

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Hampshire	
COUNTY: Rockingham	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
71.11.33.0008	11/5/71

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Whidden-Ward House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
same (Michael Whidden House)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
~~117 Deer Street~~ T.C. Hill

CITY OR TOWN:  
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33      COUNTY: Rockingham      CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>proposed adaptive use</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Portsmouth Housing Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:  
25 Vaughan Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth,      STATE: New Hampshire      CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Exeter      STATE: New Hampshire      CODE: 33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Building Survey

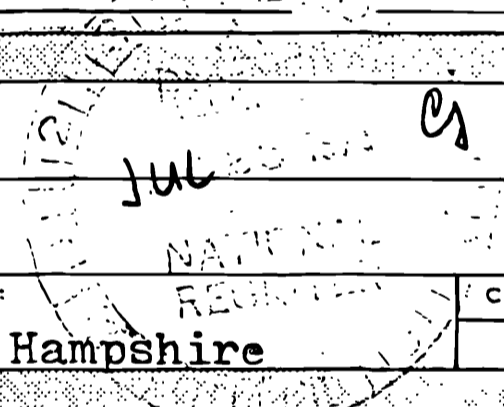
DATE OF SURVEY: 12/3/37       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 001

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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DATE	

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The development of urban house lots along Deer Street was begun in the first decade of the 18th century and completed to the corner of Deer and Vaughan Streets by 1712. In that year, the 50' x 30' house lot abutting the corner lot was sold to Benjamin Miller. It seems to have remained an empty lot and acquired by Michael Whidden, Sr., a "joiner", who sold the lot to his son of the same name for £26 in 1721. The Whidden-Ward house may date, in part, from the early 1720's as an abutting deed of 1726 refers to the house lot as "...where he (Michael Whidden, Jr.) dwelleth" Whidden, one of a family of "joiners", died in 1773 and the "...dwelling house and lot of land in being the same house where the said intestate lived till his death..." was sold to Nathum Ward for £94. Over the next decade, Ward apparently rebuilt the house, adding the Georgian interior details recorded by the Historic American Building Survey.

In 1783, the improved house was sold to James Hill for £600. When Hill died in 1812 his "...House, and Land situated in Deer Street..." was valued at \$3,000. A portion of this property was set off to the widow Sarah Hill, including part of the "...front entry...", the "kitchen" in the front portion of the ell, and what is described as a "...shop or parlor..." in the front room on the west side of the entry hall. Sarah Hill also ~~resided~~ <sup>owned</sup> the chambers above both rooms and the cellar below.

The L-shaped Georgian house with hall-hipped roof is constructed of wood and was originally covered with clapboards -- partially surviving beneath modern siding. The HABS drawings provide complete evidence of the original triangular pedimented door and window caps no longer on the exterior. The major feature of the interior is the handsome 18th century stair hall or entry with its original staircase and arched stair landing window case. Modern removal of some stair balusters could be reproduced from detailed HABS drawings. With these exceptions, the house is largely unaltered since measured in the 1930's.

Subsequent 19th century owners added a two story lean-to behind the northeast room, blocking the arched window on the stair landing. The "Beverly Lean-to" and a side porch of mid-19th century date are the only major additions to the structure.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" 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

The significance of the Whidden-Ward House, 117 Deer Street, was originally recognized in the 1930's when measured drawings and photographs of this house were included in the Historic American Buildings Survey. The major feature, the central hallway with its fine Georgian staircase was completely recorded for the HABS. As the house was first owned by Michael Whidden, Jr., a local "joiner", the bold Georgian woodwork may tentatively be attributed to his hand. Land records suggest that major renovations may have occurred in the 1770's after Whidden's death, but the nature of this increase in value is unrecorded.

One of several important 18th century houses on Deer Street, the Whidden-Ward House must be relocated within the Vaughan Street Urban Renewal Project for a new access road. Plans for the preservation and adaptive use are currently under consideration by the present owner.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Howells, John Mead, The Architectural Heritage of the  
Piscataqua  
Historic American Building Survey  
Brewster, Charles, Rambles About Portsmouth, (1st Series  
Portsmouth, 1872)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O 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	° ' "	° ' "		43 ° 4 ' 43 "	70 ° 45 ' 41 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre (lot size 40'x80')

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Robert S. Chase, Executive Director

ORGANIZATION: Portsmouth Preservation, Inc. DATE: 5/20/71

STREET AND NUMBER: 111 Bow Street

CITY OR TOWN: Portsmouth STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33

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: George Gilman

Title: Commissioner, Dept. of Resources and Economic Development

Date: June 22, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A. Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 5 1971

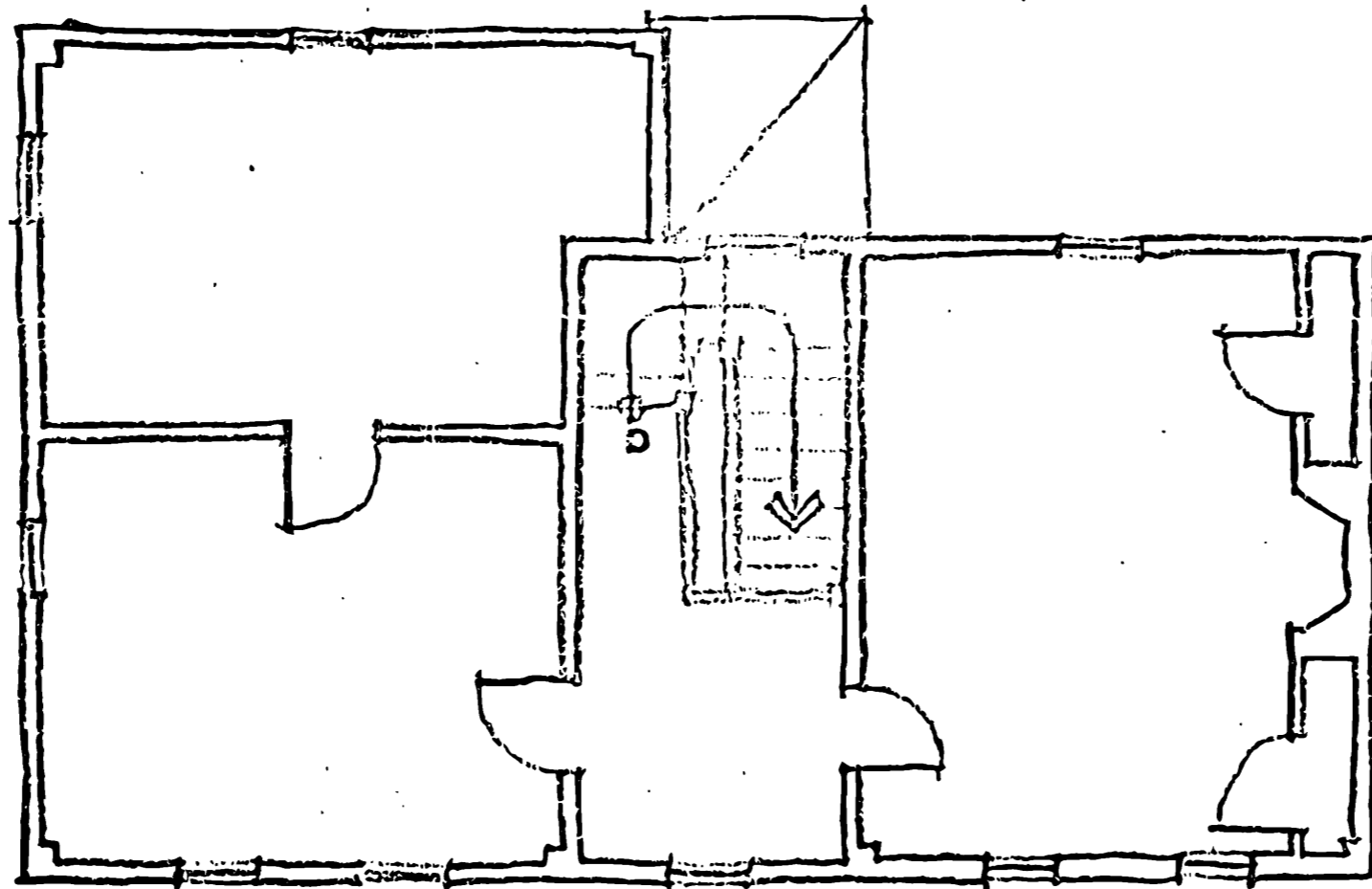
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Myrod Ford  
Keeper of The National Register

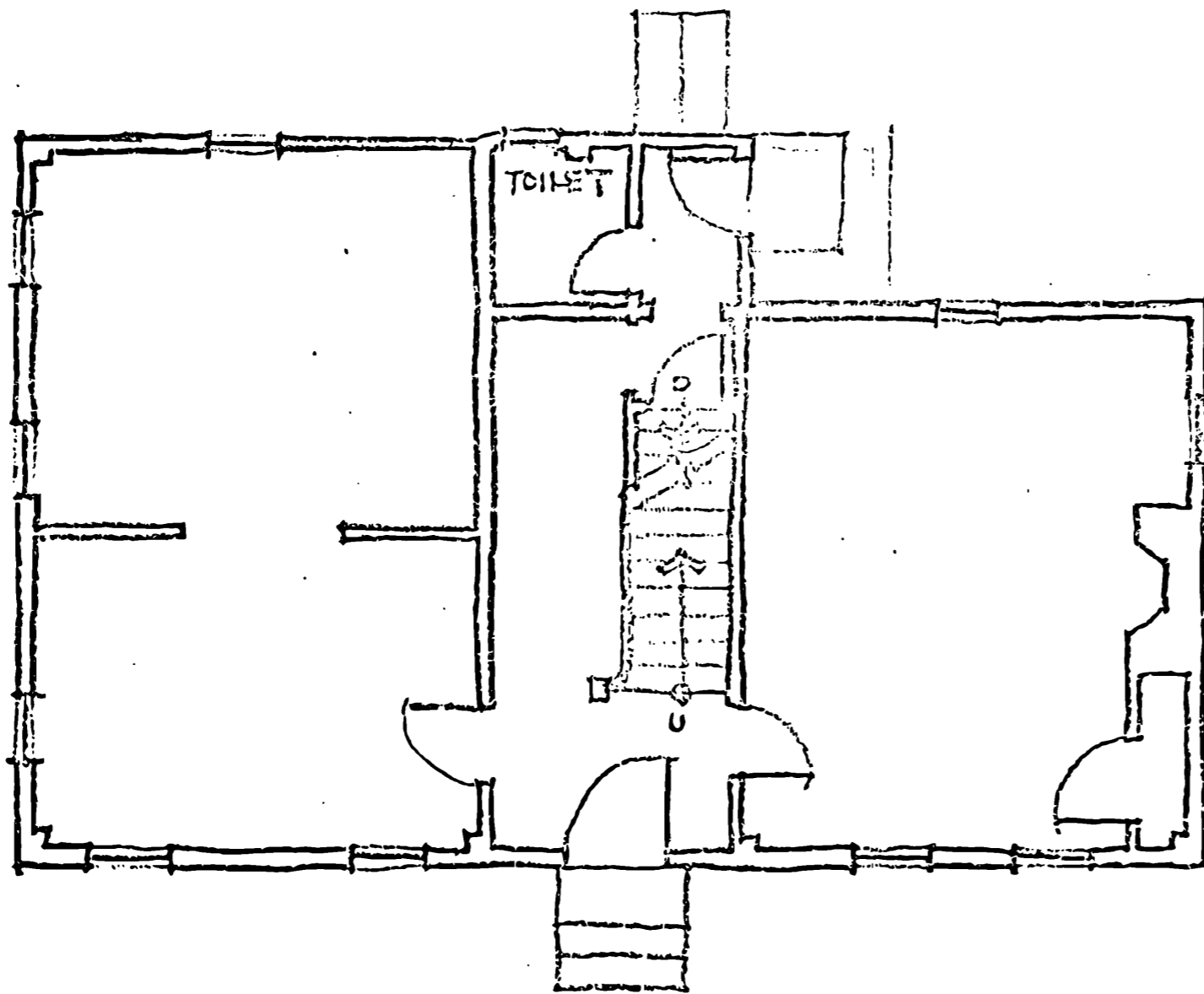
Date: 10/22/71

NO  
UTM  
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



The Hill  
Portsmouth NH

6-14  
Ward-Whidden House  
2nd Floor  
Scale: 1" = 8'



The Hill  
Portsmouth NH

6-14  
Ward-Whidden House  
1st Floor  
Scale: 1" = 8'