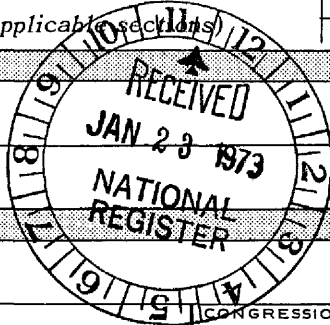


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Rockingham
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE FEB 28 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
Shapley Town House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Reuben Shapley House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
454-456 Court Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Portsmouth

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
First

STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33 COUNTY: Rockingham CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>See Contin. Sheet 1</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Strawbery Banke, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 300

CITY OR TOWN:
Portsmouth

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Rockingham County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Rockingham County Court House
Hamton Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Exeter

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE OF SURVEY: November 30, 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Department of Resources and Economic Development

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 856
State House Annex

CITY OR TOWN:
Concord

STATE:
New Hampshire

CODE:
33

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Hampshire
COUNTY: Rockingham
ENTRY NUMBER: FEB 28 1973
DATE: FEB 28 1973
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present Physical Appearance

The Reuban Shapley house is a three-story, hip-roofed brick dwelling constructed about 1815. Although the structure is treated symmetrically and coherently on the exterior, it is actually a double house, having two entirely separate dwelling units covered by a single roof. The two sides are totally isolated from one another by a brick firewall that extends from the cellar to the attic. This wall is totally invisible from the exterior. The only major visual difference between the two sides of the building, except for minor appendages on the south (rear) elevation, consists in the use of marble window sills and lintels on the east side of the building, and of wood sills and lintels on the west. Presently, the fanlights over the two front doors differ in appearance, although originally they appear to have been identical. The Shapley House has undergone a few relatively minor alterations as a result of the installation of modern heating and plumbing fixtures. Examination of the buildings shows that the original floor plans on both sides were virtually identical.

The ornamentation of the Shapley House is typical of Portsmouth's work in the early nineteenth century. The exterior of the building is embellished with heavy granite foundation stones and with an elaborate brick cornice. The best rooms of the house have delicate Federal style interior cornices, wainscoting, and mantle pieces supported by six attenuated columns. Balustrades consist of delicate handrails and square balusters.

Original Physical Appearance

The original appearance of the Shapley House differed from the present appearance mainly in superficial details. The major changes that have occurred, except for the installation of modern facilities, are the removal of interior window shutters and exterior window blinds, and slight alterations to the stairway on the western side, second floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian! 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Circa 1815

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

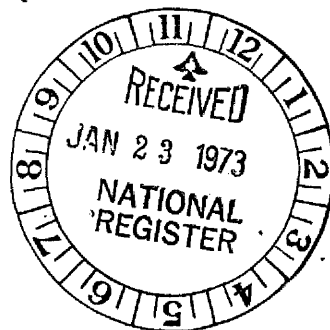
Architecture

This house was built by Captain Reuben Shapley, a prosperous mariner and merchant, shortly after a disastrous fire which swept through the center of town and destroyed the older house on this site. The building, then, is one of many that were constructed during the rebuilding of Portsmouth's center. Despite this fact, the house seems to have been unique. While there were many brick row houses constructed in Portsmouth after 1800, this appears to have been the only double house deliberately designed to appear as a free-standing single dwelling. Moreover, this is one of the best-preserved brick dwellings of Portsmouth's Federal period, many of its contemporary houses having been converted to apartments or stores. The house is also significant in the quality of its exterior and interior design and workmanship.

Urban Planning

After the great Portsmouth fire of 1813, the selectmen of the town and its builders and designers were faced with the task of developing new architectural forms to fill the burned-out area. Under the terms of a new town ordinance, all structures over one story in height were to be constructed of brick. The Shapley House is one of the best preserved examples of the new brick domestic architecture which evolved within the fifteen-acre area that was redeveloped after the fire of 1813. Its significance is increased by the fact that it is owned by a preservation agency that is presently engaged in improving its already-good condition, and that is obligated to retain the structure in perpetuity as an example of the very significant period of architectural and urban development after the 1813 Portsmouth fire.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Strawbery Banke, Inc., Strawbery Banke in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Official Guidebook.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

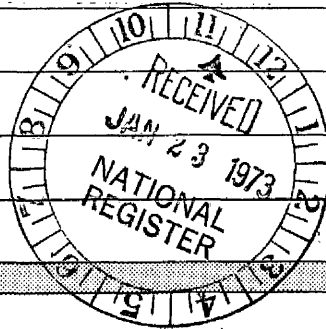
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 04' 36"	70° 45' 13"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
19/357220
4770630

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1/10 Acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James L. Carvin, Research Curator

ORGANIZATION: Strawbery Banke, Inc. DATE: December 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 300

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George Gilman
 Title: Commissioner
Department of Resources and Economic Development
 Date: January 12, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert S. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/28/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2/22/73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 1

STATE	
New Hampshire	
COUNTY	
Rockingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 28 1973

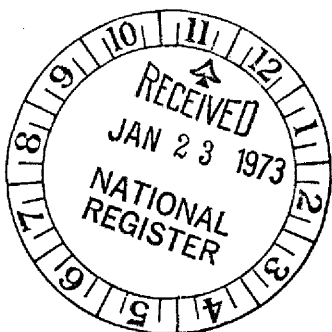
(Number all entries)

3. CLASSIFICATION

Present Use (check one or more as appropriate)

Comments

This building will be occupied in 1974 as a Port House, a temporary residence for troubled young people. It will be administered by local social-welfare agencies, but ownership will be retained by Strawberry Banke, Inc.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) 2

STATE	
New Hampshire	
COUNTY	
Rockingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 28 1973

(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title of Survey:

An Inventory of Historic Structures, Portsmouth,
New Hampshire

Date of Survey: 1972 Federal State County xLocal

Depository for Survey Records:
Community Improvement Program
Portsmouth Planning Department

Street and Number:

City Hall
126 Daniel Street

City or Town:

Portsmouth

State:

New Hampshire 03801

Code:

33

Title of Survey:

Historic American Buildings Survey

Date of Survey: 1961 xFederal State County Local

Depository for Survey Records:
Library of Congress

Street and Number:

10 First Street, S.E.

City or Town:

Washington, . . .

State

D.C. 20540

Code:

11

