

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.242
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Barrett, William G. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	44 Barrett's Mill Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Hildreth's Corner
<b>Local No:</b>	F6-1646-1
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1880
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Barrett, William G.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.DT: Barrett Farm Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (10/10/1972)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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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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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

CON. 242

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

E6-1646-1-1

CONCORD

242

Town CONCORD

Neighborhood or village)

Hildreth Corner

44 Barrett's Mill Road

Name William G. Barrett House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction ca. 1880

Keyes

Form Italianate

Architect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures gazebo

Major Alterations (with dates) 20th-century:  
some windows replaced, glass doors  
inserted. Part of rear roof raised

Condition good

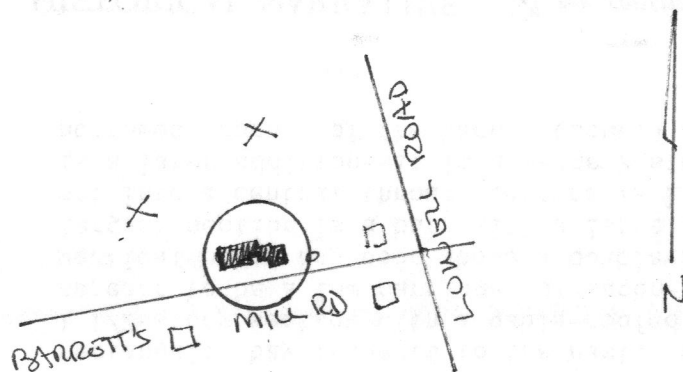
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage 80,385 sq. feet

Setting Banked up above road, curved  
drive and open lawn in front. Two  
modern houses at rear.

## 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;

Organization research by Ann Young  
for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

Unlike some communities in the area, Concord has only a few true New England "extended farmhouses." The greatest concentration of them is at Hildreth's Corner, where #44 Barrett's Mill Road is one of the best examples. It is a five-part building, spreading west on the property, parallel to the road. The main house is a typical Italianate 2 1/2-story "upright-and-wing" design, with its main sidehall entry in the gable end, beside a two-story polygonal bay window. A full-height rectangular bay projects to the east. Abutting the main house to the west is a 1 1/2-story section with a gable-roofed dormer with decorative trim. Next is what appears to be a low carriage- or wagon-shed; this section is windowless, with a vertical-board hay door above a double-leaf rolling door. The fourth and second largest section is a barn with a large central rolling door; it too has a hay door, set into a central through-cornice wall dormer. The fifth section of the building is a later addition--it is a large 2-story gable-end structure abutting the northwest corner of the barn. (Cont.)

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.*

One of the most stylish houses on Barrett's Mill Road, #44 was built by carpenter and farmer William G. Barrett in about 1880-1885. It replaced a former one-story house on the property in which he had lived from at least 1851. The old house belonged in 1830 to blacksmith Elisha Farrar, who had his blacksmith shop on the premises. It also appears to have been the house shown as belonging to William Wilson on the Benjamin Brown survey in 1754.

William Barrett was the son of Prescott Barrett, and a direct descendant of Col. James Barrett. A farmer as well as a carpenter, he died in 1898, whereupon his estate sold the property to farmer George Henry Wright (1839-1913,) who moved here from Nine Acre Corner. When he died, the farm, in four or five parcels, was sold at auction to Theophilus Mason of 625 Lowell Road, who already owned a large tract of land across from the house on the south side of Barrett's Mill Road. Within six months Mason resold the property to the George Dexter Sohler family, and the house stayed in the Sohler name for the next 55 years. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1889, 1906.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Town directories and tax files.  
Owner's deed research.

☒ 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

CONCORDWilliam G. Barrett House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)      Form No.  
242

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Most of the detail here is typical of the Italianate period. The windows of the main house are 2-over-2-sash, with flat surrounds; a round-topped window is set under the main gable end. The main entry has a double-leaf door with large round-topped etched lights, and is sheltered by an entry porch on small octagonal posts with square bases. The same porch detail is repeated on a facade veranda on the west wing of the house. The cornices are boxed and molded.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

George Sohler, (1845-1923), apparently did not live in the house, as his residence is listed at #228 Main Street. #44 instead became the home of his son **Louis Amory Sohler** and his wife, artist Alice Ruggles Sohler. As they were married in 1913, it is likely that this house was purchased by George Sohler as a wedding present for them. Louis Sohler, an engineer and farmer, lived here until his death in 1956, and Alice Sohler until her death in 1969. She was primarily a portrait painter; she eventually had a studio in Boston, and was a founder of the Guild of Boston Artists.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
44 Barretts Mill Rd.

CON. 242

Area(s)	FormNo.
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## 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.*

This building meets the criteria for listing on the National Register as one of the most stylish late-nineteenth-century farmsteads of the Hildreth Corner area. The home of farmer/carpenter William G. Barrett, it possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.