

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.274
Historic Name:	Hosmer, John House
Common Name:	Hosmer, John Albert - Lee, Albert W. House
Address:	25 Old Marlboro Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	7, F10-3653
Year Constructed:	c 1790
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Industry
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Concrete Unspecified; 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 12:47 PM

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

F10-3653

Maynard

274



Concord

Neighborhood or village)

25 Old Marlborough Road

Name John Hosmer House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction ca. 1790

deeds

gambrel-roofed "Cape Cod" cottage

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone, brick; concrete

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

rear additions: 19th, early 20th C; 1-story

side additions: 20th century

Condition good

Moved [X]no [] yes Date N/A

Acreage 1.48 acres

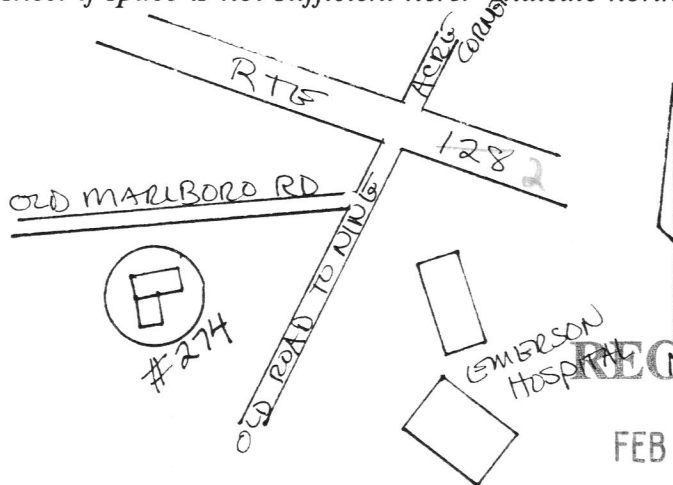
Setting Set back from both Old Marlboro Rd.

and Old Rd. to 9-Acre Corner on large corner

lot. Row of tall evergreens along streetfront.

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.



FEB 03 1997

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Recorded by Anne Forbes, consultant
 research by Gretchen Frazier
 Organization Concord Hist. Commission

Date 11/96

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.

Although the gambrel roof of this house would normally suggest a construction date by the third quarter of the eighteenth century, deeds indicate that the property that was inherited here by John Hosmer in 1789 had no buildings on it. This house is thus apparently a rather late version of a simple 1 1/2-story, five-bay farmhouse of the two-room-deep "Cape Cod" type that was popular in rural communities until after the Revolution. Another gambrel-roof section, slightly lower in height than the main house, and one-room-deep on a brick foundation, extends to the rear from the southwest corner. Behind it is a high gable-roofed addition with a room at second-story height, possibly a sleeping porch, supported at the outer corners on square posts. Two one-story, flat-roofed rooms, one attached to each end of the main house on concrete foundations, probably date to the early- to mid-twentieth century. One, at least, may be an enclosed porch. A flat-roofed, glassed-in vestibule at the main center entry also appears to be of early-twentieth century date.

This house has two chimneys--one ridge chimney near the west end, and another exterior chimney, probably of twentieth-century date, abutting the east end of the house. (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 little house is the smallest of several surviving farmhouses scattered throughout the central and southwestern portions of Concord that were built by members of the large Hosmer family, descendants of original settlers James and Alice Hosmer. From the end of the eighteenth through the beginning of the twentieth century, it was owned and lived in by four generations of Hosmers. Local sources are in some disagreement as to its age, however. In her Concord, Climate for Freedom, Ruth Wheeler seems to refer to this house as one of several in town designated as garrison houses (houses to which nearby residents could flee in case of an Indian attack) during King Philip's War of 1675-76 (Wheeler 61). Lemuel Shattuck, writing in 1835, however, says the garrison house for this part of town was "near John Hosmer's" (Shattuck 47), indicating that it had been another house nearby that was gone by 1835.

If one accepts the implications of the deeds and Shattuck, then the builder and first owner of the house was John Hosmer (1752-1836), the son of Josiah and Hannah (Wesson) Hosmer of Baker Avenue. John Hosmer had married Mary Vassal Prescott in 1780, and deeds show that upon his parents' deaths (Josiah died in 1788 and Hannah in 1789), he received at least ten acres of land here at the intersection of the Old Road to Nine Acre Corner and the county road to Marlborough. He apparently built this house shortly afterward. John Hosmer was a cabinetmaker as well as a farmer, and had a carpenter's shop on the property. (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889.

Concord Assessor's Records.

Concord Directories.

Deed research. (Cont.)

[X] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

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

Concord John Hosmer House

Area(s)

Form No.
274

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

Most of the windows are 6-over-6-sash, with flat surrounds. A symmetrically-placed pair of small gable-roofed, pedimented dormers, also with 6-over-6-sash, pierce the front slope of the main roof. The non-symmetrical west facade of the rear ell is a three-bay arrangement, with 2-over-2-sash windows on either side of a 4-paneled door. The center entry of the main house, visible inside the vestibule, has a ca. 1900 glass-and-panel door with a single large light over three panels with large applied moldings, and a plain, unadorned surround. A third door, near the rear of the west single-story room, is of approximately the same vintage as the main entry, with a large glass light over three panels.

The architectural trim of this building includes plain cornerboards, and at the roof lines, a frieze board topped with a large bed molding, and a molded, boxed cornice. The house has recently undergone a replacement of its cornice and fascia boards.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

As was the case with many of Concord's rural farmers as they got older, in 1820 John Hosmer sold the property, which then had just over 16 acres, to his son, **John Hosmer, Jr.**, but apparently continued to live here until he died in 1836. (His other surviving son was farmer Edmund Hosmer, see Forms #54 for 82 Sandy Pond Road, and #1156-57 for 320 Lowell Road.) John Hosmer, Jr. (1789-1864), married Mary Eliza Howard Turner of Boston in 1824. Over the years they had ten children, of whom their son **John Albert Hosmer** (1831-1882) was apparently the one who gradually grew up to take charge of the farm. He married Cynthia P. Hawley in 1864, the year his father died. His mother retained ownership of the house and a good portion of the farm until her death in 1880.

During his lifetime John Hosmer, Jr. had substantially increased the size of the farm, which had grown to over 350 acres at various locations throughout the western part of Concord, one of the largest in town, by the time he died. He apparently left it in trust to his wife and children. His widow, **Mary**, died in 1880, and his son **John Albert** in 1882, at which time the farm was apportioned among John Albert's nine surviving siblings. His sister, **Adelaide O. Hosmer** appears to have been the principal heir, as she is shown as paying most of the taxes on the homestead through 1911. Directories indicate that she lived in the house until her death in 1912.

In 1913 or 1914 the house was acquired by **Gertrude W. Lee** and her husband, **Albert W. Lee**, formerly of Stow Street. Mr. Lee was manager of the town electric lighting system for many years. The Lees owned the property until 1945.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

- Hosmer family genealogy.
 Jarvis. "Houses and People in Concord."
 Shattuck. History of the Town of Concord. 1835.
 Walcott, Charles. "Deeds", Vol. 16.
 Wheeler House File #Ma1.
 Wheeler, Ruth. Concord, Climate for Freedom. 1967.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community Property Address
Concord 25 Old Marlborough Rd.

Area(s) Form No(s).
 274

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Anne Forbes
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The ca. 1790 John Hosmer House meets Criteria A and C of the National Register. It retains its characteristic form and most of its eighteenth-century detail as a small gambrel-roofed Cape Cod cottage, along with the incremental additions that reflect the rapid expansion of a farm in the nineteenth century. It thus meets Criterion C. It meets Criterion A for its significance in the town's history as the homestead for four generations of the John Hosmer family.

The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



CON. 274 274 7
n Concord
et 35 Old Bridge Rd
ne John Hosmer
ginal Use John Hosmer
sent Use NO. 1, 3/1/10
sent Owner Private USGS - myn
e (1760's) Style SEPT A
rce of Date _____
chitect _____

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: cub stone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____

STORIES: 1/2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center/End ^{int.} Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 1 story wings; 1 near 2 story 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: _____

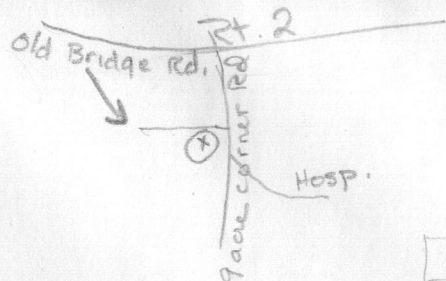
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured _____

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 35 to old Bridge
Property has _____ feet frontage on street



Recorder _____

For _____

Photo IX-4
68-605

E.09.065.1.007

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

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)

Hosmers are old Concord family -

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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