

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.81
Historic Name:	Kelley - Whitney House - Wheeler Farm Cottage
Common Name:	
Address:	48 Elm St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-1722
Year Constructed:	c 1856
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Other Cultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Art
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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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

CON 81

AREA

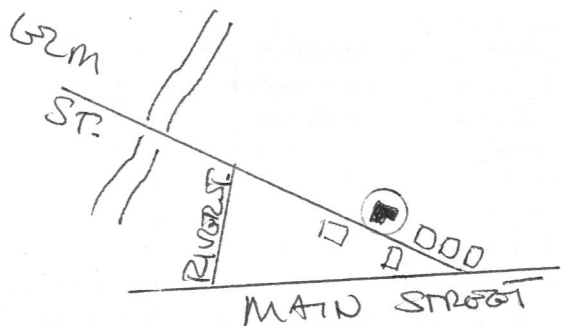
FORM NO.

81



1990

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



Parcel G9-1722

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

JUL 15 1993

MASS. HIST. COMM.

CONCORD
 48 Elm Street
 "Wheeler" farm cottage;
 Kelley/Whitney house
 dwelling
 Present dwelling
 Original
 ca. 1852-1859
 Keyes

Style "Downing cottage" with
 Gothic and Greek Revival detail
 Architect possibly A.J. Davis

Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard
 Outbuildings garage

Major Alterations (with dates)
 exter. chimney--w. side; rear ell--
 e. side: some window alteration.
 Condition good

Moved no Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Near base of Elm Street,
 in area of late-19th-century houses.

Recorded by A. Forbes
 research by S. Hollis and
 L. Bolton
 Organization for Concord Hist. Comm.
 Date July, 1990; rev. 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

For its connection with the nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, this house qualifies as part of a National Register district under Criteria A and C. It may also prove individually eligible under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of a mid-nineteenth-century "pattern book" cottage design, possibly by Alexander Jackson Davis.

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

Like its companion at #18 River Street, this little cottage is of a general type typical of the 1850's in Concord--a two-bay, 1 1/2-story gable-end building with a one-story side ell. (A rear ell and a pair of pedimented dormers on the west roof slope may be later additions.) It may have additional significance, however, as an illustration of the work of architect Alexander Jackson Davis. Although #18 River Street has a slightly different appearance (due to later alterations,) this house appears clearly to be a clapboarded adaptation of a little board-and-batten "bracketed cottage," designed by Davis, and illustrated in Andrew Jackson Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses.

Like many "romantic cottages" illustrated in books by Andrew Jackson Downing and others in the middle of the nineteenth century, this house does not express any one style. Its fully-sidelighted entry and three-part facade windows are characteristic of the (Cont.)

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

This little house and its former next-door neighbor (now standing at #18 River Street,) are significant as the first residential construction on Elm Street at Concord center. According to Keyes, the pair of cottages was built by Samuel G. Wheeler on land he reclaimed between Elm Street (formerly Great Road) and the river in the 1850's. Wheeler had acquired the old Willard/Lee/Barrett farm in 1852, and supposedly built the two houses for his farmhands. According to Grindall Reynolds, however, Wheeler sold the farm to Capt. David Elwell, a retired sea captain, in 1856, and since these houses do not appear on the 1856 map, it is possible that it was Elwell, and not Wheeler, who had them built.

In 1859 the main farmhouse west of the river burned down, and Elwell sold the farm to the family that was responsible for beginning the residential development of Nashawtuc Hill and lower Elm Street. Deed research will be necessary to trace which of the three Hurd brothers, Joseph, Charles H., and William F., owned each part of the property in a given year. In any case, it was apparently William Hurd who acquired the land in the vicinity of lower Elm Street east and south of the Sudbury River. He purchased seven more acres here in the mid-1860's, and laid out house lots from Main Street to the bridge. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Town directories and assessor's records.

Maps, plans, and atlases: ca. 1871, 1875, 1883-84, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1903. Keyes/Tolman.

Elizabeth Bolton: interview with owners of #40 Elm Street, 1991.

Susan Hollis: interview with owner of #48 Elm Street, 1991.

Downing, A.J. The Architecture of Country Houses. New York, 1851.

Reynolds, Grindall. A Collection of Historical and Other Papers. 1895.

CON. 81

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

48 Elm Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Greek Revival period; but the shallow-bracketed flat arches and openwork posts of the ell porch are usually associated with Gothic Revival buildings. The unboxed eaves with decorative brackets in the form of exposed rafter ends lends a more rustic touch, possibly inspired by some of the chalet architecture that was finding its way into the design books of the 1850's. Windows on the sides of the house are primarily 6-over-6-sash; the tripartite windows on the facade retain their extra-wide shutters. An oval window appears under the ell gable. The main entry, probably a later alteration, has a four-panel door and a pedimented hood supported on narrow square, bracketed posts.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

This house, which along with the other cottage was incorporated into the line of houses Hurd had planned, was sold in 1867 to **Sarah Louisa Kelley**, wife of sea-captain William Kelley, Jr. The Kelleys lived here until 1878, when their new house at #40 Elm Street was built (see inventory form #80.)

The Kelleys sold this house to **Ellen F. Whitney**, who was town librarian for 26 years, retiring in 1899. Miss Whitney, who lived here at first with her mother, still owned the house as late as 1915, but apparently rented out at least part of it during that time. According to Keyes, in 1885 it was occupied by F."G." (Frederick May?) Holland, "a crank in religion and politics," and his wife, a sculptor who had a studio in the basement. The house has been in the Ingham family since about 1930.