

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

OCT 27 1987

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name STRAW, WILLIAM PARKER, HOUSE
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 282 NORTH RIVER ROAD N/A not for publication
city, town MANCHESTER N/A vicinity
state NEW HAMPSHIRE code NH county HILLSBOROUGH code 011 zip code 03105

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing:
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official R Stewart Wallace
Date OCT 22 1987
State or Federal agency and bureau New Hampshire

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[checked] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register.
[] other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper Patrick W. Andrews
Date of Action 12/8/87

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

TUDOR REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETEwalls BRICK

roof SLATEother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William Parker Straw House is the finest example of Tudor Style, Period Revival residential architecture in the city of Manchester, New Hampshire. The function of the structure changed c. 1955 when it was converted for use as doctors offices. The integrity of the interior was temporarily compromised at this time by partitioning for examining rooms. This situation has been corrected by the current (1986) rehabilitation for law offices. It was built in 1923 while Straw was agent of the powerful Amoskeag Company. It was designed by the Boston firm of Hutchins and French, who designed among other important buildings in New England, the Amoskeag Bank in Manchester, of which Straw was President. The house displays all of the significant characteristics of Period Revival architecture, including its siting on a large (presently two acres) lot in the prestigious north end residential neighborhood of Manchester. The 2½ story red brick house features a laterally extended plan, which nearly spans the width of the lot, dividing it into two distinct landscaped yard areas in the front and back of the house. The five acre lot was subdivided c. 1955 (west) and again c. 1970 (south) but still retains the original two acres primarily responsible for its integrity. The strong horizontal emphasis is accented by the planes of the steeply-pitched, grey slate, hip roof, with a vertical accent provided by four tall rectangular brick chimneys. The eaves project to form a shadow line and are highlighted by copper gutters used as a decorative detail. The primary massing is in three cubic volumes arranged on a horizontal axis, terminating with smaller volumes for the garage and garden porch at each end. The Tudor allegiance is evident in the leaded casement windows and the use of stucco and ornamental half-timbering in the gable wall dormers and entry pavillion. The wood frame house is supported by a poured concrete foundation, and concrete is also used for ornament on the window sills to contrast with the brick veneer. The horizontal character of the house is emphasized by the belt course of vertical stretcher bricks which runs at the level of the top of the first story windows. The house has irregular fenestration, composed primarily of rectangular sash with 6/6 pane configuration. The house maintains its historic appearance save for these exceptions: an historic photograph shows paneled wooden blinds on all double-hung windows; the south porch was historically screened and filled with brick in the c. 1955 remodeling; the porte cochere lost its brick piers c. 1955 and regained them in 1986; and on the west elevation, the areaways flanking the entry pavillion were expanded for egress in 1986.

The east elevation is the primary focus of the property as it faces on North River Road. It is fronted by a picturesque landscape of lawn and mature specimen trees, such as white birch, American chestnut, maple, spruce and ash. The asymmetrical facade has minimized the main entry by hiding it under a porte cochere, which is supported by brick piers and topped with a new copper roof. The door is oak, with a six pane leaded glass light. The expansive plan is composed of three primary volumes which are arranged in

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descending order with the largest section flanked by smaller volumes on the north and south. The main section consists of a projecting 2½ story gable pavillion, the entry and porte cochere, and a window wall in a gable wall dormer to light the stairs on the interior. The pavillion on the north side of the porte cochere is all red brick and is composed of paired 4/4 windows and a single 6/6 window on the first story, three 6/6 windows on the second story, and a 4/4 window in the gable. On the south side of the main entry is a window bay which projects from the belt course through the eave line; this projection is the primary decorative Tudor element. It has three vertical elements of leaded glass in a 9/9 and 6/6 configuration, separated by four heavy timber supports, which hold the half-timber and stucco detail of the gable roof. This same tri-part window configuration is repeated on the south elevation of the primary section, also utilizing 9/9 leaded windows. A shed roofed former lights the attic story in this section.

The next largest section is to the north and originally contained the kitchen and service areas. It is slightly lower than the primary section at the ridge and eave lines. This section is two bays wide, highlighted by two gable wall dormers which pierce the eaveline. Each dormer features paired 4/4 windows and a stucco half-timber detail. The garage area also contains a service and utility room. It extends from the north slope of the roof hip at a slightly different pitch, creating a dramatic expanse of slate.

The southernmost section of the building is one by two bays, each with a 6/6 window. This section connects with the western most ridge line on the south hip of the primary section. It is lower than the primary section but maintains the same eave line. A rectangular brick chimney pierces the eave of the south elevation. A single-cell, hip-roofed brick porch extends to the south.

The west elevation is nearly as imposing as the facade, but the planes and detailing are simplified. Its primary focus is a stucco, 2½ story, three sided, gable-roofed pavillion directly on axis with the main entry on the east elevation. The simple center entry is flanked by two sets of paired leaded casement windows on all sides of the pavillion; the second story has six 4/4 windows, and the gable has half-timbering detail with three smaller 4/4 windows. The southernmost section unites with the main section on the west elevation to form a single plane of roof and wall surfaces. The center pavillion is flanked by three 6/6 windows on the second story, and three 6/9 windows on the first story on the south side, and a four-part, 4/4 window on the north. Contemporary entries to the basement are centered on each of these sections, as are shed-roofed dormers on the roof slope. The northermost section features three rectangular chimneys, and is highlighted by two gable wall dormers identical to its configuration on the east elevation. From the entry, four granite steps descend to a new cement path. There are no terraces or formal gardens on this elevation, even though it would historically have commanded a fine view of the river.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1923-1937

Significant Dates

1923

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

STRAW, WILLIAM PARKER

Architect/Builder

HUTCHINS AND FRENCH, ARCHITECTS

J. H. BOGART, CARPENTER

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The William Parker Straw House in Manchester, New Hampshire is an attractive, Tudor Style, Period Revival residence which still retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The structure lost its functional integrity in 1955 when it was converted to professional doctor's offices; but retained all other integrity to maintain its significance. This property is significant under National Register Criteria #B for its association with William Parker Straw, the last agent of the powerful Amoskeag Company and #C for its contribution as the finest example of Tudor Revival period architecture in the city of Manchester, New Hampshire. Straw built the house in 1922, while he was agent of the Amoskeag Company and lived there until his death in 1953. The house is the work of Hutchins and French, a Boston architectural firm, best known as designers of schools and banks. They designed fifteen other buildings in Manchester including the Amoskeag Savings Bank, of which William Parker Straw was at various times Incorporator, President and Chairman of the Board.¹

Historic Context

The city of Manchester, New Hampshire was planned, constructed and dominated for over 100 years by a group of Boston entrepreneurs who created and operated the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. At its peak, in the early 20th Century, it was the world's largest textile plant, employing up to 17,000 workers. It encompassed approximately 30 major mills, covering an area of 8,000,000 square feet of floor space. Because the mills were run from a Boston office, in Manchester, the agent, a local salaried official, had charge of executing and planning most aspects of production and handling all matters concerning personnel and labor relations. Amoskeag was unusual in that it had only six agents in its entire history and three of them were from generations of the same family: the Straws. Ezekiel Straw, who later became Governor of New Hampshire, first became agent in 1885, having worked as an engineer for the company since 1838. He was a visionary, who planned the city and the company, and created their unique relationship. He was succeeded by his son, Herman Straw, who furthered his ideas and brought the company to its peak. He retired as agent in 1919, but continued to act as a consultant for the company until his death in 1929. His son, William Parker Straw, became agent in 1921, and struggled to steer the corporation through the difficult years of decline and labor conflicts. He resigned in 1929.²

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. Plot Plan Book, 1842-1936. p. 178.

Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, Records. Repository: Manchester Historic Association, Manchester, NH.

Creamer, Daniel and Coulter, Charles W. Labor and the Shut-Down of the Amoskeag Textile Mills. Philadelphia: Work Projects Administration, National Research Project, Report No. L-5, 1939.

Browne, George Waldo. The Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. Manchester, NH: Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, 1915.

Gountanis, Sam, Hutchins and French, Architects. Interview. July 10, 1987.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.53 acres

UTM References

A

1	9
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2	9	8	7	6	0
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4	7	6	4	3	7	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The William Parker Straw House lies on the parcel designated as Map 6547, Parcel #2, in the Tax Records of the city of Manchester, New Hampshire. This parcel contains 1.53 acres. It is irregularly shaped, and its boundary can be traced as follows: Beginning at a point on the northwest corner of North River Road and Andrew Street, the boundary line proceeds west to the intersection of Andrews Street and parcel 1. The boundary

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire surviving city lot historically associated with the William Parker Straw House. This lot contains the house and landscape elements contributing to the integrity and significance of the nominated parcel.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title LYNNE EMERSON MONROE
 organization PRESERVATION COMPANY date JULY 15, 1987
 street & number 5 HOBBS ROAD telephone (603) 778-1799
 city or town KENNINGTON state NH zip code 03833

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1922 was notorious in Manchester as the year of the great nine month strike. Interestingly, this is the same year during which William Parker Straw, agent, was buying the land and working with the architectural firm of Hutchins and French to plan his new mansion, on North River Road. Viewed in a larger context, however, Straw's move can be seen as typical of his time period. He was the third generation in a successful, wealthy family, and at what he thought to be the peak of his career, i.e. he became the agent of Amoskeag. Until this time, he and his family had been living in the agent's house, which was part of the Amoskeag housing, near the mill yard.³ The move to a contemporary Period Revival mansion in a residential neighborhood, north of the mills would have seemed the fashionably correct, if somewhat insensitive, thing for a man of his position to do. His choice of a romantic rural European architectural style that had no relationship with the American urban history with which he was so intimately involved, gave him even further distance from the corporation.

Criterion #B

William Parker Straw was the third generation of his family to act as agent of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company in Manchester, New Hampshire, and was the last agent of this company. When Straw resigned in 1929, the three generation-long tie between the Straw family and Amoskeag was broken. The remarkable continuity in the top management of this company was undoubtedly important in defining its corporate character. Though it was certainly not the cause, William Parker Straw's resignation had a profound effect on the eventual demise of the company.⁴ He build this house during the time of his major achievements, and lived here until his death in 1953.

William Parker Straw was born in 1878, and raised to assume a position of stature in the city of Manchester. He was educated at St. Paul's preparatory school, and Harvard University. He achieved the rank of colonel, and served with distinction in World War I. Following the bankruptcy of the Amoskeag Company, he became agent and later vice-president and director of Amoskeag Industries, Inc., a company formed to rehabilitate the Amoskeag mill property and bring new industry of Manchester. His true vocation was banking. He served as president of the Amoskeag Savings Bank for two terms, was chairman of the board of directors, and was a trustee for over forty years. He was also director of the Amoskeag National Bank. He took an active part in the development of Manchester, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. (His obituary sites no fewer than sixteen civic and service organizations, of which he held office.)⁵

Straw died in 1953 and his wife, Josephine P. Straw, died two years later.⁶ The house was then sold to Dr. Edward Haggerty, who lived there and converted the house to offices. Haggerty expanded the practice and built a small house next door to live in. After his death, the property was sold to Dr. John Macek, who further subdivided the land and the building.⁷ Currently, the house has been rehabilitated and restored and is being used as professional law offices.

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Criterion #C

Architecturally, the house is a fine example of Period Revival residential architecture, with Tudor influence. The picturesque mansion displays all of the significant characteristics of its genre, including its sense of expansiveness, its relationship to its large landscaped yard, its low massing and lateral plan, and half-timbering period details. The house is well designed, if not extravagantly executed. The construction is of cheaper materials, concrete and wood frame with a brick veneer, and utilizes expensive elements such as slate to achieve its handsome, imposing, picturesque effect.

The design of the house is the work of Franklin J. Hutchins and Arthur E. French, who formed the firm of Hutchins and French, in Boston, Massachusetts. This firm was known to be specialists in bank buildings, and they were hired by William Parker Straw, to design the Amoskeag Savings Bank building, 1915. They were responsible for over fifteen buildings in Manchester including The State Theater, 1929 (no longer extant), The Maynard School, 1915, Bartons Department Store, 1915, Elks Lodge, 1914, and a Shingle/Colonial Revival Style residence, 1925, at 329 North River Road. The William Parker Straw House appears to be somewhat unusual in the firm's body of work, but well within their purview.⁸

Because this era paralleled the decline of the Amoskeag, only four comparable examples of Period Revival Residential Architecture survive. They are: The Jacobethan "Riverside" at 444 and 482 North River Road, 1906; The Rustic Tudor mansion of William E. Quirin, 1912, at 751 North River Road; The Colonial Revival Estate of Col. Frank Knox (Union Leader/Secretary of Navy), 1936, at 226 Heather Street; and the Dr. John C. O'Connor House, Spanish/Classical Revival, c. 1918, at 2334 North Elm Street. All of these houses display the lateral orientation and picturesque landscape characteristics of Period Revival residences. The most significant example is "Riverside" built by Mrs. L. Melvin French in 1906 and the Carl S. Fuller house on the same estate. Both of these houses are Jacobethan, one brick, one wood. The estate was subdivided from the Stark/Eastman estate as was the William Parker Straw House. This estate preceded and was clearly the inspiration for the lesser scale Straw House. William Parker Straw's son, Ezekial, lived in #482 until his death in 1941.⁹ Later it became Miss Jakes School, then North River School. It is currently vacant and in poor condition. The rest of the estate has been subdivided and is now called "Colonial Village". The house and barns were made into condominiums and grounds were taken up with several apartment buildings. "Riverside" has lost its integrity. The Tudor House at 751 North River Road is earlier and more closely connected to the Queen Anne and Shingle styles. It has rustic stone chimneys and porches and a stucco finish. William E. Quirin was the president of Barton's Department Store (designed by Hutchins and French). He moved to Manchester from Cambridge, MA.¹⁰ The other two examples do not display as well the characteristic elements of Period Revival Architecture. The William Parker Straw House is the finest surviving example of this important style.

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FOOTNOTES:

- ¹The Manchester Journal. 7 Dec. 1953, p. 1.
- ²Tamara Hareven and Randolph Lagenbach. Amoskeag, Life and Work in an American Factory-City. (New York: Pantheon Books, 1978), pp. 10, 17, 76, 84, 86.
- ³Mary Flanders Straw. Interview. July 8, 1987.
- ⁴Hareven and Lagenbach, loc. cit., p. 88.
- ⁵The Manchester Journal, loc. cit., pp. 1, 7.
- ⁶The Manchester Journal, loc. cit., 8 Dec. 1955, p. 3.
- ⁷Hillsborough County Court House: Vol 1418, p. 210; Vol 2502, p. 573; Vol. 3258, p. 2.
- ⁸Sam Countanis. Interview. July 10, 1987.
- ⁹The Manchester Union Leader. 8 Sep. 1941, p. 3.
- ¹⁰Manchester City Directories. 1906, 1912, 1918, 1935.

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Hareven, Tamara and Lagenbach, Randolph. Amoskeag, Life and Work in an American Factory-City. New York: Pantheon Books, 1978.

Manchester Building Permit, #1162, Repository: City of Manchester, NH.

Manchester Business Directory, 1925.

Manchester City Directories, 1900-1936.

"The Manchester Journal", December 7, 1953; December 8, 1955; January 4, 1984.

"The Manchester Union Leader", September 8, 1941; November 4, 1950; November 5, 1950.

Schwartz, Alan M. Guide to the Records of the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company at the Manchester Historic Association. Manchester, NH: The Manchester Historic Association, Funded by National Historical Publications and Records Commission, 1985.

Straw, Mary Flanders. Interview. July 8, 1987.

Straw, William Parker. Amoskeag in New Hampshire. New York: The Newcomen Society of England, 1948.

Tolles, Jr., Bryant F. and Tolles, Carolyn K. New Hampshire Architecture. Hanover, NH: University Press of New England for the New Hampshire Historical Society, 1979.

Withey, Henry F. and Elsie R. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessy and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

DEEDS

Hillsborough County Court House:

Vol. 806, p. 421; Vol. 807, p. 492; Vol. 1418, p. 210; Vol 2502, p. 573;
Vol. 3258, p. 2.

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Verbal Boundary Description

line then turns northwest and traces the east perimeter of parcel 1, turning west to trace the north perimeter of parcel 1 to a point 10' short of its northwest corner. At this point the boundary turns 90° and proceeds north along the boundary line of parcel 2 to the northwest corner of parcel 2. Here it turns 95° and proceeds east to its intersection with the west boundary of North River Road. The boundary line turns south and follows the west boundary of North River Road to its point of origin.

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Continuation Sheet**

WILLIAM PARKER STRAW HOUSE, Manchester, NH

Section number _____ Page 1 _____ ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION

OWNER: 282 NORTH RIVER ROAD REALTY TRUST

JOSEPH F. MCDOWELL
282 NORTH RIVER ROAD
MANCHESTER, NH 03105

WILLIAM H. KELLEY
282 NORTH RIVER ROAD
MANCHESTER, NH 03105

JOHN F. CULLITY
282 NORTH RIVER ROAD
MANCHESTER, NH 03105