

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.105
Historic Name:	Hobson, Moses House
Common Name:	
Address:	53 Middle St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-755
Year Constructed:	c 1874
Architect(s):	Hobson, Moses
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	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

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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

G9-755

CONCORD

105

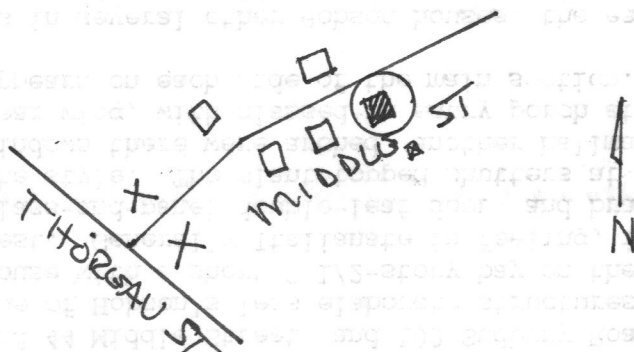
Town CONCORD(neighborhood or village) Concord CenterAddress 53 Middle StreetHistoric Name Moses Hobson HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1874Source maps; style; KeyesStyle/Form ItalianateArchitect/Builder Moses Hobson

Primary Material:

Foundation brickWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures garageMajor Alterations (with dates) 20th c.:windows repl. in dormers and gablesCondition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting On side street of primarilymid-nineteenth century wood-framehouses. Narrow, deep yard.

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 A. Forbes; research by Ann YoungOrganization for Concord Historical CommissionDate (month/day/year) June, 1991

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

Significant as an intact example of the work of Moses Hobson, Concord center's prolific master builder of the second half of the nineteenth century, this house forms an instructive comparison with other known Hobson houses located nearby, including #s 43 and 44 Middle Street, and 102 Sudbury Road. In contrast to the flamboyant #44, #53 is one of Hobson's less elaborate structures. It is a tall 3-bay 2 1/2-story "gable-end" house with a short 2 1/2-story bay on the east side, and a very shallow one on the west. Generally Italianate in feeling, it has the 2-over-2-sash windows, glass-and-panel double-leaf door, and bracketed, square-posted facade veranda typical of the style. The slant-topped shutters at the modern gable windows suggest that the windows there were arched, another hallmark of the Italianate. The house has a 2-story rear wing, with glassed-in entry porch at the southwest; a small pitch-roofed dormer appears on each side of the main section.

As in several other Hobson houses, the eaves are unboxed (see #43, next door). Window surrounds are molded, and a bracketed window hood appears on the east gable-end, but other trim elements--corner, rake, frieze, and sill boards--are narrow and unadorned.

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.

Moses Hobson (1824-1882) appears to have constructed at least three of the six houses that were standing on Middle Street by 1875--this house, #43 next door, and #44 across the street. 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, often building on it and reselling it or holding a mortgage on it. He appears to have lived in more than one of his buildings for short periods of time, (see also #43 Middle Street and 102 Sudbury Road,) but he apparently lived here the longest. It is certainly the house where he died, and where his wife Lucy Janet Winn Hobson and daughter Annie remained until their deaths. (His son, Moses, Jr., moved to Kingston, NY.)

Annie Hobson (1863-1936) married John G. Watson in 1892, and after her mother's death in 1898 she and her husband lived on here in the house. Beginning as a clerk at the age of 15, John Watson was later owner of Richardson's drug store on Main Street. Annie was long active in the women's organizations of Concord. Their daughter, Antoinette G. Watson, (1901-1971,) a music teacher, inherited the property, and lived here until she died. The house was thus owned by the same family for nearly a hundred years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Walcott. "Concord Roads." 1938.

Keyes. III, 414.

Town directories.

Maps and Atlases: 1875, 1889, 1906 Atlases; undated (1871?) Walling map fragment; 1893 Wood; Sanborn maps from 1903.

Vernacular Carpenters. 59-64.

Concord Free Library: obituary file: Mrs. Annie Watson, 1936.

Concord Free Library: "Scrapbook of Concord Events." 1971.

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

CON. 105
Property Address
53 Middle St.

Area(s)	FormNo.
	105

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☐ Individually ☒ District ☒ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A	B	C	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____

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

For its association with the late nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, and as both the home of and an example of the work of Moses Hobson, this house meets Criteria A and C as part of a National Register district encompassing a town center of 17th- through early 20th-century buildings.