

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.305
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Pellet - Barrett House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Brown, Ezekiel - Tolman, Elisha House
<b>Address:</b>	5 Lexington Rd 13-15 Lexington Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	58, H9-12
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1675
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Georgian
<b>Use(s):</b>	Cobbler; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Governmental or Civic; Other Social; Shop Other; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DS: American Mile Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/06/1961); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wood Shingle Wall: Stucco; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Stone, Veneer Foundation: Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9-12

Concord

A

305

NR: DIS.; LHD



Concord

Neighborhood or village)

Concord center

5/7; 13/15 Lexington Road

Name Pellet/Barrett House; Ezekiel

Brown/Elisha Tolman House

Present multi-family dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction ca. 1670's/1728

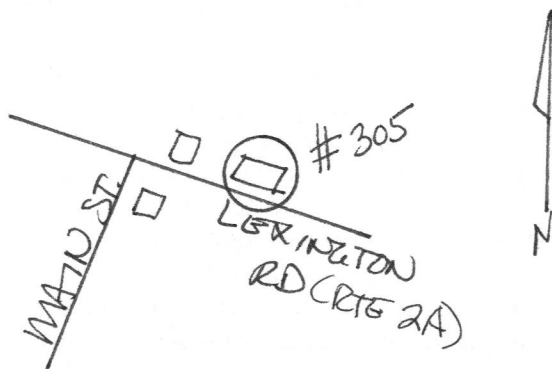
Deed research by Ruth Wheeler

Georgian

Architect/Builder unknown

## Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets, including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.



## Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone

Wall/Trim stucco and wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1-story rear

cottage, connected to house: 1929

(See also page 2.)

Condition excellent

Moved [X] no [ ] yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Opposite Wright Tavern, Hill Burying

Ground to rear Shallow front yard with

granite-block curbing Board fence to east

Recorded by Anne Forbes, consultant;  
research by Sally Dallas and Anne Forbes  
Organization Concord Hist. Commission

Date 10/20/94

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [X] *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

Although, from the exterior, it is obvious that this house is architecturally important for its early-eighteenth-century stuccoed, gambrel-roofed main section, the rear ell, (and/or possibly a corner of the main house), may date to the early 1670's. An understanding of its architecture, however, is obscured by some Colonial Revival renovations done in the 1920's. Further research will be required to determine to just what extent the building was changed at that time. The house as seen today is a large, complex structure of several sections, nearly filling its small lot. The main house of 1728/29 is a large 2 1/2-story center-chimney, 5- by 2-bay gambrel-roofed building. Its imitation-stone, stuccoed facade, the only example in Concord, is said to have inspired George Washington's "Mount Vernon." The windows of this section are large 6-over-6-sash in projecting frames, with molded crowns. The main entry, similar to that at the Dane House (47 Lexington Road--see Form #309), has a 6-panel door, five-pane transom, fluted pilasters, and a pedimented entablature with bolection molding in the frieze. Breaking the front roof plane above the facade is a pair of later gable-roofed dormers, also with 6-over-6-sash.

Abutting the west end of the main block is a short two-story wing. The windows here are similar to those on the main facade, although the pair at the second story are 6-over-9-sash. A door in the three-bay facade is a slightly recessed four-panel, with a flat surround and a lintel which matches the projecting window crowns. The cornice of the main house is boxed, with a bed molding below; the west wing has no cornice. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [X] *see continuation sheet*

*Explain history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The long and varied history of this building is believed to begin as early as the 1670's, as the 1676 will of Thomas Dane of 47 Lexington Road (see Form #309), left to his daughter, **Mary Dane Pellet**, this lot, "on which her house stands". (Former owners of the land had included first, the Rev. Peter Bulkeley, and after his death, Timothy and George Wheeler.) Mary Dane had married the church sexton, **Thomas Pellet**, and their house was probably a small, one-room structure. He was a poor man, whose duties included both caring for the meeting house and digging graves in the adjacent Hill Burying Ground.

In 1694 Thomas Pellet deeded the property to his son, **Samuel Pellett**, who sold it three years later to his brother, **Daniel Pellett**. In 1706, Daniel Pellet, who had succeeded his father as the church sexton, moved to Connecticut, and sold the house to **Josiah Blood**. Josiah Blood in turn gave it to his son, **Ephraim Blood**, in 1728, who sold it the same year to **Edward Flint**. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [X] *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: 1835, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns.  
Boston Evening Transcript. 3/11/1931.

Concord Directories and Assessor's Records.

Wheeler, Mrs. Caleb. "DAR Chapter House", The Concord Journal, March 24, 1938.

D.A.R.: manuscripts and deed research in CFL Special Collections: Pamphlet 57.

Jarvis. Houses & People in Concord. ca. 1884. (Cont.)

[X] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places\*. If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached. \*NR-listed 1977.



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

Pellett/Barrett House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)  
A

Form No.s  
~~307~~

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The main house is linked via the early one-story north rear ell to a one-story cottage of 1929. (13/15 Lexington Road) The cottage replaced a long shed, which was believed to have dated to the early eighteenth century. The cottage has a large, projecting, pedimented lobby entrance, with a wide 6-panel door, five-light transom, and 2/3-length sidelights. It appears to be a copy of the main house entry, with the same five-light transom, fluted pilasters, and bolection molding in the frieze; on the other hand the similarities may indicate that both entries are re-constructions of the Colonial Revival era. The windows are 6-over-6-sash, with one large 25-pane window east of the entry. The cottage has two exterior chimneys, one at each gable-end.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Although one D.A.R. source surmises that Josiah Blood built the entire house, Ruth Wheeler attributes the construction of the main part to Edward Flint and the next owner, **Benjamin Barrett**. Deeds show that Edward Flint, whose wife Love (Minot), was Benjamin Barrett's aunt, sold her nephew the houselot, then consisting of ten acres stretching west to Monument Street, with a partly-finished dwelling house and a barn in 1729. (This may indicate that Flint had taken apart and begun to reassemble the little Pellet house).

Benjamin Barrett, son of Benjamin Barrett of Barrett's Mill Road, was a blacksmith, and operated a blacksmith shop on the part of the lot that later became 23 Lexington Road. He completed the main house in its present center-chimney, 2 1/2-story form, and is believed to be the builder who applied the imitation-stone stucco siding to the facade.

Benjamin Barrett died in 1738, and his widow subsequently married Jonas Prescott of Westford. She kept the west half of the house, and transferred the east half to their son, **Benjamin Barrett, 3rd**, who had married Sarah Merriam of Lexington. They sold their share in 1772 to **Ezekiel Brown, Jr.** His father, **Ezekiel Brown, Sr.**, (b. 1720), had previously acquired the west half, possibly from Mrs. Barrett or her heirs, and subsequently conveyed it to Ezekiel, Jr.

Although his father appears to have been a relatively poor farmer, (he and his family were in fact "warned out" of Dunstable, and had a record of moving from town to town), at the time he acquired the house, **Ezekiel Brown, Jr.** (1744-1824), was evidently a successful merchant, or "trader." In the unstable economic times just prior to the Revolution, however, he mortgaged the property, and found himself unable to pay his extensive debts. His largest creditors were the owners of a British import house in Boston, Nathan Frazier and Frederick William Geyer, who succeeded in having him imprisoned in Boston in 1773. He remained there until Gen. Washington drove the British out of Boston in March of 1776. While in jail he studied medicine, and for last four years of the Revolution served as a surgeon in the Continental Army. Although in 1777 he had been chosen clerk of market and town tithing officer of Concord, at the war's end his lingering debts prevented him from re-engaging in trade, and he turned to the medical profession instead. Frazier and Geyer, though now back in London, still pursued him, however, and in 1786, Geyer's father-in-law, wealthy Concord resident Duncan Ingraham, acting as their agent, started proceedings that led to his being jailed again, this time in Concord, in 1787. (Both Dr. Brown and Duncan Ingraham had been founders of the Social Club, the forerunner of the Social Circle, and the conflict between them resulted in the disbanding of that organization for a short time.) After an escape from the Concord jail in 1788, Dr. Brown was moved to Cambridge, where he was finally released in 1789. The house and land, however, had officially become the property of his Tory creditors. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Concord

Pellet/Barrett House

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## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

During the years of Dr. Brown's imprisonment, the house had at least two tenants. Samuel Bartlett (1752-1821), a silversmith, moved to Concord from Boston in 1775, and worked here for the next twenty years. He apparently occupied this property for much of that time. He is best known for the communion silver he made for the First Church in Boston, as well as for churches in Groton, Westford, and Concord. The Concord communion set, which was made in 1793 with the bequest of John Cuming, who had died in 1788, is the largest surviving group of Bartlett's silver, and is believed to be his largest commission. Today all or most of it is in the Concord Museum. Also living here during the Revolution was Samuel Parkman, a prosperous Boston merchant, brother of Concord's first postmaster, William Parkman.

In 1792 Dr. Brown's remaining creditor, Frederick William Geyer, sold the house to **Abel Barrett**. He was also a merchant, best known as the keeper in the 1790's of the old "Green Store", a general store which, it is believed, he built on the part of the property where St. Bernard's Church (see Form #303) now stands. According to Jarvis, he left Concord after several years to enter a partnership in Boston with the wholesale firm of Richardson & Wheeler, the partners who may have owned #29 Lexington Road for a short time (see Form #307). Abel Barrett died in 1803 at the age of 33, and the property was apparently inherited by his six-year-old son, **Humphrey Barrett, 2nd**.

Over the next fifteen years the house was again rented out. Among the tenants was lawyer Thomas Heald (1768-1821), an early captain of the Concord Artillery, who had married Elizabeth Locke in 1800, and had several children here. He and his family moved to Alabama in 1813. They were followed by a Caleb Nurse, a tailor, who operated his tailor shop in the west wing of the house until his death.

Humphrey Barrett, 2nd died 1818. The property was sold that same year by his heirs, **Humphrey Barrett** (Abel's brother), and **Dorcas (Minot) Barrett**, sister of Humphrey, 2nd's mother, to **Elisha Tolman**, whose family remained here for nearly a hundred years. Born in Dorchester, Elisha Tolman was a shoemaker, and apparently did much of his shoemaking here in the house, probably in the west wing. A highly-respected citizen, he was a Deacon of the First Parish Church until his death in 1858 at the age of 87.

After the Deacon's death, the house was acquired by his son, **Benjamin Tolman**, a printer who had a business for many years on the south side of the Milldam, part of that time at #46 Main Street (see Form #14), and the rest in the building which stood on the site of #33 Main Street. It is likely that during his ownership the house was used as a stop in the "Underground Railroad" prior to the Civil War. He conveyed this property to his wife, **Ann J. Tolman** in the 1880's. More tenants occupied parts of the house in the latter part of the nineteenth century, including, in the former shoe-shop section, Mrs. Nancy Holden, followed in 1884 by Mrs. Hartwell Bigelow, (Mrs. Tolman's mother), and her son, George Bigelow. In 1908 Mrs. Tolman transferred the house to her daughter, **Agnes E. Smith** (wife of Nathan B. Smith), who immediately sold it to **Fred E. and Nora Z. Power**. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Property

Concord Pellet/Barrett House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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~~307~~

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

In 1909, the Powers sold the house to the **Old Concord Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution**, who established their headquarters here. This chapter had been founded as a result of the efforts of Mrs. Daniel Lothrop in 1894. It was the sixth to be formed in the state, and met at first at Mrs. Lothrop's home, the "Wayside" (see Form #171--NR). After this property was purchased, Mrs. Lothrop became the chapter's first regent, and the group set about repairing, restoring, and renovating the building. In 1929, under the leadership of Mrs. Horton Edmands, the new northeast addition was built.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Concord Museum files.

Gross, Robert. The Minutemen and their World. 1976.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."

Social Circle Memoirs: Ezekiel Brown, Thomas Heald.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord, Climate for Freedom.

Our American Mile.

Concord House Files.

"Mrs. Newell Garfield's House", manuscript in Concord House File L6.





2. Town Concord 305 58 6  
Street 3 Lexington ED 5-7 ✓  
Name? "DAR" House, PELLET HOUSE  
Original Use dwelling MEDIS-4/13/77 LTD. 3/6/61  
Present Use USGS - CONCORD SECT B  
Present Owner G.B. Bagley or Con. Chap. DAR?  
Date 1728 Style Georgian  
Source of Date Am. mile p. 34  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Literature Indians  
Music Development of Town/City

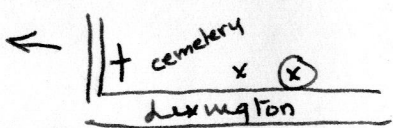
3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_  
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: fieldstone  
WALL COVER: Wood clapboard sides Brick Stone Other fake stone siding  
STORIES: 1 2/3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency N side, 2 story side gable roof Simple/Complex  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_  
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork 2 singles  
FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament  
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: pediment transom light, plaques  
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6  
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING little

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 15' including sidewalk  
Property has C. 64 feet frontage on street



Recorder Anne Wardwell  
For MHC  
68.924  
Photo I-18  
5.09 065.1.058

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

building 30x20, excluding wing

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Original old house probably single room, the kitchen now -  
owned by Thomas Pellett

1728 front section in plaster simulating stone like Mt Vernon,  
built by Benjamin Barrett, Blacksmith

Dr. Ezekiel Brown 1772 jailed by Boston Tories for non-payment.  
Failed until Boston was evacuated. Joined Am. Army as a surgeon  
after war practiced Concord.

While Brown was in jail, Saul Bartlett (silversmith) lived here.

Saul Parkman, Boston merchant + Concord's first postmaster lived  
here after escaping besieged Boston.

1909 Concord chapter DAR bought house

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

American p. 35

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds