

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.104
Historic Name:	Rolfe, Henry - Hobson - Wood House
Common Name:	
Address:	44 Middle St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-768
Year Constructed:	c 1865
Architect(s):	Hobson, Moses
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate; Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Board and Batten; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Stone, Uncut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

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

This file was accessed on: Monday, July 30, 2018 at 10:15 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

RECEIVED

PD - CONCORD
USGS - CONCORD
SECT B

AREA

FORM NO.

104



CONCORD

Address 44 Middle Street
Historic Name Hobson/JB Wood House
Henry Rolfe House
Present dwelling
Original dwelling
Description ca. 1861-65
Style style; Keyes
Influences Italianate, w. some
Gothic Rev. detail
Architect Moses Hobson

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).
Indicate north

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard, flushboard, board and batten
Outbuildings garage

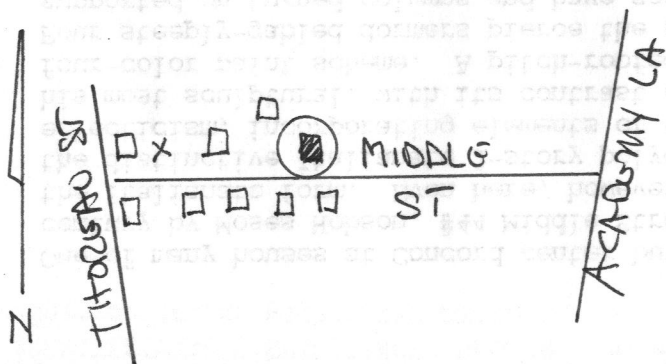
Major Alterations (with dates) see p. 2

Condition excellent

Moved no Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting On side street of primarily mid-19th century wood-frame houses.



UTM REFERENCE Parcel G9-768

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization Research by Cathie Sur for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date July, 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

For its association with the late nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, this house meets Criterion A as part of a National Register district encompassing a town center of 17th- through early 20th-century buildings. As one of the most elaborate and well-preserved examples of the work of builder Moses Hobson, it also meets Criterion C.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

One of many houses at Concord center built in the third quarter of the nineteenth century by Moses Hobson, #44 Middle Street is probably his most elaborate building in the Italianate form. Even here, however, in the classic 2-story, hip-roofed form, with the distinctive Italianate 2-story polygonal bay windows on the facade, Hobson shows his eclecticism, incorporating elements of other styles, as well. The building is one of his most sculptural, with its contrast of surfaces and planes highlighted today by a four-color paint scheme. A pitch-roofed central pavilion projects from the facade. Four steeply-gabled dormers pierce the roof; all have elaborately carved moldings, are supported on turned columns and have scallop-topped, round-headed windows. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Middle Street was laid out in 1850. It extended from Academy Lane, (also called both School Street and Cross Street,) to the one-block section of today's Thoreau Street that had been built in front of the Fitchburg Railroad depot. Henry Thoreau made the first plan of the street, showing its division into house lots. Later in the nineteenth century it was called Centre Street; the name was changed by the early part of this century. #44 is highly significant as one of the two houses at the center said to have been built by carpenter Moses Hobson for his own residence. (See also #102 Sudbury Road, built a decade or so later.) Aside from being one of the town's most important master builders, Hobson was also active in real estate transactions, buying property near the center of town, building on it, and reselling it, not necessarily in that order. He appears to have lived in several of his buildings for short periods of time.

Deeds show that Hobson bought this and another lot from Cyrus Pierce in 1859. Constructed between 1861 and 1866, #44 is probably the second house he built on the street, (he probably built #43 first.) He may not have lived here long, however, as he apparently sold both properties to Rebecca Damon, widow of Calvin Damon, (see Damon Mill, West Concord,) in 1866. As it appears she bought them both to rent out to tenants, however, he may have continued to live on the premises until he built #102 Sudbury ca. 1874. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Walcott. "Concord Roads." 1938.
Keyes.

Vernacular Carpenters.

Town directories.

Maps, plans, and atlases: 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1903.

Town tax records.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

CONCORD

Form No:

104

Property Name: 44 Middle Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Architectural trim ranges from Italianate brackets at the eaves to saw-cut verge-boardings, and flushboarding on the bays and under the cornice, emphasized by a scalloped band. Windows are 2-over-2-sash. A large double-leaf central door is recessed under the pavilion, protected by a steep shed-roofed hood. The second story of the pavilion is supported on turned brackets with scallop-boarded frieze and a rail with pierced-work circles. The roof is slate; the foundation is parged.

The house was enlarged by JB Wood between 1875 and 1885, probably by the addition of at least the rear sections of the rear wings. It is also possible that some of the bay windows on the house were additions of that time.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In any case, by 1875 #44 belonged to lumber-dealer James B. Wood, who appears to have made this his residence until 1885, when Albert Tolman acquired it in an exchange. Albert Tolman moved to Allston after his wife's death in ca. 1886, however, whereupon the property was bought by the Rev. Henry M. Grout, minister of the Trinitarian Congregational Church. He died that same year, and his widow owned the property until at least 1889. By 1892 it belonged to Henry C. Rolf(e), who is listed in directories through 1906 as a salesman, and then a grain dealer. At some point the house may have been transferred to his son, Henry W. Rolfe.