



Welcome to the  
rededication of the 1865  
Pine Grove Schoolhouse,  
Avon, Connecticut.

A national and state historic property

**Sunday, June 7, 2015**

Photo courtesy of Deb Key Imagery

## A Brief History of Pine Grove Schoolhouse (PGSH)

Built in 1865 by local men for \$1,538.34, PGSH was originally named Schoolhouse No. 7 and was a joint district with Farmington. It has gingerbread trim and fretwork which was typical of Victorian buildings at that time. It opened in December of that year and was designed to accommodate students in grades 1-8. Mr. Henry Barnard, Connecticut's first Commissioner of Education, visited the school when it opened and declared it the "finest school in the state." Its design of large windows for light and high ceilings for ventilation was novel at the time making it a model for future school buildings.

PGSH served as a public school for 84 years, closing in 1949. Later it became a branch library, private nursery school and meeting place for Explorer Scouts. The Avon Historical Society began restoration of it in 1975 as a Bicentennial Project. It was listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places in 1975 and is part of the Pine Grove Historic District.

Today visitors can see a one-room schoolhouse dating from the turn of the 20th century. It has a weight and pulley chalkboard behind the replica teacher's desk. The period bench stove was donated and almost matches the original seen in photos of 1912. The caned seat in the back of the room was used for "visitors," such as a parent or rural superintendent, to monitor activity to assure proper education of students. The restored outhouse on the south side is approximately 100 years old and was recently restored. The American Flag is from 1900 with 45 stars. And the large wall map is from 1893 with dots showing the location of all buildings at that time. Enjoy your visit with us today!

Over the years many individuals, families, organizations and corporations have made financial contributions and grants to our restoration efforts:

- ◆ Town of Avon
- ◆ State Bicentennial Commission
- ◆ American Savings Bank Foundation
- ◆ Farmington Savings Bank Foundation
- ◆ Ensign Bickford Foundation
- ◆ Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation
- ◆ Audrey "Tommie" Thompson Memorial Fund
- ◆ Family of Reata Thompson Sperry
- ◆ J&A Construction of Avon and New Haven
- ◆ In the memory of Adam Dzialo
- ◆ The Reller Family
- ◆ The Thompson Family
- ◆ John and Chrissie D'Esopo
- ◆ Maher Paint and Wallpaper
- ◆ McDonald's Restaurant in Avon
- ◆ Farmington Ready Mix
- ◆ Avon Police Association
- ◆ Avon Boy Scout Troop 274
- ◆ Many residents of the Farmington Valley including former students, teachers and their families!

Very special thanks to Jeannie Parker, Ben Isaacson and Bill Stokesbury for their years of volunteer support to keep the building restored and open for visitors from all over the world!