

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.395
Historic Name:	Elwell, Capt. David - Emmott, George J. House
Common Name:	Wheeler House
Address:	18 River St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-708
Year Constructed:	c 1856
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival; Italianate
Use(s):	Parsonage; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.AE: River Street Area CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard 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

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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

G9-708

CONCORD

AE

395

CONCORD

LHD-312/62



Neighborhood or village)

SECT B

Concord Center

P.O.

18 River Street

Name Elwell cottage/Emmott House;
Asst. Minister's residence
dwelling

Present dwelling

Original ca, 1856-59

Construction Keyes/Tolman; visual assessment,
maps

Form Greco-Italianate

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

1-car garage

Major Alterations (with dates) north ell

raised to 2 stories; dormer and exter.

chimney on E. 2-story rear extension.

Condition fair

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date ca. 1893

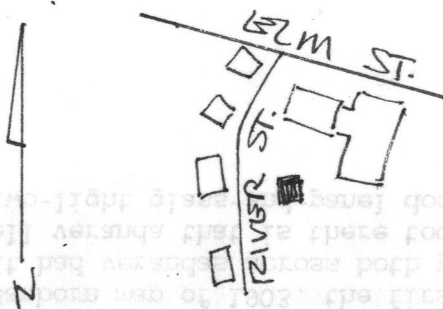
Acreage less than one acre

Setting In residential district of

late-19th-century houses at town center.
Episcopal church to NW.

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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

#18 River Street, although somewhat altered, is still a faithful representation of one type of tiny 1 1/2-story "gable-and-ell" cottage of the mid-19th century. Its fully-sidelighted entry and three-part facade windows survive from the Greek Revival period; the windows even retain the wide blinds that once closed over them. These features, as well as the building's overall proportions, betray it as the mirror-image companion to #48 Elm Street, its former next-door neighbor. Both houses also display an ell veranda on openwork posts, and simple early cornice bracketing. The Sanborn map of 1903, the first to show the building at this location, indicates that it had verandas across both parts of the facade, while #48 Elm Street had only the ell veranda that is there today. The original first story of #18's north ell has a two-light glass-and-panel door, flanked by two 6-over-6-sash windows.

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 little house and its companion still standing at #48 Elm Street are significant as the first residential construction on Elm Street at Concord center. According to Keyes, the pair of cottages was built by Samuel G. Wheeler on land he reclaimed between Elm Street (formerly Great Road) and the river in the 1850's. Wheeler had acquired the old Willard/Lee farm in 1852, and supposedly built the two houses for his farmhands. According to Grindall Reynolds, however, Wheeler sold the farm to Capt. David Elwell, a retired sea captain, in 1856, and since these houses do not appear on the 1856 map, it can be assumed that it was Elwell, and not Wheeler, who had them built.

In 1859 the main farmhouse west of the river burned down, and Elwell sold the farm to the family that was responsible for beginning the residential development of lower Elm Street. Deed research will be necessary to trace which of the three Hurd brothers, Joseph, Charles H., and William F., owned each part of the property in a given year. In any case, by the early 1870's William Hurd had acquired most of the land in the vicinity of lower Elm Street east and south of the Sudbury River, where he soon laid out house lots from Main Street to the bridge. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: on Elm St.: 1871, 1875, 1889; on River St.: Sanborns from 1903.
Miller, Marian, and Tower, Frederick. A History of Trinity Church, 1884-1962.
1970.

Keyes/Tolman.

Town directories.

Little, David. "Concord and its Churches", in Teele, ed. The Meeting House on the Green. 1985.

Reynolds, Grindall. Historical and Other Papers. Concord: 1895.

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

RECEIVED

CON. 395

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET JUL 15 1993 Community

Property

MASS. HIST. COMM. CONCORD

18 River St.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

AE 395

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He incorporated the two existing cottages into the line of houses he planned, and the block east of the river began to fill with residences from the late 1870's through the '80's. Hurd retained ownership of this cottage, renting it out to various tenants. Among them were the Norcross sisters, and from 1881 to 1884 sculptor Walton Ricketson, son of Thoreau's friend and admirer Daniel Ricketson of New Bedford. Later tenants included the daughter-in-law of Jonathan Dodd of 310 Main Street, Daniel F. Potter, and two elderly relatives of Mrs. Charles Prescott. (See Keyes/Tolman.)

In 1889 the building is shown under the ownership of Angelina Ball of Lowell Road, who owned at least one other parcel of real estate near the river late in the century. By 1893 the property had been acquired by Francis O. Leland, who, in order to build a new house, had the cottage moved to land owned by William Hurd at 18 River Street, possibly as a condition of his purchase.

Assessor's records indicate that at its new location the cottage was owned for a few years in the late 1890's by its former tenant, Walton Ricketson, who was then living at 62 Elm Street.

Further research will be necessary to determine who owned the house after that. By 1905 it was occupied, at least, by George J. Emmott, who was here for at least ten years. He had been a plumber and tinsmith with an ambitious store/apartment and workshop complex on Walden Street, where he made and sold cooking ranges, stoves, and furnaces.

In 1960 the house was purchased by the adjacent Trinity Episcopal Church as a residence for its assistant ministers.