

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.302
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Concord Town House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Concord Town Hall
<b>Address:</b>	22 Monument Sq
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	212, H9-844
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1851
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Bond, Richard; Foster and Dutton; Thayer, George B.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Armory; Dance Hall; Library; Meeting Hall; Police Station; Public School; Town Hall
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Community Planning; Education; Military; Politics Government; Recreation
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DV: North Bridge - Monument Square Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/05/1973); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Brown Stone; Sandstone; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Stone, Cut Foundation: Coursed Ashlar; Granite; Stone, Cut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site ([www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

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)

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

H9-844

Concord

A DV

302

NR: DIS; LHD 3/5/73

Town Concord

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

Concord center

Address 22 Monument SquareHistoric Name Concord Town HouseUses: Present town hallOriginal town hallDate of Construction 1851Source Town Reports; KeyesStyle/Form ItalianateArchitect/Builder Richard Bond;  
George Thayer (addition)

Exterior Material:

Foundation 2 courses dressed graniteWall/Trim brickRoof (not visible)

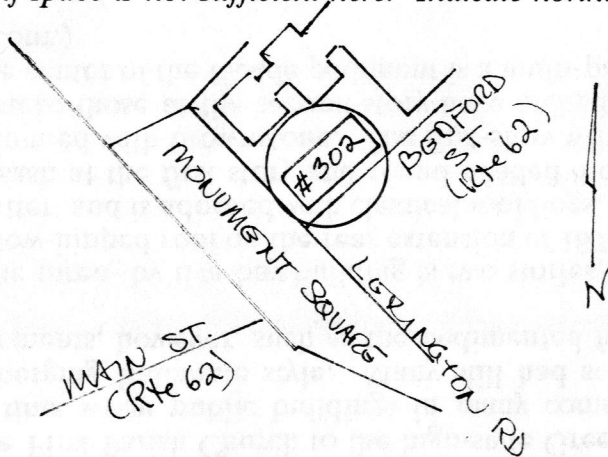
Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

none

Major Alterations (with dates) rear addition:1879-80; N side: exterior chimney, metalfire escape and ramp; several modern doors.Center rear chimney removed--20th C.Condition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acre

## 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 Anne Forbes, consultantOrganization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 11/96Setting At corner of Bedford St, facing Monu-ment Sq. Former courthouse across narrowparking lot at side and rear.

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [X] *see continuation sheet*

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

The Town House is the only example in Concord of a large brick building in the Italianate style, and extremely rare in town for its combination of brick with brown sandstone (brownstone) trim. Designed and built in 1851 by Boston architect Richard Bond, who ten years earlier had updated the First Parish Church to the high-style Greek Revival, (see Form #328), its construction came at a time when public buildings in many communities were beginning to display elements of the emerging Italianate style. Many still had some lingering Greek Revival proportions and design elements, however, such as the pedimented facade of this building.

The three- by five-bay building is two stories, with a shallow-pitched roof on the main section, and a low-hipped roof on the rear extension of 1879-80. The heavy wooden cornice has an integral wood gutter, and is adorned with classical moldings, dentils, and large modillion blocks. Windows, 8-over-8-sash at the first story and round-headed 8-over-8's at the second, are set into the brick wall and trimmed with brownstone. The first-story windows have splayed, keystone horizontal brownstone lintels; those at the second-story have arched brownstone hood moldings, also with keystones. In the center of the facade pediment is a multi-paned oculus set into a keystone, brownstone opening. (Cont.)

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.*

The Concord Town House, for many years called simply the Town Hall, has been the hub of municipal activity in the town since 1851. In 1849, a fire destroyed the County Courthouse on the lot just to the northwest. Although the town, through donations of both money and land to the county, had been granted the right to hold town meetings in the large county courtroom since 1721, that privilege was not renewed when the courthouse was rebuilt (See Form #301). As a result, the town moved quickly to build its own town hall, and the funds for it were authorized at Town Meeting in 1850. Later that year, the town paid \$1200 to John S. Keyes for this property, on which his law office stood, and auctioned that old building in order to clear the site. (In that auction, Mr. Keyes re-purchased his former building and moved it to 15 Monument Street for a house for his family--see Form #299.)

Under a building committee headed by John Cheney, architect Richard Bond of Boston was hired to design the new \$30,000 town hall. (Mr. Bond designed at least one other building in Concord--the remodeling and enlargement of the First Parish Church in 1841--see Form #308.) (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: Maps and Atlases: 1852, 1856, 1875. 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1887.  
 Drake, History of Middlesex County. 1880.  
 Hurd, History of Middlesex County. 1890.  
 Concord Town Reports.  
 Keyes/Tolman.  
 Social Circle Memoirs: John Keyes; John Shepard Keyes.  
 Wheeler House Files. (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

Concord

Concord Town House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
A

Form No.  
302

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Other brownstone trim includes a wide band course between the first and second stories, and quoining at the corners at first-story level and around the segmental-arched opening of the center entry. The door is a double-leaf six-panel type, with glass fanlight above. A wide granite stair in front of the building has a twentieth-century metal rail. A modern painted-wood and metal rail extends along a brick walk to the sidewalk. The granite curbing that borders the narrow lawn on two sides of the building is identical to that next door at the courthouse.

The rear section, added in 1879-80, was designed by George B. Thayer, and built by the firm of Foster & Dutton, of Maine. It provided subsidiary rooms for the large open hall on the second floor, including much-needed "water and other closets", and a dressing room for "females on social occasions" (Town Report, 1871-1872.) The addition is built of a coarser brick than the main building, but continues much of the detail of the earlier part of the structure, though the windows here are smaller, with fewer panes. The center rear entry, apparently added in the early twentieth century, is a large Colonial Revival type with a 6-panel door, 3-pane sidelights, and a large semi-circular double fanlight. The little hip-roofed dormer above it in the center of the rear roof, however, is a typical Italianate design, with a paired round-headed window.

Architect Richard Bond (1798-1861), probably best known for Lewis Wharf in Boston, was practicing in Boston as early as 1837. J.S. Keyes' pejorative comments on the soundness of the Town House in his "Houses in Concord" were not entirely shared by the Selectmen of 1871, and they belie the fact that Mr. Bond was in fact a leading figure in his profession. He was influential in founding the National Society of Architects (forerunner of the American Institute of Architects), and designed many important buildings in Boston, some of which have been demolished, or were burned in the 1872 Boston fire. Either alone or in partnership with Charles E. Parker, he designed Gore Hall at Harvard, the Bowdoin Square Baptist Church and the old Tremont Bank in Boston (all demolished), the City Hall and the Court House in Salem, and the chapel at Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Most relevant to the Town House, he designed several very early Italianate buildings. One important precursor to this building is Lawrence Hall in Cambridge, built in 1847. Now part of Harvard University, Lawrence Hall bears many similarities to the Town House. Though today it has three stories, like the Town House it was originally a two-story, pedimented-front brick building with a three-bay facade, brownstone quoins, a high granite-block foundation, and tall round-headed second-story windows.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The plan for the building was for the town meeting hall to fill the second floor, with the first floor occupied by town offices, a safe for town records, a room for the town library, which had been newly conveyed to the town by the former Concord Social Library, and two schoolrooms, one for the new town high school and one for the intermediate school. The library was so popular that in 1860 its space was expanded into part of the intermediate schoolroom, and the high school room was divided for the use of both schools. Subsequently, after the high school moved to its own building in the early 1860's, the first floor was used for the armory and a dance hall that could be rented by private parties. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

Concord Town House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
 A

Form No.  
 302

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The building still served multiple uses through most of the 1880's. Then, when the armory moved to its own building on Walden Street in 1888 (see Form #32), the Town House was made over for completely municipal use. For decades the police department and the water, sewer, and electric light offices were located here, as well as the Town Clerk's and Assessor's Offices that are still in the building today. For many years, several other buildings were located on the rear part of the Town House lot. A small Hose House for the fire department and two small sheds, one originally built to house the cannon of the Concord Artillery, were located just north of the rear corner of the building until the early part of this century, when one of the sheds was removed, the other converted to a garage, and the Hose House became the auto repair shop for town vehicles.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Withey, Henry. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). 1956.

Boston Public Library, Fine Arts Dept.: architects files.

Rettig, Robert. Guide to Cambridge Architecture: Ten Walking Tours. 1969.

Kilham, Walter. Boston after Bulfinch. 1946.

Hitchcock, Henry R. The Life and Times of Henry H. Richardson.



REAR ADDITION ↑

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NADIS. 9/13/77  
LHD - 31573

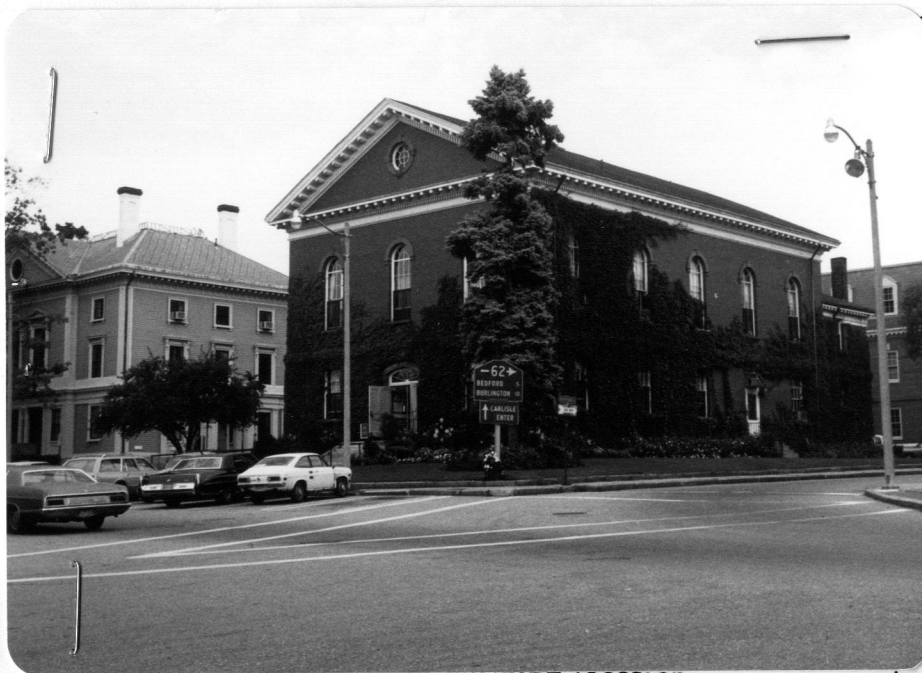
CON.302

In Area no.

Form no.

DV, A

272  
302



own Concord

Address 22 Monument Square

Name The Town House

Present use Town Hall

Present owner Town of Concord

Description:

1852

Source Town Clerk

Style Vernacular-Greek Revival

Architect

Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings (describe)

Other features 2½-story rectangular plan building with granite foundation and gable roof. 3 bays wide and

Altered Date

Moved Date

5. Lot size:

One acre or less ☒ Over one acre

Approximate frontage 55'

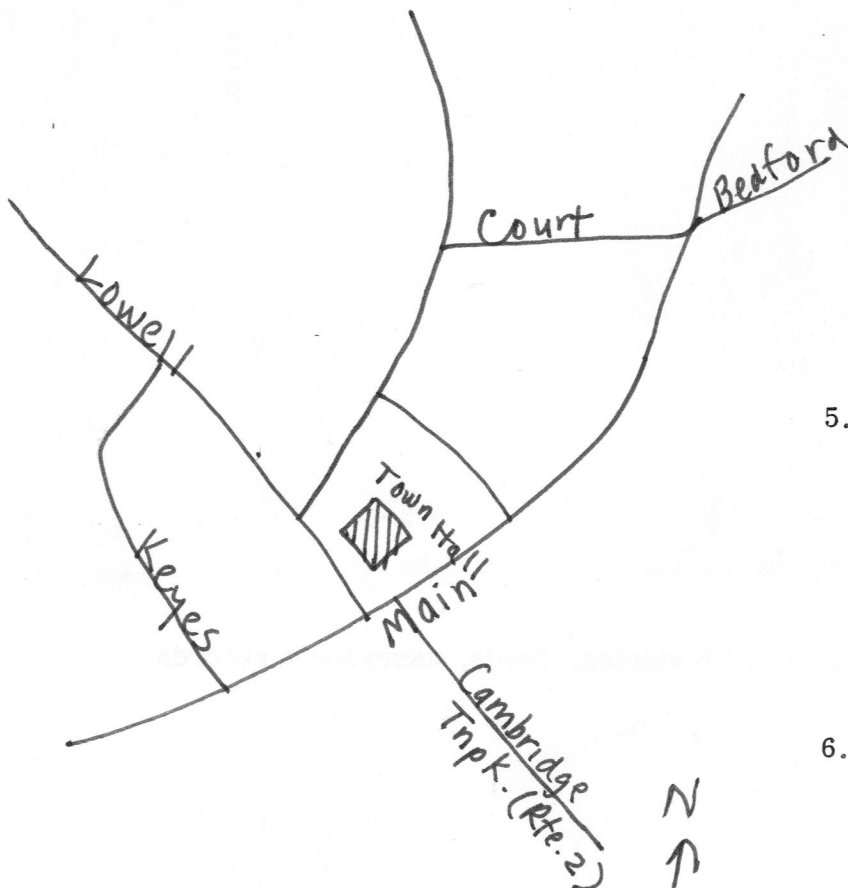
Approximate distance of building from street  
20'

6. Recorded by Harriet White

Organization MAPC

Date 8/30/78

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



(over)



7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Original use \_\_\_\_\_

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Concord	Form No: 24202
Property Name: The Town House	

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

Other features:

5 bays deep. Center entrance of double doors with segmental transom fanlight. Oculus window in gable. Modillions in gable and on cornice, also dentil molding on cornice.

1st story 8/8 divided sash with brownstone lintels and keystones. 2nd story windows are tall, and round-headed with brownstone hood moulds. All windows have bracketed sills.

Brownstone belt band divides 1st and 2nd stories.  
2-story rear L possible later addition, with hipped roof and shed dormer. Rear L has modillion cornice and brackets. Rear entrance door has semicircular arch with fanlight and keystone.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom