

PH 0613064

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 25 1976
DATE ENTERED	APR 30 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC ~~Elliot Mansion~~ *Elliot Hall*

AND/OR COMMON

Elliot Hall formerly Elliot Community Hospital

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 305 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Keene

— VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

New Hampshire

CODE
33

COUNTY
Cheshire

CODE
005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of New Hampshire, Keene State College

STREET & NUMBER

229 Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Keene

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Hampshire

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Cheshire County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

12 Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Keene

STATE

New Hampshire 03431

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE New Hampshire State Historic Preservation Plan

DATE

1970

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development

CITY, TOWN

Concord,

STATE

New Hampshire 03301

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

In the summer of 1810 Captain William Wyman of Keene started construction of the "finest house in town" although he died the following April, just prior to the completion of his commodious, hipped-roofed brick homestead. Three large barns were erected at the same time.¹

Later known as the Elliot Mansion from occupancy by the James B. Elliot family and more recently as the Elliot Community Hospital, it has been owned by Keene State College since 1972.

High-ceilinged rooms had fine wainscotting and paneled walls of the Federal period, exquisite Italian pictorial wallpapers in the two front parlors, an open ballroom on the top floor, and interior end chimneys with fireplaces framed by fluted pilasters. Four of the fireplaces with wooden enframements remain intact, and one room features a small corner fireplace, the mantel of which is supported by carved wooden brackets.²

Old photographs show an ornamental balustrade along the roof prior to the addition of the third story. An imposing and sheltered front entrance remains, flanked by sidelights with an elliptical fanlight overhead of clear sheet glass covered with an ornate iron scroll design. The house was originally two stories in height.

Window "lights" are six-over-six and those on the first two floors have decorative granite lintels and the traditional keystone. Windows originally had folding paneled interior shutters now removed. Foundations are of granite blocks; a granite belt course divides the first and second stories, and is echoed by a later brick belt course between the second and third floors.

A free-standing elliptical staircase in the front hallway is the most imposing of the interior architectural details. The slender, gracefully curved, solid mahogany stair rail is supported by two balusters to each step; decorative sawn scrolls are overlaid on open stair ends. Another unique feature of the hall is the width and curve of a door and frame below the stairs, both curved to follow the line of the stairwell.

Murals painted by the world-renowned Barry Faulkner of Keene decorate the walls in the entrance hall and further enhance the beauty and historic value of the house. Two-story flanking recessed brick wings on the north and south sides of the building were added during the early twentieth century, with detailing carefully designed so as to be compatible with the original building. A one story solarium, consisting of three bays defined by wooden columnar mullions, with a flat roof having a wooden balustrade, was also added filling the corner space between the South wing and the main building. Subsequent additions to accommodate hospital functions were made at the rear and rear south side of the building, but do not intrude in the viewer's perception of the main mass.

¹S. G. Griffin, A History of the Town of Keene (Keene, NH: Sentinel Printing Co., 1904), p.670.

²Keene History Committee, "Upper Ashuelot"; A History of Keene, New Hampshire (City of Keene, NH: 1968), p.372.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 1810; 1892; 1972

BUILDER/ARCHITECT ---

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elliot Hall was built as a private home by Captain William Wyman, a Keene native born in 1775 who went to sea at an early age. Little is recorded about him until his return to his hometown about 1804 with his seacoast bride, Mary Fowle, and a considerable fortune. There are fanciful tales but no verified facts as to the actual source of his wealth.¹

Captain Wyman first settled at his family homestead, the old Wyman Tavern, located two houses distance from Elliot Hall on Main Street.

It is said that Wyman, finding clay on the land, began to make bricks and built a brick store that later formed the south part of what became the old Eagle Hotel in Keene. These same locally made bricks were used in building Wyman's new home in the summer of 1810. Tradition says that before he died the following April, he was taken to the window of his father's house and saw the blinds being hung on his new mansion.²

His widow and two daughters moved into the house but tragedy overtook the family again and within two years, Mrs. Wyman died and the youngsters, Sarah, age 8, and Mary, age 6, went to live with their guardian, Captain Daniel Bradford, in the westerly part of Keene. The next year the brick house and 20 acres of land were sold at auction.

The Hon. James Wilson, the highly educated son of an immigrant Scotch-Irish settler of Peterborough, became the next occupant of the Wyman mansion. He remained there until his death in 1830. At the time he had accumulated the largest estate of anyone in Keene. An interesting sidenote is the fact that the funeral expenses for this "richest man" in Keene amounted to \$30.75; his mahogany coffin, costing \$30, was the largest portion of the bill.⁴

James Bixby Elliot, manufacturer of the renowned "Clipper Mowing and Reaping Machine" at his foundry in South Keene, bought the property in 1845 and lived there with his family for nearly half a century. After his death his brother, John Henry Elliot, gave the mansion and part of the 20 acres of land to the city of Keene to be used as a hospital, in memory of the Elliot brothers' beloved aunt, Miss Kate Bixby Appleton.

In October of 1892, the Sentinel newspaper reported that a Mr. Peter Morse, a 90-year-old Keene resident, was the first patient to be taken to the new hospital. Thus the house passed from private ownership. Since 1892, its history has become the story of thousands of people within the community--of their births and deaths, illnesses

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Writer's Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of New Hampshire, New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1938.

Marjorie Whalen Smith, Historic Homes of Cheshire County, Keene, New Hampshire: 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	722150	4755950	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 Marjorie Whalen Smith, Author, Historic Homes of Cheshire County and Marion Wood, Vice President of the Alumni Association

ORGANIZATION Keene State College Alumni Association

DATE March, 1975

STREET & NUMBER 229 Main Street

TELEPHONE 603-352-1909, ext. 304

CITY OR TOWN Keene

STATE New Hampshire

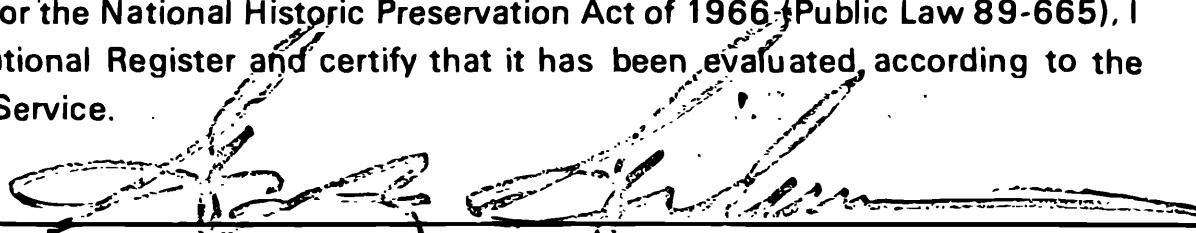
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL XX

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE NH State Historic Preservation Officer
Commissioner, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development

DATE September 22, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/30/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4.30.76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Significance, continued.

and healings, and of the doctors and nurses dedicated to service under the roof-tree of that old mansion.⁵

When Barry Faulkner received the commission to paint the murals in the entrance hall of the house, he commented, "I was honored and touched by these marks of regard from the citizens of Keene." Visitors to Keene today may see several of Barry Faulkner murals: one in Elliot Hall, at the Keene Savings Bank and at the Cheshire County Savings Bank, and in the lobby at Cheshire Hospital. Faulkner, a native of Keene, became world famous as a painter and his murals appear in public and private buildings from Rome to Oregon.⁶

¹Marjorie W. Smith, Historic Homes of Cheshire County, Keene Sentinel, 1964.

²S. G. Griffin, History of the Town of Keene, (Sentinel Printing Company, 1904), p.610.

³Keene History Committee, Upper Ashuelot, (City of Keene, N.H., 1968), p.372.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Ibid, p.373.

⁶Barry Faulkner, Sketches from an Artist's Life, (Dublin, New Hampshire, 1973) p.183.

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Major Bibliographical References, Continued.

Griffin, Simon G., A History of the Town of Keene from 1732 When the Township was Granted by Massachusetts, to 1874 When It became a City, Keene Sentinel, Keene, New Hampshire: 1904.

Keene History Committee, Upper Ashuelot, A History of Keene, New Hampshire, Keene, New Hampshire: 1968.

Howe, M. A. DeWolfe, Barry Faulkner's Men of Monadnock, The Story of the Murals in Keene National Bank.

The Landmark Society, Rochester, NY, Amateur's Guide to Terms Commonly Used in Describing Historic Buildings, 123 South Fitzhugh Street, Rochester, NY, 1970.

Morrison, Hugh, Early American Architecture, Oxford University Press, 1952.

William L. Bauhan Publisher, Barry Faulkner, Sketches from an Artist's Life, Dublin, New Hampshire, 1973.