

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: JUN 20 1975

1. NAME

COMMON: Weeks House
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Brick House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Weeks Avenue, about 100 feet north of NH Route 101
CITY OR TOWN: Greenland
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: New Hampshire 03840
CODE: 33
COUNTY: Rockingham
CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One): Building
OWNERSHIP: Private
STATUS: Unoccupied
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Restricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): Agricultural, Private Residence

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Robert & Patricia Crothers (Greenland Heights Realty)
STREET AND NUMBER: Portsmouth Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Greenland
STATE: New Hampshire 03840
CODE: 33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
STREET AND NUMBER: Hampton Road
CITY OR TOWN: Exeter
STATE: New Hampshire 03833
CODE: 33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: See Continuation Sheet 1
DATE OF SURVEY: [] Federal [] State [x] County [] Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES stamp: JUN 05 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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)
	<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	
<p>The Weeks House (Old Brick House) in Greenland, New Hampshire is a two-storied brick structure with five-bay facade, double-bay ends, and "square pitch" roof with end gables; rectangular in shape, it has a central-hallway plan and two chimneys, one centered in each gable, integral with the end walls.</p> <p>The brick, thought to have been made in a field southeast of the house,¹ is laid in bond, with dark (hard-burned) headers, giving the walls a speckled appearance. According to members of the Weeks family, the exterior was at one time covered in cement, fortunately now removed. There is a belt course, two stretchers high, around the building at the second-floor level, and another across the gable ends at the attic-floor level. Gable edges are defined with a simple rake extension.</p> <p>The chimneys are alike in detail but dissimilar in size, the smaller western one being almost square in plan, while the eastern one is rectangular. The stacks rise from a massive base and watertable, and have three-course corbelled tops, with thick inward-sloping caps. Although the caps were repaired in the early 20th century, their present condition is similar if not identical to their former appearance, as comparison with early photographs will show.² The wider dimension of the smaller chimney and the narrower dimension of the larger are placed parallel the facade, making their widths approximately equal when viewed frontally.</p> <p>Each end wall has vertical cracks, supposedly sustained in the earthquake of 1755, after which the owner inserted longitudinal tie rods from end to end of the house, to prevent further damage.³</p> <p>The placement of windows and front door is subtly asymmetric. The front door, and the second floor window aligned with it, are not centered in the facade, but are placed slightly to the left. The first and second floor windows at the western end are paired; the two sets of eastern windows are also paired, but are spaced farther from each other, and from the central bay, than those on the west. The windows on the end elevations are located near the corners, in order to accommodate the width of the chimney concealed within the exterior wall; those on the northern end of the west elevation, and on the southern end of the east elevation, are obviously offset from each other, the upper-floor windows being nearer the end wall in both cases; the remaining sets of windows are approximately, though not precisely, aligned. The two small gable windows at each end (4/2, wood single-hung) are centered horizontally in the gable, immediately adjoining the chimney.</p> <p>The attic and second floor windows are set in rectangular openings, while the window and door openings on the first floor have heads formed of segmental arches; the arched sections of the window openings were later filled with horizontal brick coursing, extending upward from the tops of the jambs, making the window heads horizontal. The door opening retains its arched shape, emphasized by the very simple infill treatment of the wooden door surrounds; the five lights in the frame above the door head are probably original. The present windows are wood double-hung 6/6, with the exception</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) c. 1710

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significance: Architectural

The Weeks House (Old Brick House) in Greenland, New Hampshire, was long assumed to be "the oldest house in New Hampshire", with a traditional date of 1638.¹ Even now a souvenir tile is sold, bearing the legend "Weeks Brick House / Greenland, New Hampshire / Oldest Brick House in New England / Erected 1638", much to the consternation of the family. The early date has, however, been discounted by subsequent research, and it is now assumed that the house was built by Samuel Weeks sometime in the first decade of the 18th century, c. 1710.²

Samuel Weeks was the grandson of Samuel Haines (b. 1611, in England), first settler and largest landowner in Greenland, who had come to America in 1635³ and eventually resided at a spot opposite the present Weeks House.⁴ Haines' oldest child, Mary, married Leonard Weeks, who had arrived from England in 1639, settling first in York County, Maine, and then in Portsmouth⁵ (thus making it impossible for him to have built the brick house in 1638). Leonard and Mary had four sons and two daughters; Samuel, the second oldest son, was born in 1670.⁶

The erroneous attribution of a much earlier date to the Weeks House may have been caused in part by a misreading of early records: Brewster states that "In the old records we find that 'On the 8th of Oct. 1663, at a meeting of the Selectmen (of Portsmouth) at Greenland to lay out the hiwayes a hiwaye laid out from Winecote river falls east or thareabouts to Samuel Haines is house....There is also a hiwaye lade out over against Leonard Weikes house and is to goe through his land soue and by west or thare abouts until it comes to the common land.'"⁷ If the ell, now destroyed, was indeed Leonard Weeks' house, references to that building could have been misconstrued as referring to the later brick structure.

The Weeks House remained in the possession of the Weeks family until recently; family members are now considering action to regain it.

Similarities between the Weeks House and the slightly later MacPheadris-Warner House in nearby Portsmouth, "the earliest mansion in New England"⁸ include the five-bay facade with belt coursing, arched first-floor window openings, and central-hallway plan with end chimneys. However, it is fanciful to imagine that the wealthy Scottish merchant, Captain MacPheadris, would have been inspired by a "neighbor's" house, since, according to

Continued on Continuation Sheet # 4

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brewster, Charles W. Rambles About Portsmouth, Second Series (Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Lewis W. Brewster, Portsmouth Journal Office, 1873).
 Colby, Frederick Myron. "Old Roof-Trees of New Hampshire", The Magazine of History 6:5 (November, 1907).
 Hall, M.O. Rambles About Greenland in Rhyme (Boston, Massachusetts: Alfred Mudge and Son, Printers, 1900).
 Hunt, Elmer Munson. Historical New Hampshire 10:1 (Concord, New Hampshire: The New Hampshire Historical Society, September, 1954).
 Continued on Continuation Sheet #6

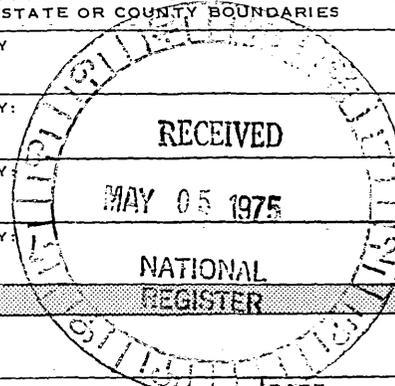
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
G. Newton Weeks
 ORGANIZATION: For the Weeks Family DATE: March 18, 1975
 STREET AND NUMBER:
PO Box 93
 CITY OR TOWN: Greenland STATE: New Hampshire 03840 CODE: 33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>[Signature]</u> Commissioner, DRED Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u> Date <u>April 30, 1975</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>[Signature]</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>6/20/75</u></p> <p>ATTEST: <u>[Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register Date <u>JUN 20 1975</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) 1

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys, continued.

Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS-NH-40)

c. 1930/ x Federal

Library of Congress

10 First Street, SE

Washington, D.C. 20540/ 11

New Hampshire's Historic Preservation Plan

1970/ x State

State of New Hampshire

Department of Resources and Economic Development

PO Box 856, 3rd Floor State House Annex

Concord, New Hampshire 03301/ 33



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	New Hampshire
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(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION, continued:

Present and Original (if known) Physical Appearance:

of those in the attic, as noted; the original windows had small diamond-shaped panes, set in lead; some remained until the first part of the 19th century.⁴

Wood trim, painted white, is confined to door and window surrounds, and a simple, close, boxed cornice and frieze, without returns; the shutters, also painted white, are the successors of those added to the exterior in the 19th century, when the interior blinds were removed.

The interior framing is typical of the period: "The timbers used throughout the house and for the roof are all of hard wood. The beams in the cellar are square 12 x 14 inches. The sleepers are of red oak, about ten inches in diameter, with the bark on. There are planks on the inside of the walls, and the plastering is on rift wood nailed to the plank."⁵

Originally there was an ell on the house, which according to family tradition was the home of Leonard Weeks, father of Samuel, the builder of the brick house. The ell, along with a large later barn and carriage shed located southwest of the house, burned March 4, 1938. During the renovations made after the fire, the residents decided to investigate the living room fireplace and adjacent paneling; they discovered a large fireplace (approximately 7' wide x 6' high x 3.5' deep) which had been built over or filled in three successive times.

The simplicity of design and excellent state of preservation of the Weeks House belie its age; the remarkable similarity of this early-18th century dwelling to examples of late-19th century commercial and institutional architecture in New England illustrates the perseverance of traditional methods and aesthetic values in the region, intensified by Revivalistic tendencies influenced by English Victorian masonry architecture.

1
George W. Williams, "The Oldest House in New Hampshire", The Granite Monthly XLIII:v (Concord, New Hampshire: The Granite Monthly Company, 1910), 108.

2
Ibid., 107; M. O. Hall, Rambles About Greenland in Rhyme (Boston, Massachusetts: Alfred Mudge and Son, Printers, 1900), 232.

3
Hall, op.cit., 233; Williams, op.cit., 108.

Continued on Continuation Sheet #3

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(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Rockingham	
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	JUN 20 1975

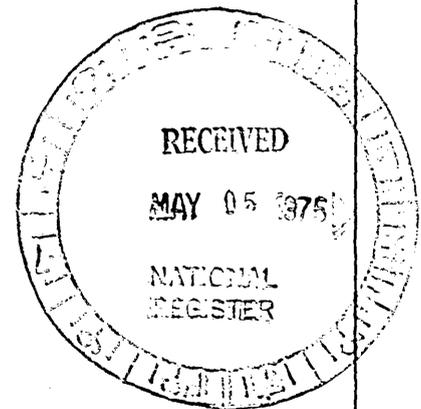
(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION, continued:

Present and Original (if known) Physical Appearance:

4
Hall, op. cit., 232; Williams, op. cit., 108; Elmer Munson Hunt, in
Historical New Hampshire 10:1 (Concord, New Hampshire: The New Hampshire
Historical Society, September, 1954), 7.

5
Hall, op. cit., 233.



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(Continuation Sheet) #4

STATE New Hampshire	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

Architectural Significance:

Marcus Whiffen, "It was a type that, having crystallized in England in the third quarter of the seventeenth century, was in a sense traditional by the time it crossed the Atlantic."⁹ Any resemblance between the two houses, therefore, would better be interpreted as an example of parallel development within a common architectural context.

Political Significance:

The history of the Weeks family is commingled with the history of the state of New Hampshire and the nation, as well as that of other prominent New Hampshire families. Among the Weeks descendants were Captain John Weeks, a pioneer settler of Lancaster, New Hampshire, who fought in the Revolution and was a member of the convention which ratified the Constitution; Elinor Haines Weeks Libby, whose eight children joined the Shaker community at Canterbury, New Hampshire; four members of the U.S. Congress: Captain John Wingate Weeks of Greenland, New Hampshire, 1829; Edgar Weeks of the state of Michigan, 1899; Senator John Wingate Weeks of Lancaster, New Hampshire, 1905; Sinclair Weeks of the state of Massachusetts, 1944. The latter two also served as cabinet members: John Wingate Weeks as Secretary of War under Presidents Harding and Coolidge; Sinclair Weeks as Secretary of Commerce under President Eisenhower. While Senator, John Wingate Weeks sponsored the Weeks Act of 1911, establishing the U.S. Forest Service and the National Forests.¹⁰

1

Charles W. Brewster, Rambles About Portsmouth, Second Series (Portsmouth, New Hampshire: Lewis W. Brewster, Portsmouth Journal Office, 1873), 358; Frederick Myron Colby, "Old Roof-Trees of New Hampshire", The Magazine of History 6:5 (November, 1907), 277; M. O. Hall, Rambles About Greenland in Rhyme (Boston, Massachusetts: Alfred Mudge and Son, Printers, 1900), 232; George W. Williams, "The Oldest House in New Hampshire", The Granite Monthly XLIII:v (Concord, New Hampshire: The Granite Monthly Company, 1910), 108.

2

Andrew Mack Haines (Galena, Illinois: Letter to Arthur Allen Petersen, no date) : "I am fully satisfied that the celebrated Weeks Old Brick House, at Greenland, was built by Samuel Weeks, who married his cousin Elinor (Haines), granddaughter of Deacon Samuel Haines, about the beginning of the eighteenth century, in about A.D. 1700-05; and not by Leonard, the father of the said Samuel Weeks." Philip M. Marston (Durham, New Hampshire: letter to John Brennan, Promotion Director, Division of Economic Development, Concord, New Hampshire, May 27, 1964), 2; Elmer Munson Hunt, in Historical New Hampshire 10:1 (Concord, New Hampshire: The New Hampshire

Continued on Continuation Sheet #5

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet) #5

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8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

Historical Society, September, 1954), 7.

3

Hunt, op.cit., 6.

4

Ibid., map, 3.

5

Ibid., 6; Williams, op.cit., 107.

6

Brewster, op.cit., 358; Hall, op.cit., 232.

7

Brewster, op.cit., 358.

8

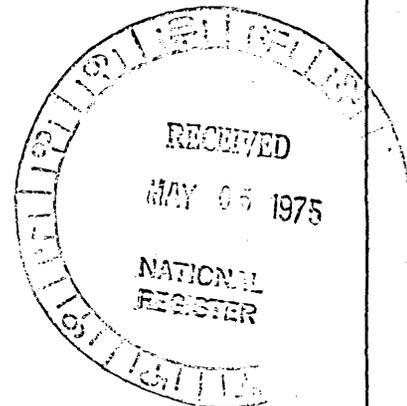
John Mead Howells, The Architectural Heritage of the Piscataqua (New York, New York: The Architectural Book Publishing Company, Inc., c.1937; reprint 1965), 14-15.

9

Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1790 A Guide to the Styles (Cambridge, Massachusetts and London, England: The MIT Press, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1969), 8.

10

Hunt, op.cit., 10-11.



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(Continuation Sheet) #6

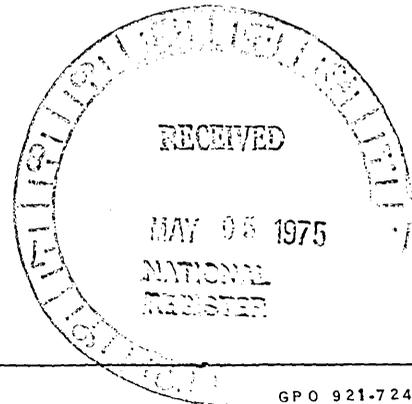
STATE New Hampshire	
COUNTY Rockingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER JUN 28 1975	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued:

Williams, George W. "The Oldest House in New Hampshire", The Granite Monthly XLIII:v (Concord, New Hampshire: The Granite Monthly Company, 1910).

Greenland Town Report, 1954. "250th Anniversary Celebration" (Greenland, New Hampshire, Town of Greenland, 1954).



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STATE	
New Hampshire	
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(Number all entries)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued.

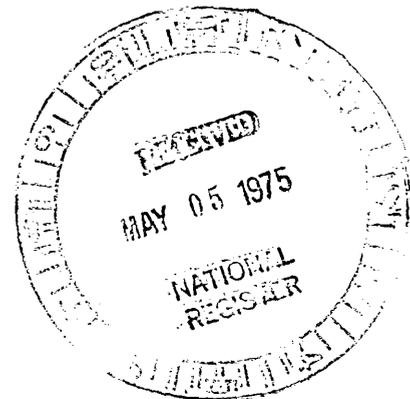
10.2 UTM References

Zone 19

Easting: 3-50-060

Northing: 47-66-425

UTM OK
HL



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued from Sheet #5

The Weeks House is related to a small group of high-style brick dwellings that were erected in New England during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Most of these structures, like the Weeks House, were characterized by central-hall floor plans with chimneys located on the end walls. All of these houses showed some elements of classical design, including the stringcourses that divided the stories and the use of generally symmetrical facades. At the same time, most of the buildings in the group likewise retained non-classical elements of brickwork that had been common in sixteenth and seventeenth century English and Netherlandish practice, including the use of relieving arches above the wall openings and the choice of hard-burned or glazed headers to emphasize the patterns of the English or Flemish bond in which the wall bricks were laid. The Weeks House is typical of this group of buildings in combining the basically classical elements of central-hall plan and symmetrical facade with the traditional preference for patterned brickwork.

The earliest examples of brick domestic architecture in New England occurred in Boston or nearby Medford. As early as 1675, the Tufts or Cradock House in Medford established the general type of facade seen in the Weeks House. Houses of greater elaboration were soon built in Boston, including the Peter Sergeant (or Province) House of 1676-9, which had curvilinear gables and free-standing chimney stacks typical of earlier English manor houses,¹ and the Foster-Hutchinson House of 1689-92, which included stone pilasters and other elements of Palladian design in its facade.² Still, only eleven brick houses are known to have existed in all of New England in the seventeenth century.³ Dwellings of less elaboration, like the Clark-Frankland House of about 1711 and the smaller and simpler Moses Pierce-Hitchbourne House of the same date were built in Boston after the turn of the century and provided a regional standard for brick dwellings to which the Weeks House conforms in many respects.

Portsmouth, too, had at least two examples of brick domestic architecture shortly after the turn of the eighteenth century, though they were destroyed at the beginning of the nineteenth century and nothing is known of their precise appearance. The Richard Wibird House, on present-day Market Street, and the Henry Sherburne House, on present-day Marcy Street, were each later thought to have been "the first brick house ever built in Portsmouth."⁴ But the house

¹ Old-Time New England (Special Province House Issue), LXII, 4 (April-June, 1972), pp. 85-123.

² Abbott Lowell Cummings, "The Foster-Hutchinson House," Old-Time New England, LIV, 3 (January-March, 1964), pp. 59-76.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued:

that probably had the greatest influence over the Weeks House was the Macpheadris-Warner House of 1716, which still stands on Daniel Street. Because the Macpheadris House was built by Boston brickmasons and finished by a master joiner from Boston, it may be assumed that the techniques of constructing entire structures of brick were unfamiliar to Portsmouth masons.⁵ For this reason, it seems likely that the Macpheadris House predates the Weeks House, and that the former provided a direct inspiration and prototype for the Greenland dwelling. In many respects, the Weeks House represents a simplified copy of Macpheadris' dwelling; it has the same general composition of its facade, the same bonding of its brickwork, the same emphasis of headers, the same use of relieving arches above wall openings, the same use of stringcourses, and it probably originally had a similar floor plan. It is possible that John Drew, the Boston joiner who came to Portsmouth to superintend the erection of the Macpheadris House and who remained in the Piscataqua region with his family, might have supervised the construction of the Weeks House.⁶ The original joiner's work of the Weeks House has been altered or obscured for the most part, but may originally have been similar to that of the Macpheadris House. In any case, the Weeks House represents one of the two earliest surviving brick structures in the Piscataqua region, and is one of only a few such houses from the First Period (pre-1725) remaining in all of New England.

POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Delete from nomination the section on "Political Significance" appearing on Continuation Sheet #4, as subsequent genealogical research indicates that none of the politically significant Weeks had a direct connection with the house.

³Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture (New York: Oxford University Press, 1952), p. 72.

⁴Nathaniel Adams, Annals of Portsmouth (Hampton, N.H.: Peter E. Randall, 1971), p. 214; Charles W. Brewster, Rambles About Portsmouth, Second Series (Portsmouth, N.H.: Lewis W. Brewster, 1869), p. 46.

⁵James L. Garvin, "John Drew, Joiner and Painter," unpublished seminar paper, library of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston, Massachusetts, passim.

⁶Ibid.