

0113 11-11-1110
EXP. 12-31-85

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 25 1983

date entered

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

1. Name

historic CORNET THOMAS WIGGIN HOUSE

and/or common PATRICK R. FLANAGAN HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 249 Portsmouth Avenue not for publication

city, town Stratham vicinity of ~~congressional district~~ (1st)

state N.H. code 33 county Rockingham code 015

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Patrick F. & Esther L. Flanagan

street & number 249 Portsmouth Avenue

city, town Stratham vicinity of _____ state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rockingham County Courthouse/Registry of Deeds

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Preservation of Historic Areas has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date June 1, 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Rockingham Planning Commission, One Water Street

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cornet Thomas Wiggin House site includes a two and one-half story Federal style dwelling, and a 1½ story restored post and beam carriage barn. It is located on the north corner of the intersection of Portsmouth Avenue (N.H. State Route 101) and Depot Road in Stratham, N.H. These structures are situated on five acres of farmland and oriented towards Portsmouth Ave.

The dwelling is of post and beam construction. The exterior of the building is sheathed in feather-edged clapboard. The exterior planes terminate in narrow wooden cornerboards which rise the height of the building to a boxed cornice which is found beneath the projecting eaves of the gable roof. Interior brick end chimneys with straight stacks and corbelled caps punctuate the ridge line of the building's asphalt shingle sheathed roof.

The principal entrance to the symmetrical structure is located in the central bay of the south facade. This entrance includes an original monumental (extra-wide) door of six flat panels with delicate federal moldings accented by an overscale five light transom which has replaced original detailing (perhaps an arch?). The door and transom are enframed by simple flat tapering pilasters which support a narrow architrave and projecting full entablature cornice. This surround probably dates to a remodeling c. 1830 - interior detail indicates that some updating was done during this period. The first and second story windows are nine light over six light sash enframed by simple surrounds. The principal block of the building, wing and ell are supported by a combined cut granite and rubble foundation.

A one-story, two bay, single cell wing adjoins the north corner of the west elevation. The wing terminates in a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The west end of this wing includes an interior end chimney. This wing was used as a cobbler's shop during the first half of the 19th century.

A one-and-a-half story ell extends from the east corner of the north elevation of the principal block. This single pile ell includes an interior brick stove chimney with a straight stack.

Interior inspection has revealed a curious configuration. The eastern half of the structure and the rear ell have thicker walls than the western half -- seemingly to accommodate the sliding shutters found only in this section. This irregularity might indicate that this half of the house is of somewhat earlier date or that thicker walls and shutters were necessary for thermal reasons, this being the colder side of the house. Detailing throughout (including these shutters) is consistent and fits with the estimated period of finish work by Nathan Barker between 1776 and 1792. No evidence of an earlier structure is visible in either the cellar or attic.

The barn associated with the Cornet Thomas Wiggin House is 1½ stories, of post and beam construction. It measures 60' X 40' and is oriented laterally to Portsmouth Avenue. It is possible that this structure is contemporary with the house. The lateral orientation and framing structure make this seem likely. The barn was restored in the 1970's, receiving new clapboards, board and batten siding on the east elevation and doors in the two main bays. Other details include irregular square fenestration with 3/3 sash and a small attached shed on the southwest elevation.

See Continuation Sheet #1-

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet #1 - DESCRIPTION

Item number 7

Page 2

The five acres associated with the site are all that remain of the historic twelve-acre land holding. The open fields have not been recently cultivated and are returning to bramble and woods. The wooded area provides a visual screen from recent development which has taken place on the north and east. The age of the growth, size of the barn, and original size of the parcel indicate an 18th century subsistence farm which was probably maintained as such until the decline of New Hampshire agriculture at the turn of the century.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates c. 1770 - 1780 **Builder/Architect** Cornet Thomas Wiggin, Nathan Barker

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cornet Thomas Wiggin House is architecturally significant as a remarkably well preserved example of a vernacular interpretation of the federal style as popularized in the Exeter/Portsmouth area of New Hampshire. Many farm houses survive locally from this period, but the Cornet Thomas Wiggin House is particularly notable due to having survived virtually intact. Its vernacular idiosyncracies will be of special interest to architectural historians studying local building patterns. In addition, the Wiggin House retains integrity of site by its retention of the five acres of farmland still associated with the structure. Historically, Route 101 was the main thoroughfare between Exeter and Portsmouth, and because it has remained so, this major artery has been upgraded to serve modern needs. The Cornet Thomas Wiggin House, barn and land serve as critical reminders of the historic development of this route.

Cornet Thomas Wiggin, representing the fourth generation of this politically prominent local family (which traces its Stratham origins back to c. 1640) is responsible for the initial building of the Wiggin House at 249 Portsmouth Avenue. Born in Stratham in 1701, Cornet (local militia) Wiggin was active in community affairs. He purchased the 12-acre site at 249 Portsmouth Avenue in 1760. He constructed and lived with his wife as well as his daughter Ann and her husband Nathan Barker, in the present house prior to his death on April 24, 1776. The earliest reference to a dwelling on the site is found in the March 14, 1786 Court Inventory of the estate of Thomas Wiggin. This inventory refers to the site as the twelve-acre "home place where he lived." Wiggin's estate was entangled and took 10 years to settle. Nathan Barker (his son-in-law, a farmer and tanner) was appointed by the Court as administrator and later purchased the property from the estate in 1789. Before Barker sold the property to Sarah Wiggin in 1792, he completed work on the structure (most likely the interior finish work) begun by Cornet Thomas Wiggin.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #2-

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5 ±

Quadrangle name Newmarket, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	9	3	4	5	3	1	5	4	7	6	6	8	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification: Parcel containing approximately five acres designated Map 12, Parcel 34 in the tax records of the town of Stratham, New Hampshire.

See Continuation Sheet #3-

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

state	n/a	code	county	code
	n/a			
	n/a			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Compiled by Lynne E. Monroe, Researched by Margery P. Brooke

organization Rockingham Planning Commission date August 8, 1982

street & number One Water Street telephone 603-778-0885

city or town Exeter state New Hampshire 03833

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 [Signature]

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 8, 1983

For NPS use only

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

[Signature] date 3/24/83
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

Continuation sheet #2 - REFERENCES

Item number 9

Page 1

Nelson, Charles: History of Stratham, (1866).

Registry of Deeds, Rockingham County Courthouse, Hampton Road, Exeter, New Hampshire.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Vol.</u>	<u>Page</u>
1786	122	138
1789	133	171
1789	133	172
1790	127	99
1791	148	377
1792	134	193

Stratham Town Records, Vol. I & II, Stratham Town Hall, Stratham, New Hampshire.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet #3 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Item number 10

Page 2

Boundary Justification:

The property associated with the Cornet Thomas Wiggin House is approximately five acres. The irregularly shaped plot is bounded on the south by New Hampshire Route 101, west by Depot Road, and on the north and east by surveyed property lines. The parcel is congruent with the tax maps of the Town of Stratham, New Hampshire. The parcel of five acres is all that remains of the original farm tract. The fields have grown back to woods which visually protect the site from recent development taking place to the north and east.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION:

The photos of the Cornet Thomas Wiggin House are still representative of the site. No changes have taken place since they were taken.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet #4 - ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

Item number --

Page --

Sketch map for Cornet Thomas Wiggin House/Stratham, N.H./NR-N
(5 ± acres)

