

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

For HCRS use only

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

received OCT 16 1979

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic LOCKE, ELIJAH, HOUSE

and/or common CLARKSON HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 5 Grove Road not for publication

city, town Rye vicinity of congressional district First

state New Hampshire 03870 code 33 county Rockingham code 015

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 type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Stephen B. and Nancy M. Clarkson

street & number 7101 Heatherhill Road

city, town Bethesda vicinity of state Maryland 20034

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Hampton Road

city, town Exeter state New Hampshire 03833

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 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

This clapboarded dwelling consists of a two-story main block and one-story rear addition constructed in the mid-18th century. It is a center chimney housetype with center hall plan and rests on a stone foundation. The panelled door is in a projecting gabled vestibule and is flanked by rectangular side lights and pilasters. Molded casings frame 6/6 sash windows. The gable roof has cropped eaves and a center chimney on the ridge. An attached carriage barn stands to the east of the rear addition and there is another barn to the northwest past the well house.

The interior of the house has been remodeled to suit modern tastes and aesthetic considerations. When new components have been introduced, it has been with an eye to harmonizing with existing materials.

On the first story of the main block are a front hall, two front rooms, and a dining room. The steep open-string staircase includes simple brackets, rectangular newel post, and plain balusters. The east front room has plain plank wainscoting, a fireplace with rectangular opening and architrave surround, and panelled corner cupboard. Features in the west front room are much the same except that its corner cupboard has glazing in its upper section. Originally the kitchen, the present dining room is a long room extending along the rear of the main block. This room had been divided into three spaces by partitions installed in the late 19th century, but has recently been opened up to be closer to its original configuration. A boxed beam has been added across the fireplace when the vertical planks flanking it were exposed by the removal of plaster and lath. The original floorboards were extremely deteriorated and needed to be replaced. The present floor runs perpendicularly from the original and, like the wood for the bookcases, came from the second story of the carriage barn.

On the second story there are two front bedrooms with wideboard floors and raised-field panelled doors in molded casings. Each has a small fireplace with molded mantel shelf.

The foundation walls are constructed of large stones. The original cellar had an earthen floor and was divided into a number of rooms for various storage uses. These partitions were removed when a cement floor was put in and the sills and floor joists replaced by the present owners.

Behind the main block is a one-story addition believed to have been constructed in the mid-18th century. Originally containing three small rooms, it has been remodeled into a modern kitchen. This required a number of changes, for example, sealing off the root cellar, eliminating the "sink" room, and creating a hole in the cellar wall for passage of heating ducts. The row of casement windows replaces a pre-existing 6/6 sash window. Some original fabric has been moved as well; this includes the pantry, which has been moved back to make room for the stove, and the fold-down pine table. Originally free-standing, the corner cupboard was moved to its present location and fixed in place. The wainscoting on either side of it was added from boards in the carriage barn. The fenestration in this (north) corner of the rear addition has been altered and the boxed beam on the northeast wall is an addition made in the third quarter of the 20th century. The panelled closets framing the window in the west corner are recent additions as are the open vertical spindles separating the kitchen and the hall.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HGRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 16 1979

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

2

Both the carriage house next to the "L" and the barn on the other side are presently in good repair and in their original condition. It is not possible to date them precisely, but it is estimated from their structure that they are of 1825-1850 vintage.

Water for the household still comes from the two old wells on the property: one under the small well house near the back door of the "L", and the other at the end of the barn near Grove Road.

Since 1947 two buildings have been taken down because of their deteriorated condition. One was a watering shed for cows and horses at the end of the barn extending toward Grove Road (where a white pine tree now stands); the other was a chicken house reaching, where the split-rail fence is, from the northeast edge of the barn toward the well house.

In 1947 the corner around the house was bordered along the road by 14 fine old sugar maple trees. As late as 1951 the Clarksons tapped these trees in the Spring and boiled down the sap into maple syrup. The modern practice of salting the roads against ice conditions during the winter has caused five of these to die, and they have since been removed.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1739 **Builder/Architect** William & Elijah Locke

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Elijah Locke House is a well-preserved example of a housetype prevalent in the 18th century in New England. In addition, it was constructed by members of one of the state's pioneer families. It is also significant as one of the earliest houses still extant in the seacoast area, as almost all other 17th century dwellings were destroyed in Indian raids during the French and Indian Wars.

It is believed that the first settlement of New Hampshire was made within the present limits of the Town of Rye about 1625¹ and among the first settlers was Capt. John Locke. He was a carpenter, born September 16, 1627, and came from Yorkshire, England, in 1644. An energetic, courageous man, he played an important role in defeating several Indian attacks on seacoast inhabitants. He was killed in 1696 by Indians while working in his fields.

William Locke, his son, (1677-1768) became a shopkeeper in Portsmouth and may have built the existing house and moved into it in 1729 (the date of the house according to the hearsay of older 20th-century residents of this area). The recognized date for the building is 1739, derived from a marking on an original rafter in the attic. Several theories exist regarding the passage of land and this building through the Locke family descendents, and deed research shows related transfers within the family and to other owners up to the present.

¹History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, NH, p. 455.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .6 acre

Quadrangle name Hampton, NH

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A

1	9	3	5	5	5	4	0	4	7	6	1	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Tax Records, Town of Rye: Map 16, Parcel 73

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen B. & Nancy M. Clarkson

organization _____ date September 9, 1977

street & number 7101 Heatherhill Road telephone (301) 229-8427

city or town Bethesda state Maryland 20034

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 

title Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
NH State Historic Preservation Officer date December 16, 1977

For HCRS use only

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

Sally Goldblum Acting Chief of Regis date 12/19/79
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Bruce M. Dwyer (jr) date 12/29/79
Chief of Registration

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
OCT 15 1978
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

2A

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The Genealogy of Captain John Lock of New Hampshire states, at p7, that:

"One account says that when the Indians ran up to scalp Locke, the latter had strength enough left to cut off the nose of one with the sickle he had been using; which act was seen by one of his sons who had secreted himself in the grain.

Several anecdotes are told concerning this fact. One was that years after when friendship with the Indians was restored, the same son who saw his father killed, met an Indian minus a nose while both were out hunting, and who when questioned said "Old Locke cut it off." He explained that they tried to capture him alive as he was such a brave man, but he fought so they were compelled to kill and scalp him. Whereupon the son killed the Indian. Another account is that a grandson, named Berry, met at a Portsmouth tavern a noseless Indian, who, rendered talkative by liquor, boasted that he had killed a brave white man, "Old Captain Locke." Whereupon Berry waited outside, killed the Indian, and threw his body in a well, which well was filled up the next day. Jonathan Locke, born 1702, a grandson of Captain Locke, built a house at Rye Center, where the late Jonathan lived (the same site). Seeing an Indian one day a short distance away, he raised the window, propped it up with a book, and taking careful aim with his gun which rested on the window sill, shot the red man dead. When taken to task for killing an Indian in time of peace, he replied that the Indians killed his grandfather and he would kill one whenever he had the chance. Thus it seems that Captain Locke must have been sufficiently avenged, that is if the Indians held out."

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY RECEIVED OCT 16 1979 DATE ENTERED
--

CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Garland Genealogy - The Descendants of Peter Garland, Mariner, Admitted Resident of Charlestown, Massachusetts Bay, in 1637 (1897 ed. - Rye, NH Public Library).

Genealogy and Family History of the State of New Hampshire, Vol. III, pp. 1232-1233 (Lewis Publishing Co. 1908).

Genealogy of Captain John Locke of N.H. 1627-1696 by Arthur H. Locke, A.M. #7816, Member of New Hampshire Historical Society (Rumford Press, Concord, NH).

History of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, New Hampshire, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men, pp. 455-468 by D. Hamilton Hurd (Lewis & Co. ed. 1882).

History of Rockingham County, New Hampshire, and Representative Citizens by Charles Hazlett, pp. 647-665 (1915 ed. Richmond Arnold Publishing Co.)

History of Rye, NH, 1623-1903 by L.B. Parsons (Rumford Printing Co., Concord, N.H., 1905).

Rye on the Rocks by William Varrell, Jr. (1960 ed. - Strawberry Banke Print Shop).

The Elijah Locke House, by Stephen and Nancy Clarkson, an unpublished manuscript on file at the New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office.