

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.197
Historic Name:	North Center Schoolhouse
Common Name:	Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Office - Hearse House
Address:	34A Bedford St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	H8-1218
Year Constructed:	1849
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Chapel; Other Funerary; Public School; Warehouse
Significance:	Architecture; Education; Religion
Area(s):	CON.DY: Sleepy Hollow Cemetery
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (08/19/1998)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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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

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H8-1218

CONCORD

DV

197

Town CONCORD(neighborhood or village) Concord CenterAddress 24 Court LaneHistoric Name North Center SchoolPresent cemetery storageOriginal schoolhouse, chapelDate of Construction ca. 1850Location WaltonForm utilitarian; formerly with Grk. Revival detailing?Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation graniteWall/Trim flushboard and clapboardRoof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

late-19th century toolhouse just east.

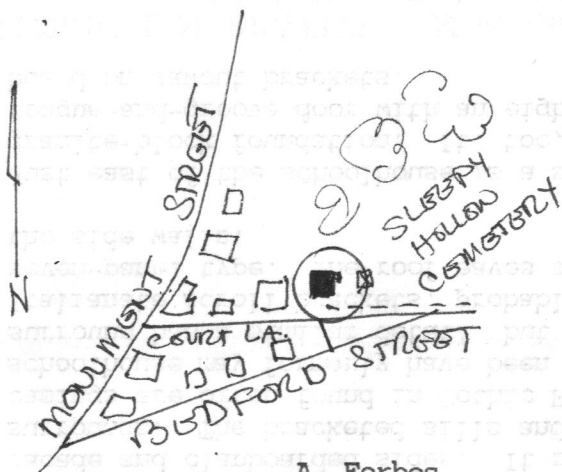
Major Alterations (with dates)

one-car garage addition on east: early 20th century.Condition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 28.12 acres

Setting At western end of Sleepy Hollow cemetery, facing Court Lane/Bedford Street intersection. Drive/parking area in front; granite-topped fieldstone retaining wall along street.

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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by for Concord Hist. CommissionOrganization June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

#24 Court Lane is one of the most well-preserved of Concord's nine mid-century schoolhouses. All were apparently built between 1847 and 1858 as 1 1/2-story gable-end, three-bay structures, but their proportions and detailing varied somewhat. This building is unique among them for its combination of a flushboarded facade and clapboarded sides. It retains its 6-over-6-sash windows with projecting surrounds. The bracketed sills and moldings at the upper third of the window casings are often found in Gothic Revival buildings, and suggest that this schoolhouse may formerly have been somewhat more Gothic in style. The main entry surround has a similar detail, but today has a heavy, pedimented hood supported on Italianate scroll brackets, probably added in the 1880's. The door itself is a with seven-panel type. The roof eaves are unboxed, and a sillboard trims the bottom of the side walls.

Just east of the schoolhouse is a small gable-roofed, windowless toolhouse on a granite-block foundation. It, too, has unboxed eaves; at its entry is a tongue-and-groove door with an eight-light insert. It is sheltered by a slanted board on sawcut brackets.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

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.

This little building is significant as one of Concord's many surviving mid-nineteenth-century schoolhouses, all of which were eventually converted to other uses. This was the North Center Schoolhouse, one of three primary schools that served the children at the center of town.

With the abolition of the district school system late in the nineteenth century, all Concord's small one-room schoolhouses were phased out, adapted to new uses, and most were sold by the town. This one remained in the town's possession, however, probably because of its position adjacent to Sleepy Hollow Cemetery. It was the first of the schools to be officially discontinued in 1885, when the Selectmen were authorized to dispose of all the district school properties. It was converted by the town into a mortuary chapel for the cemetery, a function it performed for several decades. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.

Richardson. Concord Chronicle.

Miller, Marian, and Tower, Frederick. A History of Trinity Church, 1884-1962. 1970.

Interview with Charles Dee, by Susan Alatalo, 1992.

Walton, Susan. "A Process of Acculturation: the Concord Common Schools at Mid-century." Boston University master's thesis, 1973.

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

North Center School

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
197

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The building had actually ceased being a school since at least 1880, when the new Emerson School on Stow Street had opened as a consolidated, graded school serving all the younger pupils from the center and all but two of the outlying districts. During the early 1880's the town hearse was moved here from its former location at the First Parish horse sheds. From 1882 until their new church building was opened in 1884, the small group of Episcopalians in Concord held services here, as well.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

RECEIVED

JUL 15 1993

Community
CONCORD

CONV. 197
Property Address
24 Court Lane

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Area(s)	FormNo.
	197

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

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The North Center School is eligible for the National Register for its role in Concord's educational evolution. As the most one of the most well-preserved of Concord's mid-nineteenth-century schoolhouses, and as an outstanding example of their three-bay, gable-end form, it qualifies under Criteria A and C. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.