

CONCORD, NH
JUL 6 1982

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 6 1982

date entered

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

1. Name

historic CHAMBERLIN HOUSE

and/or common WOMAN'S CLUB OF CONCORD CLUBHOUSE

2. Location

street & number 44 Pleasant Street not for publication

city, town Concord vicinity of congressional district (Second)

state N.H. code 33 county Merrimack code 013

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 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
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other club headquarters

4. Owner of Property

name The Woman's Club of Concord

street & number 44 Pleasant Street

city, town Concord vicinity of state New Hampshire

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number North Main Street - PO Box 248

city, town Concord 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 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

DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE:

The Chamberlin House, located at 44 Pleasant Street, occupies a quarter-acre lot on the northerly side of Pleasant Street between North State and Green Streets. The site lies about one-tenth of a mile west of the heart of Concord's central business district and about two-tenths of a mile south of the New Hampshire State House.

This block of the capital city of New Hampshire abounds in history, representing in its buildings expansion of a new residential area of fine, large homes away from the 18th century established "North End" of Concord. The Pleasant Street Baptist Church opened January 11, 1854, (closed 1932, with its building now housing the Allied Insurance Company and in the 1970's headquarters for the New Hampshire Bicentennial Commission). The imposing new residences, of "Italianate" style for the most part focused around this church and the new South Congregational Church, designed by Charles E. Parker, and opened May 3, 1860.

By the mid-19th century, the reputation of this block of Pleasant Street as a fashionable residential neighborhood was well established. Only two blocks from Main Street, near the downtown churches, and not far from the State House, this part of Pleasant Street, beginning at North State Street was attractive to the well-to-do businessman of the period.

Here in 1886, Horace E. Chamberlin, Superintendent of the Concord Railroad Division of the Boston and Maine, built in mid-block, opposite the South Congregational Church, his impressive residence in strikingly different and innovative Queen Anne and shingle style.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING:

The Chamberlin House is a two-and-a-half story hip roofed frame dwelling with several projecting gables, wings, bays, towers and porches that render it an excellent example of the Queen Anne and shingle styles. The walls are clapboarded on the first story, which has a projecting moulded water table. The second story walls, which are shingled, flare outward above a moulding at the juncture of first and second floor levels. The fieldstone foundation is capped with hammered granite above grade. The roof is covered with green slate.

The facade of the house, facing south on Pleasant Street, is a relatively narrow elevation. It is marked by a deep balustraded porch on the left, above which projects a three-sided bay window. The roof of the porch has a lattice balustrade which creates a balcony in front of the bay. The bay is sheltered by a gable which projects forward from the main roof; the corners of the gable, above the splayed walls of the bay below, are supported by wooden brackets in the form of baroque volutes. The tympanum of the gable is shingled with alternating octagonal and square-cut wooden shingles. In the center of the front elevation are rectangular windows on the first and second floors, while at the right-hand corner of the house is a circular tower. The walls of the tower rise to the height of the eaves of the dwelling, and the tower has curved window sashes, a moulded cornice that continues the profile of the crown moulding of the building's main cornice, and a slated dome with a subtle ogee profile. Window sashes, like those on the rest of the house, are 9/2, with the upper sashes composed of a large central pane surrounded by eight smaller ones.

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Continuation sheet #1 - DESCRIPTION

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The east elevation of the house has a two-story, three-sided bay window behind the corner tower. The triangular gable above this window is decorated with a combination of patterned wooden shingles and applied stickwork ornament. This gable intersects a much larger gable which extends from the rear of the main hipped roof and is pierced by an attic window which is sheltered by a bowed section of wall that curves outward over the top of the opening. The eastern slope of the main roof is also broken by a small dormer with slightly battered side walls, a triangular pediment covered with patterned shingles, and two 6/6 sashes.

The west elevation of the house is marked by a large arched window which lights a stair landing inside the house. This window has a lower rectangular section with two sashes, each holding fifteen lights of clear glass, and a lunette filled with stained glass set in lead. North of this window, the west elevation is broken by a projection or shallow wing having a splayed front corner on the first floor and a rectangular plan on the second. The cantilevered portion of the second floor is supported by a heavy bracket of complex sawn profile. In the gable of this wing is a cantilevered attic window bay which has curved shingled sides and is supported by ogee brackets. Above the attic window is a triangular gable with a shingled tympanum. Near the front of the house, the western slope of the main roof is broken by a hip-roofed dormer with slightly battered side walls and two 6/6 sashes.

The north (rear) elevation of the house has a covered porch on the northeast corner and a hip-roofed wing which extends northward from the main body of the house. Its roof intersects the broad slope of the main roof.

The house has three chimneys, all of which have corbelled tops covered by sheet iron caps. One rises through the front (south) slope of the roof and vents fireplaces in the stair-hall, front parlor, and rooms above; one rises near the northwest corner of the main body of the house and serves the dining room fireplace; and a smaller chimney rises through the north slope of the roof and serves the kitchen.

The stairhall of the house, immediately inside a small front vestibule, has walls and floors finished in oak, much of it quarter-sawn. The stair, which ascends in three runs in front of the large arched window in the west wall of the house, has a heavy moulded handrail and spool-turned balusters. Its newel post is square, with panelled faces. Against the panelled side of the stair is an oak bench which faces a hall fireplace, creating the characteristic inglenook of the late nineteenth century. The fireplace opening is a semicircular arch of rubbed brick, while the hearth is of brick-red tile. The oak mantelpiece is an elaborate design dominated by carved undulating rays which fill the spandrels above the arch. Hallway doors are oad, and have six panels; door casings have backband mouldings and corner blocks. The larger doorways leading from the hallway have arched corners with applied bosses, repeating similar details on the front and rear porches of the house.

-see Continuation Sheet #2

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Continuation sheet #2 - DESCRIPTION

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The entire east side of the first floor, originally a front parlor and a music room, has been thrown into a single large parlor by the removal of a dividing partition. The woodwork of these rooms is painted white. The focal point is an elaborate fireplace which faces the curved alcove of the tower. The fireplace is surrounded by variegated brown glazed tiles and its hearth, of dark red glazed tiles, retains its original brass fender. Above the mantelshelf is an elaborate overmantel with a mirror at the center, flanking shelves, and an elaborate pediment supported on each side by baroque consoles reminiscent of the brackets that support the front attic gable of the house. Both this room and the former music room have a small cornice of delicate but elaborate mouldings.

The dining room, at the northwest corner of the main body of the house, is lighted by three windows in the projecting first story of the two-story wing at this location. The focal point of the room is a corner fireplace surrounded by bevel-edged blue glazed tiles and fitted with a wrought iron crane. The mantelpiece has six panels on each side of the hearth; the mantelshelf is supported by fluted pilasters and has a frieze decorated with inset paterae and, above the fireplace opening, a panel with round bosses. The dining room is separated from the large parlor to the east by wide glazed doors installed in 1924.

The wing at the rear of the house contains pantries and a kitchen. The house is equipped with every amenity of the 1880s, including a butler's pantry and a main pantry with extensive cupboard and drawer space, small and large sinks, an electric annunciator system for communication among the rooms, and both gas and electric lighting fixtures.

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE:

The exterior of the Chamberlin House has remained virtually unchanged since the dwelling was built in 1886. The interior was altered somewhat by the Concord Woman's Club after that organization received the house as a bequest in 1919. Needing more space for meetings, the Club removed partitions between the front parlor and the adjacent music room, and between the music room and the rear hallway. They also removed the hallway partition of the dining room, substituting wide glazed doors. To lighten the appearance of these rooms, they painted the oak woodwork white and removed a corner cupboard and overmantel in the dining room. Apart from superficial redecoration at various times, the house has remained otherwise unaltered.

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1886

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Not only is the Chamberlin House historically significant because of its distinctive architecture, and well preserved condition, but also, because of the meaningful connection of this structure in its central city location with the aims and activities of The Woman's Club of Concord, founded in 1893, and headquartered in the Chamberlin House since 1919.

Architecture: The Chamberlin House is one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style in New Hampshire. Though not large, the house is strikingly varied in detail both inside and out. Features of similar nature, such as bay windows and gables, are treated differently on every elevation, while interior detailing also varies greatly from room to room. At the same time, the house retains a consistency of design, using such features as baroque volutes and archways ornamented with bosses on both interior and exterior. The house also exemplifies many of the aesthetic innovations of leading architects of the 1880s, especially the enlarged stairhall with its elaborated balustrade and inglenook.

Evidence suggests that the house is an example of mail-order design. Its builder, Horace E. Chamberlin (1834–1908), was a railroad employee throughout his life, rising to the position of superintendant of the Concord Railroad and later of the Concord Division of the Boston and Maine Railroad.¹ In deciding on a design for his house, Chamberlin followed the practice of many Americans of his day, purchasing books which advertised house plans for sale by mail. His library, along with the furnishings of the house, remains largely intact and contains the volume How to Build, Furnish and Decorate (1883), written and published by Robert W. Shoppell. Shoppell, founder of the Cooperative Building Plan Association of New York, was a pioneer in the development of the mail-order plan business in the United States.² It is likely that Chamberlin purchased plans for his dwelling through one of the three mail-order books or the quarterly mail-order plan catalogue that the Cooperative Building Plan Association had issued before March, 1886, when Chamberlin's intention to build was announced in the local newspaper.³ The mail-order house plan transformed the lives of many Americans in the post-Civil War era. As it matured during the 1880s, the business exerted a powerful and beneficial influence on housing standards and aesthetics. The mail-order plan brought good design quality and the latest architectural trends to the attention of many successful middle-class businessmen like Chamberlin; the effects of such plans and the books that advertised them are exemplified in the high quality of the Chamberlin House.

¹George H. Moses, ed., New Hampshire Men (Concord, N.H.: The New Hampshire Publishing Company, 1893), p. 374; Ezra A. Stearns, ed., Genealogical and Family History of the State of New Hampshire (New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1908), 4 vols. Vol. 4, p. 1725; Granite Monthly 40 (1908), p. 259; Concord (N.H.) Evening Monitor, June 8, 1908.

²James L. Garvin, Mail-Order House Plans and American Victorian Architecture, Winterthur Portfolio 16 (1981), pp. 309–334.

³(Concord) Daily People and Patriot, March 15, 1886, p. 1.

9. Major Bibliographical References

-see Continuation Sheet #9

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .25

Quadrangle name Concord, NH

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

City of Concord Tax Records: Map #36, Lot #671.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. Robertson Page, President (Mary Hastings Holloway)

organization Woman's Club of Concord date February 25, 1982

street & number 6 Cambridge Street telephone 603-224-0862

city or town Concord, state New Hampshire 03301

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 June 28, 1982

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

William H. Brauman date 8.16.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick W. Andrews date 8/12/82

Chief of Registration

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WASHINGTON, D. C. 20540

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In this "beautiful residence on Pleasant Street"⁴, the Chamberlins, married March 31, 1880, spent many eventful years. They entertained graciously (as evidenced by the elegant imported china still on the shelves in the butler's pantry), and we're both involved in social, Unitarian Church, political, Masonic, and civic affairs.

Recognized as one of the influential and successful men of the city, Horace Chamberlin (1834-1908) was one of the 25 charter members of the Wonalancet Club that formed in the late 1800's and built the handsome clubhouse, on the corner of North State and Pleasant Streets, that opened June 6, 1901, a gentlemen's social club.

His wife, Nellie Putnam Chamberlin (1838-1918), daughter of Perley Putnam, director of the Laconia Car Works, wealthy manufacturers of railroad cars at Laconia, New Hampshire, was equally active in the city of Concord's affairs. Nellie Chamberlin was an early member of the Woman's Club of Concord. The Chamberlins had no children. After her husband's death in 1908, Mrs. Chamberlin lived on at 44 Pleasant Street until she died in 1918, aged 80 years. She left her home to the Woman's Club of Concord to be used in perpetuity as a clubhouse. Since 1919, the Club has called its legacy Chamberlin House.

Significance-social/humanitarian: At a time in the late 19th century when the cultivated women of that era were emerging from the genteel seclusion of the customary home, family, and church routine of rather circumscribed activities, a club was launched as The Women's Club of Concord on April 21, 1893, under the leadership of Mrs. Frank Streeter, a recognized civic leader. She formed the Woman's Club along the lines of the modern department structured club and guided it to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs immediately in 1894. Then in 1895 she encouraged other women's clubs throughout the State to organize the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs and served as the first president.

Lillian Streeter, wife of Judge Frank Sherwin Streeter of Concord, was a remarkable woman "connected with almost every social organization of the state...in 1899, the State Board of Charities and Corrections, New Hampshire Children's Commission, Concord's District Nursing Association, N.H. Membership and Finance Committee of the National Association for Public Health Nursing, Member of the North American Academy of Political Science, Social Service Commission of the Primary Synod of the Episcopal Province of New England, Visiting Committee of St. Paul's School Orphans' Home, Speaker on Neglected, Dependent and Delinquent Children as a 1915 National Conference of Charities and Corrections, New Hampshire Children's Commission, and with all this, she was anti-suffragist! Mrs. Streeter was deeply concerned with the needs of others, especially of children. She was truly a great lady."⁵

With such a leader's concept of social needs, Mrs. Streeter naturally involved the Woman's Club of Concord in programs supporting these causes to improve human welfare. The fundamental aim of the Woman's Club is strongly stated in the original 1893 Constitution as "A social centre for united thought and action." Later this aim was to be broadened to reflect awareness of world and community service on all levels. The Club's early history showed it to be, in fact, a kind of microcosm in the growth of feminism in the state and city, bridging established values with changing surroundings and conditions, encouraging women as individuals to understand and accept a responsible role in the 20th century's needs and opportunities.

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Early programs of the Club were rich in cultural pursuits and acquisition of information. Papers were presented by members on the arts, music, current books, and such concerns as "Aesthetics in the Household". Programs of the regularly scheduled meetings were informative on "The State's Care of the Insane", "The State's Care of Dependent Children" (a topic continuing to occupy the heads of state more than 80 years later), "Drama as a Social Force", "Civil Service Reform", "Normal and Abnormal Psychology", "The Relative Values of Academic and Vocational Training" among many more varied topics over the years in keeping with changing times. In 1981, a Public Affairs program on "Beat the Burglar" presented by the Concord Police Department's Community Resources Unit addressed the frowning crime problems of the latter part of 20th century, and a program on the "Scope of Hospice" provided an update on care of the terminally ill.

Some notable speakers came to the Woman's Club in its first decade: President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard University on "Enrichment of the Grammar School Course"; President J.B. Taylor of Vassar College on "How Shall We Educate our Girls?"; Miss Jane Addams, Hull House in Chicago, on "Social Settlements"; and Booker T. Washington on "The Negro Problem in the South". Later on, other notables in a steady stream of programs geared to current issues -- among them, author Frances Parkinson Keyes, Envoy to Denmark Ruth Bryan Rhode, Senator Styles Bridges, and the Spanish Ambassador Senor Don Jose M. DeAreilza, Count of Montico.

In keeping with its aims, the Woman's Club's accomplishments over the years are legion in social concerns and civic causes for city and state and beyond. The Club founded the Concord District Nursing Association; formed the Concord branch of the American Red Cross; Founded the Girls' Friendly Club of 900 members with the Concord Charity Organization (with a Club member later giving her home as headquarters); organized a free dental clinic; developed a milk program for school children; raised nearly \$6,000 in 1928, for preservation of Franconia Notch and lands for a State Park; organized the first Concord clean-up week; raised more than \$1,000 toward paying off mortgage of the McDowell Colony at Peterborough; set up an Employment Agency at Chamberlin House during "Depression" years, listing 500 women and placing over 400 in permanent positions; established a Junior Woman's Club in 1936; aided early highway beautification programs and worked to raise funds for purchase of 1,600 acres on Mt. Kearsarge for conservation and recreation; sold over \$50,000 of war bonds and stamps during World War II (far above the Club's given quota of \$3,000); conducted a survey of youth activities, interests, and needs for a community improvement project; initiated a drive for a new Community Center and decorated a lounge; annually awards a \$500 college scholarship to local High School graduate; founded "Friends of Concord Landmarks" and obtained National Register of Historic Places status for two Main Street buildings, The Eagle Hotel and "The Old Historical Society" structure; currently sponsors "Friends of White Park" and restoration of this nearly 100 year old city park.

The Woman's Club is recognized in Concord for leadership and initiative, with a ready response to various needs and with a wide outreach in humanitarian goals.

-see Continuation Sheet #5

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The advent in 1919 of Chamberlin House is for use as a club headquarters held great significance. Now the Woman's Club would have a home of its own. Meeting space would be available for members to congregate, for conferences, for department interest groups to work, for festive times in fellowship and sociability, with opportunities for other civic groups as well. Ways and means for maintenance of the property would have to be carefully budgeted for Chamberlin House to be self-supporting, with a Permanent Fund for contingencies sustained through fundraising and generosity of the members. Mrs. Chamberlin had left the house in trust for use of the Club as long as it would be maintained as a clubhouse. On March 8, 1965, Chamberlin House was transferred to the Woman's Club of Concord as sole owner by a quit-claim deed given by the City of Laconia, heir to Mrs. Chamberlin's residual estate after fulfillment of the trust's terms.

The ensuing years have found the Club worthy of Mrs. Chamberlin's generosity and trust in the manner in which the membership has maintained and improved the clubhouse. Chamberlin House has become a civic landmark, and its acquisition was an important landmark in the Club's history as well.⁶

Flowing from Chamberlin House since 1919 have been many historic achievements. Members have taken pride in this handsome clubhouse and with determination and consistent effort managed necessary funding for upkeep of the property. Ingenious and careful methods have maintained a sound budget with rental of garage and parking spaces, as well as four of the bedrooms, supplimented as needed by annual fund raising events. The lodging offered employed women in a convenient downtown location continues the residential values of the Chamberlin House at 44 Pleasant Street. A Hostess is employed to supervise the premises at all times.

As stewardship of Chamberlin House has been a trust for the Club's officers and members, conscientious effort has been made through the years to preserve the character of the house and contents. Only those changes have been made that would provide more space for adapting the house to club needs and use -- and then only after cautious consideration by the Executive Board.

Of further significance to the historical relationship between the Chamberlin House and the Woman's Club is the constitutional change adopted in 1919 that expands the original aim of the Club, a change showing awareness of commitment. The Club's purpose now states, "The object of this association shall be to become a centre of social service and civic activities, and to create a broader fellowship among women in the city." This expansion of aims coincides with the acquisition of Chamberlin House. Now even more would be possible - !

As the years have passed, the Club has often proved its value in civic activities -- and in the state as well. The Woman's Club of Concord has led the way, time after time, to a wider awareness of community needs and to measures for solution. The Woman's Club has set an example. In concern for humanitarian causes; in well organized communication -- of the State's natural resources and in preservation as well of historic structures and sites.

-see Continuation Sheet #6

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Moreover, the Woman's Club has taken the initiative to motivate others, while being responsible for direct action in social welfare and civic matters as the record shows. What a significant corollary to the outreach in 1982 that was established by Mrs. Streeter in 1893 for the Woman's Club of Concord.

To trace this in a broader context, in the third decade of the Club, Judge James O. Lyford gave a comprehensive address on the origin of the Woman's Club and its accomplishments: "The measure of success of any organization is the record of its work for the public." Judge Lyford stated if he were to mention three instrumentalities in the prior quarter of a century that had the largest good in Concord, he would name the churches, the schools, and the Woman's Club."⁷

Undoubtedly, the altruism of Nellie Putnam Chamberlin with her legacy of Chamberlin House to the Woman's Club made such consistently recognized "influence for good" possible. Members are reminded of this on every visit to the Clubhouse, for over the entrance hall fireplace mantel is an oil portrait showing Nellie Putnam in her lovely youth wearing a stylish period gown, an old-fashioned locket, and a corsage of pink roses.

With regard to historic preservation, concern of the Woman's Club for architecture of fine old buildings and Concord landmarks is far from new. As long ago as 1900, Mrs. Joseph B. Walker, a Club member, gave a "paper" on Concord's significant buildings, with descriptive attention to the Stephen Farrington house, c. 1755-56, standing on the Northwest corner of Pleasant and North State Streets, the site where in 1901 the Wonalancet Club's imposing building would be erected.⁸

More recently, in 1977, in support of current historic preservation needs, the Woman's Club formed "The Friends of Concord Landmarks"⁹ to enlist concerned citizens for conservation and preservation of historic buildings and landmarks in the capital city of New Hampshire. This Special Projects Committee of the Club (now the Concord Heritage Committee) took action early in 1977 to initiate the Downtown/Main Street Revitalization program. This committee also nominated, successfully, both the Eagle Hotel at 110 North Main Street, and the "Old Historical Society Building" at 214 North Main Street for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Annually the Woman's Club participated in Historic Preservation Week and in 1979 opened Chamberlin House to the "Architectural Walking Tour of Lower Pleasant Street". This group, guided by Susanne Lasher Flint of the New Hampshire Historical Society, was enthusiastic about the interior features of Chamberlin House with its Victorian style decor and well preserved interior. Later that week the Club's Concord Heritage Committee hosted at the Society building on Park Street for presentation of "Downtown Concord Revitalization: A Progress Report".¹⁰

Beginning in 1978, the Woman's Club has been engaged in a Conservation program for preservation and replacement of the city's street trees. Since 1980, a new major project is being sponsored by the Club to involve the community in the restoration of a city landmark, the nearly 100 year old White Park.

-see Continuation Sheet #7

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Summary: Continuous stewardship of the Woman's Club of Concord since 1919 has made possible the excellent state of preservation of the Chamberlin House with its historic architectural pedigree as "a phenomenon of national significance", according to the Curator of the N.H. Historical Society, James L. Garvin.

Beyond the architectural significance of Chamberlin House lies extensive human and social significance. While the well preserved Chamberlin House is recognized as a landmark asset to the city of Concord and state of New Hampshire, other factors apply. These are the elements running through all the years involving so many -- through use of Chamberlin House -- in cultural aspects of communication, of philosophy, of conservation in support of strong principles for worthwhile conduct of life, individually and collectively.

Now of all the buildings in this block of Pleasant Street that composed an elite residential neighborhood in the 1800's, Chamberlin House best represents a residence. Chamberlin House could almost be classed as a museum of well preserved "Victorian era" exterior and educational, philanthropic, and social values, still in close contact with activities of the "capital city of New Hampshire", whether political, business, cultural, through the Woman's Club members.

"Even today, the two story structure retains its Victorian flavor due, undoubtedly, to the wealth of furnishings that were bequeathed with the house by Mrs. Chamberlin...

"The club has grown from an exclusive, culturally oriented gathering of 75 women to an association of more than 200 whose object is 'to become a center for civic activities and to create a broader fellowship among the women of the community'. As the purpose of the club has grown, so has the Chamberlin House. It has become a civic landmark."¹¹

Over the years, the large residences of the 18th and 19th centuries closer to the State House in the center of Concord -- such as the elaborately "Victorian" style mansion of philanthropists Nathaniel and Armenia White -- have all been demolished to make way for multi-story office or commercial structures. Yet the appearance of the Pleasant Street block west of North State Street has itself changed very little physically since the late 19th century, with several exceptions. In 1901, the columned Wonalancet Club replaced the Farrington house on the Northwest corner of Pleasant and North State Streets and in 1981 was acquired by the Central N.H. Mental Health Services. In 1969, to the east of Chamberlin House, the adjacent house (where Dr. Colby lived in 1858, then in 1880 Dr. Ferdinand Stillings, and about 1915 adapted as St. John's Catholic High School) was razed and replaced by a modern granite office building for an insurance company. Across the street, on the Southwest corner of Pleasant and South State Streets, the Hussey and Wiren Funeral Chapel recently razed the William H. Allison house built in 1851, to provide parking lot space.

-see Continuation Sheet #8

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The greatest changes on this block of Pleasant Street have gradually come in the use of the large former residences. Still distinguished in appearance, mostly Italiniate in architectural style, these buildings have been primarily converted to offices for doctors and lawyers. Thus professional associations and commercial business have encroached on this historic neighborhood. Chamberlin House alone continues to represent this once residential area in offering living accomodations.

Listing of the Chamberlin House on the National Register of Historic Places would be highly significant in the preservation of such a rarely handsome Queen Anne style residence of 1886.

⁴Ezra A. Stearns, ed., Ibid.

⁵New Hampshire Clubwoman, Oct. 24, 1895-1970, p. 5.

⁶Nyleen Morrison, ed., A History of The Woman's Club of Concord, 1893-1968, (Warner, N.H., Mayflower Press. 1968, p. 27.

⁷Nyleen Morrison, ed., Ibid, p. 11.

⁸Granite Monthly, Oct. 13, 1913, "Landmarks of Concord", 1900, a paper for the Woman's Club of Concord by Mrs. Joseph B. Walker.

⁹N.H. Sunday News, April 3, 1977, p. 31.

¹⁰Concord Monitor, May 7, 1979, "Along the Merrimack", p. 28.

¹¹New Hampshire Sunday News, Feb. 19, 1978, p. 1E, "Woman's Club Home in Chamberlin House".

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