

Dr. Luther F. Parker House 1826

This carefully proportioned one-and-a-half-story, three-by-five-bay Greek Revival home, like the Shedd house next door, has a temple front. It is clapboarded and rests on a granite and fieldstone foundation. It has a fully pedimented gable containing two six-over-six windows above an elaborate colonnade featuring four fluted Doric columns and paneled pilasters. The three ground floor windows behind the columns have delicate six-over-six sash above a paneled apron and incised window surrounds that extend down to the porch floor in the French style. The central window opens to provide access. There are louvered shutters on most windows. The full entablature surrounding the pediment extends along the side walls. A second-floor gabled dormer was added at the end of the 19th century on the north side, with a matching dormer on the south. The principal entrance is in the middle bay of the south side, and features a Gothic paneled door, identical to the one in the Shedd house, as well as sidelights and paneled architrave moldings. It is flanked on each side by two six-over-six sashed windows. The large one-and-a-half-story barn, extending south to form an ell, has matching horizontal wood siding, but with simple detailing.



Ca. 1885 photograph.



The house was built by Dr. Thomas McKeith in 1826, but he died, along with his daughter, shortly after moving into the house. The house was owned during the 19th century by a series of doctors: Gardner Wheeler Cobb; Asahel Farr; and then Luther Fletcher Parker. Dr. Parker attended the University of Vermont and studied with Dr. Cobb and later his successor Dr. Farr. He attended lectures at the Dartmouth Medical School and received his M.D. degree from Dartmouth. On June 6, 1850, Luther married Louisa Martin, Moses Martin's eldest daughter, and began to practice medicine in Barnet. He and his wife bought Dr. Farr's house and practice in Peacham in the spring of 1854 and moved there. During the Civil War in 1864, Dr. Parker was sent to the Union front lines to deliver money collected from Peacham residents. He arrived shortly after the Battle of the Wilderness and stayed to treat the wounded soldiers. He was active in town affairs, serving as President of the Board of Trustees of Peacham Academy and representing Peacham in the Vermont Legislature from 1886 to 1889. Dr. Parker was the village physician for over forty years until his death in 1898. The recreation field across the main road is named in honor of Dr. Parker