

Walker Farm

880 Main Street, Fremont ~ Circa 1774

In 1774, Nicholas Gordon, Sr sold land to his son Nicholas, Jr who built a Colonial Cape and lived here until his death in November, 1807. The property was sold to John Smith of Brentwood in May, 1809 who then sold it to his son Joseph Smith in November, 1815. Joseph Smith died and left the house to his widow Eliza in 1859, and she left it to her son Theodore Byron Smith in April, 1884. Theodore Byron Smith willed the house to his daughter Mina B. (Smith) Walker in 1930. Mina B. Walker passed the family homestead down to her son Byron E. Walker in May, 1947. Byron and his wife Betty lived here until January 2001. This house had been in the Smith-Walker family for 189 years (1809-1998) making it the second oldest family-owned home in Fremont.

The original center-chimney colonial cape was expanded into a 2 ½ story house in 1875. At this time, an ell, stable, and the large existing barn were also built on to the house. After 1875 the Smith-Walker home became one of the most attractive, well-kept farms in the Fremont area, literally a showpiece. Ornate plant urns, an arbor walkway, and well-placed trees and bushes ornamented the grounds. The interior of the house was “Victorian-ized” with imported wallpaper, an ornate fireplace mantle, decorative plants and ferns, and elaborate Victorian furniture. During the 1940s and 1950s the Walkers operated a large turkey farm on the property. They also operated Walker’s Stables during the 1960s and 1970s, providing trail rides for horseback riding enthusiasts. In 2001, the home was purchased by Marvin Weed who has continued to renovate and restore the farm in order to preserve its long history.

Travelers along Route 107 enjoy seeing the resident horses Peanut, Alice and Buddy and enjoy the



beautiful holiday light display each year. The large festive tree in the barn is an annual holiday tradition born out of necessity: when renovations were being done to the interior there was no place to put a Christmas tree.

The Weeds have placed a Christmas tree in the barn doorway ever since.

Cover artwork by Nancy Murray; writeup courtesy of Matthew Thomas, adapted from the History of Fremont NH Olde Poplin An Independent NE Republic. Photo courtesy of Nancy Murray.