

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic WAKEFIELD HOUSE

and/or common WAKEFIELD HOUSE

2. Location

street & number Wakefield-Triangle, Route 153 *N.H. 153* not for publication

city, town Wakefield vicinity of

state N.H. code 33 county Carroll code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
X building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> park
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Pearl Evans Isenbergh & Max Isenbergh

street & number 2216 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.

city, town Washington vicinity of state D.C. 20008

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Complex/Registry of Deeds

street & number Route 171

city, town Ossipee state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date n/a
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wakefield House is a rectangular frame dwelling of two and a half stories, with a foundation of split granite blocks, clapboarded walls, a five-bay facade, a gable roof, and chimneys placed at each end of the house. Attached to the rear of the dwelling is a one and a half story wing which connects the house to a gable-roofed two-car garage with a loft. A single-flue chimney rises through the roof of the wing.

The facade of the house is characterized by simple detailing. Although the dwelling has traditionally been dated at about 1785, all stylistic features of the facade appear to date from the 1820s or later. The original doorway was replaced by a two-leaf door of the mid-nineteenth century. Probably at the same time, a one-story piazza was added across the front; this has square columns which support a simple architrave with ornamental boards applied to its soffit. Window sashes are 6/6, and window casings have simple backband mouldings. The cornice of the house is fully developed, with crown and bed mouldings of cyma and ovolو profiles. Clapboards on the facade have greater exposure to the weather than those on the end elevations, suggesting that the facade was reclapboarded when the porch was added in the mid-1800s.

The end elevations of the house have two windows on each story. The cornice of the building extends fully across the gable ends, creating triangular pediments at each end. The tympanums of each pediment are clapboarded, and have two narrow windows with 4/4 sashes.

The chimneys of the main house are small one-flue brick stacks which pierce the roof ridge at each end of the house. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles with broad sheet metal flashing at the eaves.

The interior of the house contains seven main rooms plus a large kitchen in the wing. The front door opens upon a central hall with a single-run staircase having a delicate balustrade. North (left) of the central hall is a single parlor measuring about 18 feet square; this has a fireplace with a reproduced mantelpiece in the Federal style. South (right) of the hallway is a dining room of nearly the same dimensions as the parlor; this has a fireplace and two corner cupboards. Above these two main rooms are chambers, while above the kitchen is a single large room which is said to have been used as a chamber for teamsters during the period when the house served as an inn. Interior detailing throughout the house is Federal in style, with flat-panelled woodwork deriving generally from the books of Asher Benjamin.

South of the house is a large two and a half story barn with a heavy hewn and braced frame and a gable roof which faces the road in front of the dwelling. The barn has a clapboarded front elevation and asphalt siding on the other three walls. Its roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal. On the first floor are two front doorways; the principal entrance, near the center of the front elevation, is topped by a 30-light transom sash. The barn was converted to a summer dwelling in the late 1920s, and continues that use. A large chimney for a fireplace rises on the back (east) of the barn, with a second chimney piercing the roof above the right-hand bay of the structure. A screened porch extends across the first floor level at the rear of the barn, and a small shed-roofed addition with vertical wall boarding and an asphalt-shingled roof, extends from the south side elevation of the barn at its front end.

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Continuation sheet #1 - DESCRIPTION

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South of the barn is a carriage shed of one story, with a gable roof and a heavy braced frame. The two southern bays of the shed are open on front and back, and the northern bay is enclosed with vertical siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Behind the barn is a tool shed with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles and with walls covered with rough pine siding laid horizontally in overlapping fashion.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below											
prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	community planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	religion	<input type="checkbox"/>			
1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/>	archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	law	<input type="checkbox"/>	science	<input type="checkbox"/>			
1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/>	agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	economics	<input type="checkbox"/>	literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>			
1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	education	<input type="checkbox"/>	military	<input type="checkbox"/>	social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>			
1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/>	art	<input type="checkbox"/>	engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	music	<input type="checkbox"/>	theater	<input type="checkbox"/>			
X 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/>	commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
1900–	<input type="checkbox"/>	communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/>	other (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>			
			<input type="checkbox"/>	invention								

Specific dates c. 1820

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wakefield House is a simple but dignified country dwelling which retains a Federal-period vernacular floor plan overlaid with simple Greek Revival detailing. During the mid-nineteenth century the house served as one of several inns in the small village of Wakefield Corner, thus gaining a place in the transportation history of eastern New Hampshire and contributing to the public and commercial life of its region.

Architecture: The plan of Wakefield House—one room deep, two stories high, with a central hall, gable roof, and end chimneys—first appeared in the coastal New Hampshire towns of Portsmouth and Exeter about 1800. The plan was a Federal-period adaptation of a commonplace central-chimney house type of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, updated by the substitution of end chimneys for the traditional central stack. Moving the chimneys to the end walls of such houses permitted the buildings to gain the central hallway and outside fireplaces favored during the Federal period, while retaining the traditional frame of an earlier era. In most such houses, as in Wakefield House, the kitchen was moved to a one- or two-story wing.

Wakefield House reflects its Federal-period character in its detailing, which is simple, delicate, and characterized by such interior features as flat-panelled woodwork, six-panel Federal-style doors, and moulded "double" door and window casings. At the same time, the house reveals an awareness of the Greek Revival style in its use of gable pediments. The house further reflects its conversion to use as an inn by 1853 in its broad front piazza and double front door—features which were undoubtedly added about 1850 in an attempt to modernize the dwelling for public use. Wakefield House thus reflects its vernacular origins, the styles which were current during the 1820s, and the styles and amenities of the mid-1800s. Its excellent state of preservation renders the house an excellent example of a typical dwelling of its era and its region.

Transportation: Like most of the townships in its region, Wakefield was originally laid out with a standardized grid plan of lots which prescribed that the meeting house be located at the geographical center of the township. In such townships, a village often developed near the meeting house; in Wakefield, such a village exists in the form of present-day Sanbornville, a mile south of Wakefield Corner. In such townships, too, other villages often developed according to local needs and economy. In Wakefield, such additional population centers occur at Union and Wakefield Corner. Of these ancillary villages, the earliest is Wakefield Corner; this center became a focus of business and agriculture by about 1800.¹ Wakefield Corner eventually grew to include the town hall, several stores, a church, an academy, a Grange hall, hay scales, and several taverns. Like similar centers in the adjoining townships of Middleton and New Durham, Wakefield Corner was an important center for stagecoach and freight wagon traffic, and was linked physically and economically to nearby towns in New Hampshire and Maine by a system of improved "country highways."

9. Major Bibliographical References

- 1) Research of Mildred N. Turner, our predecessor in title, for the Wakefield Historic District Commission.

-see Continuation Sheet #3

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.2

Quadrangle name Wolfeboro, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>9</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	

B	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Assessor's Map #035, parcel #020.

-see Continuation Sheet #3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Max Isenbergh, co-owner with Pearl Evans Isenbergh

organization n/a date July 15, 1982

street & number 2216 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. telephone 202-232-2216

city or town Washington state D.C. 20008

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development date May 2, 1983
NH State Historic Preservation Officer

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

J. Melvyn Byars Entered in the
keeper of the National Register

date

6/23/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet #2 - SIGNIFICANCE

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Even after the railroad arrived in Sanbornville in 1871 and by-passed Wakefield Corner, the Corner remained an important nucleus of agricultural and highway activity. By the mid-1800s, when Wakefield House served as an inn, Wakefield Corner was a small but important center for summer boarders. As a stopping place for such guests and for commercial travellers, Wakefield House played a significant role in the transportation networks of eastern New Hampshire and adjoining Maine. Wakefield House was kept as an inn as early as 1853, remaining in such use at least until 1879 under the ownership of Hiram Paul.² Due to the fact that Wakefield Corner never became a railroad center, the original character of the village has been preserved intact, and Wakefield House remains as a well-maintained example of a mid-nineteenth century inn and an important link in the history of transportation of its region.

¹Georgia Drew Merrill, History of Carroll County, New Hampshire (Boston: W.A. Ferguson & Co., 1889), pp. 477, 516.

²Mildred N. Turner, Inventory form for Wakefield, N.H., Historic District Commission, 1978.

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Continuation sheet #3

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 2) Conversations with the late Samuel Paul, grandson of Hiram Paul, owner of Wakefield House from c. 1850 to 1879; and with Samuel Paul's brother-in-law, Dr. Frank Heck.
- 3) Documentary confirmation of Wakefield House as Hiram Paul's tavern before 1853 is in a letter of September 25, 1853, a copy of which, supplied by Mrs. Rollins Brown of Wakefield, whose late husband was a descendant of the author, E. Ashton Rollins.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary justification: The boundaries of the nominated property are those which existed at least as early as 1879 and possibly from the time of the construction of the main house. They encompass all property known to be associated with Wakefield House.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

2/20/83: It has been certified that the appearance of the structures has not changed since the photographs were taken.

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Continuation sheet #4 - SKETCH MAP

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Wakefield House/Wakefield, NH

RT. 16B (or 153)

