

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - OPENHOUSE ON JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>



The Moultonborough Heritage Commission will host a community open house at the historic Taylor House on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 12 noon, prior to and during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. Located at the center of Moultonborough Village, the Taylor House is an important community landmark, significant both for its history and for its architecture.

The Taylor House was built c. 1850 and then expanded and remodeled c. 1900 by James E. French, who resided at the property from 1871 until his death in 1919. French was a prosperous business owner who owned what is now known as the Old Country Store, and an influential public official with a distinguished record of public service at both local and state levels. His local legacy is closely tied to philanthropy, as funds provided by his will established the Moultonborough Public Library (built 1929). After his death, what was then known as the French house was acquired by Adele Blanchard in 1923, and the property passed through the women of that family to its last occupant, Adele Taylor.

The French-Taylor House is an important local example of a broad-gabled Greek Revival dwelling, which was enlarged by lifting the roof structure and by adding a new second story to both the main house and to the wing. The house features numerous character-defining features on both its exterior (wide corner boards, paired eaves brackets, screened side porch, lightning rods) and interior (woodwork and hardware). It retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association for the period of its enlargement to the present, and also retains significant structural and stylistic attributes from the period of its original construction, as seen in historic images.

The Town of Moultonborough purchased the Taylor property as a 'strategic buy' in 2014, and the Moultonborough Heritage Commission is now evaluating the condition of the building and seeking community input for its potential future uses. The house is located at 970 Whittier Highway (Route 25), across from Murphy's Village Store.