

42

Site
number:

Address Islington St. cor.

New tax map(1979) 06 lot 21 size 20758 S.F.
Old tax map 24 lot 9 sizeOwner CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
Address 126 Daniel St.Location of legal description:
Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
Hampton Road; Exeter, New Hampshire
03833Representation in existing surveys:
HABS ☐ NR ☒ NHL ☐
HAER ☐ Other ☐Date 1809-10/Remodelled 1895 and 1976
Source: Estimate ☐ Other: ☐Historic name Portsmouth Academy
Common name Portsmouth Public Library
Original owner
Architect/Builder of 1976 remodelling: Frank
Adams of Stahl, Bennett, Inc.Functional type
Present use, if differentMoved ☐ Date
Altered ☒ addition & Date 1976
rehabilitationEffect: Focal ☒ Contributing ☐
non-contributing ☐ Intrusion ☐Photo roll ☐ no. ☐
Negative with: Portsmouth Advocates
Description ☐
Date taken ☐ by ☐

1. Style Federal No. of stories 2 1/2 No. of bays 7 x 3 (original block)
2. Overall plan: Modified I-shaped plan with academy building fronting on Islington and back facing back of Benedict House, to which joined by recent connector.
3. Foundation: Brick ☐ Stone ☒ Poured concrete ☐ Concrete block ☐ Artificial stone ☐ Other ☐ Cut granite ☐
4. Wall structure: Woodframe ☐ Brick ☒ Stone ☐ Other ☐
If wood: Post and beam ☐ Balloon frame ☐
5. Wall covering: Clapboard ☐ Wood shingle ☐ Flushboard ☐ Imitation ashlar ☐
Brick ☒ Stone ☐ Stucco ☐ Composition board ☐ Aluminum ☐ Vinyl ☐
Sheet metal ☐ Asphalt shingles ☐ Other ☐
6. Roof: Gable ☐ Hip ☒ Shed ☐ Mansard ☐ Flat ☐ Gambrel ☐ Other ☐
7. Specific features (location, no., appearance of porches, windows, doors, chimneys, dormers, ells/wings--see also description), decorative elements:
8. Outbuildings:


**PORTSMOUTH
ADVOCATES, INC.**

Description:

The Portsmouth Academy building forms the original part of the library. A two story hip-roofed brick building with 7 bay facade facing Islington Street; the facade has a three bay pavilion projecting about 8" with gable roof and lunette window. The door surround consists of paired engaged Ionic columns supporting a full entablature, with dentil frieze, which breaks forward above them. The doorway on the left is similar but with single columns; both doors are inset with fanlights. A marble stringcourse runs around the building above the doorway cornices, and the main raking and horizontal cornices have delicate comma brackets.

The Benedict House is a three story brick Federal house with hip-roof, 5 x 2 bays, low third story. The five bay facade has a central door with broad fanlight covering 3/5 sidelights and semicircular portico resting on engaged and freestanding Ionic columns (4 in ell). Above this is a Palladian window motif with louvered fan and sidelights, enframed in a blind arch with keystone. The extended eaves (unusual in a Federal house) surmount a delicate series of vertical cylinders.

A recent major renovation and addition by Stahl, Bennett, architects connected the two buildings with a modern, but unobtrusive, brick and glass addition. Interior details, where added, are Colonial Revival.

Significance:

A major public building of the Federal period with subsequent work by a local architect and a major Boston architectural firm.

Bibliography:

Howells, figs 75-77, 252 (Benedict House).

Kirker, Harold. The Architecture of Charles Bulfinch. Cambridge, MA:

Cambridge V.P., 1969. 371 n 4. Original Academy design not by Bulfinch.

1895 Portsmouth Annual Report, p. 55: "Expenditures from January 1 to May 27, 1895" "Remodeling Portsmouth Academy Building." William A. Ashe, arch. Solomon Littlefield, on account carpenter's contract. Portsmouth Water Works, labor and water pipes. John Sise, insurance.

Portsmouth Public Library, correspondence file for 1976: Remodelling by Frank Adams of Stahl, Bennett, archs. of Boston.

Address 1-7 Islington St. cor. Bridge St.New tax map(1979) U26 lot 51 size 9410sq.ft.
Old tax map 18 lot 65 sizeOwner JAFFE, Rubin I. & Barbara W.
Address 570 Union St.Location of legal description:
Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
Hampton Road; Exeter, New Hampshire
03833Representation in existing surveys:
HABS NR NHL Other
HAER OtherDate 1720
Source: Estimate Other:
Plaque on house.Historic name The Buckminster House
Common name
Original owner Daniel Warner (plaque
Architect/bldr. on house)Functional type house
Present use, if different professional officesMoved Date
Altered DateEffect: Focal x Contributing non-contributing IntrusionPhoto roll 18 no. 28
Negative with: Portsmouth Advocates
Description
Date taken by1. Style Georgian No. of stories 2 1/2 No. of bays 5 x2. Overall plan: Rectangle along Islington Street, plus ells.3. Foundation: Brick Stone x Poured concrete Concrete block
Artificial stone Other4. Wall structure: Wood frame x Brick Stone Other
If wood: Post and beam x Balloon frame5. Wall covering: Clapboard x Wood shingle Flushboard Imitation ashlar
Brick Stone Stucco Composition board Aluminum Vinyl
Sheet metal Asphalt shingles Other6. Roof: Gable Hip Shed Mansard Flat Gambrel x Other7. Specific features (location, no., appearance of porches, windows, doors, chimnies, dormers, ells/wings--see also description), decorative elements:
Dormer on right side of first ell. Two dormers on rear, varying size.
Chimney on rear upper slope against ridge. Smaller one early.

8. Outbuildings:


**PORTSMOUTH
ADVOCATES, INC.**
P.O. BOX 1066, PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03801
603-431-2499

Description:

A 2½ story Georgian house with gambrel roof, five bay facade. Three dormers with triangular pediments. The first story windows have shouldered architrave surrounds with architrave window heads and cornices. The house received a Greek Revival doorway with transom light and full sidelights and a columnar porch (with palmetto capitals) c. 1850.

Extending from the front windows on the right side is a two story hip and gable roofed ell. This is remarkable chiefly for its elaborate Federal doorway (c. 1810) with greatly projecting triangular pediment on columns surrounding a semicircular fanlight. This ell has a cut granite foundation. Behind this is a lower two story gable roofed ell on a brick foundation.

The house has unfortunately lost its roof balustrade. Otherwise the exterior is largely intact.

Significance:

An important early house in a critical location (important to maintain integrity of Islington/Bridge Street corner).

Bibliography:

Howell's fig. 131: 1720, built by Daniel Warner who came to Portsmouth from Ipswich, MA

Gurney, 69c and 70.