

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.78
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Harlow, Andrew Jackson House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	12 Elm St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-1719
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1880
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Queen Anne
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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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)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-1719

CONCORD

DU

78

CONCORD

Town

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

12 Elm Street

SS

Historic Name AJ Harlow House;  
Tower House  
dwelling

Present dwelling

Original ca. 1880 (1876)

of Construction Keys; maps; visual

e assessment

Form Queen Anne

ect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard  
and shingle

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures garage

Major Alterations (with dates) 1-story  
addition, NE rear; rear shed dormer,  
terrace.

Condition good

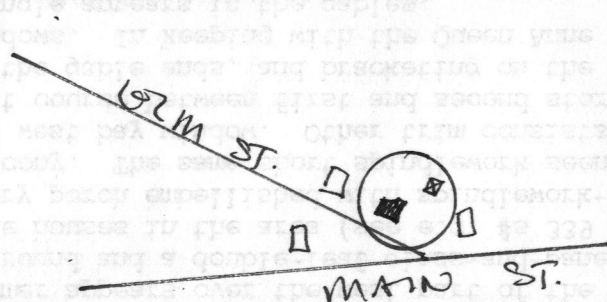
Moved ☐ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting In residential district of  
late-19th-century houses at town center.  
On open lot facing intersection of Main  
and Elm Streets. Iron work fence at front  
with granite posts and curbing.

## 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.



Recorded by A. Forbes  
research and historical state-  
ment by Carla Garbarino  
for Concord Hist. Commission  
Organization

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

# BUILDING FORM

CON-78

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

One of several stylish Queen Anne houses built in the vicinity during the 1880's, this building is 2 1/2-stories, with two large ridge chimneys, a two-story rear wing, and a two-story single-bay extension on the east end. A tall polygonal bay window projects from the facade under a large patterned-shingle gable; a one-story bay window is located on the west end. The Queen Anne sculptural quality of the house is further enhanced by the inset of the end roof gables, so that the main roof "kicks" out on the ends. The windows are 2-over-2-sash, with complex molded surrounds, shutters, and heavy shingled hoods at the first story. A hip-roofed dormer appears over the west part of the facade. The main entry has a molded surround and a double-leaf glass-and-panel door, similar to those on the other Queen Anne houses in the area (see e.g. #s 339 and 349 Main Street.) Here there is a wide entry porch embellished with spindlework--in its posts, balustrade, and roof balcony. The same short spindlework seen at the balcony is repeated on the roof of the west bay window. Other trim consists of some subdued stickwork, including a belt course between first and second stories, a sill board, pierced verge boarding at the gable ends, and bracketing on the house corners, roof lines, and bay windows. In keeping with the Queen Anne interest in textural contrasts, patterned shingle appears in the gables.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the 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.*

This pretty Queen Anne Victorian on the river was built around 1880 by **Andrew Jackson Harlow** (1824-1891). Although he first moved to Concord at age 19, Harlow left only a few years later to manage ticket offices for various railroads in upstate New York and western Massachusetts. He later became the general New England agent for the Michigan Central Railroad, where he remained for 18 years. (He apparently moved back to Concord during this period.) He was here by at least 1878, when he began a two-year term as Selectman. He also served on the Cemetery Committee for fifteen years. In 1886, possibly through his railroad connections, he "engaged a palace car" and conducted an excursion to California for several Concord residents. His Social Circle memoir says of this house, "we must all admit that it looks as if it was washed and swept every morning, and as if each particular plant was under bonds to keep it in its proper shape and place." According to Keyes, Julius M. Smith (see #398 Main Street) also occupied the house in the 1880's.  
(Cont.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1903.  
Miller, Marian, and Tower, Frederick. A History of Trinity Church, 1884-1962. 1970.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Richardson.  
Town directories.  
Social Circle Memoirs.

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

AJ Harlow House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)    Form No.  
78

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

After Andrew Harlow's death the property was acquired by **Alonzo Tower** (1837-1905). He was a partner, along with Henry Walcott of 340 Main Street, in C. Brigham Co., milk contractors, in Boston, which collected milk from farmers along the line of the Boston & Albany Railroad and sold it to Boston dealers. He had begun in the tailoring business on Main Street, and later owned the grain elevator at the Fitchburg Depot. He was also vice-president in the Concord, Maynard, and Hudson Street Railway. Alonzo's son, Fred A. Tower (1871-1959), also lived in the house. Fred worked for the U.S. Weather Bureau in Boston, and later became Concord's Postmaster (1899.) Shortly after the Towers moved here he built a weather tower next to the river on this property, from which he acted as local weather observer for the Weather Bureau. His Concord Weather Station also served the local community, as it flew blue, black, red, and white flags from a flagstaff to designate the expected weather conditions. Fred Tower was very active in Trinity Church, serving as its treasurer. He was also its organist and choirmaster, and started a short-lived boy's choir in 1896. In 1935 he wrote the first history of the church.

The Towers also invested in local real estate. Their name is mentioned in connection with at least four other houses on Main Street near River, which they either occupied themselves or rented out.

The next owner of this house was Boston attorney **George P. Furber**, who bought it between 1905 and 1909. He lived here until his death in 1919, and sometime thereafter it was purchased by a **Dr. Wentworth**.



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

CON-78  
Property Address  
12 Elm Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	78

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible    ☐ Eligible only in a historic district  
☒ Contributing to a potential historic district    ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:    ☒ A    ☐ B    ☒ C    ☐ D

Criteria Considerations:    ☐ A    ☐ B    ☐ C    ☐ D    ☐ E    ☐ F    ☐ G

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This building meets the criteria for listing as part of a National Register District for its contribution to the varied late-nineteenth-century residential architecture on lower Elm Street. It is also eligible for its association with two of the most prominent citizens of the period, A.J. Harlow and Alonzo Tower. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.