

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

For HCRS use only

received SEP 25 1979

date entered NOV 30 1979

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

## 1. Name

historic WILLIAM PEABODY HOUSE

and/or common WILLIAM PEABODY HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number North River Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Milford \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Hillsborough code 011

## 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Augusta F. Law

street & number North River Road

city, town Milford \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state New Hampshire 03055

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number PO Box 370, 19 Temple Street

city, town Nashua \_\_\_\_\_ state New Hampshire 03060

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Early Milford Homes has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1965 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Peabody House is a two-and-one-half story central chimney frame dwelling, built circa 1740, with a recent one story ell extending from the rear elevation. The central doorway is surmounted by transom lights and a triangular pediment, and flanked by pilasters. The five bay facade consists of six-over-nine sash windows with projecting crowns on the first story and casings that intersect the bed-mouldings of the cornice on the second story. Gable windows have projecting crown mouldings on the first and second stories and flat casings on the third. Windows in the rear elevation are either of recent construction or longer than south side windows. The cornice returns on the gable end. The roof has wooden shingles.

The Peabody House has a four-over-three floor plan which includes a keeping room that extends the length of the house. There are five working fireplaces, one in each of the front rooms and a larger one with a bake-oven in the keeping room. The original gun-stock posts and wide pine floorboards remain intact. Interior hidden shutters remain in one upstairs bedroom. The small entrance hall leads directly to a steep U-shaped staircase. The panelled living room has recessed window-seats and the keeping room has horizontal feather-edged sheathing.

The original structure was a two-over-two floor plan with a central chimney piercing the roof ridge. Within a period of fifty years, a northern addition appears to have been made, adding a full second floor to an expanded first floor. Evidence for the enlargement includes an expanded cellar, an additional flue on the north side of the chimney to accommodate a large fireplace in the keeping room, and structural east-west walls extending the length of the house, indicating that two framed structures had been joined together. All framing details in the north addition are identical to the southern portion, including hand-hewn beams and similar construction methods. The ceilings of the northern rooms are six inches higher than those in the older part of the house, as result of the northern ceiling rafters resting on top of the rear plate of the older structure.

The Peabody House was heavily damaged by fire on February 24, 1973; the fire ran length-wise through the middle of the house in the structural east-west wall and circled the chimney to the second floor, where it was stopped from entering the attic by eight inches of vermiculite. The fire destroyed most of the panelling around the fireplace, and dropped the ceiling beams in the large keeping room and the floor above it. The heat alone blistered off two hundred years of paint to within two feet of the first floor, which remained intact except for one small hole where a flaming clock had burned its way to the cellar. Much of the original panelling of the interior was reconstructed, using remains of the panelling and old photographs. Neither the exterior nor the interior of the house was changed visually by the restoration.

The Peabody House is located on a sandy drumlin overlooking the valley of the Souhegan River to the west. On the north side of the river the entire area was once the Peabody farm, and much of it is still operated as a dairy farm by a neighbor. The house is at present surrounded on its side of the road by seven acres, and is protected across the road by four acres of field and forest.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1740 **Builder/Architect** William Peabody

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The William Peabody house represents the earliest settlement in the area and three generations of owners that were active in local and state politics and military, in both pre-revolutionary and revolutionary times. The house was built by the first settler in the area, William Peabody, Sr., (1715-1791), who moved from Boxford, Massachusetts, in 1740 to clear a farm on the north side of the Souhegan River. The property was awarded to his father, Stephen Peabody, on account of the services of his grandfather during the King Philip's War. He signed an early resolution to the Continental Congress "to oppose British fleets and armies" and was active in the 1782 formation of the Town of Milford. William's son William, Jr. (1746-1822) was a legislator, and his son Stephen enlisted at age fifteen in a regiment of New Hampshire troops in 1758, served on the western frontier and with distinction in the Revolutionary War, as adjutant of Col. Reeve's regiment at Bunker Hill, as aide to General Stark at Bennington, and as Lieutenant-Colonel in command of a battalion sent to Rhode Island in 1778. Stephen Peabody (1782-1847) was of the third generation to own and occupy the farm. He was a Harvard graduate, and subsequently a lawyer, farmer and "champion hop-raiser," elected three times to the Governor's Council, appointed Registrar of Probate for Hillsborough County; and in military service, rose to the rank of colonel.

**Architecture:** The Peabody House exemplifies the Georgian period in domestic architecture. While much of the original interior detailing was lost in the 1973 fire, the character remains in both interior and exterior detailing. As the home of a prosperous and influential Milford family, it reflects the dignity and sophistication of joiners in eighteenth century New Hampshire.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Milford, NH -- 1738-1901. George A. Ramsdell, Concord, NH: The Rumford Press, 1901.  
 (Description Peabody House). Charles B. Heald, reporter. Manchester Union Leader, February 19, 1926.

ITEM NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 11.7

Quadrangle name Milford Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 15 min.

UMT References (House: 1 9 2-82-140; 47-46-750)

A 

1	9	2	8	2	0	3	0	4	7	4	6	8	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	9	2	8	2	3	1	1	0	4	7	4	6	8	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

C 

1	9	2	8	2	2	3	0	4	7	4	6	5	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

1	9	2	8	2	0	4	0	4	7	4	6	6	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification (Tax Map 8: Lots 19 and 70)

Starting at a stone bound on the NW corner of the property; proceed northeasterly + 740' to an iron pie (B) then southerly + 1400' across North River Road to a hickory tree (C) then northwesterly + 500' to a stone bound (D) then northerly + 640' across North River Road to the point of the beginning (A).

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alexandre G. Law, M.D.

organization

date

street & number North River Road

telephone 673-3440

city or town Milford

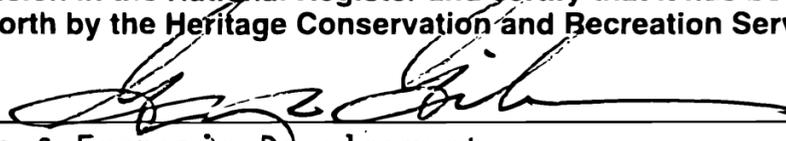
state New Hampshire 03055

# 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 

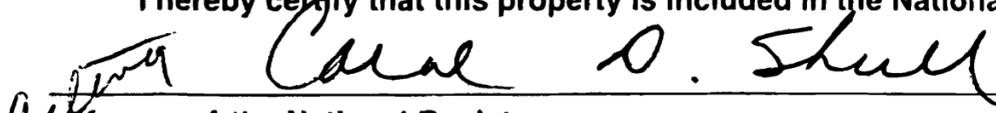
Commissioner, Dept. Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7-6-79

For HCRS use only

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

  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 11-30-79

Attest:   
 Chief of Registration

date 11/29/79