

= Nathaniel Backus House =

The Nathaniel Backus House is a two @-@ story Greek Revival clapboarded house with a gable roof in Norwich , Connecticut . The house was built around 1750 by Nathaniel Backus and served as his home , it was later moved to its current location in 1952 . The house originally began as a Colonial , but was greatly modified to Greek Revival around 1825 , reconfiguring the central door to the left of the facade and adding two chimneys . The house is a historic house museum operated by the Faith Trumbull Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution .

The Nathaniel Backus House was submitted to the National Register of Historic Places for its historical value in local history and as an example of Greek Revival domestic architecture . It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places ( NRHP ) in 1970 and was also included in the NRHP 's Chelsea Parade Historic District designation in 1989 .

= = Nathaniel Backus = =

The Nathaniel Backus House 's namesake is its builder Nathaniel Backus , a descendent of William Backus and William Backus , Jr . , two of the founders of Norwich , Connecticut . Nathaniel Backus was born on April 5 , 1704 and he married Hannah Baldwin in 1726 . Together they would have seven children . Nathaniel Backus was also recorded to be one of six men in Norwich to own their own carriages before the American Revolutionary War . Nathaniel Backus died in 1773 .

= = Design = =

The Nathaniel Backus House 's construction date is unknown , but it is believed to have been around 1750 . The History of Norwich , Connecticut places it around 1734 and makes mention of a highway being added in 1750 specifically by Nathaniel Backus ' house . In the 1970 National Historic Register of Places nomination , the Daughters of the American Revolution indicated it dates from 1750 .

The house originally stood on Broadway Street in the center of Norwich , Connecticut . It was originally Colonial at its time of construction , but has been modified to Greek Revival style . The renovation itself may date to around 1825 . The house is a white two @-@ story clapboarded structure with its gable end facing the street . The three @-@ bay facade faces south and the front entrance is located on the left bay . The eaves cornice is decorated with mutules that span the length of the gable ends and combines with the roof cornice to make a pediment that encloses an elliptical window in the center . The window is of the " rising sun pattern " with glass panes radiating out through two rings . The entrance on the left of the facade has a paneled door , stated to be original , that is enclosed in a rectangular frame , supported by Ionic columns and framed by fluted moldings . The frames of the 6 @-@ over @-@ 6 windows project slightly from the clapboard exterior . The foundation and steps to the house is of stone .

An alteration saw the addition of two chimneys and additional alterations to the window and door openings on the northeast and southwest sides of the house . It is believed that the central door and window alterations were done as part of the Greek Revival renovations . Luyster states , " [ f ] urther investigation would undoubtedly reveal additional changes in the interior , including changes in the position of the fireplaces and their chimney connections . "

= = Importance = =

The Nathaniel Backus House is a historic house museum operated by the Faith Trumbull Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution following its completed move in 1952 . The Nathaniel Backus House was submitted to the National Register of Historic Places for its historical value in local history and as an example of Greek Revival domestic architecture . Luyster writes , " The simplicity of the Backus house contrasts pleasantly with the verandahs and asymmetric forms of the surrounding buildings . " It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 . The house

was also included as part of the Chelsea Parade Historic District in 1989 .