

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.109
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Bigelow, Francis E. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	19 Sudbury Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	H9-810
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1845
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Industry; Social History
<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 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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 1:22: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

RECEIVED

PL. CONCORD  
USGS - CONCORD  
SECT. B

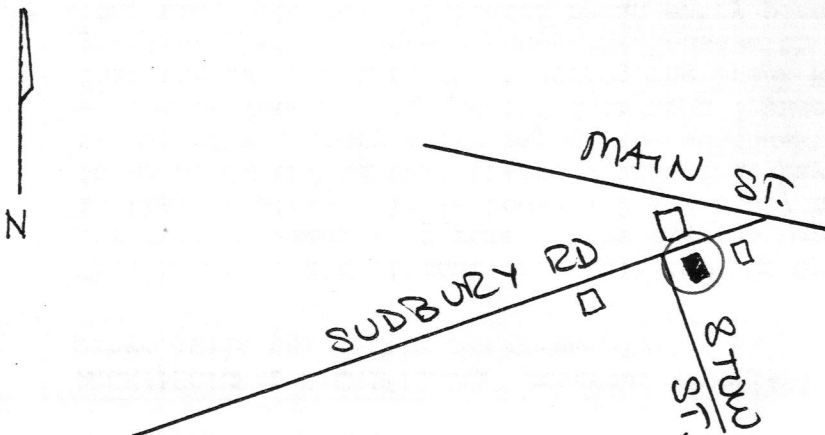
AREA

FORM NO.

109



Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



CONCORD

Address

19 Sudbury Road

Historic Name

Francis E. Bigelow House

Present

dwelling

Original

dwelling

DESCRIPTION

ca. 1840-50

Style

Keyes.

Style

Greek Revival

Architect

unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric

clapboard

Outbuildings

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

none

Condition

excellent

Moved

no

Date

N/A

Acreage

less than one acre

Setting

Faces Stow St. close to

corner, 19th-early 20th-C.

residential/institutional area.

UTM REFERENCE

Parcel H 9 810

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

Recorded by

A. Forbes

Organization

Research by Toby Kramer  
for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date

July, 1990

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

For its connection with one of Concord's most active abolitionists, #19 Sudbury meets Criterion A. For its association with the late nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, and as a well-preserved example of the architecture of its time, this house meets Criterion C as part of a National Register district encompassing a town center of 17th- through early 20th-century buildings.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

This house is significant, not just for its Greek Revival architecture, but as instructive example of some of the changes many of Concord's buildings underwent early in their history. It is today a 2 1/2-story building with a 2-story south wing. It faces gable-end to the street, with a four-bay, pedimented facade; its main entrance is by way of a 1-story entry bay on the southwest side. Both the house and entry bay have a granite foundation, and the door is a 6-panel, with full-length sidelights, implying that the bay was also built during the Greek Revival period, probably before 1865. A pre-1868 photo, however, shows the house with a conventional three-bay facade in its long side, its door sheltered by an entry porch on two Greek revival columns, and facing southwest over a large picket-fenced open space, possibly the lot that was soon to have the high school built upon it. That door also has full sidelights; thus today's entry may simply be the original one, relocated. (Cont.)

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

This house is significant as the home of Francis E. Bigelow, who had it built ca. 1840-50. He was a blacksmith, and for many years maintained a blacksmith shop just southwest of the house, located about where Stow Street is today. A small cottage for the shop workmen was built in the rear of the property. After some years the blacksmith shop burned down, and the cottage was rented to other tenants, including and Samuel Staples, Jr. (Cont.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Keyes III/417.  
Scudder. Concord: American Town  
Thoreau Society Archives.  
Interview with owner. (Cont.)



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

CONCORD

Form No:

109

Property Name:

EF Bigelow House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The photograph also shows that the south wing was at one time one-story. The house trim, however, appears to be unchanged. It is typical of the high Greek Revival style in modest form, with a wide entablature of both frieze and architrave, boxed, molded cornice, and wide corner pilasters unadorned save for a flat trim board for a capital. Most windows are 6-over-6-sash with unadorned surrounds; the four on the facade, however, are 6-over-9 "long" windows. A small pitch-roofed dormer on the northeast side of the main roof is probably original to the house.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

F.E. Bigelow is best known as one of Concord's most avid abolitionists, and his house was an important haven on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves. One fugitive named "Shadrach," (Fred Wilkins,) escaped after his arrest and was taken by carriage to the Bigelow house. There were many abolitionist sympathizers in Concord, including members of the Hoar and Thoreau families. For Shadrach, Mr. Bigelow obtained dry clothes from the neighboring Brooks house, and it was a fine joke that the fugitive wore a lawyer's coat and hat when he left town. Those who had helped the slave escape from court were arrested in Boston, and F. E. Bigelow was chosen for the jury. Judge Rockwood Hoar acted as his character witness, saying "He is a thoroughly honest man and will decide the case according to the law.....but I think it will take a good deal of evidence to convince him that one man owns another." There were no convictions in the case.

Ann Bigelow, F.E.'s widow, lived in the house after her husband's death, and, according to map evidence, owned the property until at least 1893. Other evidence indicates, however, that from 1889 to 1892 the house may have been owned by Mrs. F.M. Holland. During that time Stow Street was cut through, taking part of the front of the old property. A new rental house was added to the property at about that time, occupied by, among others, James W. Moss, the Rev. MacDonald, and Fred Millet.

The property was subsequently owned by publisher Charles R. Nutter, and in the 1930's by the Metcalf sisters.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Wheeler House File.

Maps, plans and atlases: 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.



Area B HD Area # 3 40  
 in Concord CON-109  
 et cor 3 Stow + Sudbury  
 ne Frank Bigelow  
 ginal Use \_\_\_\_\_  
 sent Use \_\_\_\_\_  
 sent Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
 e C. 1870 Style Greek Rev.  
 rce of Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 hitect \_\_\_\_\_

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: cut stone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End <sup>inf</sup> Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency rear Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: 1 story entrance porch

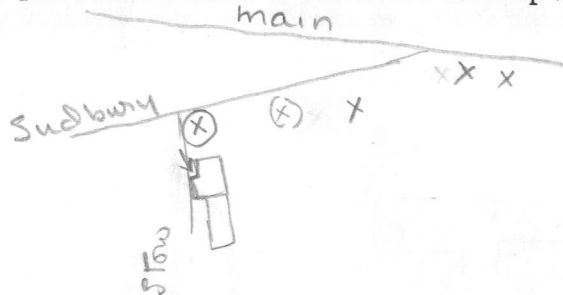
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

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

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 10' to Sudbury  
 Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street



Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo VIII-12/13  
68-593 E-09 065-1-040

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

4 3 A = 4  
3-3 area



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)

Underground R.R. Station

Author of scientific works  
Professor of meteorology in Weather Bureau of Dept of Agriculture

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

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