

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

For HCRS use only

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

received FEB 29 1980

date entered

11 15 80

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

1. Name Upham - Walker House.

historic Nathaniel G. Upham House / Upham-Walker Property (Walker House)

and/or common Upham-Walker Property/Sheafe Walker House

2. Location

street & number 18 Park Street not for publication

city, town Concord vicinity of congressional district 02

state New Hampshire code 33 county Merrimack code 013

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input 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"/> 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 The Heirs of Rev. Sheafe Walker: Charles Rumford Walker, III, Esq.
Daniel Sheafe Walker ✓
% John H. Sanders, Esq. AS OF AUGUST, 1979, THE PROPERTY IS OWNED BY
street & number 10 Centre Street THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, % Superintendent
of Buildings and Grounds, State House Annex
city, town Concord vicinity of state New Hampshire 03301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Merrimack County Registry of Deeds
Merrimack County Courthouse
street & number North Main Street
PO Box 248
city, town Concord state New Hampshire 03301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A 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 type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Present appearance: The Upham-Walker House, built in 1831 by Nathaniel G. Upham (1801-1869), is a 2-1/2 story brick dwelling with an attached wooden wing and stable. The house was regarded as "a fine specimen of the best architecture of [its] period,"¹ and today stands as the only unaltered example of late Federal-style domestic architecture surviving in central Concord. The building reflects a version of the Federal style which became common in New Hampshire during the early nineteenth century: it has a five-bay facade and a gable roof oriented with the gables on the front and rear elevations, thus creating a pediment above the principal elevation. Through a change in detailing, later houses of this design evolved into a characteristic New Hampshire form of Greek Revival architecture, and the Upham-Walker House displays a number of transitional features which reveal the beginnings of this evolution.

The main house presently has three chimneys, two of which rise from the side elevations and one of which rises from the rear (north) wall near the northeast corner of the house. The building probably had a fourth chimney near its northwest corner, in the area that adjoins the wooden wing; this presumably provided cooking facilities in the adjacent wing but was removed when the western rooms of the main house, along with the kitchen, were remodelled in the late 1800s.

At the time of this remodelling, a shallow bay was added on the west elevation of the main house near the north corner, deepening the dining room and a bedchamber above. This bay, built of brick and granite that closely match the original fabric of the house, is surmounted by a low-pitched gable roof, and is the only fundamental alteration to the exterior of the main building since its completion in 1831.

The exterior of the house is noteworthy for the fine quality of its masonry and its wooden detailing. The walls are constructed of hard-burned pressed brick laid with thin mortar joints in a running stretcher bond, and all windows except those on the north elevation have finely-hammered granite lintels with splayed ends and granite lug sills. The portico over the front door is an excellent example of early nineteenth-century granite masonry, being supported by two tapered monolithic columns with simple capitals. The roof of the portico is a single 12-inch slab of granite measuring about 3-1/2 by 10-1/2 feet, with an integral square stepped cornice cut into its edges. The portico is surmounted by a wooden balustrade with turned columnar balusters, and beneath it is an arched doorway with sidelights, a paneled reveal, and a semi-elliptical louvered fan. The foundation is stone, and a plinth of hammered granite blocks laid at grade level supports the brick walls. The eastern doorway, now covered by a bracketed wooden hood of the late nineteenth century, has an arched fanlight with Gothic muntins.

The hammered granite of the Upham-Walker House was of the finest quality obtainable in the 1830s; specifications for granite elements for a contemporary building in the vicinity required that the stone should "be fine cut equal to the stone in Judge Upham's dwelling house in Concord."²

The strongly-projecting wooden exterior cornice of the house is original and is composed of crown and bed mouldings that combine a Grecian ovolo above a cavetto. The cornice returns across the facade to form a full pediment. In the center of the tympanum of this pediment is a blind semicircular arch which encloses a rectangular sash surmounted by a louvered semicircular fan. The rear elevation is treated as a simple gable, with short cornice returns and with flat rake boards. The brickwork on the rear shows evidence of a former one-story pitched-roof porch, which is illustrated in a woodcut in Bouton's History of Concord (1856), p. 410.

¹Nathaniel Bouton, The History of Concord (Concord, N.H.: Benning W. Sanborn, 1856), p. 410.

²New Hampshire Historical Society manuscript collections, Aaron Whittemore Papers, Box 2.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

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7. DESCRIPTION, continued:

The wooden 2½ story wing and attached stable are both clapboarded. The rear-most portion of the wing, behind the kitchen and adjacent to the stable, has a recessed and arcaded walkway on the east elevation; the hallway above this, now enclosed and lighted by two windows, was originally an open porch. The attached stable, now used as a garage, is sheathed on the first floor interior with matched pine boards and retains evidence of horse stalls. Above the first floor is a hayloft and, above that, an attic.

The first floor of the main house contains four principal rooms, two on each side of a central hallway. The hall, with both front and rear stairs, extends through the house and is intersected by a transverse passageway (now partly converted to a book closet) leading to the eastern side door. The second floor contains three bedchambers on the west side of the central hall and two chambers and a lavatory and bathroom on the east side. The third floor has three finished rooms and several unfinished attic spaces.

The interior of the main house has detailing from three periods: the era of original construction (1831); the mid-nineteenth century; and the late nineteenth century. The central hallway remains essentially unchanged from the period of original construction. The front (main) stairway, which rises to the second floor, has an elaborately ramped and twisted mahogany handrail and simple dowel-like balusters. The rear stairway, which rises from the first to the third floor, has a series of straight balustrade sections which meet at turned columnar posts of a design similar to that used in contemporary houses in the region. Balusters are turned dowels.

Woodwork in the hallway, like that in other unaltered areas of the house, includes round bosses. The doors, while retaining a six-panel design characteristic of the Federal style, have wide applied panel mouldings that prefigure the Greek Revival door type. The wide baseboards in the front hall and in many other areas have applied Grecian ogee caps. Cornices are a simple wooden moulding combining an ovolo and a cavetto.

The two first floor rooms east of the hall retain much of their original woodwork, which is similar to that in the front hallway. Windows in the southeast (front) room have paneled reveals that extend to the floor and have paneled folding interior shutters set into their sides. Later window seats have been fitted into these reveals. Other alterations to the room include the replacement of the original mantelpiece by a white marble enframing intended for a coal grate, and the installation of a two-branch gas chandelier (now electrified), both probably dating from about 1850. A pressed metal ceiling was added at a more recent date. The northeast (rear) room has simpler woodwork, but retains a curly maple mantelpiece with engaged Tuscan columns and heavy Greek Revival detail. An identical mantelpiece remains in a chamber on the second floor; these are probably typical of the original fireplace treatment throughout the house.

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7. DESCRIPTION, continued:

The two rooms on the west side of the first floor were created through an extensive remodelling in the late nineteenth century. This remodelling entailed the removal of original partitions, the moving of the fireplace toward the rear of the house (and the consequent blocking of an original window), the construction of a new partition with wide doors dividing the front parlor from the rear dining room, and the addition of a two-story projecting bay on the west elevation of the house to give greater size to the dining room. All woodwork added to the remodelled first floor rooms during this alteration is in an elaborate colonial revival style, with modillioned and denticulated cornices, oak flooring, flat-paneled wainscoting in the dining room, and a wooden parlor mantelpiece with attenuated colonnettes and composition festoons.

The second floor rooms remain little changed except for the addition of a marble mantelpiece in the southwest chamber, the addition of a wooden colonial revival mantelpiece in the southeast chamber, and the deepening of the northwest chamber by the addition of the two-story brick bay. Original woodwork on the second floor is similar to that on the first floor.

The rooms on the third floor are finished with plain plaster walls and have very simple square-edged casings and four-panel doors.

The house is unusual in retaining most of its original gas chandeliers and wall branches, as well as its early electric light fixtures. The building also has a number of early wall-mounted steam radiators which were patented in 1854 and take the form of hollow sheet iron rectangles with indented surfaces for increased radiation. One of these fixtures on the third floor retains its original painted and stencilled decoration.

Original appearance: Except as noted above, the Upham-Walker House retains its original appearance.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1831

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Significance, architecture: The Upham-Walker House is the last essentially intact dwelling of the late Federal style remaining in downtown Concord, N.H. Embodying exceptional quality in design and construction, the house is one of the finest dwellings of its era remaining in the upper Merrimack Valley. The building provides an index of the aesthetics of the region and of the constructive skills that prevailed in 1830. In addition, the sympathetic changes that later generations of the family carried out in the house indicate the advent of mid- and late-nineteenth century styles. The house is further significant in retaining its attached stable and its landscaping, walls and fencing.

Significance, commerce and law: The Upham-Walker House was built in 1831 by Nathaniel Gookin Upham (1801-1869), born in nearby Deerfield, N.H. and educated at Dartmouth College. Trained in law at Rochester, N.H., Upham came to Concord in 1829 and continued a successful legal practice for four years. In 1833, at the age of 32, he was appointed an associate justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court. He resigned his seat on the bench in 1843 to become superintendent and later president of the Concord Railroad, his leadership contributing to the success of that enterprise. Judge Upham served the United States as arbiter in two international negotiations: one between the United States and Great Britain held in London in 1853, and one between the United States and New Grenada in 1862.¹

Significance, religion: The last family owner of the Upham-Walker House was the Rev. Sheafe Walker (1888-1978), who was prominent in the Episcopal Church in several states. He served as curate of Christ Church in New Haven, Conn., curate of St. Luke's in Germantown, Pa., priest in charge of St. Mary the Virgin in Baltimore, Md., and for over 25 years as rector of Christ Church in Portsmouth, N.H.²

Significance, science: Nathaniel G. Upham's grandson, for many years an occupant of the Upham-Walker House, was Charles Rumford Walker, M.D. (1852-1922). Dr. Walker studied medicine at Harvard Medical School, with further studies at Dublin, London, Vienna, Heidelberg and Strasburg. He was a prominent New Hampshire surgeon and president of the New Hampshire Medical Society in 1899-1900.³

¹Daniel J. Noyes, Memoir of Nathaniel Gookin Upham, LL.D. (n.p., ca. 1871); Frank K. Upham, Upham Genealogy: The Descendants of John Upham, of Massachusetts (Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1892), pp. 310-313.

²Concord Monitor, Sept. 21, 1978.

³George Franklyn Willey, ed., State Builders (Manchester, N.H.: New Hampshire Publishing Corporation, 1903), pp. 338-339; Hamilton S. Putnam, The New Hampshire Medical Society--A History (Milford, N.H.: N. H. Medical Society, 1966), p. 170.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bouton, Nathaniel. The History of Concord. Concord, N.H.: Benning W. Sanborn, 1856.
Noyes, Daniel J. Memoir of Nathaniel Gookin Upham, LL.D. N.p., ca. 1871.
Upham, Frank K. Upham Genealogy: The Descendants of John Upham, of Massachusetts. Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1892.

10. Geographical Data

UMT NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property .297 acre

Quadrangle name Concord, NH (NE/4 Concord 15')

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	9	3	7	5	1	0	4	7	8	1	6	7	6	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing								

B

Zone			Easting						Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of Parcel #618 of the City of Concord Assessor's Map #45, having a frontage of approximately 70' and a depth of approximately 185', extending between Park Street on the south and Centre Street on the north.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title James L. Garvin, Curator

organization New Hampshire Historical Society

date July 25, 1979

street & number 30 Park Street

telephone (603) 225-3381

city or town Concord

state New Hampshire, 03301

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 /s/ George Gilman

Commissioner, NH Department of Resources & Economic Development

title NH State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 9, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

Jerry G. Alder
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/15/80

Attest: Patrick Andrus

date 5/13/80

Chief of Registration