

82 North State Street



The Elwell house, a highly decorated Italianate, is one of the most intact properties in Concord, retaining its porches and cornice brackets, an arched gable window with a molded cap and keystone, bay window and 6/6 window sash. A barn with a square cupola and arched louvered openings is at the rear of the lot. The house retains its twin formal parlors with marble fireplaces, sliding pocket doors, patent mercury glass door knobs, cast hinges and window locks, interior and exterior shutters, eastern white pine woodwork and walnut pantry cabinets. When first built, the house was a showcase of modern 19th century technology, featuring central heat, gas lights, indoor water closets and gas and coal fitted fireplaces. Restored Italianate details include twin side porches with turned balusters, wide railings, chamfered square columns, with unusual applied diamonds and elaborate moldings. A unique feature is a separate street front entrance that served as Mr. Elwell's office.

The first owner and likely builder was Isaac Elwell, a furniture maker and businessman who ran the furniture factory at the state prison across the street from the house. In the 1860's, the factory-made hired man's beds, kitchen tables, four drawer chests and folding cribs, much like the present day prison shop. Elwell had his own furniture shop first on School Street, then near the train depot in downtown Concord. The house was later owned by Benjamin Virgin, a painter, through the 1890's.