

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.1841
Historic Name:	Smith, Henry Francis Carriage House
Common Name:	
Address:	21 Academy Ln 169 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	792
Year Constructed:	r 1875
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Gothic
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Out Building; Warehouse
Significance:	Architecture; Transportation
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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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

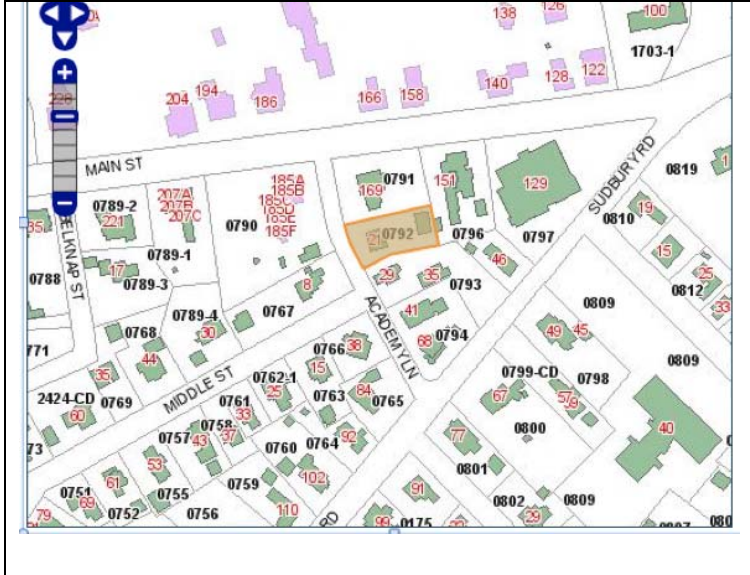
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Carriage House, 21 Academy Lane, west facade

Locus Map



Recorded by: Sally Sanford

Organization:

Date (month / year): September, 2012

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

792

Concord

1841

Town/City: Concord

Place: (neighborhood or village):

Address: 21 Academy Lane [ca. 1950 Cape with late 19th c. carriage house at rear]

Historic Name: Henry F. Smith Carriage House

Uses: Cape is currently a rented dwelling; Carriage House is currently unoccupied and storing some furniture
Original: Horse and Carriage barn

Date of Construction: late 19th century, ca. 1870-80.

Source: June 1992 Form B submitted by Concord Historical Commission

Style/Form: Carpenter Gothic

Architect/Builder: unknown; commissioned by Henry F. Smith

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: The carriage house is the out-building.

Major Alterations (with dates): None.

Condition: Carriage house is structurally sound but very much needing rehabilitation;

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ Date:

Acreage: .30

Setting: On east side of Academy Lane in an area of large Federal and Greek Revival residences sitting behind the modern half Cape on the same parcel and next door (on the northern side) to the former home (at 169 Main Street) of William Whiting and Henry F. Smith.

RECEIVED
OCT 01 2012

MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

21 ACADEMY LANE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CON.1841

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

One of the most elaborate late-nineteenth-century carriage houses in the center of Concord, the carriage house is a three-bay building with a brick foundation, slate roof with cupola, and a through-cornice dormer on the façade. It has a profusion of "Carpenter Gothic" decoration in the form of scalloped verge boarding at the cupola, gable ends, and at the pedimented hoods of the 2/2 windows. King-post trusses also adorn the gables.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

The antique carriage house now at 21 Academy Lane (behind the red cape, built ca. 1950) was originally part of the property now known as 169 Main Street. In 1868, Henry F. Smith (1833-1928) purchased the house at 169 Main Street from William Munroe and resided there until his death at age 95. Like Munroe, Henry Smith became one of Concord most prominent citizens. Smith was a partner with his cousin, Edward Carver Damon, in the Damon Mills (also known as Damon Smith and Co.) in West Concord from 1864 to 1876, and later worked in the wool business in Boston until 1900. Smith was quite active in Concord Town affairs. He served as a member of the School Committee for nine years. He served as a Selectman for four years, including three as Chairman of the Board, a position he held in 1875, during the first centennial celebration of the Concord Fight that was attended by President Ulysses S. Grant. (Smith's diary recounts his arranging for police officers from Boston to provide security for the event.) He was also a founding Trustee of the Concord Free Public Library and served as Clerk of the Library Board for over fifty-six years. He was a member of the Social Circle in Concord from 1867 to 1928 and overlapped in that group with many distinguished citizens, including Ralph Waldo Emerson. He was also active as a Mason and was Superintendent of the Sunday School and later a Deacon for over forty years at the First Parish in Concord, serving during the ministries of Emerson and Grindell Reynolds. Smith often attended lectures of Franklin Sanborn and the Concord Lyceum. In 1884, Louisa May Alcott wrote a short, touching obituary about Smith's Newfoundland dog, Rex, and she was obviously well acquainted with the family. Alcott also based some of the characters in her book *Jack and Jill* on the three sisters who would become Henry Francis Smith's daughters-in-law.

Smith was very fond of his horses and regularly drove his carriage to the Damon Mill, sometimes twice a day, and regularly took his family for carriage rides on Sunday afternoons. His diaries refer to his horses often by name, and he kept in the carriage barn a sulky, chaise, and sleigh. The stable portion of the carriage house has stalls for four horses, and Smith regularly had 2-4 horses. The exact construction date of the carriage house is currently unknown, though further research is underway. It likely dates somewhere from ca. 1870-1880. Around the time that the carriage house was built, Henry Francis Smith was able to salvage and preserve some parts from the 1789 Concord Jail (where Henry David Thoreau famously spent the night of July 23, 1846 for refusing to pay a poll tax) as it was being torn down. The abutments used for the entrance into the carriage house were part of the stone walls that at one time supported the jail windows—vestiges of the window bars can still be seen today. Thoreau refers to these walls in his famous essay, "Civil Disobedience."

At Henry F. Smith's death in 1928, the house at 169 Main Street and the carriage house were inherited by one of Mr. Smith's six son's, Theodore L. Smith, an engineer with the American Locomotive Company and later a design engineer with Gillette. At Theodore Smith's death in 1949, his widow, Alice Gage Smith, sub-divided the property and created the 21 Academy Lane parcel, retaining the carriage house and building ca. 1950 a small half-Cape, known in the neighborhood as the "Little Red House." The Cape was built from mail-order house plans. Alice Smith lived in the Little Red House until her death in 1960. Her estate sold the parcel to Eric Parkman Smith, a first cousin of her late husband and a grandson of Henry Francis Smith, who lived next door. From at least 1947 on, virtually nothing was done to maintain the carriage house beyond fixing leaks in the roof, and it became overrun by animals. One half of the barn was rented out for storage to the owners of 169 Main Street. Eric Smith rented out the Cape for many years. In 1996, Eric Smith moved into the Little Red House himself and spent the last decade plus

Continuation sheet 1

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

21 ACADEMY LANE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CON.1841

of his life there, until his death at the age of 97 in 2007, at which point the current owner, Lowell S. "Sandy" Smith, a great-grandson of Henry F. Smith and grandson of Theodore L. Smith, inherited the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

The Concord Freeman, October 24, 1884 (obituary of Rex, Henry F. Smith's Newfoundland, penned by Louisa May Alcott)

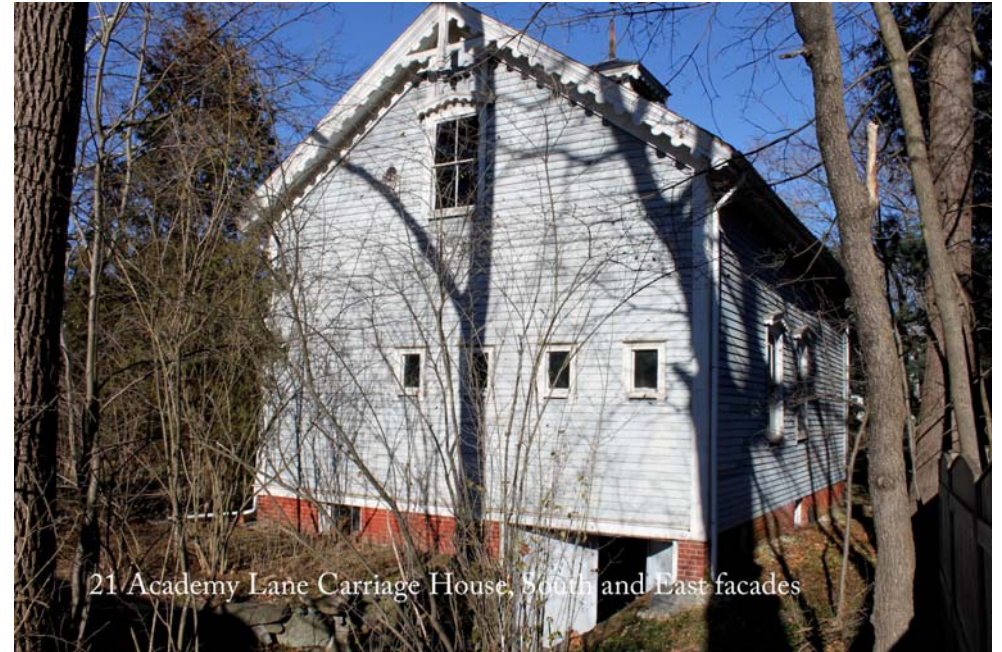
Concord Journal, December 6, 1928 (obituary of Henry Francis Smith)

Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle in Concord, 5th series (Cambridge: Privately Printed, The University Press, 1940.

Renee Garrelick, *Clothier of the Assabet*, 1988.

Susan Fondiler and Nina Rolnick Meyer, "Vernacular Carpenters in Concord, 1790-1875", typescript of course paper, June 1974.

MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report for Concord, 1980.





21 Academy Lane Carriage House:
Interior detailing



Carriage House: 1st Floor Carriage
Area



21 Academy Lane Carriage House 2nd floor facing south



21 Academy Lane Carriage House, 2nd Floor



21 Academy Lane
Corner Stone of Old Concord Jail, now being used as a step



21 Academy Lane: Little Red House, half Cape, ca. 1950
with Antique Carriage House at rear

Original yellow form: Eligibility file ____
 Copies: Inventory form ____
 Town file(w/corresp.) ____
 Macris ____
 NR director ____

Community: Concord

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 10/1/12

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: 10/17/12

Type: X__Individual __District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Henry F. Smith Carriage House

Inventory Form: CON.1841

Address: 21 Academy Ln

Requested by: owner

Action: __Honor X__ITC __Grant __R & C __Other:

Agency: Staff in charge of Review:

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

☐ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☒ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

DISTRICTS

☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA: X__A __B X__C __D

LEVEL: X__Local __State __National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Michael Steinitz

The Henry F. Smith Carriage House is a well-preserved late 19th century stable carriage house situated in a grouping of historic buildings with historic associations with the Smith family in Concord Center. It is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C at the local level as a contributing resource to a small district that would include the Col. William Whiting – Henry F. Smith House (1823) (CON.42) at 169 Main St; the Henry F. Smith Carriage House (ca. 1870s) and Alice Smith – Eric Smith House (ca. 1950) at 21 Academy Ln; the William Munroe Gardener's Cottage – Benjamin Farnham Smith House (ca. 1865) (CON.97) at 29 Academy Ln; the William Munroe Stable – Benjamin Farnham Smith Cottage (ca. 1861) at 35 Academy Ln (CON.98) ; and the William L. Smith House (1903) (CON.99) at 38 Academy Ln. All the above-referenced properties, including the Henry F. Smith Carriage House would also contribute to a larger Concord Center National Register District, the boundaries and period of significance of which would need to be determined.

The notable Federal/Greek Revival residence at 169 Main St, was built by prominent Concord carriage manufacturer Col. William Whiting in 1823. In addition to being a successful businessman, Whiting (1791-1863) was an anti-slavery activist, and his residence is reported to have been an underground railroad station. After his death the property was acquired by William Munroe, Jr., another wealthy and influential Concord resident. As part of his renovation and development of the property Munroe added a Gardener's Cottage (now 29 Academy Ln) and Stable/Carriage House (now 35 Academy Ln). In 1868 Munroe subdivided and sold the 169 Main St residence to textile manufacturer Henry F. Smith, who owned the property until his death in 1928. Munroe retained the land that included the ancillary outbuildings on Academy Lane, and Smith added his own Carriage House (now at 21 Academy Ln) soon after acquiring 169 Main St. Two of Henry F. Smith's sons subsequently purchased Munroe family property on Academy Ln. and established their residences near their father's. William Lincoln Smith built a Colonial Revival residence at 38 Academy Ln in 1903. And in 1909 Benjamin Farnham Smith acquired the Munroe Stable/Carriage House and Gardener's Cottage, converting the former to his residence, and renting the latter. Following Henry Smith's death in 1928, his Main St property was inherited by a third son, Theodore L. Smith, who in turn died in 1949. Theodore Smith's widow, Alice, subdivided the Main Street property, sold the 1823 house, and built a small Cape on the back parcel (21 Academy Ln) that included the 1870s Carriage House. Here she resided until her death in 1960. Her estate sold this property to a first cousin of her husband, Eric Smith, who rented the property, and later resided here until his death in 2007, at which time the property was inherited by Sandy Smith, a great grandson of Henry F. Smith. In addition to their associations with the Smith family and the 19th century subdivision and development of this section of Concord Center, these buildings include outstanding examples of Federal/Greek Revival, Stick Style, Carpenter Gothic, Queen Anne./Craftsman, and Colonial Revival style design in Concord.