

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM - STRAFFORD ROCKINGHAM REGIONAL COUNCIL
One Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire 03833 Phone: (603)778-0885

TOWN: Rochester COUNTY: Strafford

SURVEY NUMBER: 72

COMMON NAME: Dr. Smith's Office

HISTORIC NAME: Emily Cross House

LOCATION: 69 South Main Street

OWNER: Dr. Alex Smith

ADDRESS: 69 S. Main
Rochester, NH 03867

MAP & PARCEL #: 51/157 120-341

DATE: c. 1865

SOURCE: Inspection

STYLE: Second Empire

UTM: Z 19 /E 339850 /N 4715 990

USGS QUAD: Berwick Quad 15' series

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Residential

PRESENT USE: Offices

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

CONDITION: Exc. Good ☒ Fair Poor Ruins

INTEGRITY: Original Site Moved Date

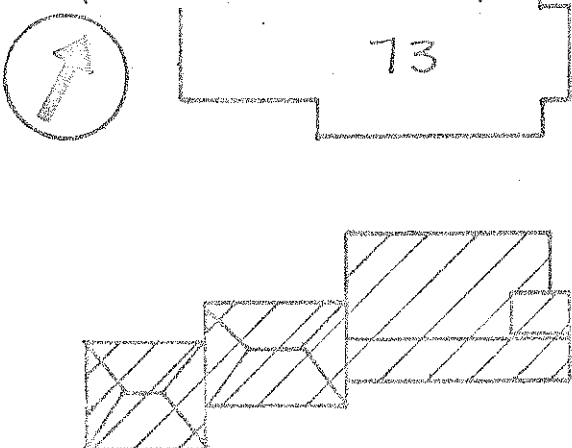
Major Alterations & Date: Removal of Mansard tower over entry.

LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl. State Local ☒

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

- # Stories: 2 # Bays: 2x2 Approx. Dimensions: 25x25 Window Sash: 2/2
Roof Style: Gable Hip Gambrel Flat Shed Mansard Jerkinhead
Monitor Sawtooth Other
Appendages: Porches ☒ Towers ☒ Dormers Bay Windows Ells ☒ Chimneys
Wings Cupolas Sheds Garage Other ☒ converted carriage barn
Entry Location: Center Sidehall Other
- FOUNDATION: Random Rubble Cut Granite ☒ Brick Concrete Concrete Block
Other
- WALL STRUCTURE:
Wood Frame: Post & Beam Balloon Frame ☒ Other
Load Bearing Masonry: Stone Brick Concrete Block Other
Metal: Iron Steel Other
- WALL COVERING: Clapboard Wood Shingle Board & Batten Shiplap
Aluminum ☒ Novelty Stucco Stone Brick Sheet Metal Asphalt Shingles
Vinyl Asphalt Sheeting Composite Board Other
- ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle Asphalt Shingle ☒ Standing Seam Tin Slate
Pressed Metal Sheet Metal Rolled Asphalt Gravel Other
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:

MAP (Indicate North in circle):



PHOTO



Description of View: Facade, looking west

Negative File Number: R081/4631a.32

Photographer: Roger Brevoort

Negative on file with: SRRC

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This house is a simple but dignified example of the Second Empire Style. The 2X2 bay house has a bell-cast Mansard roof, the main identifying feature of Second Empire architecture. The roof is pierced by flat-roofed dormers on all elevations. The roof rests on a projecting cornice with paired brackets, and rises to a curb.

The main block of the house encompasses the first story. The southern bay of the facade is emphasized by a portion of a projecting pavillion beginning from the roof of an entry porch.

There is a 3 sided bay window with a bracketed cornice in the northern bay. All the windows contain original 2/2 sash, and are topped by flat window hoods. The corners of the main block are marked by quoins, an important surviving detail common to Second Empire houses.

RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

This small house is situated between a parking lot and the Rochester Public Library, but is nonetheless a contributing feature of the streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The Emily Cross house is the only example of a Second Empire style residence to survive within the downtown area. Houses of this type were most popular between 1865-1875, and were often built in urban areas. The Cross House is enhanced by its bell cast Mansard roof, the feature which gives Second Empire architecture its formal appearance.

The earliest known owner of the house was Abbie Folsom, who sold the house to Emily Cross in January of 1867, very soon after it was completed. Emily Cross was a teacher in the Rochester School system. Later owners were Charles W. Springfield and Harry T. Hayes.

REFERENCES:

Personal notes of Gladys Redlon, Rochester Historian

MAP DATA: 1871-Richard Cross

1892-C.W. Springfield

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open Land___Woodland___Scattered Bldgs___Moderately Built Up___
Densely Built Up___Residential___Commercial___Industrial___Agricultural___
Roadside Strip Development___Other___

BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:

Recorded By: Roger Brevoort

Date: 11/25/80

CONTINUATION SHEET

#72 Description

The entry porch which begins on the facade continues along the south elevation. Its original square posts, corner brackets and balustrade are still intact.

A rear ell, and a carriage house, both with hip roofs also retain their authentic details including window hoods, paired cornice brackets and quoined corners.

