

Elliot Mansion



In the summer of 1810 Captain William Wyman of Keene started construction of the "finest house in town"; however, he died the following April, just prior to the completion of his commodious, mansard-roofed brick homestead. Three large barns were erected at the same time. ¹

Later known as the Elliot Mansion from occupancy by the James B. Elliot family and more recently as the Elliot Community Hospital at 305 Main Street, it has been owned by Keene State College since 1972.

High-ceilinged rooms had fine wainscoting and paneled walls of the Georgian period, exquisite Italian pictorial wallpapers in the two front parlors, an open ballroom on the top floor, and inside end chimneys with fireplaces framed by fluted pilasters. Four of the fireplaces remain intact with wooden enframements, and one room features a small corner fireplace whose mantel is supported by carved wooden brackets. ²

Old photographs show an ornamental balustrade along the roof prior to the addition of the third story. To light the front hallway an imposing and sheltered front entrance is still flanked by sidelights with an elliptical fanlight overhead of plain glass covered with an ornate iron scroll design.

Window "lights" are six-over six and those on the first two floors have decorative granite lintels and the traditional keystone. Windows originally had folding paneled interior shutters.

¹A History of the Town of Keene, Sentinel Printing Company.

²Upper Ashuelot, A History of Keene, New Hampshire

A free-standing elliptical staircase in the front hallway is a masterpiece and the most imposing of the architectural designs. Decorative carved scrolls are overlaid on open stair ends. The slender gracefully curved solid mahogany stair rail is supported by two balusters to each step. Another unique feature of the hall is the width and curve of a paneled door following the line of the entire stairwell.



Murals painted by the world-reknown Barry Faulkner of Keene decorate the walls in the entrance hall and further enhance the beauty and historic value of the house.

Renamed Elliot Hall since its purchase by Keene State College, the plot of land on which the old mansion stands consists of 96,139 square feet. A dignified mansion of the early 19th century, its location back from the main street and on a rise of land adds greatly to its impressiveness. The venerable old house and its special associations with Keene history stand as a monument to the craftsmen who took pride in building well a century or more ago.



Historic Site, Real and on Canvas

Artist Etta Merrill works on painting of former Elliot Community Hospital, one of two Keene State College buildings named to National Register of Historic Sites. See story, page 3. (Sentinel Photo—Kearney)