

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

For HCRS use only

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

received JAN 20 1980
date entered 1/20/80

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

1. Name

historic MASON -WATKINS HOUSE

and/or common MASON-WATKINS HOUSE

2. Location

OH NH 12

street & number RD #2, Box #316 not for publication

city, town Surry vicinity of congressional district Second

state New Hampshire code 33 county Cheshire code 005

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gordon J. Kunz & Judith Ann Kunz

street & number RD #2, Box #316 (Corner of Old Walpole & Mine Ledge Roads)

city, town Surry vicinity of state New Hampshire 03431

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Central Square

city, town Keene state New Hampshire 03431

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 Keene state New Hampshire

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mason-Watkins House is a two and a half story central chimney frame dwelling built in 1832. The main body of the house stands on a fieldstone foundation with split granite blocks above grade. The house has a five-bay facade with a central doorway bearing simple square-edged casings and having a rectangular transom sash above the door. The windows likewise have square-edged casings; the sash are 12/12. The facade has a simple moulded cornice.

The north elevation of the house has two windows on each floor and a single attic window in the center of the gable. The south elevation has three windows on each floor and one in the gable. Attached to the west (rear) elevation of the house is a long one and a half story gable-roofed wing with its southern wall set flush with the southern elevation of the main building. About one-third of the wing, adjacent to the main house, is a modern kitchen with a single-flue brick chimney. The remaining two-thirds of the wing were originally a carriage shed (now a garage), and a shed-roofed privy is attached to the wing's west end.

The house has a brick chimney which rises through the roof in front of the ridge. The chimney is built on a base which consists of two brick piers laid on a fieldstone foundation and spanned by heavy squared timbers several feet below the level of the first floor. The first floor hearths, about ten brick courses deep, are laid upon these timbers.

The front stairway is a compact triple run flight contained within the chimney bay of the house. Its newel and angle posts are turned in an attenuated vasiform shape, while the stringers are decorated with simple applied brackets and with a lower moulding having an enriched bead. To the left (south) of the entry hall is the parlor, which contains some of the most elaborate woodwork in the house. The mantelpiece has flat-panelled pilasters which extend upward into the bed mouldings beneath the shelf. These pilasters form flat blocks at the ends of the mantelpiece frieze, and the faces of these blocks are incised with stylized tree designs decorated with brass knobs at the point where the branches radiate from the trunks. The architrave of the mantelpiece is a band of vertical reeding, and reeding also appears in the room's baseboards and in the aprons beneath each window.

To the right (north) of the entry hall is a dining room with a similar mantelpiece; the form appears again in the bedchambers. Throughout the interior, the house has four-panel doors with flat panels, as well as delicate mouldings and other hallmarks of the Federal style.

The frame of the house is constructed of heavy hewn timbers. The posts have a pronounced flare at their tops, where they intersect the wall plates. The roof utilizes common rafters with horizontal boarding, a departure from the earlier New Hampshire practice of combining rafters and purlins with vertical boarding that runs from ridge to eaves.

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 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 1832

Builder/Architect UNKNOWN

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mason-Watkins House is a well-preserved example of a New Hampshire country dwelling which retains both the conservative central chimney plan and the Federal-style detailing of periods before its construction. The house demonstrates the persistence of vernacular architectural forms well into the nineteenth century, and further reveals the continuing influence of Asher Benjamin's early Federal period architectural guidebooks at a date when style in urban centers had already shifted to the Greek Revival. Virtually all the interior detailing of the house reflects the Federal style in its simplest forms; the mantelpieces are of a type introduced by Asher Benjamin in his American Builder's Companion in 1806. The persistence of these forms in the southwestern corner of New Hampshire as late as 1832, at a time when Greek Revival detailing was becoming evident in most other New England locales, serves as an index to the conservatism of the original owner of the house, of local builders, and perhaps of this section of New England as well.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Keene Evening Sentinel Wednesday, November 9, 1966 Article: "Home in Surry is Considered One of the Finest Country Homes" Author: Marjorie W. Smith.

-see continuation sheet #1, Item 9, page 2-

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9

Quadrangle name Keene, NH-VT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	8	7	1	7	0	0	0	4	7	6	2	5	5	0
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 : The property nominated is an extended rectangular lot 615' x 600', bounded on the south by Mine Ledge Road, on the east by Old Walpole Road, on the north by property owned by John Kulik, and on the east by property owned by Churchill. Map #5, lots #81 and #97. Town tax records, Surry, New Hampshire.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gordon Kunz

organization N/A date August 1, 1980

street & number RD #2, Box #316 telephone Bus. phone (212) 887-3016 home (603) 362-5650

city or town Surry state New Hampshire 03431

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 [Signature]

Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development
title NH State Historic Preservation Officer date February 12, 1981

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
William H. Braunam date 3.11.82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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
DATE ENTERED

MAJOR
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
CONTINUATION SHEET #1-REFERENCES ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

New Hampshire Profiles July, 1969 Volume XVIII No. 7 Article: "Home of the Month" Author: Marjorie W. Smith

Burton Historical Collection Biography of Watkins

History of the Town of Surry, N.H. 1925 by Frank B. Kingsbury, Concord Press, Concord, New Hampshire