

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hildreth, Jonathan House

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 8 Barrett's Mill Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Concord

N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA

county Middlesex

code 017

zip code 01742

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
1	sites
1	structures
2	objects
1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Judith B. McDonough 2/19/91
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission;
State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial/Georgian; New England
ColonialLate 19th Century Revival/Georgian Revival
Mixed

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Granite

walls Brick; Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Jonathan Hildreth House, Concord, Massachusetts is today the focal point of the rural residential intersection of Lowell and Barrett's Mill Roads, as it was late in the eighteenth century, when the main house was built. The surrounding vicinity (possibly eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as an historic district) is primarily one of eighteenth to late-nineteenth century wood-frame farmhouses on large open lots, shaded by tall trees. The Hildreth House is striking in the retention of its integrity of location and setting close to the northwest corner of the intersection, and its position is emphasized by a wooden fence that dates to the nineteenth century. The house is a hybrid structure, constructed in three building phases. The main section, which faces Barrett's Mill Road, is a large two-story clapboard "half-house" of the mid-eighteenth century. Extending to the west of the half-house is a long two-story clapboard wing, added in 1941 by architect Andrew H. Hepburn, owner and resident from 1922 through mid-twentieth century. The structure is completed by a diagonal line of three one-story clapboard sheds and garages abutting the rear of the half-house. Each section retains integrity of materials, workmanship, design, feeling and association to a remarkable degree--nearly intact in the main block and Hepburn portions, the other sections altered on the exterior by an additional side bay and bay window in the half-house, and by garage doors in the sheds.

Main house

The main house is a five-bay, two-room deep, two-story building with an asphalt hipped roof, double-paired interior end chimneys and two hip-roofed dormers above the facade. Clad on three sides in brick, (the facade laid in Flemish bond, the sides in common bond,) it is sheathed on the rear with wooden clapboards. A prominent water table of molded bricks forms a transition to the dressed granite foundation. Brick band-coursing divides first from second story on the facade; first floor windows are topped by flat arches of splayed stretchers. All other architectural trim is wood, in particular a heavy, deeply-cut modillioned cornice. Windows are twelve-over-twelve sash, and retain their early fixed-louvered blinds. The windows in the brick walls are set into molded wooden architraves.

The entry, which has a modillioned triangular pediment supported by flat, fluted Doric pilasters backed by a rusticated architrave, is a well-preserved

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illustration of a type found in 18th-century builders' guides. (Its Doric order and entablature are virtually identical to illustrations in Batty Langley's pocket guides.)¹ The wide, eight-paneled door has a paneled surround.

The east and west ends of the house have undergone some minor alteration. Their fenestration pattern is largely dictated by the wide expanse of the double chimney that dominates each wall--on both ends three windows flank the chimney flues at second-story level, and at the first story, a window is located near the rear corner. On the east wall, however, a twentieth-century glass-and-panel door at the southeast corner probably replaces a former window, and in the west wall, which has an original window in each corner, a third window was changed to a multi-light door ca. 1941. At the northeast corner of the rear facade, the only wall of the main house sheathed in clapboards, an early six-panel door has been clapboarded over in the twentieth century. (This door is reputed to have opened onto a passage leading to the Hildreth store, which was built "projecting into the road" to the rear of the house.)²

The plan of the main house is the four-room "double-pile" type, with a central stair hall, typical of the high Georgian period. (See sketch plan.) The stair hall is not a through-passage, however, ending midway through the house, with an enclosed service stair behind. (What appears to have been a second service stair rising to the back of the house has been altered to a china closet.) Mid-twentieth century interior alterations include the reduction of the rear northwest first-story room to accommodate a long full-length closet, with bookshelves on its outer wall, and the construction of two bathrooms and closets on the second story--one across the rear of the southwest chamber, the other in the northeast chamber. The chimneys were reconstructed in 1938.

The interior of the main house is lavishly decorated with late Georgian molded wainscoting, molded and paneled chimneypieces with typically Georgian overmantels and compound crown moldings. The ornamentation of each room is different; the most elaborate room is the southeast parlor, which is embellished with a mantel shelf, window seats, paneled interior blinds and paneled wainscoting. Interior blinds and window seats also appear in the southwest parlor blinds in the southeast chamber, and plain board wainscoting in all other first floor rooms and stair hall. The rear northeast first-story room, or "clock room," according to Jonathan Hildreth's inventory,³ has a deep hearth with a bake oven that retains its early iron cover with hammered handle. Most of the fireplace wall here is filled with raised-field paneling and paneled cupboard doors. The only significant alteration to this room is an early one--the addition of a mid-nineteenth century cast iron Franklin stove embellished with Ionic columns, rosettes and a pair of gryphons. In contrast to the raised-field paneling and molded overmantels in the rest of

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the house, the fireplace treatment of the southwest parlor and chamber above it is more Federal in style. In each of these rooms, the high overmantel is replaced by a low mantel, supported on simple, recessed-paneled pilasters. The stair hall has a two-part stair with molded rail, square stick balusters and a newel post of the Tuscan-column type, with a square, molded top. The stair hall has one of the most elaborate crown moldings, with a meander motif at its base.

Rear ell, or "half-house"

The rear ell is a small two-story house dating to the mid-eighteenth century, (builder unknown) and is the most altered of all parts of the building. It is a pitch-roofed, wood clapboard house, with its facade facing east towards Lowell Road. The windows are six-over-nine and six-over-six wood sash; the facade entry displays a four-light transom and molded, sloping hood. The door is six-panel, with a shallow-molded surround. Originally a three-bay half-house, probably of one-room plan with stair hall and chimney against the north endwall, this section was elongated in 1941 by an additional north bay, and later altered by the insertion of an oriel bay window beside the door. A one-story shed-roofed extension on its west side was demolished ca. 1941.

The most intact room in this section is the second-story chamber, where, although the fireplace has been plastered over, an entire wall of raised-field paneling and four-panel doors remains. Boxed beams and posts are also still intact, but a wall was inserted across the south end of the room ca. 1941.

Except for the retention of some boxed beams and posts, the first floor of this section has been completely altered. The original stairway has been removed, the interior remodeled for a kitchen three times since 1940 and the paneling of the fireplace wall removed to another location in Concord.

Andrew Hepburn additions

A pitch-roofed, two-story west wing, with a loggia connecting it to the main house, abuts the rear of the earlier section. This section and the north bay of the half-house, which date to 1941, are the work of architect Andrew H. Hepburn. Hepburn, one of the foremost restoration architects of this century, bought the property in 1922. With William Perry and Thomas Mott Shaw, (another Concord resident,) he formed the firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn in 1923, and is best known for the firm's restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, during the later 1920s and 1930s under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation. The firm continued until 1950, after which the original three partners associated with various others into the 1960s. Among Hepburn's early associations was Guy Lowell, with whom he remodeled a small office building at 120 Water Street, Boston. A master of Colonial restoration, Hepburn's personal work is perhaps illustrated most clearly here at the Hildreth House, where he was able to make alterations unfettered by the demands of partners or clients.

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The long facade of the wing is four-bays wide, with three pairs of French doors at first story level, and four fifteen-light casement windows above, the multiplicity of the small panes echoing the feeling of the windows in the two earlier sections of the house. The rear north wall also has casement windows at the second story; the west endwall has two nine-over-nine wood sash at the first story, with casements above. Hepburn repeated some elements of Reuben Duren's building, such as sloping window hoods from the rear facade, throughout both the wing and the extended north bay of the half-house. In the loggia, he used copies of Duren's entry pilasters to flank another trio of French doors. The west wing and north bay contain a large living room, two bedrooms, two baths, a cloakroom, dressing room, service stair and a stair hall which incorporates a copy of Duren's main staircase. (See sketch plan.) Antique Zuber wallpaper taken from a house in New Hampshire graces the living room.

In the 1940s Hepburn and his son, Andrew Hepburn, also an architect, designed and built a little pyramid-roofed summerhouse, located just to the west of the family rose garden, (the garden was replaced in the 1970s by a swimming pool, surrounded by perennial borders.) The summerhouse is a square, wood-framed building with sliding sash over wainscoting on three sides, and a fifteen-light glass door with divided sidelights on the front. It is set on an angle within another square of delicate Ionic columns and pilasters which were originally part of a Greek Revival house in Arlington. The roof is wood shingle.

Extending diagonally northward from the rear section of the half-house is a line of attached one-story clapboard sheds--a pitch-roofed section, a hip-roofed carriage house, (now with twentieth-century garage doors) said to have been built in the early 1880s by a Hildreth son-in-law⁴, and a twentieth-century garage beyond, its flat roof replaced by a pitched roof in 1989. An early smokehouse and privy between the house and first shed were demolished and replaced with a laundry area during the 1941 alterations. (The presence of nineteenth-century clapboarding on inside walls indicates that the sheds were originally separated from the house.)

A large two-story barn that was located north of the sheds was removed some time in the second quarter of this century.

The wooden fence that wraps around the southeast corner of the property is of a type characteristic of the early part of the nineteenth century, and appears in photographs from as early as the 1870s.⁵ Punctuated by large, square, molded posts (those flanking the main entry gate are crowned with wooden balls) it has square wooden balusters and an arched entry gate. A large swinging gate that was formerly situated across a cart path at the fence's western end has been replaced in the twentieth century by a stone wall.

(continued)

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Archaeological Description

While no sites have been recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. Twenty-six sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the property, part of a large well drained terrace surrounded on three sides by the Assabet River and two of its tributaries, indicate favorable locational criteria for native settlement and subsistence activities. Given the above information, sites may be present, however, the property's potential for significant survivals is reduced by its small size (2 acres) and historic development.

There is a high potential for significant historic archaeological remains on the property. Controlled testing and excavation can determine whether or not structural survivals remain of the large two-story barn originally located north of the sheds, the general store, which projected into the road to the rear of the house, and a smokehouse originally located between the house and first shed. Similar research might also determine the location of occupational-related features (trash pits, privies, wells) associated with the house. One early privy is mentioned near the smokehouse noted above.

(end)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1780-1941

Significant Dates

1783-1790

1941

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Duren, Reuben; Hepburn, Andrew H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Jonathan Hildreth House, Concord, Massachusetts is the most prominent representative of the development of Concord's earliest secondary village outside of the town center. By building the main house and a general store just after the American Revolution at the intersection of the Old Groton Road, (later Lowell Road) and the route to Barrett's Mills, Jonathan Hildreth created the hub of a building cluster that by the early nineteenth century included an inn, a blacksmith shop, cooperage and over a dozen houses. The property is also important for its architectural significance. The main house is an outstanding illustration of late Georgian domestic architecture as interpreted by a rural master-builder, Reuben Duren; the 1941 additions represent the work of a prominent twentieth-century restoration architect, Andrew H. Hepburn, as interpreted in his own residence. With the integrity of location, association, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling intact, the property thus fulfills National Register Criteria A and C on the local level.

By the time of the American Revolution, the town of Concord was a thriving farming community, with one major village center and a few outlying mills along its waterways, (one of which, Barrett's Mill, was located a half-mile to the west of this property at the point where Spencer Brook flowed into the Assabet, or North, River). One of the town's earliest through-routes was the Groton Road, (now Lowell Road) which originated at the town center, crossed the Concord River, and ran through the flat area of the north part of town known as "the Plain", and thence to Westford and Groton. By the second quarter of the eighteenth century another well-traveled road led west from the Groton Road to Barrett's Mill and the large Barrett farm. An inn was built on the south side of the intersection by late in the century, and farms were strung along both roads on the fertile land of the Plain. It was at the northwest corner of this intersection that Jonathan Hildreth (1753-1818), a Lieutenant and sutler (provisioner to the army post) during the war, bought a small two-story farmhouse, (now the rear ell) built a high-style brick residence and established the general store that served the people of the

☒ See continuation sheet

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Plain and the surrounding area for the next century. The north quarter of town was especially isolated in winter and flood season, as the bridge over the river was often impassable, cutting off access to the center of town. The store was thus an important factor in ensuring the self-sufficiency of this section of Concord. Along with the Hildreth store, residents near the intersection operated a blacksmith and at least one cooper shop, and by 1830 a district school was located just to the west, near Barrett's Mill. By the late nineteenth century there was a carpenter and cobbler shop here as well. Although many stylish late-eighteenth century clapboard and brick-ended residences were built at the town center, the large house of the "trader" Hildreth was unusually grand for an outlying district, and became the focal point of the little community. The store building, (burned down early in this century) which stood close to the road behind the main house, was a gathering place for decades, where the menfolk, in particular, would congregate in the evenings for a game of checkers by the warmth of the stove.⁶ The store and the house, together with the considerable land holdings Jonathan Hildreth acquired around the intersection, gave the name of Hildreth's Corner(s) to the vicinity, a term which lasted well into the twentieth century.

By the time Jonathan Hildreth died in 1818, he had acquired considerable land in Concord and the surrounding towns, farming much of the acreage near his home on the Plain. As well as operating the store and farm, he manufactured potash, bellows and barrels. Jonathan's sons, in particular George W. Hildreth, continued to operate the store (after George's death, it was taken over by his son, George Franklin). Jonathan Hildreth, Jr., who lived in the east side of the house with his sister, Nancy, was well-respected in his own right, serving as selectman from 1822-1829, and later represented Concord in the legislature. He operated the farm until his death in 1862.

Architecturally, the Jonathan Hildreth House is significant as one of a small number of houses known to have been built by regional architect/builder Reuben Duren, (1746-1821). A resident of Bedford until 1792, Duren designed and built the Timothy Jones House, the Pickman House and in the early to mid-1790s, the Penniman-Stearns House, (a clapboard house with a facade nearly identical to the Hildreth House) all in Bedford. In Concord, Duren is credited with a large brick house on Main and Walden Streets. Later Duren houses are characterized by the masterly execution of the Georgian idiom, evidenced in their heavy proportions, and in a variety of details inspired by eighteenth-century British builder's guides. Likely inspirations for the Hildreth newel post and the main entries at the Hildreth, Pickman and Penniman-Stearns Houses, for instance, can be found in Batty Langley.⁷ Many of these details also have parallels in the early work of Samuel McIntire, suggesting that Duren may have had close contact with McIntire or other master builders of Boston or Salem.⁸

The significance of the building's architecture is enhanced, rather than

(continued)

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Hildreth, Jonathan House,
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diminished, by its more recent history and alterations. After over 120 years of unbroken ownership by Hildreth and his descendants, the house was owned briefly by a neighbor, Theophilus Mason, then purchased and used for a few years as a summer residence by Charles Carter, president of the Burlington and Ohio Railroad, and sold in 1922 to architect Andrew H. Hepburn. Hepburn was soon to become known as a master in his own right of Colonial restoration architecture. He is best known for this work with the firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn which he established with William Perry and Thomas Mott Shaw in 1923, just after his purchase of this house.

In contrast to Hepburn's Concord residence, which illustrated that architect's penchant for the English Revival and Arts and Crafts styles when it came to designing a house for himself, Hepburn's approach to the 1941 Hildreth House additions was primarily a complement to, and reinterpretation of, Duren's high Georgian style. He repeated Duren's pilasters, moldings, doors, wainscoting and staircase in the western wing and loggia. Even in extending the earlier half-house by one bay Hepburn copied the existing windows.⁹ The additions are thus significant as a superb illustration of one mid-twentieth century architect's response to the work of another master builder who lived 150 years earlier.

(continued)

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Archaeological Significance

Although numerous prehistoric sites have been recorded in the Concord, Sudbury, and Assabet River drainages (which meet less than one-half mile southeast of the house), few sites have been systematically excavated in the area limiting their interpretable value and making surviving sites in the area potentially significant. The location of the Hildreth House near the confluence of the rivers noted above adds to the potential significance of any sites.

Historic archaeological remains described above have the potential for providing detailed information on the social, cultural, and economic patterns that characterized the inhabitants of the house and the development of Concord's earliest secondary village outside of the town center. Archaeological survivals, particularly occupational-related features, may provide considerable data on individual and community development of "the plain" since the house and early store were a focal point for the area and attracted many local residents.

(end)

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ENDNOTES

¹Batty Langley. The Builder's Jewel. (London: Tiranti & Co, 1747 and 1769.)

²J.S. Keyes. House in Concord. (Concord: unpublished manuscript, 1885,) p. 100.

³Massachusetts Registry of Probate, Docket # 11349.

⁴Keyes, House in Concord., p. 100.

⁵Interview with Andrew Hepburn, December 5, 1988.

⁶Clark, Gladys. Interviewed by Renee Garrelick, July, 1977 and July, 1981.

⁷Langley, The Builder's Jewel.

⁸Kimball, Fiske. Mr. Samuel McIntire, Carver, Architect of Salem. (Gloucester, Smith & Co., 1940.) Figs. 4, 46, 51, 53, 73, 74, 255.

⁹Hepburn, Andrew. Architectural Plans for the Hildreth House Additions. 1941. (Fifteen sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission;
Concord Free Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 2 acres

UTM References

A 19 305540 4704930
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the National Register property are determined by the legal boundaries of the parcel, as described in the property deed. They remain unchanged since a legal determination made in 1922, and are essentially those historically associated with the Hildreth homestead.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne McCarthy Forbes, Consultant with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 20, 1990
street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone 617-727-8470
city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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1977, 1981

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1882.

Keyes, John. House in Concord. Concord: unpublished file, 1885.

Langley, Batty, with Langley, Thomas. The Builder's Jewel. London: Tiranti
& Co., 1747 and 1769.

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Shattuck, Lemuel. History of the Town of Concord. Boston: Russell Odiorne,
1835.

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Wheeler, Ruth. Concord: Climate for Freedom. Concord: Antiquarian Society,
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_____. Concord House Files. Concord: unpublished file, 1960's.

(end)

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Hildreth, Jonathan House,
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The County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bounded and described as follows:

Easterly by Lowell Road three hundred seventy-nine and 82/100 (379.82) feet;
Southeasterly by the junction of said Road and Barrett's Mill Road, measuring on the Northwesterly line thereof fifty-five and 71/100 (55.71) feet;
Southerly by said Barrett's Mill Road, by several lines measuring together one hundred forty-eight and 17/100 (148.17) feet;
Westerly by land now or formerly of Louis A. Sohler, by several lines measuring together three hundred sixty-one and 31/100 (361.31) feet; and
Northerly by land now or formerly of David C. Garrett, by several lines measuring together two hundred and 86/100 (200.86) feet.

All of said boundaries are determined by the Court to be located shown upon plan numbered 8431 A. which will be filed with the original certificate of title issued on this decree, the same being compiled from plan drawn by Leonard C. Robinson, Engr., dated August 16, 1921, and additional data on file in the Land Registration Office, all as modified and approved by the Court.

(end)

8431A

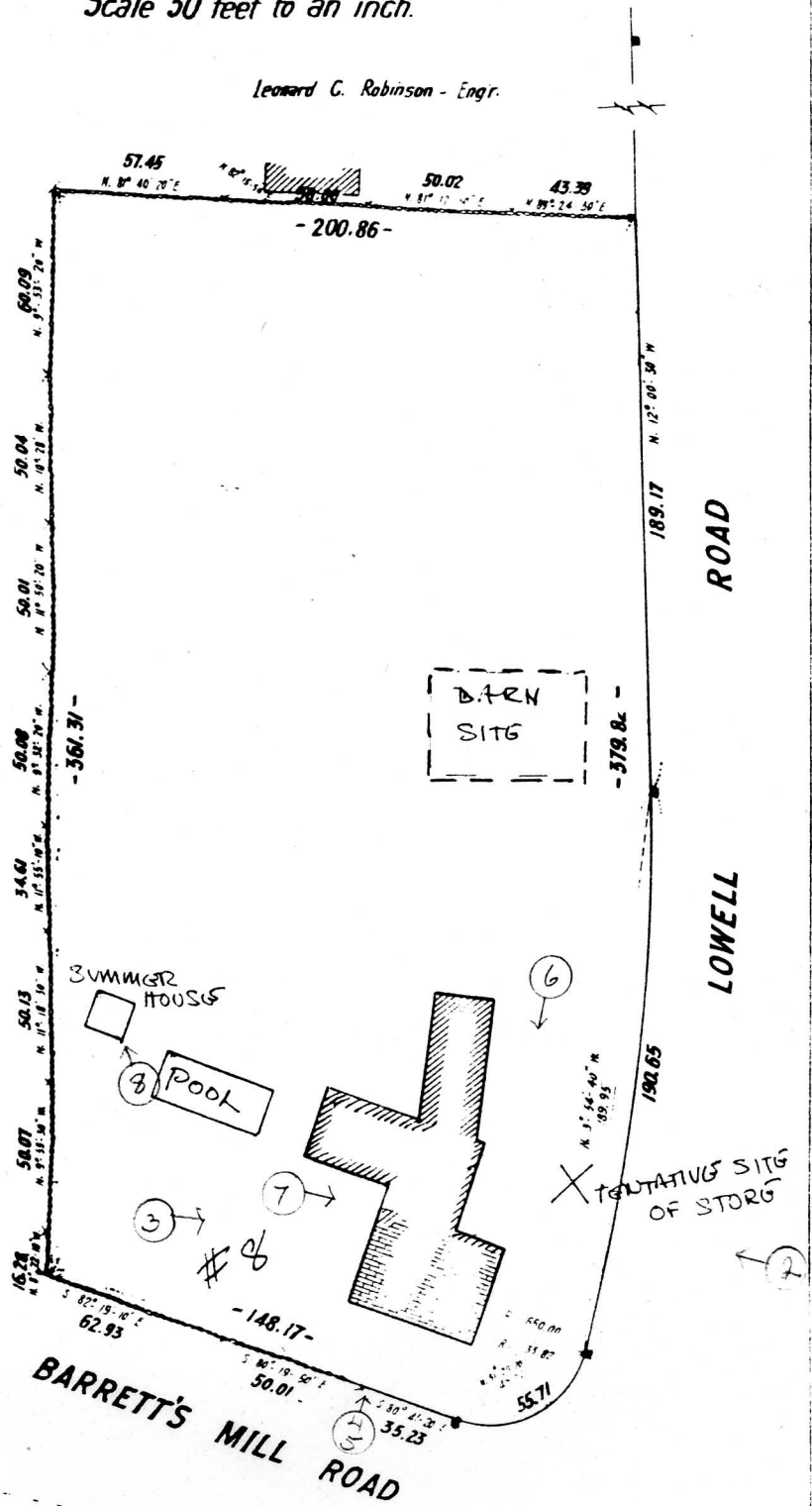
Plan of Land in Concord Scale 30 feet to an inch.

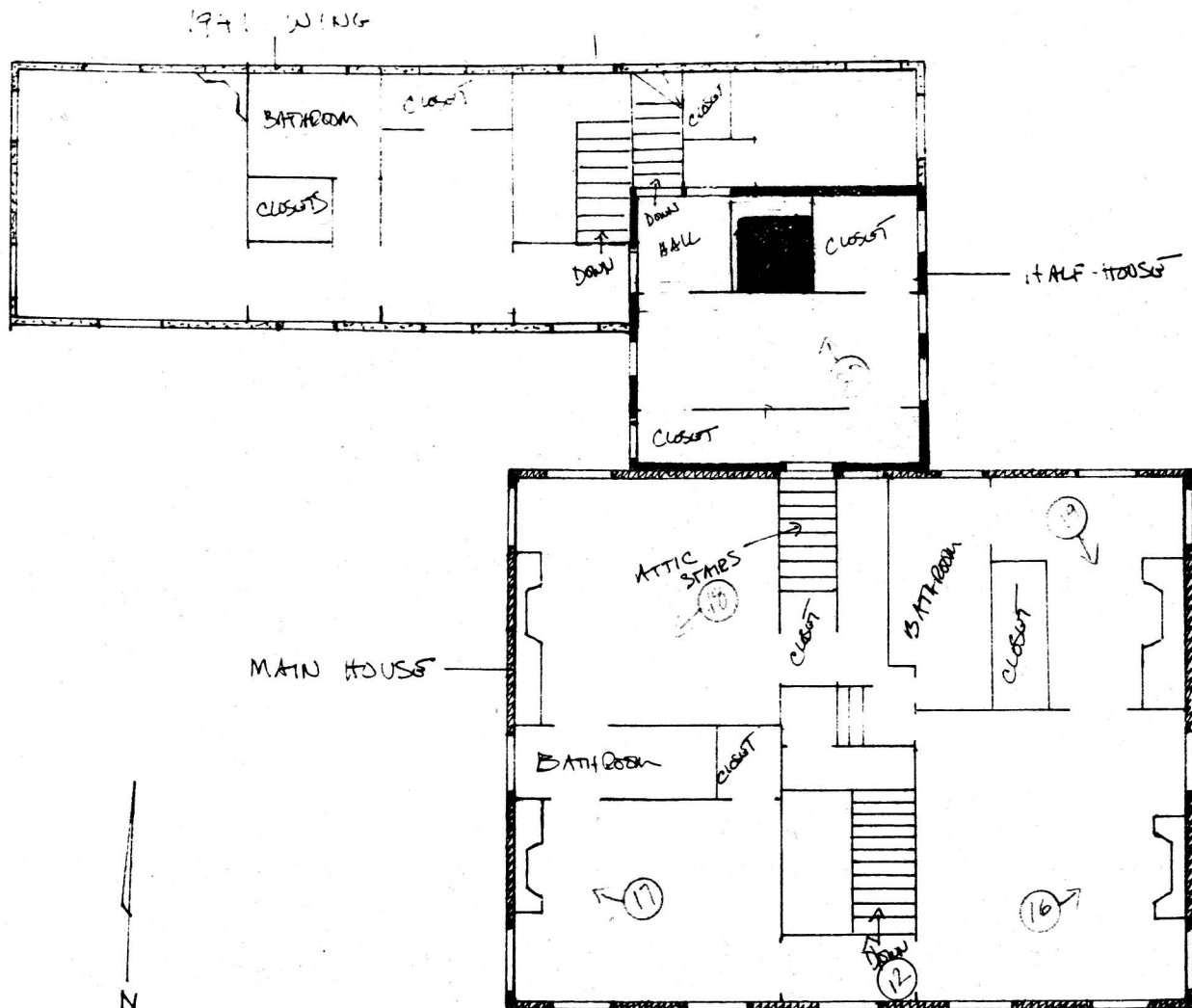
Leonard C. Robinson - Engr.



JONATHAN HILDRETH HOUSE
& BARRETT'S MILL RD.
CONCORD, MA

- EXTERIOR PHOTO #'S ARE CIRCLED



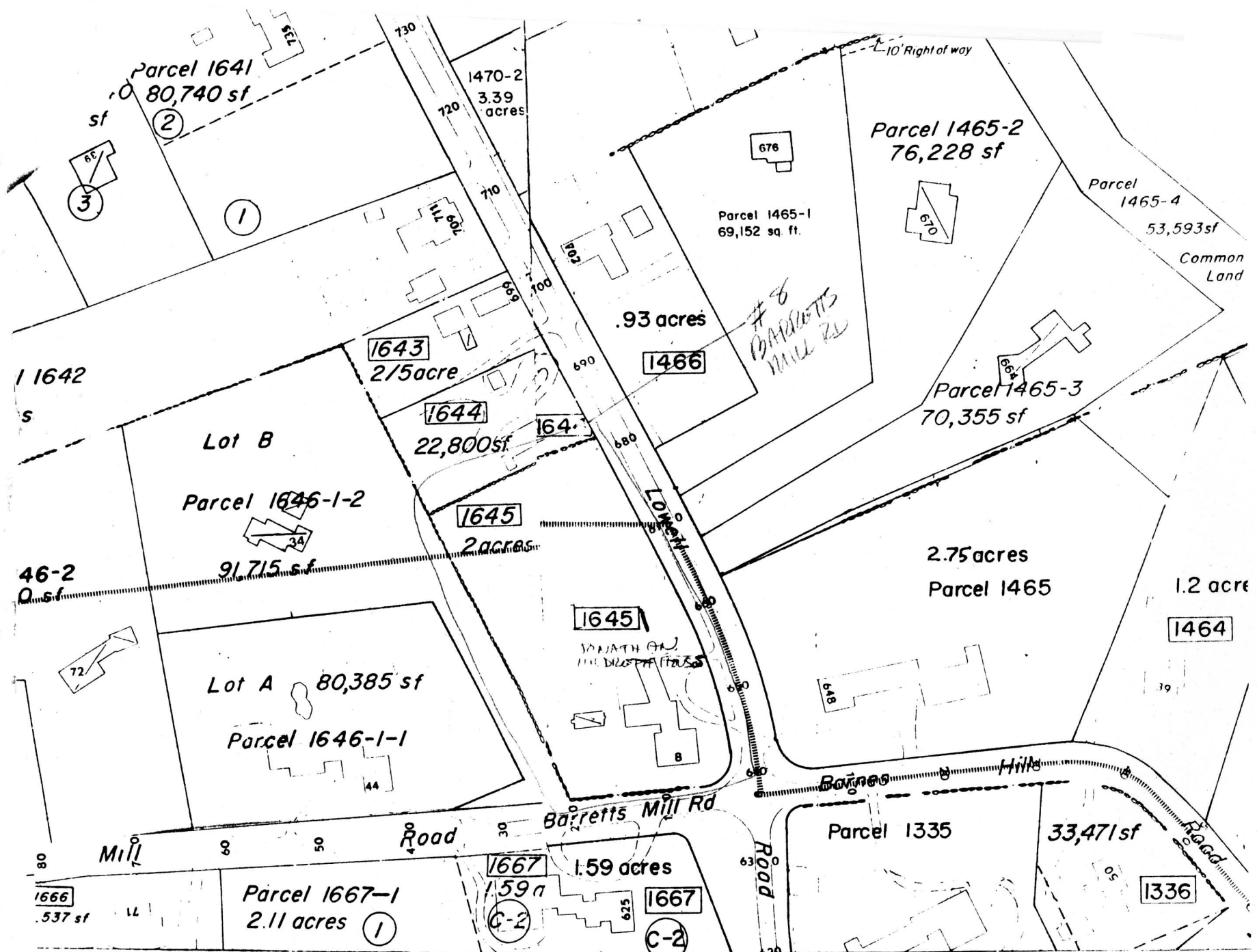


JONATHAN HILDRETH HOUSE - Second Story

1989

- not to scale

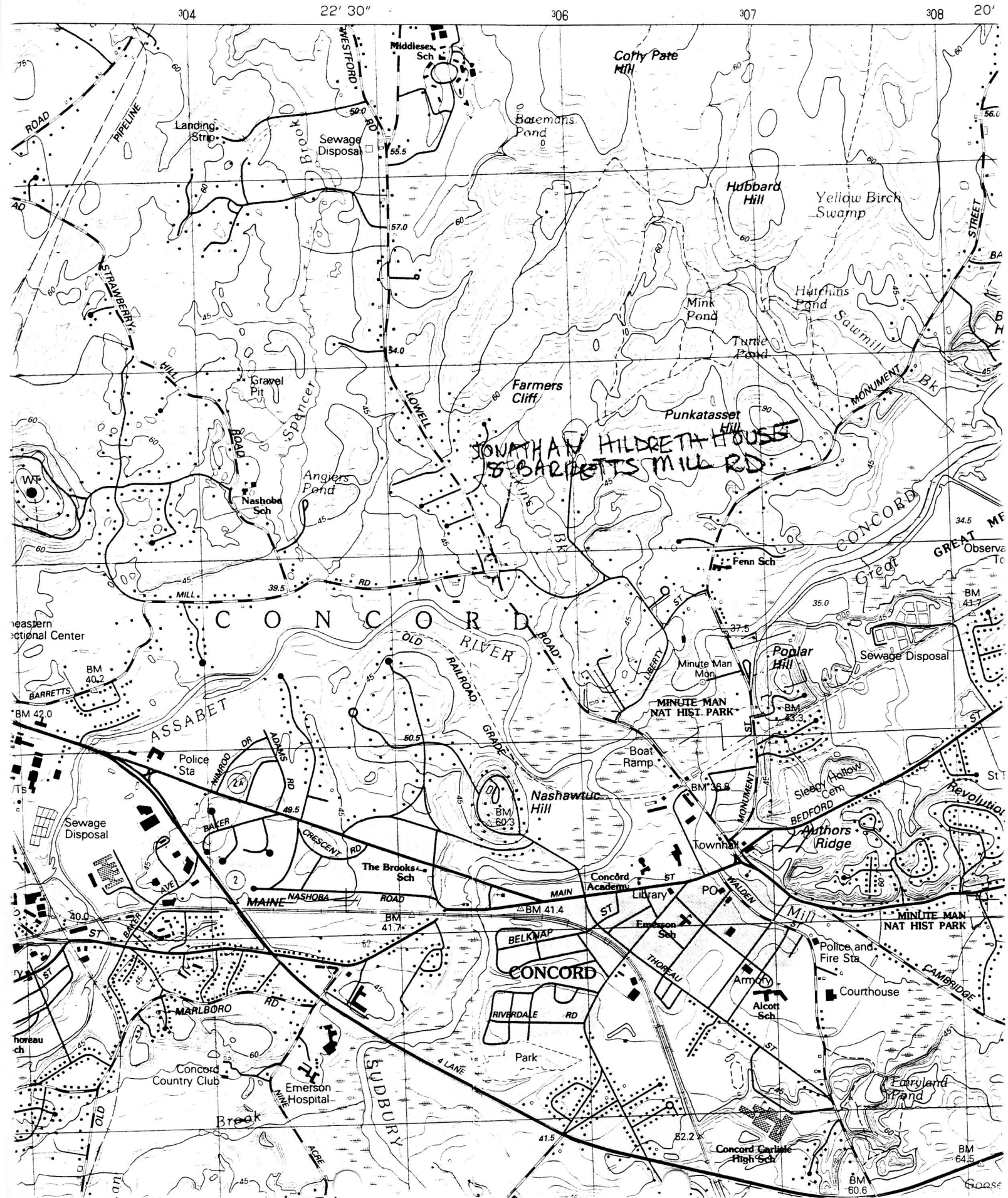
- interior photo #'s are circled



TOWN OF CONCORD
Concord Massachusetts

CONCORD MASSACHUSETTS

Jonathan Hildreth House
19 305540 4704930





1. Jonathan Hildreth House, looking northwest. (Photograph: Anne Forbes, 1989)



2. Looking west toward half house. (Photograph: Anne Forbes, 1989)



3. Looking northeast. (Photograph: Anne Forbes, 1989)

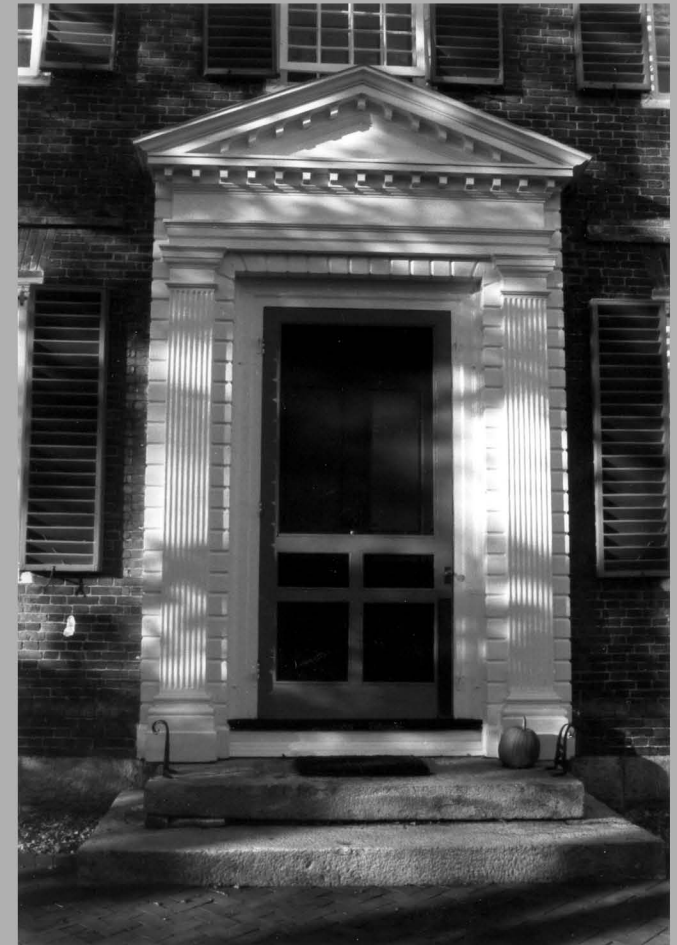
Jonathan Hildreth House, Concord (Middlesex Co.), MA



[4. Principal elevation, ca. 1989]



6. Looking south (1988)



5. Main Entry, south facade (1988)

Jonathan Hildreth House, Concord (Middlesex Co.), MA



7. Loggia, looking east. (1989)



8. Summerhouse, looking northwest. (March 1989)



9. Southeast parlor, east wall. (1989)

Jonathan Hildreth House, Concord (Middlesex Co.), MA



10. Southeast parlor: detail, east wall. (1989)



20. Second-story chamber in half-house: north wall (1989)



11. Main stair hall: newel post (1989)

Jonathan Hildreth House, Concord (Middlesex Co.), MA

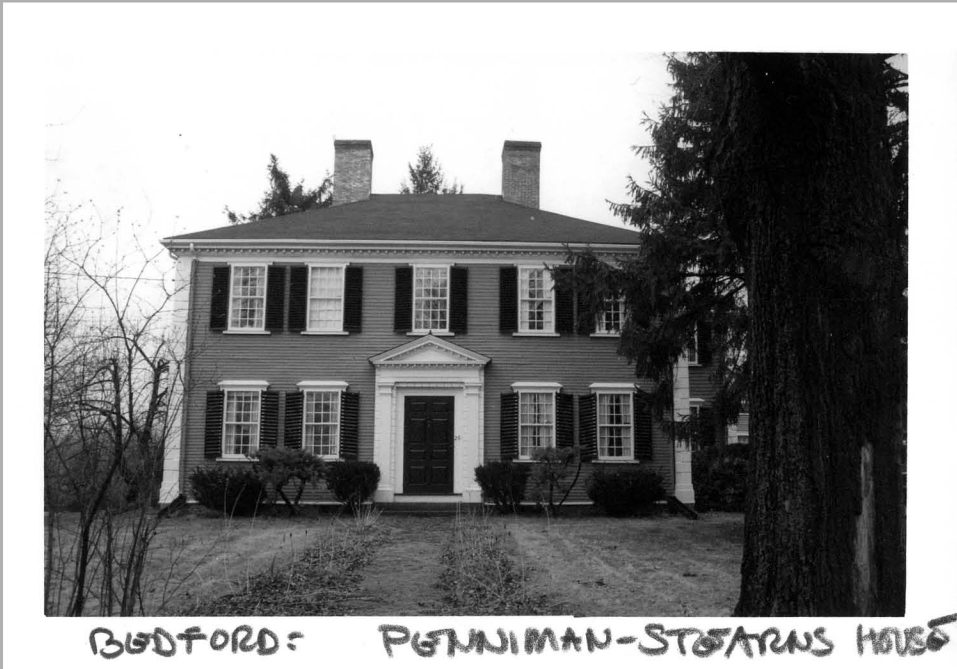


A. Pickman House, Dudley Road, Bedford (1989)



Bedford = Timothy Jones House

C. Timothy Jones House, 231 Concord Rd, Bedford [BED.4] (1989)



Bedford = Penniman-Stearns House

B. Penniman-Stearns House, 26 Great Rd, Bedford [BED.27] (1989)