

Address 346 Pleasant St. ^{cor.} Melcher St.

New tax map(1979)U9 lot10 size
Old tax map 8 lot001 size

Owner Mark H. Wentworth Home for Chronic
Address 346 Pleasant St. Invalid

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

Representation in existing surveys:
HABS NR NHL
HAER Other

Date 1927
Source: Estimate Other: WH
Cornerstone - 1927

Historic name
Common name Wentworth Home Annex
Original owner
Architect/bldr. Robert Coit of Boston
(c. 1925) (Plans at Wentworth Home)
Functional type nursing home
Present use, if different

Moved Date
Altered Date

Effect: Focal Contributing
non-contributing Intrusion

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

1. Style Colonial Revival No. of stories 3 1/2 No. of bays

2. Overall plan: Rectangle along Melcher Street with projecting gables.

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

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 artificial stone

6. Roof: Gable Hip Shed Mansard Flat Gambrel Other

7. Specific features (location, no., appearance of porches, windows, doors, chimnies, dormers, ells/wings--see also description), decorative elements:

8. Outbuildings:

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(over....)



Description:

Brick Colonial Revival building with hip roof; connected to the mid-Georgian Governor John Wentworth house by two-story stuccoed bay on Pleasant Street. The building faces Melcher Street and consists of a long rectangle with hip roof and slightly-projecting quoined pavilions with stuccoed gables on either side of the Melcher Street facade and on the end facing Pleasant Street.

The main story and lower upper story are supported by a high basement, topped by a lintel course, containing the central doorway with gabled portico. Above this and offset to the right is a tall round-headed window extending from the main to the upper story. Blind arches are used to emphasize main story windows in the pavilions.

In the front slope of the roof, gabled roof dormers flank a higher roof gable, in the left slope of which is set a still-higher square, hip-roofed cupola with three lunette windows on each side. Large chimneys are set next to the cupola and in the right slope of the roof (i.e. the Pleasant Street side).

The whole is a well-detailed, interesting Colonial Revival building which integrates well with the adjacent Gov. John Wentworth home.

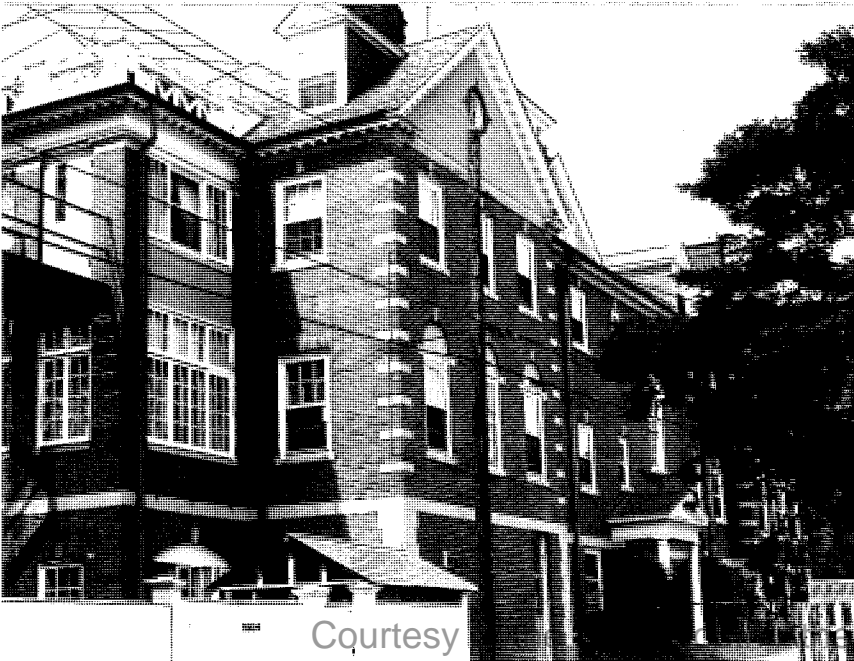
Originally had struck joints in brickwork - had to be totally repointed. Structure was basically brick and building tile with interior plaster directly on the tile.

Re: Gov. John Wentworth

The Governor's Lady, by Rydell

The Last Gentleman - Shirley Barker (Berwick area)

(Chase Home about 15 years earlier - similar joints - also had to be repointed.)



Courtesy

maeum, Portsmouth, N.H.

Description:

The Governor John Wentworth house is an imposing Georgian mansion, two stories with a hip roof, 5-bay facade and central entry. It has three roof dormers on the facade with a roof balustrade. Other features include the cornice on modillions and the graduated corner quoins. The fanlight over the door must be a Federal period alteration, while the hip-roofed inclosed entry porch on Tuscan columns may be a twentieth century addition. Victorian additions to the Wentworth Street (right) side of the house include a one story projecting bay window in the center and a flamboyant scroll-bracketted door hood toward the rear. The house has been owned by the Mark H. Wentworth Home for Chronic Invalids since 1911; in 1927 it was connected on the left side to a new Colonial Revival annex (listed separately in this survey under the same address).

The house was built for Henry Appleton in 1763 and sold to Mark Hunking Wentworth in 1764. Between 1767 and 1775 it was occupied by Governor John Wentworth. In this dissertation, James Garvin connects it with the Wentworth-Gardner house "...its use of details derived from Kent's Designs of Inigo Jones, its likely employment of Ebenezer Dearing, and its eventual connection with the Wentworth family..."

Significance:

The Governor John Wentworth house is significant historically as the residence of the last royal governor of New Hampshire and architecturally for its place in a development connecting the major Georgian mansions of the Portsmouth area in a local building tradition calling on identifiable literary sources such as Kent's Designs of Inigo Jones.

Bibliography:

Howell's figs. 22-26: Illustrates the dolphin carving of the parlor mantel, compared to the similar carving over the door of the Lady Pepperell mansion at Kittery Point, Maine (1760) - fig. 27.

Gurney, 88 ff.

Garvin, dissertation (in progress 1982), 101.