

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.326
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Hosmer - Thayer House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	20 Lexington Rd 23-25 Church Green
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	A, H9-9
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1775
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<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 Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Concrete Unspecified; 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)

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Massachusetts Historical Commission

H9-9

Concord

A DS

326

80 Boylston Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

RECEIVED

NR: DIS; LHD

Town Concord

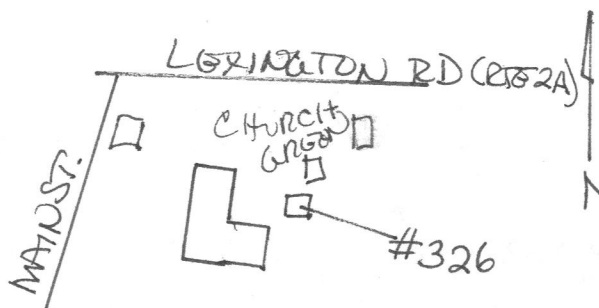
Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Concord centerAddress 23-25 Church GreenHistoric Name Hosmer/Thayer HouseUses: Present single-family dwellingOriginal single-family dwellingDate of Construction 18th-early 19th centurySource JarvisStyle/Form Georgian vernac., with later updateArchitect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone and concreteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures Five otherbuildings on property: 1st Parish Church, 1, 19  
Church Green, garage, Wright TavernMajor Alterations (with dates) 20th C.:added or rebuilt 1-story SE section, w. exterior  
chimney. New 6-panel door.Condition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage three acresSetting South of Lexington Rd., at east edge  
of Church Green. Lawn and drives to west,18th- 19th-C. houses to east...

including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.

Recorded by Anne Forbes, consultant

research by Tedd Osgood

Organization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 11/16/94

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*

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

The house farthest south on the Church Green may date as far back as the late eighteenth century. It was definitely here by about 1810. It presents a two-story, three-bay, side-hall-entry facade to the Church Green. However, because of its position on the bank of the hill, the house has three stories in the rear, and the kitchen was located in the basement story. Most of the windows are small 6-over-6-sash, and have the flat surrounds typical of the mid-nineteenth century. A pair of "long", floor-to-ceiling 9-over-9-sash windows at the first story of the facade are high-style Greek Revival features that are rare in Concord, and were probably added in the 1840's. The main entry, which appears to have a replacement 6-panel door, has a molded surround and molded lintel. The house has narrow cornerboards, and a boxed, molded cornice with returns, but no overhang at the gable-ends, and a large bedmolding under the eaves.

A large chimney rises from the south slope of the roof, with a gable-roofed dormer beside it. A one-story ell or addition extends to the south and southeast.

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.*

This building and its two companions to the north remain from several residential buildings that stood on the south side of lower Lexington Road and east edge of the Church Green in the eighteenth century, when the little area north of the Mill Brook became filled with manufacturing shops, residences, and stores associated with Concord's earliest commercial and small-manufacturing center. Of the cluster of buildings here that once numbered over a dozen, only this house, the two houses at 48 and 54 Lexington Road, and #s 1 and 19 Church Green survive (see Forms #321, 322, 323, and 324.) North of #19 were two large "tenements", the "White Block" and the "Yellow Block", which both apparently dated to the eighteenth century. (See Form #322 [48 Lexington Road] for a summary of these and other buildings in the vicinity.)

It is not known exactly when this house was built, but it was standing between 1810 and 1820, the period when Edward Jarvis described it as the residence of master carpenter and housewright Nathan Hosmer. He is known to have had a carpentry and cabinet shop and residence on the Milldam before 1816, the year he sold that building to Deacon Francis Jarvis. He and his family continued to live there as tenants for a while after the sale, so they probably moved here sometime in the 1820's. At that time Mr. Hosmer may have used one of the two buildings that formerly stood close to the Mill Brook at the south edge of the Church Green for his work or storage of lumber. (See also Form #141--69 Walden Street.) (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns.  
Concord Directories, Assessor's Records, and Lists of Poll Taxpayers.  
Jarvis, Edward. "Houses and People in Concord". 1882-83.  
Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."  
Richardson, Laurence. Concord Chronicle. (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

CON. 326

Concord

Hosmer/Thayer House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)  
A

Form No.  
326

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The building apparently had a succession of tenants through 1840. Then, in 1841, along with the two adjoining properties, it came up for auction. **John Safford** sold this piece to the wealthy **Reuben Rice**, who invested in considerable real estate in Concord, and it may be assumed that he continued to rent it out.

In 1846 both this house, and the property closer to the Mill Brook that had a wheelwright's shop on it, were purchased by **Isaac Thayer**. He was a wheelwright, and evidently used the shop (which stood until about 1880) for his work, and lived in the house. In 1879 he sold both properties to one of his relatives, **Jane H. Thayer** (Mrs. Joseph), of New York. In about 1884 the house, at least, was sold to **Samuel Hoar**, who fixed it up and rented it out. The tenant in the mid-1880's was carpenter **George Jacques**.

In about 1894 Mr. Hoar and **Cora Barrett** (Mrs. Richard F.), gave the house and former shop property to the First Parish Church. The house, occupied for many years in the early part of this century by another carpenter, **John Potter**, and his family, is still rented out by the church, and is presently occupied by the church sexton.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord: Climate for Freedom.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "House Files".  
\_\_\_\_\_. Our American Mile.