

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.335
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Hosmer, Nathan S. - Cutler, Isaac House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	41 Lowell Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	48, H8-1688
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1827
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Cutler, Isaac; Hosmer, Nathan S.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<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: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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

H8-1688

Concord

A

335

NR: DIS; LHD

Town Concord

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

Concord center41 Lowell RoadHistoric Name Cutler/N.S. Hosmer HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1827-28Source Hales map; assessors' recordsStyle Federal/Greek RevivalArchitect/Builder Isaac Cutler  
(and possibly Nathan Hosmer)

## Exterior Material:

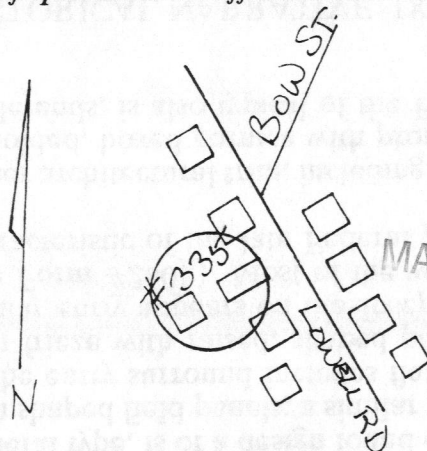
Foundation granite blockWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof slate

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

2-car garage/barn: 1968-69Major Alterations (with dates) ca. 1895: rear  
addition; ca. 1950's: wing enlarged; openterrace and porch on SE side of wingCondition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage one acreSetting On narrow, deep lot extending back to  
Mill Brook, in area of largely 19th-century  
houses. Granite curbing across front

## 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.



RECEIVED

FEB 03 1997

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Recorded by Anne Forbes, consultant  
research by Ann McNulty and Anne Forbes  
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.*

The Cutler/Hosmer House, largely unchanged in appearance since the end of the nineteenth century, is one of the best of Concord's many examples of the typical 2 1/2-story house of the late Federal period--one room deep, five- by one-bay, with a pair of rear chimneys. The main entry, a late Federal type, is of a design found on several other local houses of the period. It has a 6-panel door with shaped field panels; a similar panel is repeated below its four-paned leaded sidelights. The rest of the entry surround includes flat pilasters with reeded capitals and plinths with molded bases, a high frieze with raised, shaped panels above the pilasters, and a deep, molded cornice. (A very similar entry appears on the Joseph Smith House of the same period at 498 Strawberry Hill Road [see Form #260].) Most of the windows are 6-over-6-sash, with the projecting, molded surrounds characteristic of the late Federal period, and shutters that may date to the same era.

Other architectural trim, including narrow cornerboards, sillboard above the granite foundation, and a molded, boxed cornice with prominent bed molding, diminutive returns, and no overhang at the gable ends, is also typical of the Federal period. (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.*

Although Keyes places the date of this house at about 1835, the appearance of the name "I. Cutler" at this location on one version of the 1830 Hales map of Concord suggests that it was standing in that year. Housewright Isaac Cutler (1800-1877), who came to Concord from Lexington with his new wife in 1825, was assessed \$975 for a "house, shop, and garden"--possibly this property--as early as 1827. Although it has been stated that Cutler built the house in tandem with carpenter Nathan S. Hosmer (1811-1891), since in 1827 Nathan S., son of carpenter and cabinetmaker Nathan Hosmer, would have been only sixteen years old, it is more likely that if he was involved in the construction at all, it was as an apprentice rather than a partner. It is much more likely that Cutler built the house with Nathan Hosmer, Sr., and that later writers have confused father and son. (See Form #141, 69 Walden Street, for the Nathan Hosmer, Sr. House.)

In any case, Isaac Cutler moved to Cambridge in about 1840, and sold the house to Nathan S. Hosmer in that year. Nathan S. lived here until his death in 1891, one year after his second wife, Sophia (Wheeler), whom he had married in 1848. During his long career he did much building and carpentry, most of it, apparently, involving repair and remodeling projects. His extensive work for John Thoreau on the Thoreau/Alcott House in about 1850, for instance, involved raising the house, replacing the old chimney with two stove chimneys, replacing the windows, reshingling the roof, and converting the barn into a shed. (See Form #56 [NR], 255 Main Street). The fact that he died a relatively wealthy man suggests that, like Isaac Cutler, he may have done some speculative building, as well. (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborn map: 1927.  
Concord assessors' records.  
Concord Directories.  
Concord vital records. (Cont.)

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

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

Concord

41 Lowell Road  
Cutler/Hosmer HouseArea(s)  
AForm No.  
335

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

According to at least one source, the main house formerly had a lean-to across the back. Maps from as early as 1852 show an increasing number of ells extending to the rear to abut a large barn. About 1895, whatever ells there were were enlarged or replaced by the present wide, two-story rear wing. The old barn was torn down during World War II. In the 1950's, the present slate roof was put on, and considerable remodeling was done on the interior. In about 1959, another two-story section was added to the rear.

This is the only house in Concord attributed with certainty to builder Isaac Cutler. The similarity to it of the Stacy House across the street at #40, however, suggests that he may have had a hand in its construction, as well. On the other hand, this one-room-deep, five- by one-bay, rear-chimney configuration is a common arrangement for the late 1820's, and is seen in the work of Nathan Hosmer, Sr. and others (cf. 69 and 79 Walden Street), suggesting that any such attributions should be made with caution. It is known that Cutler did some of the finish work for the Concord Bank and Insurance Building of 1832 (see Form #14--46/48 Main Street). Most of what is known about his work pertains to buildings in Cambridge, however, where he went on to develop, design, and build many houses in the Craigie Street and Kirkland Place area. Especially striking are the stylish mid-century Italianate houses he built there in partnership with his son, George Henry Cutler (1826-1904).

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Nathan and Sophia's two sons, **Alfred W.**, and **Herbert W. Hosmer**, who inherited the property, lived their entire lives in this house. Alfred, or "Fred", (b. 1851), was a botanist, antiquarian, photographer, and an authority on Thoreau, with a large collection of Thoreau memorabilia. His photographs of Concord buildings form an important part of the historic photo collection of the Concord Free Public Library. A graduate of M.I.T, he was a clerk in the Post Office for fifteen years, and afterwards he worked at Charles Brown's dry goods store at 29 Main Street (see Form #8), which he purchased in 1898. He died in 1903.

Fred Hosmer never married. **Herbert Hosmer**, however, (b. 1854), married Henrietta Buttrick in 1884, and had three children, Herbert B., Lucy, and Olive. Herbert was a bookkeeper, and later assistant treasurer, of the Concord Savings Bank (later Middlesex Institution for Savings). He also served as town tax collector.

Of the last generation of Hosmers who lived here, Herbert and Henrietta's son, Herbert B. Hosmer, known as "Bebe", was a Captain in World War I. He later served as a longtime Scoutmaster, and as supervisor of WPA workers in the 1930's. Lucy Hosmer left Concord, and died in California. **Olive Hosmer**, who survived both her siblings, sold the house in 1953.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

- Burgess, Marjorie Cutler. A Genealogy of the Cutler Family of Lesington, Mass . . . .  
Richardson. Concord Chronicle. 1967.  
Fondiler & Meyer. "Vernacular Carpenters in Concord, MA, 1790-1875" 1974.  
Garrelick & Bailey. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars. 1985.  
Gross, Robert. The Minutemen and their World. 1976. (Cont.)



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Community

Concord

Property

41 Lowell Road  
 Cutler/Hosmer House

Area(s)  
 A

Form No.  
 335

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Hosmer family genealogy.

Keyes. "Houses in Concord."

Keyes, Bessie. "Century of Concord Homes."

Scudder, Townsend. Concord, American Town. 1947.

Shattuck.

Wheeler House File #Lo3.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord: Climate for Freedom. 1967.

McNulty, Ann. Interview with former owner. 1996.

Rettig, Robert. Guide to Cambridge Architecture. 1969.

Cambridge Historical Commission. Mid-Cambridge Survey.



main doorway



Area B A<sup>+</sup> HD 48  
Concord DV CON. 335 335  
418 Lowell Rd  
Nathaniel Hosmer House  
NADIS - 9/13/77 PI-CONCORD  
LHD - 3/5/73 USGS-CONCORD  
SENT B  
Dr. office  
Private  
1828  
c. 1836 Style  
Mrs. Wheeler  
Isaac Cutter  
builder: Nathan Hosmer

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: Quelstone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End <sup>int.</sup> Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 story rear ell 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: side lights; entab. + cornice, pilasters

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 4/6 (main house)

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboard

OUTBUILDINGS LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 10'  
Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo VI-11  
68-525 E. 09.065.1-048

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

4-4  
3-3  
HD

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)

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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