

Address 38 Marcy St cor. Court St.
 New tax map(1979) U4 lot 9 size 5773
 Old tax map 10 lot 51 size
 Owner Dale, Thomas
 Address same

Location of legal description:
 Rockingham County Registry of Deeds
 Hampton Road; Exeter, New Hampshire
 03833

Representation in existing surveys:
 HABS NR NHL HAER Other Other

Date c.1730
 Source: Estimate X Other:

Historic name The Oracle House
 Common name
 Original owner Richard Wibird
 Architect/bldr. (Howells speculates Wibird built soon after 1709 when lot acquired)
 Functional type house
 Present use, if different restaurant

Moved twice Date c.1800, 1937
 Altered Date _____

Effect: Focal X Contributing _____
 non-contributing _____ Intrusion _____

Photo roll _____ no. _____
 Negative with: Portsmouth Advocates
 Description _____
 Date taken _____ by _____

1. Style Georgian No. of stories 2 1/2 No. of bays 5x2

2. Overall plan: Rectangle along street, lower ell behind.
 Rubble

3. Foundation: Brick _____ Stone X Poured concrete _____ Concrete block _____
 Artificial stone _____ Other _____

4. Wall structure: Wood frame X Brick _____ Stone _____ Other _____
 If wood: Post and beam X Balloon frame _____

5. Wall covering: Clapboard X 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 X Other _____

7. Specific features (location, no., appearance of porches, windows, doors, chimnies, dormers, ells/wings--see also description), decorative elements:
 1 1/2-story gambrel-roofed ell in center of rear-gable roofed dormer on each ^{side} central chimney. 6/6 sash-taller 1st story windows.

8. Outbuildings:
 Cove window head moldings 1st story.
 Latticework side yard enclosure left of house (modern).

 PORTSMOUTH
 ADVOCATES, INC.

DESCRIPTION:

2 1/2-story gambrel-roofed Georgian house with central chimney. Slate roof. Lower second story. 2-story gambrel-roofed ell (with gable-roofed dormer on each side) in center of rear. 5-bay facade with center door. Door surround consists of projecting cornice, full entablature, Tuscan pilasters, rectangular 3-light transom light. 6/6 sash 1st, 2nd stories. 1st story window heads have cove molding. Wooden spindle Colonial Revival fence on brick wall with slate parapet.

Howells: The house formerly stood on lot no. 1 of Glebe lands, directly behind the North Church, and was moved to Haymarket Square c.1800. It is known as the Oracle House because the Oracle of the Day was published here by Charles Peirce in 1793. It was moved to its present location (as part of the Prescott Park development) in 1937.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Home of the first daily newspaper in New Hampshire this early Georgian house is representative of many Portsmouth houses in having been moved, in this case twice, and each time to areas of significant development at the time. It was built originally as the result of subdivision of the Glebe lands.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Howells, fig. 232: House at Haymarket Square, before it was moved to present site.

Gurney, 131, 132A (photograph of house in Haymarket Square)