

= Acors Barns House =

The Acors Barns House is located in New London , Connecticut . Built in 1837 , the Acors Barns House is a two @-@ and @-@ one half story Greek Revival house with a gable roof and clapboarded exterior . The front facade of the house is five bays wide with a Greek Revival portico leading to the main entrance . Additions to the house include a projecting center dormer , and second @-@ story projection over a partially enclosed veranda . The plain exterior is contrasted by interior 's elaborate hall ceilings , detailed woodwork and arched marble fireplaces .

In 1862 , Barns died and the house was passed to his sons before being transferred to Harriet Barns Vincent . The house was sold to Julia O 'Sullivan in 1919 before being sold to Francis McGuire in 1956 . The McGuire 's operated the house as a law firm and passed the title to James McGuire . In 2013 , James McGuire sold the house to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut . Dave Collins wrote that the Acors Barns house is a " fine and rare example " of architecture that is especially important to New London , Connecticut . The Acors Barns House was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 22 , 1976 .

= = Acors Barns = =

Born in 1794 , Acors Barns was the son a mariner and lived in Westerly , Rhode Island before moving to Stonington , Connecticut . Barns moved to New London , Connecticut and formed a whaling company with William Williams Jr. in 1827 . The company prospered and became one of the largest firms in the city , but Barns avoided the 1849 decline of the whaling industry by investing elsewhere . Barns invested in the Willimantic and Palmer Railroad before establishing the Bank of Commerce in 1852 . Barns died in 1862 , but his sons would continue the successful Bank of Commerce .

= = Design = =

Built in 1837 , the Acors Barns House is a two @-@ and @-@ one half story Greek Revival house with a gable roof and clapboarded exterior . The front facade of the house is five bays wide with 6 @-@ over @-@ 6 sash and the main entrance has a Greek Revival portico supported by fluted Doric columns from top step . The simple single @-@ panel door is surrounded by sidelights . The corners of the building have simple pilasters and four chimneys rising from the top . The rear of the house has a one @-@ story veranda with a shallow hipped roof that is supported by square columns with a simple balustrade . The veranda has large 6 @-@ over @-@ 9 sash windows that extend almost a full story . In 1975 , the area surrounding the property has undergone significant change , but the house is surrounded by trees and shrubs and a wrought iron fence that helps set it apart from the neighborhood .

Modifications to the house include the addition of a large pediment @-@ shaped dormer that projects from the center of the main roof and is lighted by a rectangular double window . Part of the veranda was enclosed and the stairs that lead to a formal garden were removed . Above the center of the veranda is a second @-@ story projection that was described as visually compromising the elegance of the rear facade .

The plain exterior is contrasted by the elegance of the interior of the house . The house has elaborate hall ceilings , detailed woodwork and arched marble fireplaces . The floor plan is built around the central hall with an offset stairway . The parlor rooms to the right are separated by a wide archway . The two rooms to the left are a dining room and a pantry that has a dumbwaiter to the kitchen in the cellar . The National Historic Register of Places nomination noted that the cellar contained the " remains of the kitchen , washroom and wine cellar " . The second floor is made of four chambers and the attic consists of five small rooms . The attic 's rooms served as the servants ' cubicles .

= = Owners = =

The Acors Barns House has gone through several owners over its lifetime . In 1862 , the house passed from Acors Barns to his son William H. Barns . In 1893 , the second son , Charles Barns acquired the title to the house and transferred it upon his death to Harriet Barns Vincent , the daughter of his sister . Harriet Barns Vincent sold the house to Julia O 'Sullivan in 1919 . Francis McGuire purchased the house in 1956 and it would later pass to James McGuire . In 2013 , James McGuire sold the house to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut for \$ 325 @, @ 000 . The foundation stated it would continue to preserve the house 's historical integrity .

= = Importance = =

Clouette writes , " The Barns house physically documents the symbiosis by which the wealthy and the propertyless shared a home . Its value as an artifact is enhanced by the successful reuse which has retained the character of the building . " Dave Collins of the The Day wrote , " The Barns house is also especially important to New London because it is such a fine and rare example of the architectural fabric of the big swath of the downtown that was demolished in urban renewal in the 1960s . "