

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                         |
|-------------------------|
| STATE:<br>New Hampshire |
| COUNTY:<br>Cheshire     |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY        |
| ENTRY DATE              |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Cooke, Noah, House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Cooke, Noah, House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Daniels Hill Road (alias West Hill Summit Road)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Keene

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Second

STATE: New Hampshire, 03431      CODE: 33      COUNTY: Cheshire      CODE: 005

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP  | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both                                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress                       | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____<br>_____<br>_____                    |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Delbert E. and Ruth T. Meyer

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Daniels Hill Road

CITY OR TOWN:  
Keene

STATE:  
New Hampshire, 03431

CODE:  
33

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, Cheshire County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
West Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Keene

STATE:  
New Hampshire, 03431

CODE:  
33

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

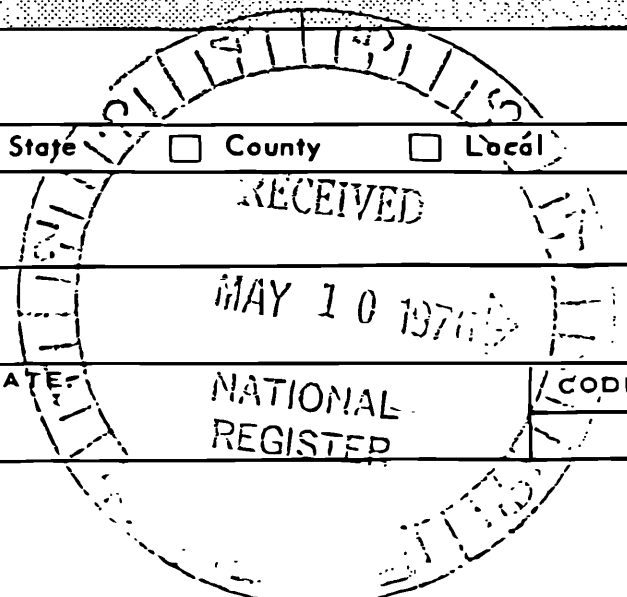
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:



STATE: New Hampshire

COUNTY: Cheshire

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**7. DESCRIPTION**

|           |   |                                    |                               |   |  |                                    |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                               |   |  |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated     | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins         | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                               | (Check One)                               |  |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present Physical Appearance:

The Noah Cooke House is a two and a half story central chimney frame dwelling built in 1791, with an earlier one and a half story wing extending at right angles from the rear of the building. The main house measures about 30 by 40 feet, and is framed with pine and oak. Its facade remains little changed, and is five bays wide with the doorway almost exactly in the center. Window sash throughout the main house and in parts of the wing are early if not original, and have twelve lights over twelve. Windows have unmoulded sills and heavy plank casings without backband mouldings. The casings project beyond the wall surface and form a stop for the clapboards with which the house is covered. Window crowns (except on the second floor, where window casings intersect the bed-mouldings of the cornice) consist of a sloping cap which is edged with a half-round drip and is supported by a double-ogee moulding. The front cornice consists of a simple fascia and plancia, which are supported by a bed-moulding that breaks out around the second floor window casings, and which are crowned by a double-ogee moulding that returns on the ends of the house and forms a stop for the rake boards. The rear cornice is identical, except that its crown moulding is missing. Water tables and corner boards are both unmoulded. A high percentage of the clapboards appear to be original.

Inside, the house is characterized by woodwork of a distinctly pre-Revolutionary type, with fireplace walls, doors and window shutters all bearing raised panels surrounded by stiles and rails with plain ovolo mouldings. A high percentage of the original wrought iron hardware remains. The two front parlors of the house have (except in a few locations where alteration has occurred) wainscoting of plaster, with a moulded chair rail and simple baseboards. These rooms originally had no mantel shelves, though such shelves were added later and have been removed by the present owners. The stairway is of the triple-run type, and is an exceptionally fine example of local workmanship. The turned balusters and newels are of an elongated classical urn form which is repeated twice, while the stair brackets are of an intricate design that is extended around the second floor stairwell trim.

The chimney of the main house is laid in local clay and is in an excellent state of preservation. It contains seven fireplaces, a brick oven, and a smoke chamber in the attic. Its most unusual feature is an interior room at the first floor level, enclosed by the backs of the two parlor fireplaces and the kitchen fireplace. Access to the room, which was evidently intended for storage, is provided by a small door in the back of the stairway closet. The room has corbelled sides

Continued on Continuation Sheet 1

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) 1

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| STATE<br>New Hampshire |      |
| COUNTY<br>Cheshire     |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY       |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER           | DATE |
|                        |      |

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION, continued

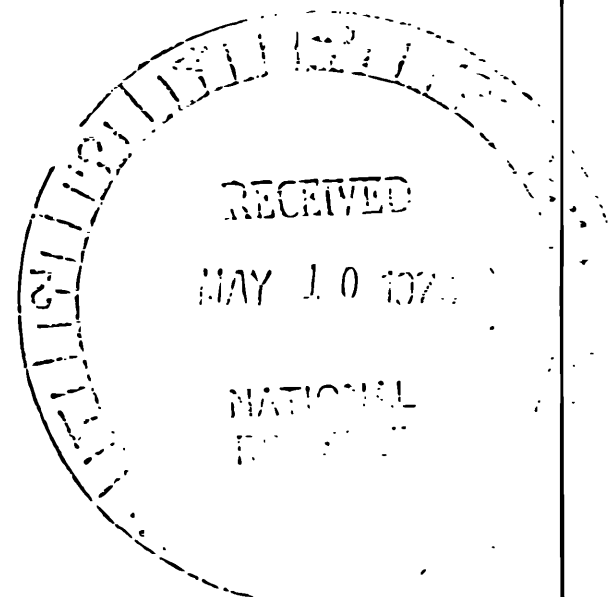
Present Physical Appearance, continued:

that meet at approximately the attic floor level, and is provided with wooden shelves and a wooden door hung on leather hinges. The back of the brick oven, covered with a parging of lime plaster, projects into this room.

The wing at the rear of the house is presumed, on the basis of dates carved in its framing members, to have been built about 1770. This wing has long been used as a summer kitchen, and its chimney is provided with a cooking fireplace, oven, and cauldron. At the end of the wing are carriage sheds.

Original Physical Appearance:

The original appearance of the Noah Cooke House differed only slightly from its present appearance. The house now has a slate roof, and it is not certain whether this is an original feature. The original doorway was damaged by the addition of a nineteenth century porch; the latter has now been removed, and the doorway treated with unmoulded casings and a five-light transom. The interior of the house has been little changed by the addition of electricity and plumbing, and by necessary structural repairs carried out by the present owners. The woodwork has been repainted repeatedly, but the original paint colors are readily discovered. The closet beneath the front stairs contains an early blue wallpaper which is probably one of the original patterns used in the house. The base of the central chimney was originally a vault of brick and stone measuring about sixteen feet square and containing an enclosed room; this was necessarily damaged when the house was moved to its present location on October 23-25, 1973. The present owners are currently in the process of restoring the house to its original appearance wherever possible.



**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) **Built 1791; Moved 1973**

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 Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecture:

The Noah Cooke House is one of the oldest and least altered dwellings surviving in Keene.<sup>1</sup> As such, it is an important example of the domestic architecture of the upper Connecticut Valley in the years before 1800. It reflects the vernacular building traditions of the region in its proportions, framing, and other constructional techniques. Moreover, as the home of a fairly prosperous and influential man, the building also reflects certain elements of sophisticated style in its woodwork. These sophisticated features provide an important index of the spread of architectural style through the Connecticut Valley at the time the house was built.

Political:

Noah Cooke, one of Keene's first lawyers, was trained under Daniel Newcomb of Keene in the 1780s, moved to New Ipswich, N.H., in 1784, and returned to Keene in 1791.<sup>2</sup> He remained a prominent lawyer until his death in 1829, was a major subscriber for the construction of Keene's first courthouse in 1796,<sup>3</sup> and was for many years the Keene Town Clerk. In 1808, he built a store and office building on Keene's Main Street, and in the same year gave land upon which to erect the first fire engine house. As one of the largest donors to the "Proprietors of the Fire Engine," he was unanimously chosen first president of the Keene Engine Company.<sup>4</sup>

In 1906, the Noah Cooke House was purchased by Horatio Colony, first mayor of the City of Keene.<sup>5</sup> The dwelling was occupied by Colony and his descendants until 1966, and in 1967 it was purchased from the Colony family by the present owners.

<sup>1</sup>Keene History Committee, "Upper Ashuelot, A History of Keene, New Hampshire (Keene, N.H.: The City of Keene, 1963), p. 362-3.

<sup>2</sup>Salma Hale, Annals of the Town of Keene (Keene, N.H.: J. W. Prentiss and Company, 1851), pp. 101-2.

Continued on Continuation Sheet 2

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Griffin, S. G. A History of the Town of Keene. Np: Sentinel Printing Company, 1904.

Hale, Salma. Annals of the Town of Keene. From Its First Settlement, in 1734, to the Year 1790; With Corrections, Additions, and a Continuation, from 1790 to 1815. Keene, N.H.: J. W. Prentiss and Company, 1851.

Keene History Committee. "Upper Ashuelot," A History of Keene, New Hampshire. Keene, N.H.: City of Keene, 1968.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>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  | 42° 55' 39"             | 72° 20' 36"             |        |   |                         |  |
| NE  | 42° 55' 39"             | 72° 20' 18"             |        |   |                         |  |
| SE  | 42° 55' 24"             | 72° 20' 18"             |        |   |                         |  |
| SW  | 42° 55' 24"             | 72° 20' 36"             |        |   |                         |  |

UTM on Cont. Sheet

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 18 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |
|        |      |        |      |

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: James L. Garvin, Staff Member

ORGANIZATION: New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Survey Staff

STREET AND NUMBER: 134 Lincoln Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth

STATE: New Hampshire, 03801

CODE: 33

DATE: June 15, 1974

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name: *[Signature]*

Title: NH State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 22, 1975

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

*[Signature]*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 6/22/76

ATTEST:  
*[Signature]*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 6. 28. 76

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) 2

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| STATE<br>New Hampshire |      |
| COUNTY<br>Cheshire     |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY       |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER           | DATE |
|                        |      |

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

<sup>3</sup>Ibid., p. 108.

<sup>4</sup>Keene History Committee, "Upper Ashuelot," p. 363, p. 570.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid., p. 362. Cf. S. G. Griffin, A History of the Town of Keene (np: Sentinel Printing Company, 1904), pp. 577-8.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 3

SIGNIFICANCE, continued.

The Noah Cooke House was originally entered in the National Register of Historic Places on April 23, 1973. In October, 1973, the building was moved four miles to a new location on a wooded site of approximately eighteen acres on West Hill in a rural area of Keene, New Hampshire. The move was necessary in order to prevent demolition of the building, as the former owners were intending to develop the original Cooke site, and sold the house to the present owners only on condition that the building would be relocated off-premises.

The effect of the move on the property's historic integrity has been minimal, although some damage to historic fabric--particularly the foundations and chimney base--was inevitable. Efforts have been made to mitigate unavoidable damage, including the reuse of original granite foundation blocks at the new site. The most significant changes are the alteration in orientation, from facing north to facing northeast (dictated by inherent character of the available land) and the provision of an exposed field-stone foundation on the new north side of the building, to compensate for existing contours at the new site.

West Street, the original location of the Noah Cooke House, has become one of the principal thoroughfares in the City of Keene. Attendant commercialization and strip development has eroded the original setting of the Cooke House. The new location, on a dirt road in a wooded area, appears to be more characteristic of the historical environment of the building.

The new site is not known to possess historical significance which would be adversely affected by the placement of the Noah Cooke House.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

10.2 UTM References

|         | ZONE | EASTING  | NORTHING  |
|---------|------|----------|-----------|
| Point A | 18   | 7-16-875 | 47-56-000 |
| Point B | 18   | 7-17-275 | 47-56-000 |
| Point C | 18   | 7-16-875 | 47-55-550 |
| Point D | 18   | 7-17-275 | 47-55-550 |