



HUTCHINSON FAMILY HOMESTEAD

RIVER RD



Just exactly when this house was built is not certain. The main house was built by Joshua Burnham after his return from the Revolutionary War. The house was built to be an inn. There was a store in the ell of the house and a sign outside that read: Rum Sold Here.

In 1824 Burnham sold the house and property to Jesse and Polly Hutchinson. Thirteen of their sixteen children were raised here, some of whom became famous as the Hutchinson Family Singers. The Hutchinson Singers were known as not just “performers,” as the most famous antislavery newspaper put it, “but as abolitionists.”

There is a long documented history of the Hutchinsons antislavery activities and relationship with Frederic Douglass. He undoubtedly stayed at this house on his many visits to Milford.

Linked to the antislavery front line through the Hutchinsons and others, Milford was no isolated outpost in the struggle for abolition.