there on December 17, 1807.

The Whittier Homestead is an outstanding example of the old New England farm. Located on its original site, it is substantially the same as when the poet lived there in 1807 until 1836. The homestead is the setting of his most famous and beloved poem, "Snow-Bound." Many settings from his poems are recognizable to those who have read them. Outside there still stands a bridle-post where horses would be hitched, the natural stone mounting-block used by generations of children, and the doorstone of which the "barefoot boy" ate from his bowl of milk and bread.

The original barn, built in 1821 by John and Moses Whittier, the poet's father and uncle, was destroyed by fire in 1970. The present barn, of the same size and style, was moved from a nearby location in 1971.

The homestead was formally opened in 1893 after former-Mayor James H. Carleton purchased the house and land and presented it to the Haverhill Whittier Club. The club established a Board of Trustees which to this day holds the deed in trust, with the intent and obligation that the house and grounds

be maintained both as a tribute to the poet and as a valuable educational resource. Towards this end, the Trustees of John Greenleaf Whittier open the birthplace to local students for study and exploration.

In recent years, the birthplace accepted the additional responsibility for maintaining and preserving additional acres of land purchased by the City of Haverhill as part of an open space project. This land was also once owned by the Whittier family.

The John Greenleaf Whittier birthplace, as a unique Haverhill institution, is a source of great community pride.

### Today... the obligation to preserve

In fulfillment of its commitment to preserve the more than 300-year-old Whittier birthplace, the Trustees of John Greenleaf Whittier Homestead have identified a number of pressing preservation issues that require *immediate* attention. These include:

- Extensive repair and painting of the barn
- Restoration of shoe shop
- Various structural repairs to the home

In light of these pressing needs, the Trustees of the John Greenleaf Whittier Homestead are taking this rare step of seeking community support.