

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.306
Historic Name:	Pierce, Cyrus House
Common Name:	
Address:	23 Lexington Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	59, H9-13
Year Constructed:	1851
Architect(s):	Pierce, Cyrus
Architectural Style(s):	Gothic Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DS: American Mile Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/06/1961); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Slate Wall: Ashlar Random Laid; Granite; Wood; Wood Flushboard; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:19: AM

Massachusetts Historical Commission

H9-13

Concord

A DS

306

80 Boylston Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

NR: DIS.; LHD

RECEIVED

DEC 07 1994

Town Concord

e (neighborhood or village) _____

Concord center _____

Address 23 Lexington RoadHistoric Name Cyrus Pierce HousePresent single-family dwellingOriginal dwellingYear of Construction 1850Source deed research by Ruth WheelerStyle/Form Gothic RevivalArchitect/Builder Cyrus Pierce

Exterior Material:

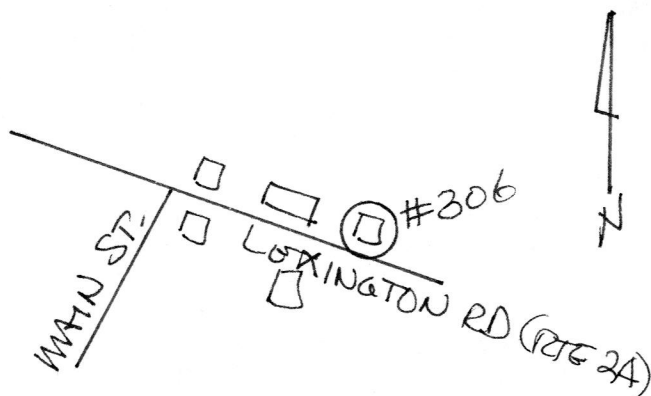
Foundation granite blockWall/Trim granite block and wood flush-boardRoof slate and asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

noneMajor Alterations (with dates) Ells addedca. 1860; flat skylight on NW side.Condition excellentMoved [X] no [] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting Opposite church, w. cemetery to rear.Granite retaining wall at front w. cast-ironwoven fence or top.

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, consultant;

research by Sally Dallas

Organization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 10/24/94

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.

As one of the town's few Gothic Revival houses, 23 Lexington Road is a rare building in Concord. It is absolutely unique, in fact, in its interpretation of the style in granite block. Its builder and first owner was a stonemason, Cyrus Pierce, who undoubtedly used the building, as well as its distinctive Gothic-Revival stone and cast-iron fence, as a showcase for his talents. The main house is a two-story stone building with its gable-end to the street. Its main entry is in the west side, under a long porch that connects to a somewhat later one-story, flat-roofed, flushboarded ell at the rear north corner. A flat-roofed, rectangular bay, also flushboarded, extends east from the southeast front house corner, and a gable-roofed one-story wood-frame ell extends to the rear. A pair of tall brick chimneys, one on either side of the ridge, rises from the slate roof of the main house.

The stone walls of the main part of the house are random-laid, flat ashlar. Their corners are articulated by wide granite-block corner pilasters with flat plinth-like capitals topped with a flat, projecting piece of stone resembling a cornice return. Granite is also used in a wide-block frieze along upper edge of the side walls, and in the sills and lintels of the windows. The roof line is marked by a wide, wooden cove frieze, overhanging, unboxed eaves, and saw-cut verge boards in a fleur-de-lys design. (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.

This house, built in 1850, was connected with the Pierce family for over a hundred years. It was built by stone-mason and former shoemaker **Cyrus Pierce**, who had previously lived with his family above the store that had stood on the site of the Town House. The house occupies the site of the blacksmith shop of Benjamin Barrett, which was built here in about 1730. The stonemasonry of Cyrus Pierce is still visible at many locations in Concord. He often did work for the town--in 1850 he moved and reset the stone posts of the "New" Burying Ground (part of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery); in 1855 he repaired one of the town bridges and relaid the wall of the Hill Burying Ground adjacent to his house. He also carved the family monument in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. He owned several pieces of real estate, including a half-interest in the "Yellow Block" across the street. (See Forms 321 and 322.)

Cyrus married Susan Ann Parks; for a time her mother, also Susan Ann Parks, lived in the added north corner ell, which was known by the family as "Grandma's part". Of the Pierce's ten children, sons Frank and Arthur lived in the house for a time as adults. They had a shoe-shop on the Milldam in the Milldam Co. Building at #36-40 (see Form #11.) Arthur moved to Hopkinton, where he opened another shoe store with their brother Alfred, and later relocated to Fitchburg. Frank, who had moved to Hubbard Street by 1886, carried on the store on the Milldam for over fifty years. Of the daughters, **Ella Pierce** and her husband **Milo Stearns**, who may have lived here from the time of their marriage, bought the house after Mrs. Pierce, who had survived her husband by many years, died. (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns.
Concord Directories.
Fondiler & Meyer. "Vernacular Carpenters of Concord." (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

Cyrus Pierce House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)
A

Form No.s
306

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The main entry has a large-light, glass-and-panel door surrounded by full-length, diamond-pane sidelights and transom. The main facade facing Lexington Road has three windows at the first story, two at the second, and another pair in the south bay. All are double-hung, with diamond-paned sash and louvered wood shutters. Both the south bay and northwest ell are clad in wood flushboard, with quoined corners, and elaborate paired brackets at the cornice line. An entry in the facade of the northwest ell has a large-light, glass-and-panel door similar to the main one. Extending along the northwest side of the house is an elaborate porch with a marble floor. Its posts are of open construction with flared braces at the top. The cornice of the porch, like the ell and bay, is embellished with paired brackets.

In addition to the fence, a stone fountain, decorated with conch shells, that stands in the side yard, may have been constructed by Cyrus Pierce.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Milo Stearns worked at the Concord Reformatory, and Ella Stearns worked for the U.S. Government in Pepperell. Mr. Stearns became an invalid for several years before he died, and during that time another Pierce daughter, Ida Pierce Goff, and her husband Frank, lived in the house. Mrs. Stearns owned the property until her death in about 1937; the next owner was apparently **Ida Goff**, who died in 1941.

Another Pierce daughter, Eliza, married George Heywood of 105 Lexington Road. (See Form #313.) Of all the Pierce children, Arthur lived the longest, and some years before his death in 1961 at the age of 98, he recalled for a newspaper article his days as a young man and boy in Concord. He recounted his memories of President Grant's visit in 1875, of Emerson tucking the stub of his cigar into the Pierce's front fence, and of posing for Daniel Chester French when he executed his sculpture of William Lloyd Garrison.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Fletcher, Norma Pierce. "History of the Pierces." Pre-1946.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."

"The Ten Children of Cyrus and Susan Ann (Parks) Pierce and their Descendants".

Wheeler, Ruth. Our American Mile.

Wilman, James. Newspaper article on Arthur Pierce. 1956.



AREA A 4 NR 9.13.71 59

2. Town Concord CON. 306 306
 Street Lexington Rd (23)
 Name Cyrus Pierce NADIS-9/13/77
LITS-3/6/61
 Original Use home PI-CONCORD
USGS CONCORD
 Present Use private home SCU 2
 Present Owner Baldwin
1851
 Date c. 1850's Style Gothic Cottage
 Source of Date Amherst College p. 30
 Architect _____



MAS
Off

1. Is

S
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E

C

Literature

Indians

Music

Development of Town/City

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: Fieldstone

WALL COVER: Wood _____ Brick Stone Other _____

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center interior End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency N side rear + S side Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony entrance porch at N side Recessed _____

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

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

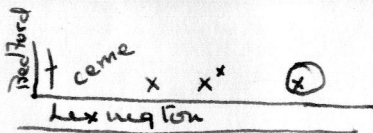
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: _____

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured stone N+S wings have quoins

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 15'
 Property has 60 feet frontage on street



Recorder Ann Wardwell

For _____

Photo 68-422
I-20

9 09 .065 .1.059

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

building 20' x 30' deep (excluding wings)

3-3

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)

Cyrus Pierce, stone mason, built himself this in 1850
Still in possession of Pierce family

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

American Mile p 30

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds