

**Recreating Our World in Miniature:  
Models of Peacham Historic Buildings and More  
1987 – 2016**



Made by Richard and Dorothy Hovey, and Valerie Hovey Chimienti.

Donated 2016-2018 by Elizabeth “Beppy“ Brown. Additional pieces are on loan from the Hovey Family.

Chosen by Melissa D. Hough

Independent Literacy Consultant; Board member, Peacham Historical Association. *I have always loved architectural design, historic structures, and miniatures, and was delighted to find this collection in the PHA archives.*

In 1987, the Hovey family embarked on a 30-year journey of building model replicas. It began with the desire to make a Christmas tree ornament to send to family and friends; the first year they made a model of their sugarhouse.

The collection grew to include a variety of structures and scenes including homes, barns, businesses, town-related structures, schools, churches, and classic New England scenes. The decision to select a subject was often influenced by the Hoveys’ special interests: maple sugaring, snow rollers, and covered bridges, are examples.

Each year, the Hoveys contacted the owner of the chosen building, took many photos, and researched the structure’s earliest known historic design. Next, they made a scaled drawing and created a prototype. Finally, all the pieces were cut, assembled, and painted, and details were added.

Over the years, the Hoveys experimented with different techniques and took on increasingly complex projects. For example, the scale of the buildings was adjusted, interior details were added, and the grain of the wood was used to illuminate the structure from underneath.

In total, the Hoveys made 29 different models, each year making 20-50 duplicates for distribution to friends and collectors.