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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

APR 26 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Adams, Dr. Daniel House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 324 Main Street

NA not for publication

city, town Keene

NA vicinity

state New Hampshire code NH county Cheshire code 005 zip code 03431

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private public-local public-State public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s) district site structure object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Handwritten Signature]

Date APR 20 1989

NEW HAMPSHIRE

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

[Handwritten Signature]

6-8-89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

FEDERAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation granite

walls weatherboard

roof slate

other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dr. Daniel Adams House is located on the east side of Main Street on an half acre (0.54) lot with a generous lawn bordered by a picket fence with granite posts. The house possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The dwelling structure is an amalgam evidencing an architectural evolution from one style and/or configuration to another. Predominantly a Greek Revival style structure, its original build dates to 1795. This dwelling structure, inclusive of this evolution reflected in change over time, remains remarkably intact.

The Dr. Daniel Adams House is a two-story gable end dwelling, built about 1795, with a smaller two-story ell connecting to a 1½ story garage to the east. The west facade (street) of the main block is symmetrically divided into five bays in the first two stories, with a projecting one-story entrance porch. First-story windows are crowned with typical late 18th century cyma-recta-on-cyma-reversa cornices. A similar molding serves as the bed mold at the top of the wall, and off the face of the short, scarf-jointed clapboarding. The cornice continues across the gable end. Above it, the gable wall contains two windows of a later type, and is clad with longer, butt-jointed clapboards. Although it appears superficially to be of the same period as the remainder of the west elevation, the entrance porch is almost certainly later: both bed molds and window cornices are made with ovolo-on-cavetto moldings. According to the present owner, the east end of the south facade was an open porch¹ before he filled it in around 1950 to make the present kitchen. Of the six windows in the second story, the four to the west are similar to those on the west facade, but the two to the east are a later type. The bed molding passes over them without breaking. Between these two sets of windows, joints in the cornice, bed mold, and clapboards, and a change from shorter scarf-jointed clapboards to longer butt-jointed siding all indicate an addition to the house². The exterior of the ell shows no specific evidence of style; the porch to its south appears to be of late nineteenth-century origin. The present three-bay garage is, in fact, a reworked timberframed barn. Internal evidence suggests that the flanking doors were cut through in this century when the building became a garage; the central door appears to occupy the site of the original. There is a basement, whose masonry walls are exposed a full story above grade on the east and north. Evidence at the northwest corner, including a small gable jetty³ and siding that appears to pass beneath the abutting ell, suggests that the barn was in place before the ell was built to connect it to the house.

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The interior arrangement of the main block of the Dr. Daniel Adams House is familiar, but as with the exterior, becomes more peculiar upon close examination. A central hall runs east-west through the house, but stops short of the east range of rooms. Its location is eccentric - its south wall aligns with the south jamb of the second-story west window - and the stair, instead of being placed in the hall proper, occupies a large alcove to its north. The rooms north of the stair are accordingly narrow, and presently used as baths. Chimneys separate the west rooms from those to the east.

In both stories, the rooms to the south of the hall and the north-west room, appear to retain most of their early, vernacular Federal woodwork. One chimney-piece appears to be a late derivation from Plate XX of The Country Builder's Assistant⁴, but with others, as well as the door and window trim, all appear to lie within a simple, but refined, Federal vernacular. Doors are for the most part four-panelled; some are of the typical eighteenth century form, with feather-edged raised panels and thumbnail-beaded rails and styles, and others plain, unmolded, versions of flat-panel Federal doors. There is abundant early hardware, some of which appears to be original to its doors.

The northwest first-story appears to have been an early addition. It was extensively remodelled for use as a dining room early in this century, and retains numerous Colonial Revival and Craftsman-influenced details, including a rebuilt fireplace in the center of the east wall, a built-in sideboard, and a triple window surmounted with a double transom course of small, bright lights of stained glass. The room directly above it retains its vernacular Federal woodwork, but it is oddly proportioned, due to its floor having been elevated about a foot to accommodate the grander ceiling height of the remodelled dining room.

Unlike every other room in the house, the trim in the southeast second-story room uses delicate, Federal-scaled, Greek Revival ovolo backband moldings. This uncharacteristic trim, the evidence of change on the exterior of the house, and the outline of a former window that is faintly discernable in the east wall of the adjoining room all indicate this area to be a later addition, possibly following Dr. Adams' death in 1830.

The present roof framing, visible in the attic, consists of two courses of log rafters, running from eaves to an intermediate purlin, and then from the purlin to the ridge, where they are lap-tenoned and pinned together. This framing is similar to the roof framing of the barn, and is different from that of the connecting ell, which uses sawn rafters.

The two west chimneys both have drip courses within the present attic, and other evidence indicative of an earlier roof of slightly lower pitch. The east chimney also has drip courses. Those and other surviving evidence indicate that it stood astride the ridge of a secondary (and still lower-pitched) roof.

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The basement contains another relatively clear record of change. In addition to evidence of an original 5-window by 4-window block and the subsequent additions suggested by the evidence outlined above, there is also a large brick construction extending south from just inside the north foundation wall to the line of the south wall of the central hall. This construction, which includes support for the existing northwest-room fireplaces, includes on its east side hearth supports for a large fireplace in the space presently occupied by the stair, and on its west, fragmentary supports for a hearth that would completely block the present central hall. A rough door nailed with wrought iron nails to the hearth supports of the south chimney base provides strong evidence that that chimney was very early, if not original to the house.

From this evidence, we essay the following approximate construction history for the house⁵: as built around 1795, the Dr. Daniel Adams House was a rectangular block, five windows wide and four windows deep. The rarity of the gable-end-to-the-street presentation in New England until well into the nineteenth century, coupled with the fact that the existing gables are not original to the house, suggests that the original roof was hipped.

Early in the nineteenth century, the kitchen was moved into a new two-story ell (the present dining room), and the large fireplace complex was removed from the north part of the house, allowing the central hall and stair to be constructed, and the plan to take its present form. It is probable that the entrance porch was added as part of this work; the break-out of the south first-story room may have occurred at this time or as part of the next major construction.

The third major construction episode took place early in the rise of the Greek Revival style, and included adding the present southeast chamber with its Federal-scaled Greek Revival moldings, and rebuilding the roof to its present appearance. The transfer of the property to Dr. Adams' son following his death makes around 1830 a likely date.

Although the physical evidence is inconclusive, the barn may have appeared by this time. Its log-rafter roof is more similar to the roof of the main house than it is to the hewn main frame of the barn, and some of the siding on its west end appears to pass behind the ell.

Some time between this change and 1904 the connecting ell was constructed between the house and barn. The kitchen was removed to the ell, allowing the turn-of-the-century dining room remodelling. Following the kitchen's final move to the southeast corner of the house in the 1950s, the ell was converted into a tenant apartment.

The wood picket fence surrounding the house is supported on granite posts which date before 1904; a mid-nineteenth century origin seems likely. The wood itself appears to be totally of twentieth-century origin, although it appears similar to the earlier works shown in the photo in Griffin.

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NOTES

¹A photograph in Griffin (see bibliography) indicates that this porch had been in place since 1904 or earlier.

²The north side of the house shows similar evidence of change. In addition, the wall steps back (to the south) about a foot, apparently to allow tenoning the sill of an addition into the rear sill of the original block.

³Between one and two inches deep.

⁴Asher Benjamin, The Country Builder's Assistant, Greenfield: Thomas Dickman, 1797.

⁵Please refer to the sketch "Probable Evolution of the Dr. Daniel Adams House" for clarification. Minor porches and excrescences, such as the lean-to on the south side of the barn visible in the photograph in Griffin, are omitted.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
architecture	c.1795-1904	c.1795 c.1810-20 c.1830 c.1850
	Cultural Affiliation	
	NA	
Significant Person NA	Architect/Builder	
	unknown	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The significance of the Dr. Daniel Adams House is derived primarily from its architectural integrity as an amalgam reflecting the evolution of the dwelling structure from one style and/or configuration to another. The structure's period of significance is that of 1795-1904. This period of significance represents the construction of the initial house until a dated photograph showing its completed evolution. It is an amalgam that has been identified and interpreted through specific research into the architecture and construction of the Dr. Daniel Adams House, the structure demonstrates its architectural evolution, as such an amalgam, fulfilling Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places' Standards of Criteria.

The exterior of the main block of the house appears very close to its c.1830 appearance after enlargement and re-roofing, the principal difference being the mid-twentieth century enclosure of the first-story porch at the southwest corner, and the late Queen Anne dining-room window in the north elevation. That appearance is an excellent example of how an older dwelling might, with relatively little work, be modernized to embody what was viewed at the time to be the essence of style - in this case, a large simple block presenting its gable end to the street in the newly fashionable Grecian mode, but at the same time retaining all of its earlier exterior (and interior) decorative detail.

The interior gains significance from the great amount of pre-1830 work that survives, together with the c.1830 additions, and subsequent conversion of the ell kitchen to a fashionable early-twentieth century dining room, which come together in a generally harmonious whole that nevertheless strongly evokes passing time and changing tastes. The intriguing evidence of the lost earlier interior which appears to have deviated markedly from the late eighteenth century norms of domestic space arrangement provides a potentially significant window into poorly-understood vernacular building practices.

Dr. Daniel Adams purchased the land on which his house stands from Josiah Willard in 1794¹, and apparently began construction on his house soon thereafter.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bryant F. Tolles, Jr. w/Carolyn K. Tolles; NH Architecture (Hanover, NH: 1979)

Workers of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of New Hampshire: New Hampshire, A Guide to the Granite State (Boston, MA, Riverside Press Cambridge: 1938).

Hale, Salma; Annals of the Town of Keene (Keene, NH: by J.W. Prentiss and Co., 1851).

Wilder, Clifford C.; The Repetory (Keene, NH: by Clifford Wilber, 1924-27).

Griffin, S.G.; A History of the Town of Keene (Keene, NH: by Sentinel Printing Co., 1904).

Keene History Committee; Upper Ashuelot (Keene, NH: Keene History Committee).

Smith, Marjorie W.; Historic Homes of Cheshire County, Vols. I-III.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository:

Cheshire County Registry of Deeds

Keene State College Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .541 acres

UTM References

A

1	8	7	2	2	2	0	0	4	7	5	5	8	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

TAX RECORDS, City of Keene, NH:

Map 29
Section 2
Lot 19

NOTE: Boundaries of the nominated property are highlighted in yellow on the attached sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Cheshire County Registry of Deeds, Cheshire County Court House, Court Street, Keene, NH: The nominated property represents the surviving land still associated with the Dr. Daniel Adams House.

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See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Allen Charles Hill, A.I.A., Charles F. Tarbox, Jennifer L. Tarbox: w/Deborah Babson

organization _____ date August-November 1988

street & number 324 Main Street telephone (603) 352-2139

city or town Keene state NH zip code 03431

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Hale's Annals of the Town of Keene indicates that by 1799 he was also keeping the Post Office² in addition to running a medical practice. Dr. Adams was also a founding member of the Medical Society of Cheshire County, established c.1824, and was associated with the development of Keene's medical/hospital services.

The amount of change the house appears to have undergone during Dr. Adams' lifetime speaks of a prospering owner whose house was being continually improved to reflect his circumstances. The house appears to have been enlarged, and its interior rearranged and improved.

Following Dr. Adams' death in 1830, his son Charles G. inherited the property³ (probate reference). Dr. Adams the younger lived in the house for a time, enlarging it and converting it from a hip-roofed Federal dwelling into its present gable-to-the-street form before moving to a new house to the north.

As a clear window on the architectural evolution of style and configuration over time (reflective of the social and economic development of the community and its owner(s)), the Dr. Daniel Adams House illustrates its historical and architectural significance. Therefore the structure, as it stands, still conveys each of its periods of style/evolution and transformations. Other houses within the community of Keene have not and do not.

In comparison with other houses of the same time period or of the same known architectural characteristics, there is no comparable structure that has undergone quite the same architectural evolution.

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NOTES

¹Cheshire Registry of Deeds, Book 23, Page 334.

²Samuel Wadsworth, "Keene's Post Offices and Postmasters" in The Repertory, April, 1925, (Vol. I, No. 5).

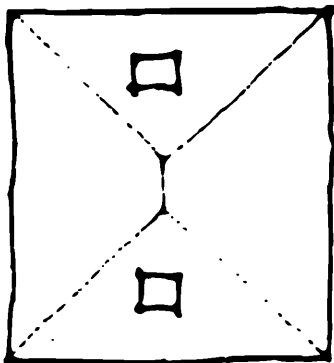
³Probate records.

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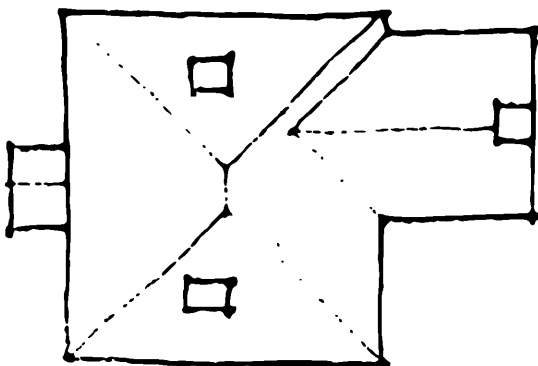
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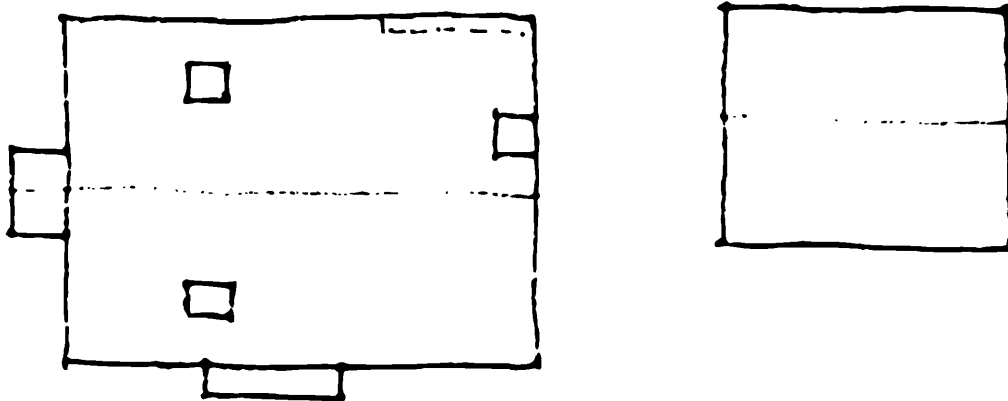
c. 1795



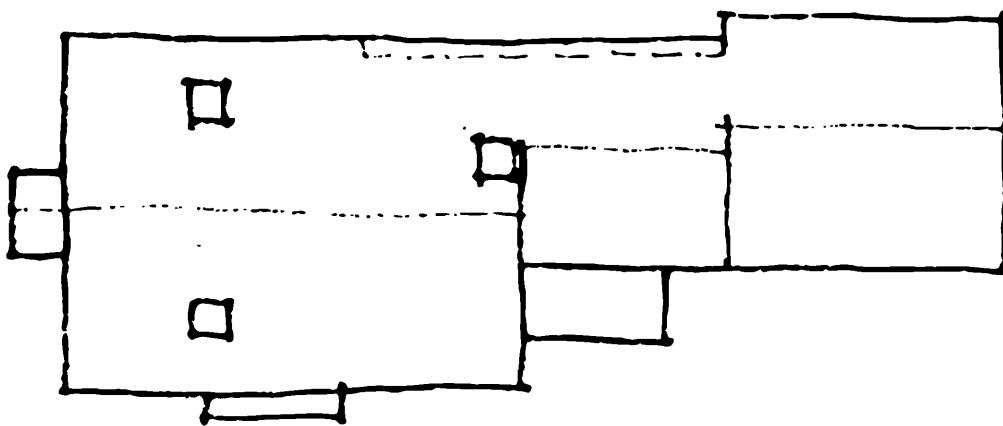
c. 1810-
1820



c. 1830



BY 1904



PROBABLE EVOLUTION OF THE DR DANIEL ADAMS HOUSE

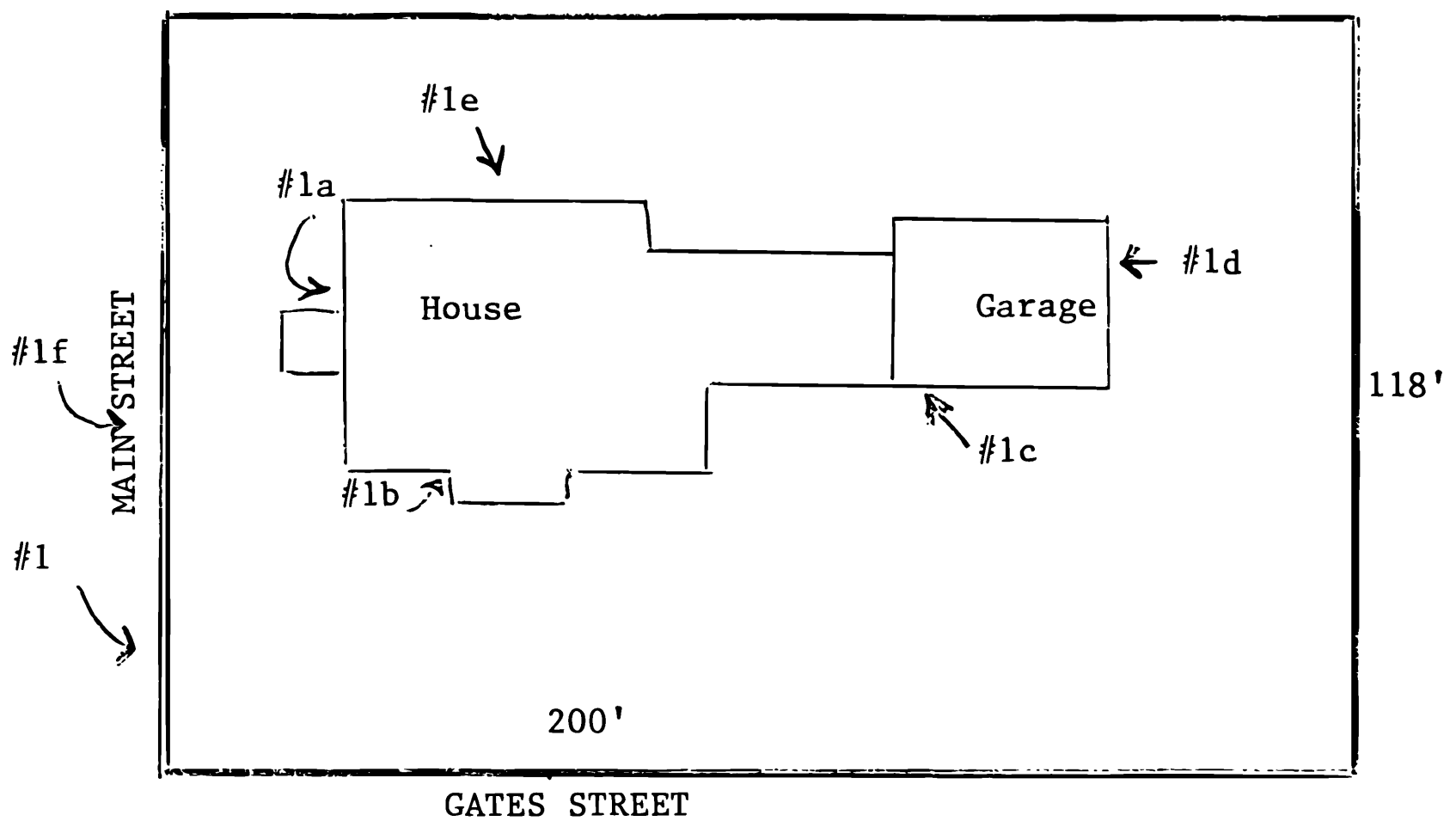
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
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SKETCH MAP

The Dr. Daniel Adams House
324 Main Street
Keene, NH 03431



 Contributing Building

 Boundaries

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTIONS

Dr. Daniel Adams House
324 Main Street
Keene, NH 03431

<u>Photograph #</u>	<u>Description of View</u>
#1a	photographer facing east; shows columned pedimented entry and pediments over first level windows.
#1b	photographer facing northeast; shows white picket fence, chimneys.
#1c	photographer facing northwest.
#1d	photographer facing west; shows "Wyman Tavern" to extreme left.
#1e	interior view of room originally used as post office; shows fireplace and molding.
#1f	interior view of parlor; shows molding and fireplace.
#1g	interior view of first level hallway.
#1h	interior view of living room; shows mantle and fireplace.
#1i	interior view of bedroom on second level; shows original pine floors, fireplace and molding.
#1j	interior view of attic; shows kneewall partitions, log rafters, and no ridgepole.

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RESIDENCE OF DR. DANIEL ADAMS. BUILT ABOUT 1795.

From S.G. Griffin's A History of the Town of Keene, published 1904.

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Dr. Daniel Adams House, Keene

This certifies that the appearance has not changed since these photographs were taken.

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DR. DANIEL ADAMS HOUSE
Property Owner

Dr. Daniel Adams House

Barbara Tarbox
324 Main Street
Keene, New Hampshire 03431

List compiled 1/6/88