



# **Bartlett House 1774**

Home of Josiah Bartlett

And seven generations of Bartletts

Prepared for the Kingston Heritage Commission  
2015-2016

# **Bartlett House**

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# **Bartlett House**

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## Bartlett House

This book contains a collection of many articles, drawings and researched sheets about the Bartlett house and its occupants over the years. It has been created because the Bartlett house is at a critical point in its history. For over 240 years this house has remained in the Bartlett family, most recently under the stewardship of Ruth Albert. It is significant for many reasons, and has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. But Ruth wishes to move on in her life. There is no person in her family who is in a position to continue this tradition. So, she has listed the property for sale. As such, it may finally be sold out of the Bartlett family.

When doing the research to collect all this information, several points became very obvious to me;

- **Josiah is Unique** - Josiah Bartlett was a very unique individual who was at the right place at the right time, and made the most of his place in history. He demonstrated a commitment, and dedication to good government. Both at the National and State levels. He also demonstrated similar talents in the area of medicine, both at the local and state levels.
- **The Family Continued his Traditions** - His offspring continued to be dedicated to their communities. They were active in the Post Office, in Local town government, and in State government. Their accomplishments are easily found and documented.
- **The House is Unique** - The family house was expanded over the years to become a very large example of a Colonial era family homestead. It had 10 bedrooms at its peak, and facilities to support a working farmstead.
- **Continuous Family ownership** - The family continued ownership of this farm for over 240 years. Over seven generations through many turbulent times. Even in face of no direct male descendants, it passed through to great women when this was just becoming acceptable.
- **Museum Collection** - The collection of historic artifacts and elements in the house are unique, and allow it to be a museum that portrays the development of a New England family through the generations in addition to a testimonial for Josiah.

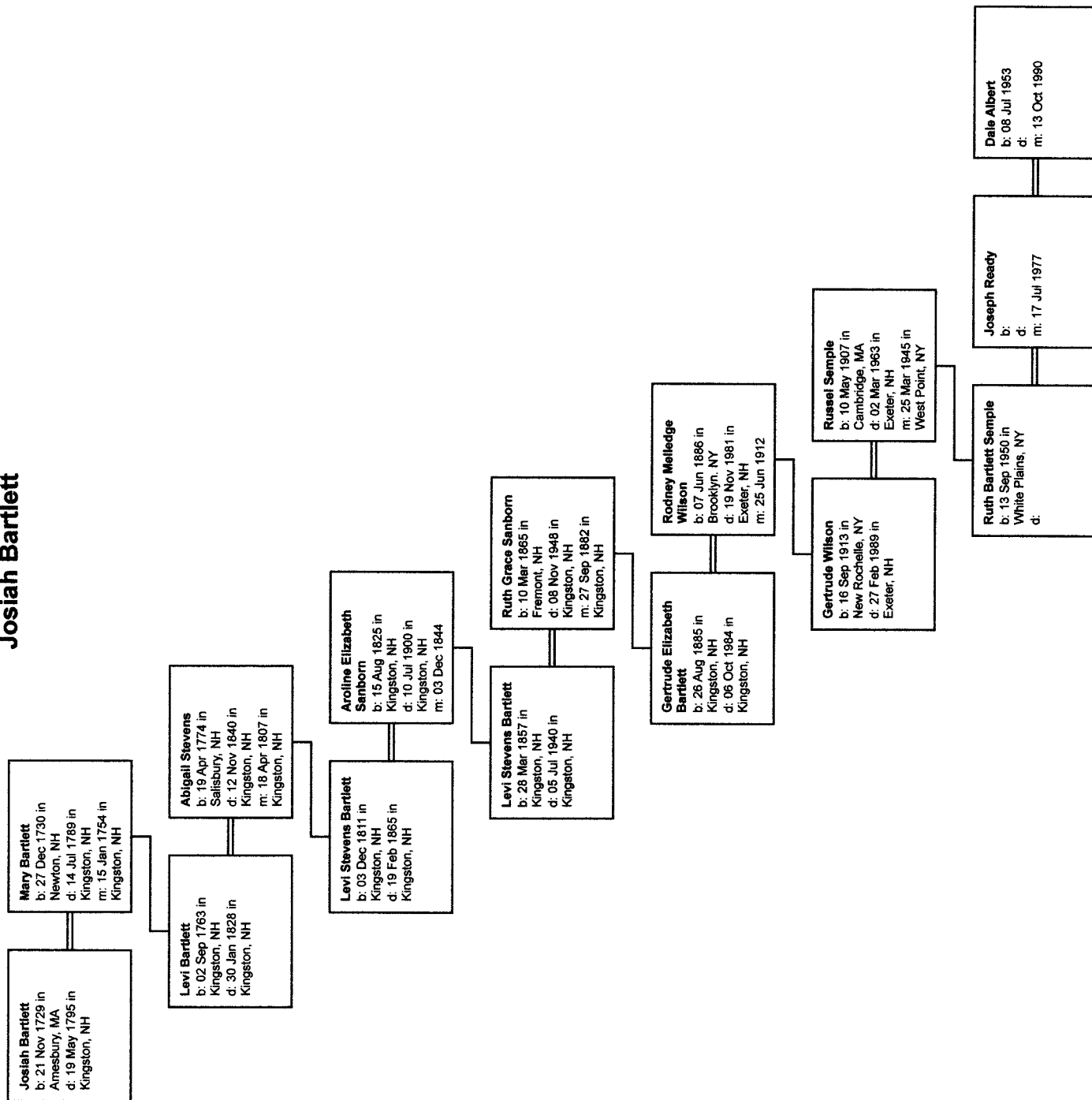
Kingston's Heritage Commission has identified this property as very important to the heritage of our town. Due to its impending changes, we wanted to document it as best we could. Hopefully this book will help to define why this property, and family, are so important to Kingston.

Bob Bean  
Kingston Heritage Commission  
February 2016.



## **About the Bartlett Family**

# Descendant Chart for Josiah Bartlett





**Josiah Bartlett (1729-1795)**

Josiah Bartlett's family has been traced back to the time of William the Conqueror.

In 1873 Professor S. C. Bartlett of the Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois made a trip to Stopham, England to visit the old world family seat of the Bartlett family. There he met and talked with Col. Walter B. Barttelot, the representative of the British "Bartellot" family who was then 53 years old. Professor Bartlett is the principal source for the English ancestry of the Bartletts, and his findings were published in the book authored by Levi Bartlett entitled "Genealogical and Biographical Sketches of the Bartlett Family in England and America."

The family's records in Stopham show that Brian, a knight (described in ancient sources as Guido de Brionne), and his Esquire, Adam Barttelot, sailed over from the Liseux district of Normandy with William the Conqueror. They fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and both are listed on the Battle Abbey Roll of participants. After the Conquest Sir Brian assumed the name of Brian de Stopham and both he and Adam Barttelot received grants of land in Sussex that became the village of Stopham. These lands had formerly been owned by a Saxon family by the name of Ford. The name "Berthelot", thought to be a variant of Barttelot, is still current in Normandy.

There is speculation that Adam Barttelot was a 7<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Prince Berthelot, a nephew of Charlemagne. On the Battle Abbey Role he is named "Berteulay". Afterwards it sometimes occurs as "Adam de Bertuilay" and "Adam de Bartelot".

In Levi Bartlett's book the Barttelot family lineage tree chronicles 21 generations of Barttelots starting with Adam, and concluding with Col. Walter Barttelot who represented the 21st generation. He is identified in Bartlett's book as Sir Walter D. Barttelot, M.P., J. P. and D. L., Capt. Royal Dragoons.

In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century Barttelot family members fought under King Edward III in his victories over the French at Crecy in 1348 and at Poitiers in 1356.

In the late 14<sup>th</sup> century John Barttelot, the ninth generation in the Barttelot line, married the daughter and heiress of the Stophams and came into sole possession of the Stopham and Barttelot properties. He captured the castle of Fontenay in France for which Edward the Black Prince gave him a castle for his crest. He was appointed Lord of the Manor and Patron of the Rectory, M.P. for the Cinque Ports in 1392, and became treasurer of the Earl of Arundel and executor of his will in 1415.

John Barttelot's son, also named John, fought in the Battle of Agincourt on October 25, 1415, and represented Sussex in the Parliament of 1434.

In the eleventh generation of Barttelots the lineage identifies an Edmund Barttelot of Stopham and Ernly who died in 1591, three years after the defeat of the Spanish Armada. While this English connection to the American Bartlett families is contested by some, the evidence seems clear. Professor Bartlett learned on his visit that two of Edmund's four sons in the English Barttelot records have the same names as the two men—John and Richard—who settled in Newbury, Massachusetts. He learned that these two sons "sold back" their lands to the then heir of the Stopham estates and thereby had "the pecuniary means" to come to America. A third son, Thomas, has the same name in the Stopham records as the Thomas who settled in Watertown at about the same time.

John Bartlett and Richard Bartlett, Josiah Bartlett's great-great-grandfather, came to Newbury in the ship "*Mary and John*" in 1634, and settled in Newbury in 1635 where Richard worked as a shoemaker. Richard was an elder in the church, and brought the Breeches Bible with him inscribed with the birth dates of his family members.

Levi Bartlett writes that "The Bartlett families settled in and around the place called Bartlett's Cove in Newbury, opposite Amesbury Ferry. Richard operated the ferry between Amesbury and Newbury, and that area in Newbury is now Maudsley State Park. Richard died on May 25, 1647 and is buried in Newbury. He married Joanne (—) in Stopham and she died in Newbury.

Richard Bartlett, Jr. was born in England in 1621 and was 14 years old when he arrived in Newbury with his father. He was said by Tristram Coffin to have been a facetious and intelligent man, residing first near Oldtown Hill but afterward moving up to a place since, and now, called Bartlett's Corner, just above the chain bridge. Richard, Jr. married Abigail (—) who died March 1, 1687. Richard, Jr. was a representative in the colonial legislature from 1679-81 and again in 1684. He died at Newbury in 1698 when he was 77 years old.

Richard Bartlett (the third of the name), the son of Richard Bartlett, Jr., was born on February 21, 1649. He married Hannah Emery of Newbury on November 18, 1673. He was Josiah Bartlett's grandfather.

Stephen Bartlett, the father of Josiah Bartlett, was born on April 21, 1691, the eighth of ten children. He married Hannah Webster of Salisbury, whose father was "wealthy in landed property." Stephen became a shoemaker, and worked at this trade for a number of years. He built a large house a short distance above Amesbury Ferry, where he reared a family of seven children including young Josiah Bartlett. After spending his younger years there in Ferry Street, Stephen purchased a farm in the north-west part of Amesbury called "The Lion's Mouth" and lived there the rest of his life.

Hannah Webster was the great-granddaughter of John Webster, who came from Ipswich, England, and who was admitted as a freeman at Boston on March 4, 1634. He moved to Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1642 and worked as a baker. There he married Mary Shatswell, whose home occupied the lot adjoining his. The family subsequently moved to Newbury where John Webster died in 1646. His widow remarried and lived until 1694.

Josiah Bartlett, the future signer of the Declaration of Independence, was born on November 21, 1729 at Amesbury, Massachusetts, the child of Stephen and Hannah (Webster) Bartlett.

Josiah grew up in Amesbury, received some formal education from the Amesbury schoolmaster, and acquired knowledge of Greek and Latin under the tutelage of a relative, Reverend Doctor John Webster. When he was sixteen Bartlett began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. James Ordway. Dr. Ordway was a practical man with little scientific background, but he provided young Bartlett with instruction in basic practice. Young Josiah consulted the libraries of Dr. Ordway and neighboring towns to supplement his medical knowledge, but since medical books were hard to come by Bartlett also developed a fondness for books on history and mathematics.

In 1750, at the age of 21, he moved ten miles north to Kingston, New Hampshire and began to practice medicine. He arrived there with only a decent quantity of apparel, about \$30, a small horse, saddle, bridle, saddlebags, with a small bill of medicine, a pocket case of surgeon's instruments and some instruments for pulling teeth.

At first, Bartlett boarded with the Rev. Joseph Seccombe, a gentleman of considerable liberality of mind and the possessor of a valuable library. Here Bartlett found an ample opportunity for improvement, both from his conversations with Rev. Seccombe, whose general knowledge and experience was extensive for the times, and from the Reverend's library which Bartlett used extensively.

His expertise and concern for his patients helped Bartlett become a popular and prosperous country doctor. Early on, in 1752, when confronted with a life threatening fever, Bartlett treated himself (against the express wishes of his attending physician Dr. Ordway) with repeat dosages of cooling cider and soon recovered. At that time, such fevers were treated by keeping the patient from drinking water or other cool liquids, loading him with cloths, keeping him in a confined room with hot air, and drenching him with hot liquids and heating medicines until the natural strength of the patient's constitution enabled him to recover, or until death.

He gained recognition several years later during an outbreak of diphtheria (then known as throat distemper) which killed 114 people in Kingston. He successfully treated patients, including his own children, with a new procedure, Peruvian bark (quinine), and prescribed cooling liquids to temper fever. At that time the treatment for distemper consisted of bleeding, emetics, depressing drugs and starvation, a treatment which often led to the patient's demise.

Bartlett's success in combating this plague, which was particularly lethal for children under 10 years of age, earned him much praise, and he became renowned for relying on observation and experimentation in the diagnosis and treatment of his patients. In 1765 he entered into a medical practice partnership with Dr. Amos Gale.





*Josiah Bartlett as a young Doctor*

Soon after arriving in Kingston, in 1754, Josiah married Mary Bartlett, his first cousin. They had twelve children, nine of whom lived to adulthood. Mary was described as an amiable girl, well grown and well educated for the time. She proved to be a loving and true helpmate, managing their home and farm, and bearing the burdens of raising their children, staying in touch with his patients and personal friends throughout her life, and keeping Josiah apprised of developments in Kingston during his many absences. Josiah, for his part, shared with her in letters his concern about their family, dispensed advice on domestic matters, while describing his activities, hopes, and fears about the troubles and dangers that menaced the country.

Many families in colonial New England suffered from Indian raids and the Bartlett family was no exception. Joseph Bartlett, Mary's father (and Josiah's uncle and father-in-law), was a member of the local militia in Haverhill in the early 1700s. He was on duty on August 29, 1707 when 200 French and their Indian allies launched an attack on the community, burning houses, and killing or capturing a number of inhabitants. After providing a spirited defense Joseph was finally overcome and captured. He was carried to Canada where he was forced to live for four years before being redeemed in 1711.

Growing in stature and reputation, Josiah Bartlett was elected town selectman in 1757, where he earned a reputation for his intelligence, strict integrity and sound judgment. Showing a marked public spirit and interest in public affairs, he earned the respect and trust of his fellow citizens, and was chosen to represent Kingston in the New Hampshire Provincial Assembly in 1765.

From the outset he supported colonial interests, but was often in the minority when their interests were threatened. This put him frequently at odds with the positions taken by Royal Governor Wentworth. During this time Bartlett raised the Seventh Militia Regiment, and was appointed by Wentworth to serve as the liaison between the



Provincial Assembly and the Governor during the Stamp Act controversy in 1765. In 1767, when Josiah was 38 years of age, Governor Wentworth appointed him justice of the peace and soon thereafter a Lieutenant Commander of the Seventh Militia Regiment. In making these appointments Wentworth not only recognized Bartlett's many talents, but also hoped to enlist Bartlett's support for the royalist cause.

But by 1774 Bartlett had become an active patriot and a firm supporter of colonial interests. Before Governor Wentworth dissolved the Royal Assembly, Bartlett became head of the then illegal Committee of Correspondence of the Provincial Assembly, where he was in active communication with Samuel Adams and other patriots in Massachusetts and Connecticut. He was one of two delegates chosen to represent New Hampshire in the First Continental Congress, but was unable to accept when his home was burned down, an act blamed on loyalists who opposed his patriotic endeavors. Bartlett had been warned beforehand to cease his "pernicious activity." He immediately rebuilt his home on the same site and it stands there to this day.



*Bartlett's home in Kingston, New Hampshire*

In February 1775, despairing of Bartlett's support, Governor Wentworth dismissed him from all of his appointed offices for his open resistance to the Crown. Soon after hostilities broke out at Lexington and Concord, Governor Wentworth fled from New Hampshire, boarding a British warship moored in Portsmouth harbor. With English civil government ended, a provincial New Hampshire congress was formed and a close friend of Bartlett's, Matthew Thornton, also a doctor and a future signer of the Declaration himself, was elected President.

Later in 1775 and again in 1776 Bartlett was chosen as a delegate to the Continental Congress. Here he was among the most active delegates, serving on committees dealing with secret correspondence, marine affairs, medicine, clothing, and the qualifications of army officers.

Bartlett was a firm supporter of independence from the outset. In November 1775 he wrote, "May the supreme disposer of all events in due time put an end to the troubles of America & settle her liberties on a solid foundation."

In January, 1776, Bartlett was still the only representative for New Hampshire in Congress, and he wrote to the New Hampshire Committee of Safety, urging them to act on his "request that delegates may be appointed and sent here as soon as may be as the Representing a Colony is too weighty & important to be left to one man."

In early February he wrote, "The time is now at hand when we shall see whether America has virtue enough to be free or not."

In early June 1776, after the Congress had debated and then tabled Richard Henry Lee's resolution for independence, and before the vote for independence, Bartlett was appointed by the Congress to represent New Hampshire on the drafting committee for the Articles of Confederation, the country's first constitution. In June 1776 he wrote to Mary, "I have been for about a week on a Committee of one member from each colony to form a Confederation or Charter of firm & Everlasting Union of all the United Colonies. It is a matter of the greatest Consequence & requires the greatest Care in forming it. May God grant us wisdom to form a happy Constitution, as the happiness of America to all future Generations Depend on it."

In voting for independence on July 2, tradition has it that "He made the rafters shake with the loudness of his approval." On July 4 he was the first to vote in favor of adopting the Declaration of Independence and a month later was the second to sign it.

He was absent from Congress for a time in 1777 when he joined General Stark in Vermont to furnish New Hampshire troops, and the wounded there, with medical supplies and assistance after the American victory at the Battle of Bennington.

After much negotiation, much of it over state boundaries, representation and the powers of the proposed government, the Articles of Confederation were finally completed. Bartlett was the first to vote for the Articles on November 15, 1777 and the first to sign it.

In 1778 the Continental Congress, which had fled to York, Pennsylvania when the British captured Philadelphia, returned to Philadelphia following the British evacuation. Bartlett described the devastation in Philadelphia as follows: "Congress was obliged to hold its sessions in the college hall, the state house (now Independence Hall) having been left by the enemy in a condition which could scarcely be described. Many of the finest houses had been converted into stables....and the dung shoveled through into the cellars. Through the country north of the city, for many miles, the hand of desolation had marked its way. Houses had been consumed, fences carried off, gardens and orchards destroyed."

Leaving Philadelphia later in 1778 due to ill health, Bartlett returned to New Hampshire where he began an important career as a jurist. He served as judge of the common pleas from 1779 to 1782, became an associate justice of the New Hampshire Superior Court in 1782, and was named Chief Justice of the Court in 1788. Despite his lack of legal training, he earned accolades for his administration of fair and true justice.

In 1788, at the age of 59, Bartlett was appointed a delegate to the New Hampshire State Convention which was called to consider ratification of the new U. S. Constitution. He was a strong advocate for its adoption and served as the temporary chairman of the Convention. Effectively reassuring the smaller communities who were initially opposed, he used his influence, stature and persuasiveness to help secure the state's ratification in a close 47 to 37 vote. By becoming the ninth state to ratify the Constitution, New Hampshire ensured that the formation of the new government of the United States would take place under the provisions of the new U.S. Constitution.

Elected to the U.S. Senate from New Hampshire in 1789 Bartlett declined to serve, probably due to his age and the weight of his legal duties. But in 1790 he was elected overwhelmingly as the chief executive of New Hampshire. He served for four years, the first two as President, and then Governor, in 1792, when the title was redesignated. During this time he was an ex-officio trustee of Dartmouth College.

In 1790 Dr. Bartlett received an honorary degree of doctor of medicine from Dartmouth College and gave the commencement address that year at his son's graduation. He secured a charter from the legislature in 1791 to establish the New Hampshire Medical Society, wrote the constitution and by-laws for the Society and served as its first elected President. Three of his children and seven of his grandchildren followed in his medical footsteps and became doctors. He served as an Elector for New Hampshire in the 1792 election which re-elected George Washington as President.

Bartlett's colleagues described him as tall, well built, with a fine figure and auburn hair. His manner was dignified, kind and compassionate. He was very particular in his dress, wore his hair in a queue, a white stock at his throat, ruffles at his wrists, short clothes, silk hose, low shoes with silver buckles. He possessed a quick and penetrating mind and was distinguished for a sound and accurate judgment. In the Congress his committee work was effective and much praised, but he participated infrequently in the general deliberations of the Congress as a whole, believing that there was too much talk there and too little action.

The editor of his papers, Mevers, wrote: "Bartlett's love of family, friendship with neighbors, respect for colleagues, and faith in God are apparent in his letters." His mode of living was unpretentious. Reared a Calvinist he turned later to the Universalist Church. While Bartlett had no family or party connections to raise him to influence in society, it was said of him that "He rose to office and was recommended by his fellow citizens, not less by the probity of his character, than the force of his genius. By standing on his own merits, he passed through a succession of offices which he sustained with



*The tomb of Josiah and Mary Bartlett in Kingston*



*Bartlett homestead kitchen*

A boulder and plaque in Amesbury mark the site of the house where Josiah was born and grew up. A copy of Bartlett's original oil portrait, painted by Jonathan Trumbull, hangs in the State House at Concord, New Hampshire.

An imposing bronze statue of Bartlett with a quill pen in one hand and a scroll with the words "Independence" in the other stands in a small park on the south road into Amesbury, Massachusetts. A plaque there lists many highlights of his life:

*Josiah Bartlett*

*Born at Amesbury, Massachusetts, 1729*

*Died at Kingston, New Hampshire, 1795*

*Patriot, Scholar, Statesman*

*A delegate to the Continental Congress*

*A signer of the Declaration of Independence*

*With Stark at Bennington*

*A member of the Convention which ratified*

*the Constitution of the United States*

*Chief Justice, President, and first Governor of New Hampshire*

*Not more illustrious for public services*

*than for private virtues*

*This monument erected July 4, 1888*

*And dedicated to his countrymen*

*by*

*A citizen of Amesbury presented by*

*Jacob R. Huntington*

*Karl Gerhardt Sculptor*

*Hartford, Conn*





*Statue of Josiah Bartlett in Amesbury, Massachusetts*



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*Bartlett statue*

For the dedication ceremony on July 4, 1888, the poet John Greenleaf Whittier composed a poem called "The Signer" which honors Josiah Bartlett and the Declaration of Independence. The poem was read at the dedication ceremony and here are a few stanzas from that poem:

O storied vale of Merrimac  
Rejoice through all thy shade and shine,  
And from his century's sleep call back  
A brave and honored son of thine.

Unveil his effigy between  
The living and the dead to-day;  
The fathers of the Old Thirteen  
Shall witness bear as spirits may.

Unseen, unheard, his gray compeers,  
The shades of Lee and Jefferson,  
Wise Franklin reverend with his years  
And Carroll, lord of Carrollton!

The plain deal table where he sat,  
And signed a nation's title-deed  
Is dearer now to fame than that,  
Which bore the scroll of Runnymede.

Long as, on Freedom's natal morn,  
Shall ring the Independence bells,  
Give to thy dwellers yet unborn  
The lesson which his image tells.

For in that hour of Destiny,  
Which tried the men of bravest stock,  
He knew the end alone must be  
A free land or a traitor's block.

Among those picked and chosen men  
Than his, who here first drew his breath,  
No firmer fingers held the pen  
Which wrote for liberty or death.

Josiah Bartlett's home, located opposite the green in the center of Kingston, and lived in for over two centuries by his descendants, is a private home and an historic landmark. A large spreading linden tree, brought back on horseback from Philadelphia by Bartlett in the 1770s, grows in front of the house. Ruth Albert showed my wife and me some of the original furnishings in 1989. Many of Bartlett's artifacts and belongings, including his formidable surgical kit, are still in the house.

In Washington, DC near the Washington Monument, in a special memorial park celebrating each of the 56 signers of the Declaration, is a granite block engraved with his name. Nearby in the Rotunda at the National Archives Building, is a large mural painting by Barry Faulkner showing a number of the signers of the Declaration, including Josiah Bartlett who is 4<sup>th</sup> from the left in the top row. In the Rotunda of the U. S. Capitol is the famous painting by John Trumbull entitled "The Declaration of Independence". Josiah Bartlett is shown in a group of four seated figures on the extreme left, and he is the third from the left.

### *A visit to the Old World*

In 1983 my family and I visited Stopham, the ancestral home of the Barttelot family in England dating back to the Norman conquest. Stopham seemed to us to fit the quintessential image of an English village. Small home lots with rose decked stone cottages and flowered gardens border a 13<sup>th</sup> century Norman church and surround a large circular burial ground containing a number of Barttelot headstones. We had lunch at the local pub next to the 700 year old stone bridge over the Arun River. If you Google "Stopham, England" on the internet you will find a fine color photograph of the bridge, built in 1309 by the Barttelot family.

From the proprietress of the pub we learned that Sir Brian Barttelot lived in a pretty flower decked cottage on the main road close by, which we later drove past, and that Sir Brian's uncle lives in the impressive manor house across the highway from the village and the church. She encouraged us to stop by and meet Sir Brian but it seemed inappropriate for us to arrive unannounced. Some day I hope to meet him.

In his book published over a hundred years ago, Professor Bartlett of Chicago described his trip to Stopham. We found the village and estate still very much the way he described it, so here is his description:

"I was invited down to Stopham, Sussex, and had a very pleasant visit of a single night. The present representative of the family there is Col. Walter B. Barttelot, M. P., born October, 1820.....The estate is a large one, some 7000 or 8000 acres. The house is a large three-story stone building, perhaps 150 or more feet long—quite an establishment. He has six or eight fine horses, and as many colts growing up; fine Jersey, Sussex, Devonshire and Durham cattle, etc. A large amount of ground about the residence is simply ornamental. The farming portion is on a large scale, and everything well kept and in good condition.

"...From London to Pulborough station, by rail, is two hours and fifteen minutes. The distance from the station to Col. Barttelot's mansion is about three-fourths of a mile. In going from the station to his residence the river Arun is crossed by a stone bridge built by the family in 1309, 565 years ago... (*author's note, now almost 700 years*)... From the front of the large stone mansion there is a beautiful out-look upon the South Downs, and a fine range of hills, beyond them the ocean. On two hills in sight the old Romans had left marks of their fortifications, and three or four miles away—south-east—a portion of the estate of the Earls of Arundel could be seen. Near the old Norman church, built by the family early in the 13th century, is an English yew tree planted about the time the church was erected, which is, a foot from the ground, seven and a half feet in diameter; there are, also, several large and aged cedars of Lebanon.

"On the stone floor, along the aisles of the church, are marble slabs with inlaid figures of brass, with a regular succession of Barttelots, inscriptions, name and dates, from John

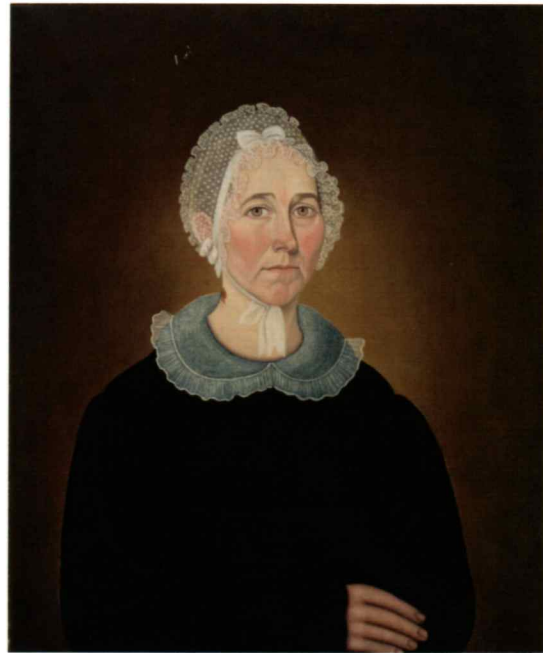
Barttelot, who died in 1428, down to Colonel George B., who died Nov. 28, 1872, aged 84 years (the father of 'colonel Walter B.')......the Barttelot family have steadily held possession of the original grant (with large additions) for eight hundred years, from Adam Barttelot, the progenitor of the family, down to its present representative; and an accurate pedigree of the line has been kept from 1069 down to Ada Mary, the youngest daughter of Col. Walter B., who celebrated her twelfth birthday in August, 1874."

This biography has been prepared by: Thornton Calef Lockwood, descendant, 2008

A history of Josiah Bartlett from the web site of "The Society of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence"



**Levi Bartlett**  
 Picture Reproduced courtesy of  
*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.*  
*Gift of Mr. and Mrs Irvin G. Schorsh, Jr.*



**Abigail Stevens Bartlett**  
 Picture Reproduced courtesy of  
*The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.*

### **Honorable Levi Bartlett {1} (1763-1828)**

Josiah and Mary Bartlett's sixth child was born in Kingston on September 15, 1763 and named Levi. He received his preparatory education at the "Drummer School" in Newbury, Mass. And after studying the science of medicine one year with his father, completed his professional course with Dr. Thomas Kittredge, of Andover, Mass. He settled in Kingston, and built his practice in Kingston and adjoining towns. He was considered a skilful and successful surgeon. In addition to his medical practice, he was a Justice of the Peace, a Colonel in the Militia, and a Postmaster for many years. He frequently represented Kingston in the State legislature, and was a member of the Executive Council from 1802 to 1808. In 1804 he was a Presidential elector. He was Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas 1807, and from 1816 to 1820 he was a Judge of the Circuit Court.

He was considered kind and obliging in his disposition, generous and humane to the needy, and honorable and just in all his business relations.

He married Sarah Hook ( born 12/21/1765) on November 6, 1791. She had one son, who died in infancy, and she also died that year.(1793)

He married Abigail Stevens (Born: 8/19/1774) on April 18, 1807. She gave him three children; Luella Juliette on 12/30/1807, Junia Loretta on June 1, 1810 and Levi Stevens on December 3, 1811

Levi died January 30, 1828. Abigail died November 20, 1840.





**Levi Stevens Bartlett {2} (1811 – 1865)     Aroline Sanborn Bartlett (1825-1900)**

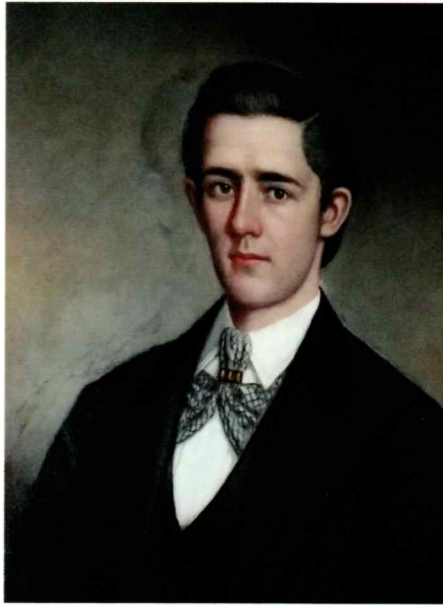
*Pictures reproduced courtesy of Bartlett Family Collection*

Born the third child of Levi Bartlett and Abigail Stevens Bartlett, on December 3, 1811. Levi Stevens Bartlett received his academic education at Phillips Exeter Academy; read medicine with his uncle, the Honorable Josiah Bartlett of Stratham, Professor Elisha Bartlett of Lowell, Mass, and Doctor John Barrett of Portland, Maine. Levi attended lectures at Bowdoin College and received his degree from Dartmouth College (1832) before he was 21 years old. He lived in the family farm for many years, and practiced medicine in Kingston and surrounding towns. He was a Postmaster in Kingston for a long period.

He married Aroline E. Sanborn, of Kingston on December 3, 1844. He left one son (Levi) and three daughters.

He lived in the Bartlett house until his death in February 19, 1865.





Picture reproduced courtesy of Bartlett Family Collection

**Levi Bartlett {3} (1857-1940)**

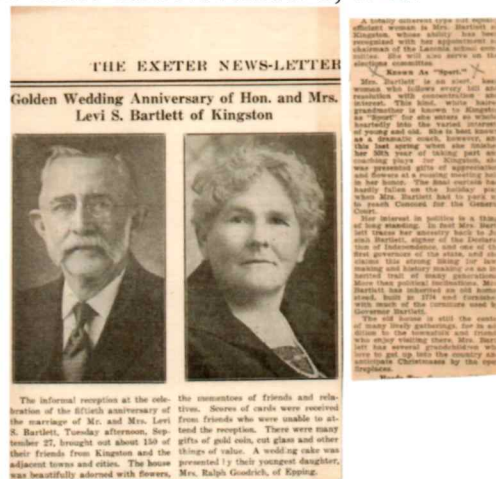
**Ruth Grace Sanborn Bartlett (1865-1948)**

Levi was the only son of Levi Stevens Bartlett and Aroline Sanborn Bartlett. He was born March 28, 1857 in Kingston, NH.

Levi married Ruth Grace Sanborn (Known as "R. Grace", she was born: March 10, 1865) on September 27, 1882. They had all daughters, the eldest of which was Gertrude Elizabeth.

Levi was a farmer, and worked the Bartlett farm until his death. In addition, he was a State Senator, and about 1920, both he and his wife R. Grace who was a State Representative, traveled to Concord to attend legislature meetings.

Levi died July 5, 1940. R. Grace died November 8, 1948.



News clip from Exeter News-Letter



*Photo courtesy of Bartlett Family Collection*

**Gertrude Elizabeth Bartlett (1885-1984) and Rodney M. Wilson (1886-1981)**

Gertrude was born August 26, 1885 in the Levi Bartlett house, next door to the main Bartlett house. She grew up in Kingston. Her family moved to the main house ca. 1900, upon the death of Aroline Bartlett.

She attended Sanborn Seminary, and graduated in 1902. She attended Tufts University, and graduated in 1906. Upon graduation, she worked in the Exeter Schools, as a Physics and Chemistry teacher.

She married Rodney Melledge Wilson on June 25, 1912. They moved to New Rochelle, NY. Their eldest daughter, Gertrude, was born September 16, 1913.

They summered in Kingston, and considered it their second home. They eventually moved back to Kingston in 1951 upon his retirement.

Rodney Wilson died November 19, 1981.

Gertrude Elizabeth Bartlett Wilson died October 8, 1984, at 99 years of age, in Kingston.



*Photos courtesy of Bartlett Family Collection*

**Russell Semple (1907-1963)**

**Gertrude Wilson (1913-1989)**

Gertrude was born on September 16, 1913 at New Rochelle, NY. She was the eldest daughter of Gertrude Bartlett and Rodney Wilson. She grew up in New Rochelle, NY, but summered in Kingston. She graduated from Ambler College in Ambler, PA.

On March 25, 1945 she married Russell Semple at West Point, NY. Russell graduated from West Point during WWII. After the war they lived in White Plains. They had one daughter, Ruth who was born September 13, 1950 in White Plains, NY.

In 1956, the family moved back to Kingston. Gertrude became very active in town. She was town auditor, member and president of the Kingston Historical Society. She was instrumental in getting the "Church on the Plains" listed on the National Register. She was also active in the Kingston Congregational Church, she served as assistant treasurer, and on the Flower Committee, and Ladies Friendship Circle. She also belonged to the Kingston Garden Club, and the New Hampshire Farm Museum.

Russell died March 2, 1963. Gertrude continued to live in the house with her parents. Gertrude died February 27, 1989 at Exeter, NH. She was buried in the Old Village Cemetery in Kingston.





**Ruth Bartlett Semple Albert**

Ruth was born in White Plains, NY to Russell Semple and Gertrude (Bartlett) Wilson Semple on September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1950. At about 5 years of age, she moved for a short time to Stoney Point, NY, but then moved again to Kingston, NH at the age of 6. Ruth went to the Bakie School system for grades 1 to 8. She moved on to the Sanborn Seminary for grades 9-12. Upon graduation, she took a job at the Exeter Hankerchief Factory, in Exeter, NH, where she worked for 19 years. She later took a job at the Atkinson, NH Post Office, where she worked from 1987 to 2013. Ruth retired in 2013 from the Post Office.

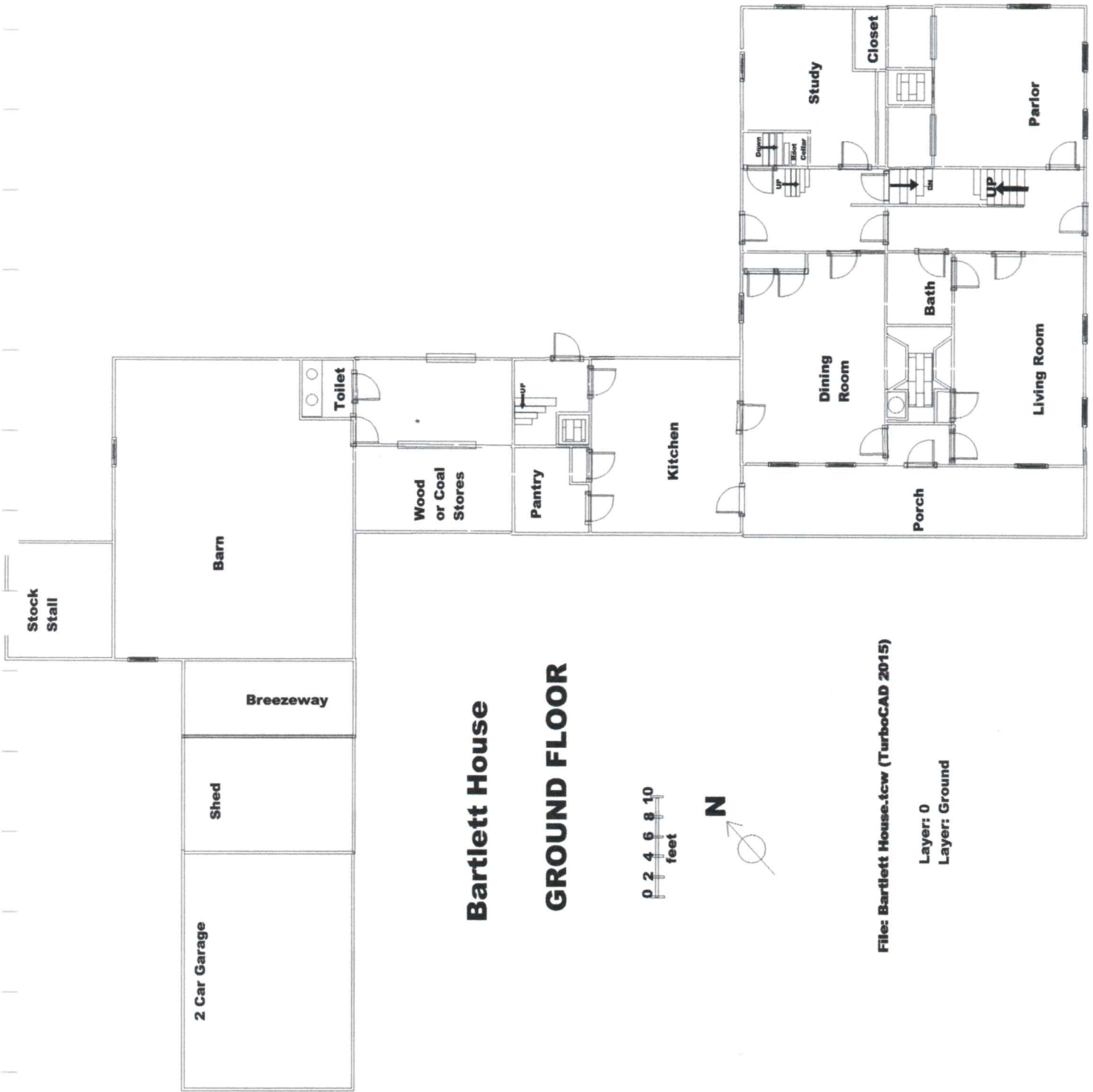
On July 17, 1977 she married Joseph Ready. The marriage lasted about 5 years, and ended in a divorce. On October 13, 1990 she married Dale Albert. When she was married to Dale, she became stepmother to Adam Albert.

Ruth has lived in the Josiah Bartlett Homestead since 1989. During that time she has assumed the stewardship of the house. In June of 1989 an auction was required to settle the estate of Gertrude Wilson. At that auction many of the original artifacts were sold, including a Highboy which ended up in the Offices of the State of New Hampshire, and many other items to private buyers. Since 1989, Ruth and Dale have created a home for their family, and a museum for the Josiah Bartlett Homestead.

Ruth has been active in the Kingston Historic and Improvement Society, which has maintained the Church on the Plains. Ruth has also been Director of the Kingston Museum.

She and her husband Dale are currently trying to sell the Bartlett house, in order to retire. They have split off a smaller portion of the land, in order to build a retirement home. Ruth is trying to find a buyer among the Bartlett descendants, in order to keep it in the family.

## **About the House**



# Bartlett House

## GROUND FLOOR

0 2 4 6 8 10  
feet

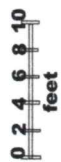


File: Bartlett House.tcw (TurboCAD 2015)

Layer: 0

Layer: Ground



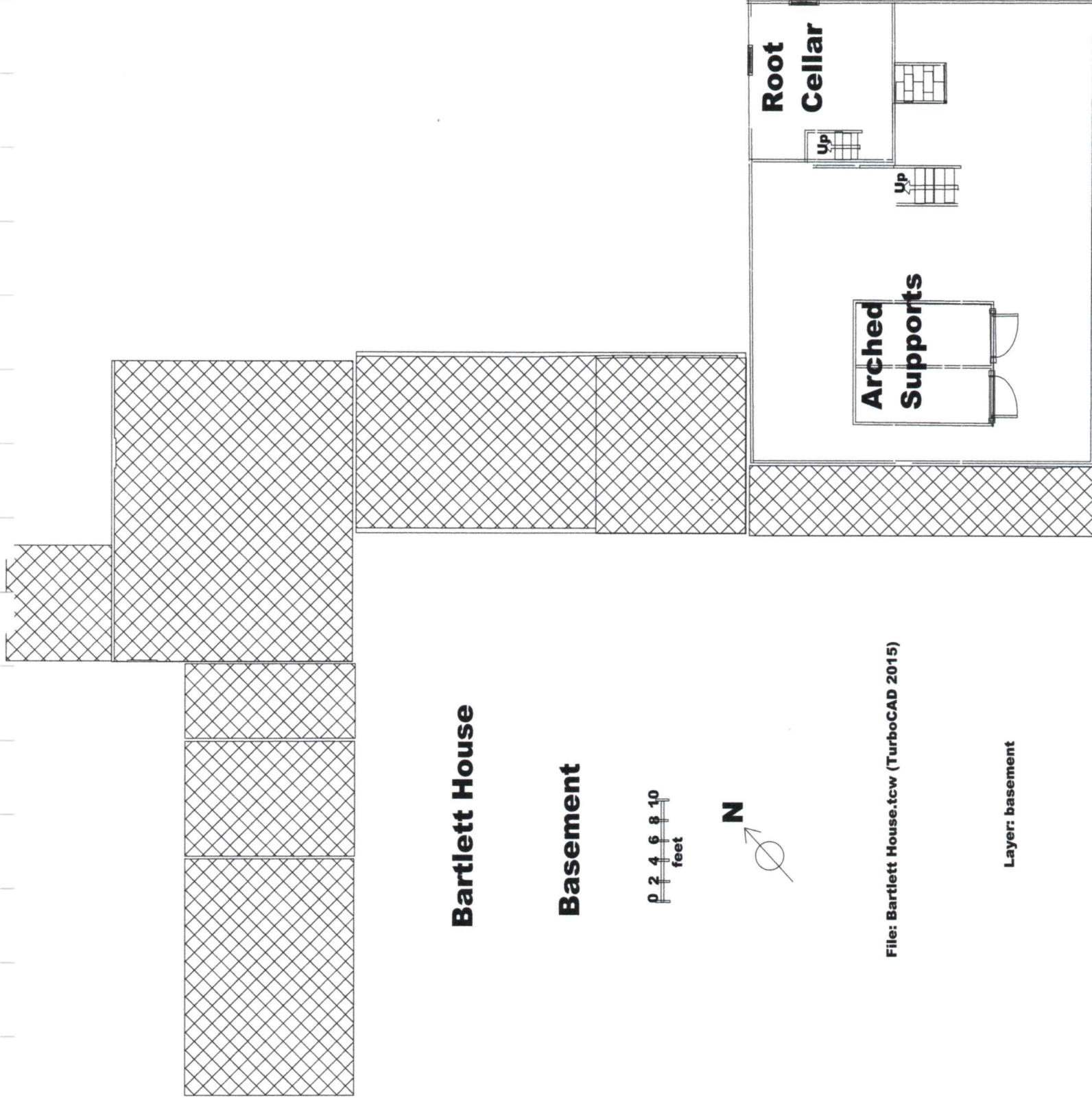


**File: Bartlett House.tcw (TurboCAD 2015)**

**Layer: 0**

**Layer: Second Floor**





**Bartlett House**

**Basement**

0 2 4 6 8 10  
feet



File: Bartlett House.tcw (TurboCAD 2015)

Layer: basement



## About the House

### A History of the Bartlett Family House

When Josiah Bartlett moved to Kingston in 1750, he purchased a farmstead. It was a choice parcel, right on the main Plains section of town, with land frontage on the little Lake. (Greenwood Pond)

History tells us there was a house on that property. Whether Josiah built it, or it was there originally, is not known. It was supposed to have been a cape.

During the build up to the Revolutionary War, Josiah's Patriotic politics caused him to alienate the Royalists in town. It is rumored that they burned his house. Whether that is true or not, the original house did burn in 1774. Josiah endeavored to rebuilt his house, and expanded it to its present size.

During the mid 1800's the house saw extensive renovations. The right side parlor was remodeled to Victorian standards. The central chimney may have been renovated to accept modern wood stoves instead of fireplaces. The small cabinets to either side of the fireplaces were expanded into nooks, both accessible from the front parlor, and used to store cabinets with medical supplies.

Originally the house was built by Josiah, and he lived in it till his death in 1795. During his tenure, the house held his medical practice.

At that time his son Levi {1} Bartlett became the head of household, and lived there till his death in 1828. Levi used the house for his medical practice.

His son Levi {2} Stevens Bartlett, assumed head of household, and lived here till his death in 1865. He continued to use the house for his medical practice.

During the 1850's, his wife Aroline oversaw a renovation of the house, that changed the trim and design of the Northeastern corner room of the house, and probably rebuilt the chimney in the side of the house.

In 1885, Levi (3) and his wife R. Grace built and lived in the house next door. Their daughter Gertrude was born in that house.

Upon Aroline's death in 1900, their son Levi {3}, then became head of household till his death in 1940. He was a farmer, and politician, but did not continue the medical practice. He was a State Senator, and his wife R. Grace Bartlett was a state Representative.

The main house was taken over by Rodney Wilson and Gertrude Bartlett Wilson in 1951.

In 1951, Rodney Wilson brought indoor plumbing into the Bartlett house. Prior to that point, the family used the toilets in the outhouses, over the barn. Bathing was done in the second floor outhouse's copper bath tub. The indoor plumbing was installed in the downstairs bathroom, replacing cabinets that had been there in the space between the front living room and the kitchen.

In 1956, Gertrude Semple, with her husband Russell and daughter Ruth, moved back to Kingston from New York, and lived in the house until her death.

On June 1971, application was made to add this house to the National Register of Historic Places. November 1978 the application was accepted by the National Park Service.

Upon her death, her daughter Gertude Semple then continued to live in the house till she died in 1989. In 1988, Gertrude S. remodeled the kitchen, installing new cabinets. Upon her death, Ruth Albert moved into the house.

Ruth Albert has lived in the house up to the present time.

During the 1990's, Ruth and Dale remodeled again. Most of their work was paint and paper type minor updates, but they did add the second floor bathroom in the corner cut out of the southwestern bedroom.

Ruth has put the house on the market, and hopes to sell it to a buyer who will continue the family tradition of maintaining it as a tribute to Josiah Bartlett.

In 1983, an historic inventory of Kingston was prepared, and the Bartlett house was included.

In 1989, in order to settle the estate of Gertrude Wilson, many of the original artifacts were sold at auction. Among them was a highboy that Josiah had purchased. It ended up in the offices of the State of New Hampshire. Ruth later had a reproduction made to fill the empty spot in the front hallway. Many of the other artifacts from the house were sold into private ownership.

## Architecture of the House

Built as a late Georgian, early Federalist style, the house has a rectangular shape with four major rooms around a central corridor that contains two staircases to the second floor. Central in each side is a chimney. The door is simple, but the scale of the house makes it quite grand.

The house is not symmetrical, the right side being slightly narrower than the left, perhaps as an artifact of the earlier house that was on the site, and burned in 1774.

The front staircase is a wide (44") graceful staircase that splits at the top and branches to the two front bedrooms. There is a large third floor attic area accessed from the stairs in the rear of the central area of the house, with two finished rooms. On the ground floor, one of the rear rooms has a large fireplace, with beehive oven that was originally used as a kitchen. It is matched on the front living room with another older fireplace. These fireplaces are repeated on the second floor. Underneath these fireplaces, in the basement, is a brick arch to support them.

Attached to the rear of the building is a large two floor ell that has a second kitchen area, pantry and connecting corridor to the wood or coal storage area, and eventually into the barn. There is a two hole toilet at the rear of this ell. On the second floor are smaller bedrooms and a small bath room above the toilet that also has a two hole toilet. Both floors dump down into a cleanup area below the ell, and accessed from outside. The attic of this ell is also finished with multiple bedrooms.

The total living area of the main house and the Ell, contains (10) bedrooms, and was ample size for multiple generations and large families with servants.

The doors in the main part of the house are eight panel (double Christian) doors. Unlike the four panel doors in most of the older Georgian houses, these were definitely an upgraded fashion statement. They may have been upgraded in the 1850's renovation. Most of the windows are 9/6 and 6/6 lights. The floors were originally finished with wide pine planks, similar to most other houses of that era.

The interior has molding typical of a house of that era, with the exception of the parlor, which has much more elaborate molding that was probably added during a later 1850's modification. On the right side of the house, the chimney is a single flue with access holes for wood stoves. As such, this chimney may have been modified during that 1850's renovation effort.

The general construction uses a post and beam approach with pinned mortise and tenon joinery, as evidenced by the attic construction.

The barn has a full 12 x 12 stall and two smaller standing stalls with hay mangers, fed by chutes from the second floor hay storage area. The large central portion of the barn has access to the second floor (hay storage) sections. This clearly was a working barn in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The house has attached 21 acres of fields, and woods with frontage on Greenwood pond. It is strategically placed across from the Town Hall, on the central "Plains" area of Kingston.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Josiah Bartlett House

AND/OR COMMON

Josiah Bartlett House

**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER West side of Main Street (Route 111)  
opposite Town Hall

CITY, TOWN

Kingston

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

New Hampshire

VICINITY OF

CODE

033

COUNTY

Rockingham

CODE

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Gertrude E. B. Wilson

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street, P.O. Box 54

CITY, TOWN

Kingston

STATE

VICINITY OF

New Hampshire 03848

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Rockingham Registry of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rockingham County Court House

CITY, TOWN

Exeter

STATE

New Hampshire

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

New Hampshire Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

in progress

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Concord

STATE

New Hampshire

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

New Hampshire

VICINITY OF

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☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

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☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

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Kingston

STATE

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☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS New Hampshire Historic Preservation Office

CITY, TOWN

Concord

STATE

New Hampshire



## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Josiah Bartlett House stands on a well-kept 2-acre houselot on the west side of Main Street (Route 111) in Kingston, New Hampshire. To the east is a portion of the Kingston common and beyond it the town hall. The 2-story Victorian building immediately to the south is now the Fremont Furniture House. A small shopping center is located immediately to the north. At the rear of the houselot are some 20 acres of open field and woodlot which once belonged to Bartlett and are still the property of his descendants.

The original section of the present Josiah Bartlett House was constructed in 1774 after fire destroyed the first house on the same site. It is a 2 1/2-story frame and clapboard building measuring some 49 feet wide and 35 feet deep (5 bays by 2 bays). Two interior chimneys break the gabled roof at the ridge line. The windows--6/6 double-hung sash--are flanked by louvered blinds. Sometime during the first third of the 19th century a 2-story gable-roofed wing some 20 by 39 feet in size was constructed at the southwest (rear) corner of the main house and a 1-story open porch (now screened) was added to its southern side. During the same period Greek Revival detailing was applied to the house; these elements include giant pilasters at the corners, cornices above the first-floor-front and the side windows, the pilasters and cornice at the main entrance (center of the east elevation), and the square columns which support the porch.

The main section of the house follows a four-square plan with two rooms on either side of a central hall. The hall itself is divided into front and rear sections, each containing a staircase set against the right (north) wall. To the left (south) of the hall are the living room and dining room; the latter was once the kitchen and its wide fireplace and related implements are still intact. On the right of the hall are the parlor and a bedroom. The chimney for these two rooms and the parlor fireplace were rebuilt about 1860; the closets that originally flanked the parlor fireplace were remodeled at that time into the existing arched alcoves.

There are four bedrooms on the second floor, again divided by a central hall; that at the southeast corner served as Bartlett's office. The wing contains a kitchen and work rooms on the first floor and four bedrooms on the second. The original wide-board floors remain in place throughout the house. A gable-roofed frame and clapboard barn is attached to the rear (west) of the wing and a one-story wooden garage extends south from the side of the barn.

The Bartlett House appears to be structurally sound and in good general condition. Though the house is furnished for the use of its present residents, some pieces owned by Bartlett remain in place. A small Queen Anne table, a desk, medical cabinet, and surgical instruments were saved from the fire which destroyed the first Bartlett house. Items acquired by Bartlett for the present house include a highboy, grandfather's clock, and the dining room chairs. The linden tree which stands on the front lawn was brought by Bartlett from Philadelphia.



## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ GOOD

☐ RUINS

☐ FAIR

☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

### PERIOD

— PREHISTORIC  
— 1400-1499  
— 1500-1599  
— 1600-1699  
☒ 1700-1799  
— 1800-1899  
— 1900-

— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
— AGRICULTURE  
— ARCHITECTURE  
— ART  
— COMMERCE  
— COMMUNICATIONS

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

— COMMUNITY PLANNING  
— CONSERVATION  
— ECONOMICS  
— EDUCATION  
— ENGINEERING  
— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
— INDUSTRY  
— INVENTION

— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
— LAW  
— LITERATURE  
— MILITARY  
— MUSIC  
— PHILOSOPHY  
☒ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

— RELIGION  
— SCIENCE  
— SCULPTURE  
— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
— THEATER  
— TRANSPORTATION  
— OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1774-1795

BUILDER/ARCHITECT not known

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Due to the voting order in the Continental Congress, Josiah Bartlett of Kingston, New Hampshire, was probably the first delegate to vote for independence, the second to sign the Declaration of Independence (after Congress President John Hancock), and the first to vote for and sign the Articles of Confederation. A physician by profession, and founder of the New Hampshire Medical Society, Bartlett also served as chief justice of New Hampshire and was the State's first chief executive under the Federal Constitution.

The only extant building closely associated with Bartlett is the 2 1/2 story frame house with gabled roof which he constructed at Kingston, New Hampshire in 1774. Bartlett built the house after fire destroyed his earlier home on the same site and lived there until his death in 1795. Though given some Greek Revival detailing during the early 19th-century, the house retains much of its original character. Furnishings include a number of Bartlett pieces, among them the doctor's desk, medical cabinet, and instruments. Still owned by descendants of Bartlett, the house is used as a private residence and is not open to the general public.

### Historical Background

Josiah Bartlett was born on November 21, 1729, at Amesbury, Massachusetts. He was educated in the common schools and at the age of 16 began the study of medicine in the office of Dr. Ordway, a distant relative. Five years later, in 1750, Bartlett qualified as a physician and began practice in the town of Kingston in southern New Hampshire. He quickly won a reputation not only as a general practitioner but also as an experimenter and innovator in diagnosis and treatment. In 1764, he married his cousin, Mary Bartlett of Newton, New Hampshire, by whom he had 12 children.

While developing his practice, Bartlett was also active in politics. He served as representative to the provincial assembly from 1765 to 1775 and was a justice of the peace and colonel in the militia from 1767 to 1775. In 1774 Bartlett became a member of the New Hampshire Committee of Correspondence and of the first provincial Congress, which came into being when the royal governor disbanded the colonial assembly. He was elected that same year to the Continental Congress but was kept from attending when his house burned to the ground. It was rumored that "revenue agents" or "agents of the King" were responsible for the fire but Bartlett never ascribed to such accusations. Bartlett immediately constructed a new house (the present Bartlett House) on the site of the home that had been destroyed.

Bartlett attended the Second Continental Congress in 1775-76, serving at the



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Colby, James F. "Josiah Bartlett" in Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. II (New York, 1929).

Eastman, Anne M. and Charles W., Josiah Bartlett of Kingston: Two Views (Kingston, 1975).

Fields, Elizabeth and Dr. J.E. "The Signers Lived Here," Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine, May, 1951.

Works Progress Administration, American Guide Series. New Hampshire, A Guide to the Granite State (Boston, 1938).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 332325 4755575  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C         

B           
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D         

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Boundaries of the national historic landmark designation for the Josiah Bartlett House are those of the roughly rectangular 2-acre Bartlett houselot as owned by Gertrude E. B. Wilson, bounded easterly by Main Street 255 feet more or less; southerly by land occupied by the Fremont Furniture House 339 feet more or less; westerly by additional land of Gertrude Wilson 283 feet more or less; and northerly by a local shopping center 333 feet more or less. (Note: Specific dimensions are taken from a survey map in the possession of the current property owner; no other map of the houselot was available.)

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by Charles W. Snell Historian

6/21/71

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

202/523-5464

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington,

STATE

District of Columbia

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

Landmark  
LOCAL    Nov. 15, 1971  
Designated:     
George F. Turner  
Aug 14 1978

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has met the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE N/A National Historic Landmark

TITLE

DATE

### FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

DATE

11/24/78

DATE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Bartlett House

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

same time on New Hampshire's Council of Safety. Though he rarely participated in congressional debates, whose seeming futility irritated him, he sat on various committees. Bartlett was again elected a congressional delegate in 1777 but was too exhausted to attend. However, in August of that year he was able to lend his medical skills to General John Stark's force of New Hampshire militia and Continental troops. They defeated a predominantly German element of General John Burgoyne's command in the Battle of Bennington, one of the reverses that helped to force the British surrender two months later at Saratoga. Bartlett returned to Congress in 1778-79, after which he refused reelection because of physical exhaustion.

Though Bartlett had no legal training, New Hampshire appointed him chief justice of the court of common pleas in 1779. He became associate justice of the superior court in 1782 and then served as its chief justice from 1788 to 1790. In 1788 Bartlett had taken part in the New Hampshire convention that ratified the Federal Constitution, which he vigorously supported. He declined election to the United States Senate the following year, probably on account of his age and the weight of his judicial duties, but in 1790 he accepted the position of chief executive-or president-of the State. He held that title until 1793-94 when he was named governor, as the newly amended New Hampshire constitution redesignated the position.

Despite all his political activity, Bartlett did not lose interest in the field of medicine. In 1790 Dartmouth College conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine. The following year he secured from the legislature a charter for the New Hampshire Medical Society which, when organized with a constitution and by-laws drafted by his own hand, elected him its first president. In 1794 ill health forced Bartlett to retire from public life. He died at his Kingston home on May 19, 1795, and was buried in the cemetery of the Kingston Universalist Church.

Though given some Greek Revival detailing during the first third of the 19th century, the Josiah Bartlett House retains much of its original character. Furnishings include a number of Bartlett pieces, some of which survive from the first house on the site, including the doctor's desk, medical cabinet, and instruments. The house is still owned by Bartlett's descendants and maintained in good condition; it is not open to the general public.



Josiah Bartlett House (1774-1795), Kingston, New Hampshire





Josiah Bartlett House, Kingston, New Hampshire





Joseph Barlow House  
Kingston, New Hampshire

# 2 south and east (front) elevations

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Strafford Rockingham Regional Council

1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire

Phone: (603) 778-0885

TOWN: Kingston	COUNTY: Rockingham
SURVEY NUMBER: 87 *	
COMMON NAME: Wilson House	
HISTORIC NAME: Josiah Bartlett House	
LOCATION: West side of W. Main St., .05 miles S. of inter. of Main & Church	
OWNER: Gertrude E.B. Wilson	
ADDRESS: 156 Main St., Kingston, NH	
MAP & PARCEL #: U-10/8	
DATE: c. 1774	
SOURCE: Assessor's Office, Kingston	
STYLE: Georgian	

UTM: Z 19 /E 332300 /N 4755525
USGS QUAD: Haverhill Quad 15' Series
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Farmhouse
PRESENT USE: Residential
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Josiah Bartlett
CONDITION: Exc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY: Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> (When: )
Major alterations & date: Remodeled c. 1858
LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

1. FOUNDATION: Stone ☒ Brick ☐ Concrete ☐ Concrete Block ☐
2. WALL STRUCTURE: Wood Frame ☐ Post & Beam ☒ Ballon Frame ☐ Other ☐  
Load Bearing Masonry ☐ Stone ☐ Brick ☐ Concrete Block ☐ Other ☐  
Metal ☐ Iron ☐ Steel ☐ Other ☐
3. WALL COVERING: Clapboard ☒ Wood Shingle ☐ Board & Batten ☐ Shiplap ☐ Aluminum ☐  
Novelty ☐ Stucco ☐ Stone ☐ Brick ☐ Sheet Metal ☐ Asphalt Shingles ☐ Vinyl ☐  
Asphalt Sheeting ☐ Composite Board ☐ Other ☐
4. ROOF SHEATHING: Wood Shingle ☐ Asphalt Shingle ☒ Standing Seam Tim ☐ Slate ☐  
Pressed Metal ☐ Sheet Metal ☐ Rolled Asphalt ☐ Other ☐
5. ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:
6. OTHER:  
# of Stories 2 1/2 # of Bays 5X3 Approx. Dimensions 40' x 35'  
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 ☐ Barn ☐  
Entry Location: Center ☒ Sidehall ☐ Other ☐

## MAP (Indicate North in circle):



## PHOTO



Description of View: Front-east  
Side-south

Photographer: Herb Bubert  
Negative with: S.R.R.C.  
Negative File Number: K-80-30/29-29A



### ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Wilson house is a 2½-story, 5x2 bay, twin chimney Federal style house which has been remodeled during the Greek Revival period (c. 1858), including the addition of a 1-story, shed-roofed porch and Greek Revival door, window, and eaves treatment. The center entry has a 4-panelled (two of which are arched) door framed by full-height sidelights. Flanking the door are pilasters rising to a full entablature. All of the windows have six-over-six sash framed by shutters and those on the first story and in the gables are topped by projecting caps. The medium-pitch roof has twin, corbel-capped chimneys and the eaves treatment consists of a boxed cornice, with a wide frieze and gable-end returns. The main block is framed by arch-panelled pilasters. The house rests on a granite slab foundation.

On the south elevation is a 1-story, shed-roofed, open porch supported by square, arch-panelled columns similar to those on the pilasters framing the main block.

The 2-story, gable-roofed ell has clapboard siding and six-over-three and nine-over-six windows. The entrance has an 8-panelled door flanked by half-length sidelights. The roof is topped by a tall chimney with a vault and the ell rests on a granite slab foundation.

**RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:** There is an attached 2-story, gable-roofed barn projecting to the southwest. It has clapboard siding, a multi-panel and multi-light door, and rests on a granite slab foundation. Projecting from the south elevation of the barn is a 1-story, gable-roofed garage/shed.

**BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:** 21.1 Acres bounded to the N-Isaacs. Sullivan, S- Gossman Stratton, Dupel, Winslow, Aiken, E. Main St., Sanborn, Moore W. by Lamprey Trahar.

**REFERENCES:** Kingston Historic Advisory Committee; interviews w/members, Spring 1980  
Wilson, Rodney M., A Brief Sketch of the History of the First Congregational Church, Kingston, NH (privately printed), 1975  
1856 Map; 1892 Map. And, Kingston Historical Society. The History of Kingston 1694-1969.  
Kingston Improvement and Historical Society. 1969

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The only National Historic landmark in the region, easily the most significant structure in Kingston. The preservation of the Josiah Bartlett House must be of concern to the town of Kingston and the region.

Historic Associations: Dr. Josiah Bartlett, statesman, built house on site of cape he bought in 1751 that was burned in Feb. 1874. Bartlett was also a physician, selectman, justice of the peace, colonel in militia, justice and chief justice of Superior Court, first president of N.H. medical society, first constitutional governor of New Hampshire. The house is still lived in by his direct descendants. The house was nominated to the National Register in 1971.

MAP DATA: 1856: Bartlett 1892: Bartlett

\* SEE ADDITIONAL CORRECTION SHEETS  
FOR OWNER COMMENTS

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:** Open Land\_\_ Woodland\_\_ Scattered Bldgs\_\_ Moderately Built Up\_\_  
Densely Built Up\_\_ Residential\_\_X Commercial\_\_ Industrial\_\_ Agricultural\_\_  
Roadside Strip Development\_\_ Other\_\_

Recorded By: Herb Bubert  
Scott Novak

Date: 12-28-79







## HISTORIC PRESERVATION ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Strafford Rockingham Regional Council

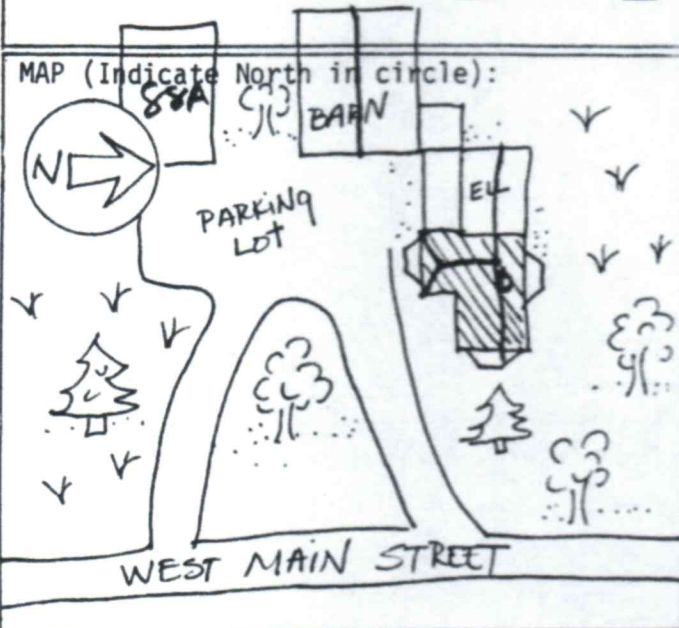
1 Water Street, Exeter, New Hampshire

Phone: (603) 778-0885

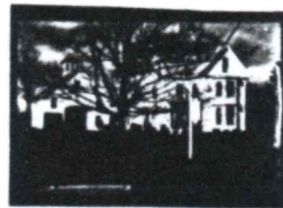
TOWN: Kingston	COUNTY: Rockingham	UTM: Z 19/E 332275 /N 4755450
SURVEY NUMBER: 88 *		USGS QUAD: Haverhill Quad 15' Series
COMMON NAME: Sanborn House		FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Farmhouse
HISTORIC NAME: Levi Bartlett		PRESENT USE: Residential
LOCATION: .1 miles S. of inter. W. Main & Church, west side of West Main Street.		ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Levi S. Bartlett
OWNER: Alden Sanborn		CONDITION: Exc. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
ADDRESS: 154B Main St. West, Kingston, NH		INTEGRITY: Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> (When: <input type="text"/> )
MAP & PARCEL #: U-10/7		Major alterations & date: Unknown
DATE: C. 1892		
SOURCE: Inspection		
STYLE: Late 19th Century		LEVEL/SIGNIFICANCE: Natl <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System

- FOUNDATION: Stone ☐ Brick ☒ Concrete ☐ Concrete Block ☐
- WALL STRUCTURE: Wood Frame ☐ Post & Beam ☐ Ballon 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 ☐ Other ☐
- ENGINEERING STRUCTURE:
- OTHER:  
# of Stories 2 1/2 # of Bays 2x2 Approx. Dimensions 25' x 30'  
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 ☐  
Entry Location: Center ☐ Sidehall ☐ Other ☒ sidevall



## PHOTO



Description of View: Front-east  
Side-south

Photographer: Scott Novak  
Negative with: S.R.R.C.  
Negative File Number: L-80-30/30-30A



#### ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL AND STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Sanborn House is a cross-gable house built in the late 19th century. The multi-panel and light entry door is sheltered by a 1-story, flat-roofed, open porch with decorative balusters supported by turned posts. Windows are two-over-two with caps, and the north, south, and east elevations each have a 2-story bay window with panels separating the stories. The medium-pitched roof has a boxed cornice and gable-end returns.

A 1½-story gable-roofed ell topped by a shed dormer meets an enclosed shed-roofed porch on the south elevation that has clapboard siding, a new door, and new one-over-one windows. The ell rests on a brick foundation. This ell is attached to a 1-story, shed which is clapboard siding, six-over-six windows with caps, and a boxed cornice with gable-end returns. It has an arched doorway and rests on a brick foundation.

#### RELATED STRUCTURES AND CONTEXT:

**BOUNDARY AND ACREAGE DESCRIPTION:** 1.7 acres bounded to the N-Wilson, E-Main Street, S-Moore, W-Wilson.

#### REFERENCES:

Kingston Historic Advisory Committee; interviews w/members, Spring 1980  
1892 Map

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Evaluation & Historical Associations):

The L. S. Bartlett House is of interest to architectural historians and historians alike; to the former as a locally-designed example of the Victorian influence, and to the latter because the designer was the grandson of a nationally important figure.

Historic Associations: House was built by Levi S. Bartlett. Carpenter Alfred Lyford helped by Joseph & Maurice Maillette. Levi S. Bartlett did drawings of the house. Levi, a grandson of Josiah Bartlett, was a farmer and cattle dealer who wanted to be a lawyer. Scale drawings of bays are in attic of the J. Bartlett House next door.

MAP DATA: 1892: L. S. Bartlett

**SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:** Open Land ☐ Woodland ☐ Scattered Bldgs ☒ Moderately Built Up ☐  
Densely Built Up ☐ Residential ☒ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Agricultural ☐  
Roadside Strip Development ☐ Other ☐

Recorded By: Scott Noyak

Ferb Bubert

Date: 12/28/79





## **Pictures**



Ruth Albert at Christmas in the living room  
filename: 01 RuthinParlor



Ruth Albert giving a tour  
filename: 02 Ruth Albert



View of the Fireplace in the Dining Room  
filename: 03 Diningroomfireplace



Fireplace in SW Livingroom  
filename: 03 Livingroomfireplace



Front Parlor, storing Josiah Bartlett's memorabilia  
filename: 05 frontparlor



Josiah Bartlett's Medical Tools  
filename: 05 Josiahs tools



Highboy built as reproduction of original in New Hampshire  
Statehouse.



Second Floor Southern Hallway  
filename: 07 2ndfloorhall

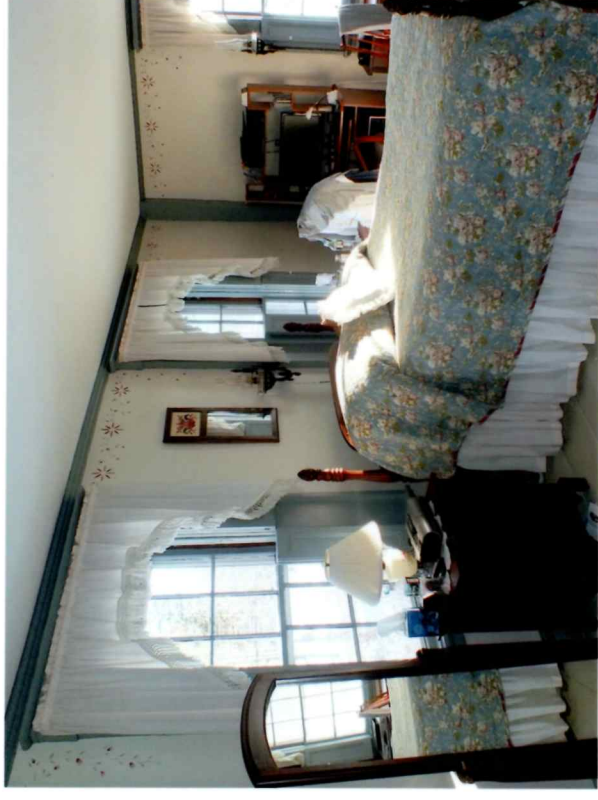




South East Bedroom  
filename: 08 SEbedroom



South West (Main) Bedroom  
filename: 09 SWbedroom



Rear hall looking up from Ground floor  
filename: 10 rearhall



Stairway in rear (north) ground floor  
filename: 11 rearstairs





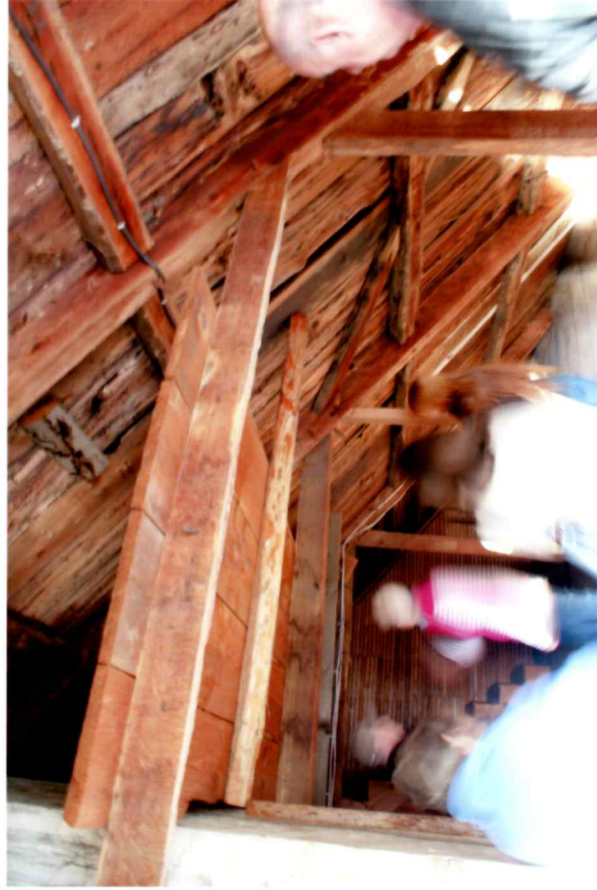
North East Bed Room  
filename: 12 rearbedroom



Bedroom in third floor attic  
filename: 13 atticbedroom



Ruth conducts a tour in the Attic  
filename: 14 in the Attic



Hand prints made by children playing in Basement  
filename: 15 basementdoorart



Collection of Tools stored in the barn  
filename: 16 barntools

