

Alexander Watkins' Tavern (now the Hooper Golf Club)
Walpole (top of Prospect Hill, southeast of town)
Cheshire County
New Hampshire

HABS No. NH-64

HABS
N.H.
3 WALP
9-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ALEXANDER WATKINS' TAVERN (NOW THE
HOOPER GOLF CLUB)

Location: Walpole (top of Prospect Hill, southeast of town)
Cheshire County, New Hampshire.

Present Owner: Town of Walpole.

Present Occupant: The Hooper Golf Club of Walpole, Inc.

Present Use: Clubhouse.

Brief Statement
of Significance:

An example of a frame building from 1795, regionally typical in its general layout and Georgian interior details, but with uncommon exterior quoining. A tavern sign dated 1795 and period furnishings survive in the house.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Alexander Watkins, the first owner, came from Pomfret, Connecticut in 1777-1778. Later to the Hoopers, an important family in Walpole. George Levi Hooper gave the building to the town of Walpole which leases the building to the Hooper Golf Club.
2. Date of erection: 1795.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Wings at the southeast side added at a later date.

B. Important Old Views: In the Walpole Historical Society collections.

C. References: Reference collection in the library of the Walpole Historical Society.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Condition of Fabric: Excellent.

NH.
3. WALLP.
9.

HABS No. NH-64

WATKINS' TAVERN
page 2

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 2 stories - c. 40' square.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: timber frame. Beams pegged and mortised. Clapboard. Corner posts in rooms.
4. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Quoin framed door.
 - b. Porches: Front portico may not be original. Side and back porches not.
 - c. Windows and shutters: Five bay. Quoins around windows. Shutters removed.
5. Roof
 - a. Shape - covering: Modified hip.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Thin, but with moldings.
6. Chimneys: Four.

C. Technical Description of Interior

1. Floor Plan: Central hall type plan. Central through hall, stairs on East side. Four rooms up, two on either side.
2. Stairways: Probably original, including balustrade.
3. Floor: Pine, random width.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Wainscot on all walls around chimney. Chair rails, plaster above.
5. Doorways and doors: Mostly original, panelled.
6. Trim: Mostly original.
7. Hardware: Mostly original.

N.H.
3-2-64

HABS No. NH-64

WATKINS' TAVERN
page 3

- 8. Lighting: Electric.
- 9. Heating: Eight fireplaces in main house around two chimneys. Two open, iron stoves mounted in fireplaces, one labeled "Franklin".

D. Site

- 1. General Setting and orientation: Open, on hill overlooking Connecticut Valley, with golf course adjacent. This is Club house. Faces Northeast.
- 2. Outbuildings: Barns later.
- 3. Landscaping: Shade trees and shrubs.

Prepared by Dr. Frank J. Roos, Jr.,
University of Illinois, for National
Park Service, 143 South Third Street,
Philadelphia 6, Pa. - July 1959.