

462 North State Street



This 1821 Federal style house with a typical centrally located front entry, flanked by four windows on each side, was built in the bustling mill section of West Village in Concord by Abel Baker. The house retains wide board floors, likely hemlock and the remaining Indian Shutters were used in the kitchen for cabinets.

Baker was a lumber mill owner and an official 'Timber-Reeve.' Abel's grandfather, Samuel Baker, owned a grist mill and saw mill in the Borough section of West Concord. Abel's son, Nathaniel became one of NH's noted politicians, who studied at Phillips Exeter and Dartmouth and studied law with Franklin Pierce. Nathaniel was editor and part owner of the NH Patriot, and served as governor from 1854 to 1855.

Second owner, Benjamin Holden purchased the house in 1835 and owned a successful woolen mill on an adjoining the property where a dyeing agent, Indigo, colored cloth used by Civil War Union soldiers. Many children worked at the mill, prior to child labor laws. Rattlesnake Brook, originating at Penacook Lake, now known as Long Pond [the City's water supply] once provided water power for the mills. The flood of 2006 resulted in considerable erosion to the Baker house lot. Research included the 2011 Report titled 'Rattlesnake Brook & Its Industrial History: West Concord' prepared by Elizabeth Durfee Hengen, Preservation Consultant for the City of Concord. In 1920, third owners, Albert [from Sweden and worked in the quarry] and Agnes Johnson bought the house and established commercial flower gardens, Fairview Gardens and greenhouse on site in 1922. The Johnson's peonies still grow in the yard. The fourth owners, James and Patricia Cummings, purchased in 1977.