

SEP 03 1982

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

SEP 03 1982

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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received 17 SEP 1979

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

date entered

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

1. Name

historic SAMUEL WYATT HOUSE

and/or common SAMUEL WYATT HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 7 Church Street not for publication

city, town Dover vicinity of congressional district First

state New Hampshire code 33 county Strafford code 017

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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Clyde G. Skelly and Miss Mary E. Skelly

street & number 7 Church Street

city, town Dover vicinity of state New Hampshire 03820

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Strafford County Registry of Deeds  
Strafford County Courthouse

street & number County Farm Road

city, town Dover state New Hampshire 03820

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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Samuel Wyatt House is located in the south-central part of the City of Dover, New Hampshire, on a corner lot bounded on the south by Church Street and on the east by Middle Street. The property is one block west of the main city artery, Central Avenue, which is State Rte. 16.

The Wyatt house was built in 1835 for Samuel Wyatt and his wife Sophia Cushing (Hayes) Wyatt. It is attributed to George Pendexter, master carpenter of Dover, New Hampshire, who built the 1827 red brick Congregational church diagonally across the street from the Wyatt house on the corner of Church Street and Central Avenue. The Wyatt house stands on its original lot of 10,000 square feet. At the time of its construction in 1835 it was adjacent to the municipal center of Dover, locally known then as "The Corner," which today is Tuttle Square on Central Avenue.

The Wyatt house is a 2-story Greek Revival frame dwelling. The exterior is clapboarded and painted white with conventional six over six double hung sashes. The facade faces south on Church Street. The front door with its original hardware is positioned at the extreme left of the gabled end. A pair of original hardware is positioned at the extreme left of the gabled end. A pair of vertical multi-paned sidelights flanks the door and unglazed louvered fan tops the doorway. A plain ridge-roofed portico supported by two Doric columns extends over the doorway. The facade has a full triangular pediment with a double hung sash window centered in its tympanum. The east and west elevations of the house contain the same style of six-over-six double hung sash windows.

A 2-story ell extends from the north end of the main structure and contains a kitchen on first floor and a bedroom above. Beyond this ell a further extension leads into a dead-end passage with a buttery to the right side. The basement below this was enlarged and extended about 1938 to provide a 2-car garage. An original 2-story frame barn was demolished to provide space and materials for the garage.

A single-run staircase rises to the second floor hall, with a narrow passageway to its right. Immediately to the right of the hall is the south sitting room, with a similar room behind it. The two sitting rooms are identical in floor plan; each has a characteristic Greek revival mantelpiece. The rooms are divided by a pair of full-length sliding paneled doors, each of which has an original recessed mercury pull. All other passage doors in the main house have original cut glass knobs, and all windows have sliding fixed-louvre inside shutters for each upper and lower sash. Flooring in all rooms is original wide boarding. A doorway leads from the north to a dining room which has applied plaster cornice and two contemporary glass-doored corner cupboards. From the dining room a doorway at the north leads to a kitchen in the ell which retains its original floor plan while containing modern equipment. A staircase at the north end of the kitchen leads to a second floor rear hall and to a basement utility room.

The second floor room arrangement repeats that of the first floor. A long hallway runs from front to rear of the house along the west wall. Off this hall at the south (front) is a bedroom with a characteristic Greek revival mantle, an iron fireframe and a white marble hearth. This room also has an extended area with an open archway, presumably used as a dressing room. The next bedroom also contains a mantle, iron fireframe and marble hearth and has an adjoining dressing room with a large closet and a built-in chest of drawers. At

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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DESCRIPTION (Continued)

the rear of the hallway a narrow enclosed staircase mounts to the unfinished attic. There is an additional bedroom above the kitchen.

Two chimneys with pointed arched caps serve the four east fireplaces. A third chimney on the west side serves the basement furnace and at an earlier date was also used for a kitchen range. The house has a full basement. The west fireplace chimney footings are vaulted and adapted as storage and preserve closets.

To the west of the house and within the lot is a terraced lawn. Fieldstone steps lead down to an old fashioned flower garden shaded in part by mature maple trees; a third very old maple shades the southeast corner of the house.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1835 **Builder/Architect** George Pendexter (attributed)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Samuel Wyatt House is a significant example of the Greek Revival architecture of Dover, New Hampshire, in the 1830's and represents the workmanship of the master carpenters of the area.

Mrs. Sophia Cushing (Hayes) Wyatt was the great grand-daughter of the famous Colonial minister, the Rev. Jonathan Cushing. She became a well-known educator and author and is said to have taught more children than any other lady in New Hampshire. Her teaching career lasted about thirty years and among her students were well-known attorneys and members of Congress who visited her in later years. Samuel Wyatt, her second husband, was a prominent hotel owner in Dover, New Hampshire. Together they owned and operated hotels in Dover, Boston, and Medford, Massachusetts. In 1838, while they owned the Dover Hotel, they built the New Hampshire House, considered the most beautiful hotel in New Hampshire at the time, across the road. They later operated it as the first temperance hotel in the area.

The Wyatts were well-known for their civic interests. Mrs. Wyatt donated the tower clock in the brick First Congregational Church across the street from the New Hampshire House. Samuel Wyatt had many real estate holdings in addition to his hotels and he held several town offices. While living in Dover, the Wyatts entertained James Monroe, Lafayette, and John Adams.

The Samuel Wyatt House is located in that district of Dover which was known as "The Corner" during the early 1800's because here were two large hotels, the stage coach stops from Portland to Boston, a bank, a dance hall, the Court House where Daniel Webster practiced law, and the brick First Congregational Church. Nearby was the jail, the post office, and a small inn where Daniel Webster boarded when he was on court duty in Dover. The "corner", Court Square, was the center of social, municipal and ecclesiastical activities in the town during the nineteenth century. Today this area joins Tuttle Square along Central Avenue, but few of the ancient structures remain.

Subsequent owners of the Samuel Wyatt House were Silas Moody (1840-1896), who was a furrier, businessman, real estate investor, and New Hampshire State Representative. From 1896 to 1969 the property was owned by the Washington Anderton family. Anderton was brought over from Lancaster, England, by the Cocheco Manufacturing Company as a dyer and soon became general superintendent of the printery at the mills. He later operated a publishing business in Dover and amassed considerable real estate holdings. The owner since 1969 is Dr. Clyde G. Skelly, a psychologist, author and art collector who maintains the Wyatt house as a summer home.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

2061 2 3 11/11

City Directory of Dover, NH: 1830-33-37-38-43-46-59-65-69-74-76 and 1892.  
Smith, Daniel J., Rambles About the Dover Area, Hancock Press, Lexington, MA.  
Scales, John, History of Dover, NH, John Clarke Co., Manchester, NH, 1923.  
Wyatt, Sophia Cushing Hayes, Autobiography of a Landlady, Wright & Haste, Boston, MA, 1854.  
(See Continuation Sheet #2)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property app. 10,000 sq. ft.  
Quadrangle name Dover West Quadrangle scale 7.5'

### UMT References

OK  
S.C.  
12/2/82

A 19 347620 4783580  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Dover Tax Records: Map 9, Lot 91.

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

state	code	county	code
<u>N/A</u>			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John T. Abbott (and) Miss Mary E. Skelly

organization Bedford (Mass.) Historical Commission date September 21, 1978

street & number 118 Wilson Rd. 7 Church Street telephone (617) 275-7095 (603) 742-2325

city or town Bedford, MA 01730 Dover state New Hampshire 03820

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]  
 Commissioner, Department Resources & Economic Development  
 title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date August 6, 1979

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

[Signature] date 12/2/82  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief of Registration

SEP 03 1982

FHR-8-300A  
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CONTINUATION SHEET SIGNIFICANCE ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Statement of Significance to be used in place of the original one for the Samuel Wyatt House in Dover, NH. (As of 7/30/80)

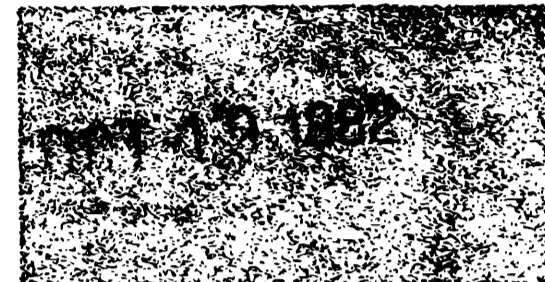
**SIGNIFICANCE:**

**ARCHITECTURAL:** The Samuel Wyatt House is a well-preserved example of Greek Revival domestic architecture as interpreted by Dover's craftsmen. The building represents an era when Dover was evolving rapidly from a small town at the head of tidewater to one of the largest textile-manufacturing centers in eastern New Hampshire. Due largely to prosperity engendered by the Dover Manufacturing Company (incorporated in 1823 from the earlier Dover Cotton Factory), the town of Dover grew from a population of 2,871 in 1820 to one of 6,458 in 1840. This rapid growth was accompanied by the construction of many dwellings in the Greek Revival style. During the same period, many of New Hampshire's other tidewater towns were relatively static in population, and as a result the Greek Revival style is poorly represented in the domestic architecture of these communities. Dover, by contrast, has one of the highest concentrations of Greek Revival dwellings in southeastern New Hampshire. In most of these structures which, like the Wyatt House, were built during the 1830s, vestiges of the Federal style remain and impart a conservative aspect to the local houses. The Wyatt House is, then, a typical and well-preserved example of domestic architecture from the period of Dover's greatest prominence in the history and economy of New Hampshire.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

New Hampshire



Continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

Item number 8

Page 3

Statement of Significance from additional research made as of August 1982:

The Samuel Wyatt House is significant not only because of its well preserved and unspoiled architecture but also because of its first owner's contributions to education and social reform and their association with national and international famous personages.

Samuel Wyatt, socially prominent entrepreneur, town official, hotel owner and well-known temperance advocate, entertained during his career such dignitaries as President Monroe, President John Adams and General Lafayette. (Refs. Hist. Memoranda of Persons in Old Dover, pg 14; Autobiography of Sophia Wyatt, pg 29 and 30; John Hayes Genealogy of Dover, pg 293).

While owning the beautiful New Hampshire House, a temperance hotel, Samuel Wyatt had built in 1835 the Greek Revival house on Church Street adjacent to the hotel. The Dover Town Directory for the year 1838 lists him as living in the house on Church Street. (Ref. Autobiography of Sophia Wyatt, pg 31).

During the period of 1835 to 1840 Samuel Wyatt and his wife, Sophia Cushing Hayes Wyatt, conducted seminars on Temperance and brought to Dover the foremost Temperance lecturers of the Union. (Ref. Autobiog. of Sophia Wyatt, pg 30 and 31).

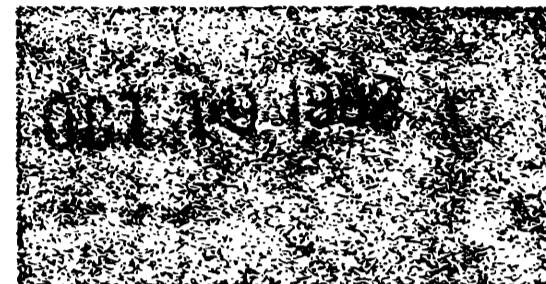
Sophia Wyatt, author and educator for over 45 years, was one of the early advocates of education for women. She worked toward that goal until her death in 1857. She had been well educated and one of her first teachers was the Rev. Jesse Appleton, DD, who was later President of Bowdoin College. (Ref. Autobiog. of Sophia Wyatt, pg 1\*, 23, 53).

The Samuel Wyatt house was built in 1835 during a period of prosperity when Dover was emerging from a lumber manufacturing town to a cotton manufacturing center. Dover soon became second only to Lowell, Massachusetts as the birthplace of American factory labor. Due to the vast population increase between 1820 and 1840, many Greek Revival style houses, such as the Samuel Wyatt House, were built in Dover. (Ref. History of Dover by Grimes, pg 4).

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

New Hampshire



Continuation sheet

SIGNIFICANCE

Item number

8

Page 4

Significance (August 1982 research, continued)

A "Windshield Survey" of Dover in August of 1982 shows that there are many Greek Revival style houses still standing but most are in extreme re-muddled condition or in varying stages of decay or both. The Samuel Wyatt house is the only Greek Revival house still standing within the confines of the old Dover historic "Corner". It retains its original lot and has had no alterations other than a small barn conversion, about 1930, to a two-car garage. The house is the only property of Samuel Wyatt's extant today in Dover of his many real estate holdings. Ref. Strafford County Registry of Deeds, Book 166, pg 10; Book 185, pg 459; Book 310, pg 312).

Extensive research has not disclosed the actual builder of the Samuel Wyatt house but it has been attributed to George Pendexter due to the close friendships of the Wyatt and Pendexter families. In any event the house is a well-preserved and unspoiled example of the work of a master carpenter of Dover of the period.

The house has had no interior or exterior changes made since the original nomination papers were submitted to Washington, DC, in September of 1979, other than in 1981 the exterior was repainted white and the roof reshingled with same type and color of shingles.



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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

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Historical Memoranda No. 288, newspaper clipping scrapbook, Filed at the Public Library, Dover, New Hampshire.

Dover Illustrated (newspaper), Vol. 1, No. 7 & 8, pbl. Charles Richmond, Dover, New Hampshire, 1884.

Grimes, Gordon, Dover Architecture and Industry, NH Profiles Magazine, VOL XXII, No. 3, March, 1973.

Williams, H.L. and O.K., Old American Houses and How to Restore Them, Doubleday & Co., New York 1946 and revised ed pbl Bonanza Books, New York, 1957.

Grimes, Gordon F., History of Dover, NH, 1790-1835, Vol I and II, pbl Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME, April 1971.

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Book 166, Page 10; Book 185 Page 439; Book 310 Page 312.

Scales, John, A.B., A.M., Colonial Era History of Dover, NH, pbl by John B. Clarke Co., Manchester, NH, 1923.

Wyatt, Sophia Cushing Hayes, Autobiography of a Landlady of the Old School, pbl by Wright and Hasty, Water Street, Boston, MA, 1854.

Historical Memoranda of Persons & Places in Old Dover, NH, a collection of publications appearing in Dover Enquirer 1850-1888, edited by John Scales, A.B., A.M., 1923, ref. to page 14.

Wadleigh, George H., History of Dover, NH, pbl Tufts College Press, 1913.

Town Directory of Dover, NH, 1830 thru 1843, inclusive.