

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.204
Historic Name:	Stearns - Fuller - Jackson House
Common Name:	
Address:	53 Monument St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	H8-1293
Year Constructed:	c 1845
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Queen Anne
Use(s):	Private School; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Education
Area(s):	CON.DV: North Bridge - Monument Square Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/05/1973)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle



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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

CON-204

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H8-1293

CONCORD

DV

204

CONCORD

LHD-315173
SEQ B

neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

AP

53 Monument Street

Stearns/Fuller/Jackson House

Name

dwelling

Present

schoolhouse

Original

ca. 1845

Construction

Keyes/Tolman; maps

Form

Queen Anne

Architect/Builder

unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation

(not visible)

Wall/Trim

wood shingle

Roof

asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

Screened

perch on S.; rear extension. (See also
Page 2.)

Condition

good

Moved

X

no

yes

Date

N/A

Acreage

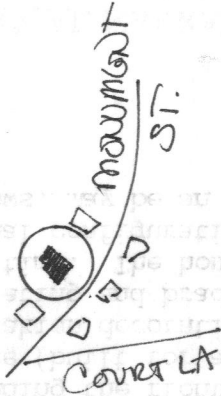
less than one acre

Setting

In residential district of
19th- and early-20th-century houses at
town center. Driveway, evergreen shrubs,
and stone wall in front of the house.
High vertical-board fence beside house.

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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by

research by Corina Favorito
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

It is not known just when all the changes were made to this building that are said to have converted it from a schoolhouse to a dwelling. Today it is a 2 1/2-story "gable-end" house with a 1-story rear ell and a 2-story hip-roofed bay on the south side. Most of its changes, including the 2-over-2-sash windows, double-leaf glass-and-panel door, and "clipped gable" roof shape are typical of the 1870's and '80's, as is much of its decoration. It is known that some additions to the house, including the front "piazza" on square posts and the rectangular window bay on the facade (built for a conservatory), were constructed in about 1880. Much of the very Eastlavian decoration, including the saw-cut corner roof detail and the corner bracketing and bracing on the piazza and conservatory, would also probably date to that time. The house may have had its shingled siding added later, however, and the unusual configuration of the gable window--a 9-light sash flanked by narrow 2-light windows, may be an alteration of the same time.

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.

This house is much earlier than it looks, and some mystery remains as to its early history. According to Keyes it was built in about 1845 as a school house on the northern part of the property of #41 Monument Street by Charles W. Goodnow, who at that time lived at #41, and was running a private school on the premises. (He may have begun the school in the house at #41, and moved it to #53.) Although Keyes says that Mrs. L. Stearns was the first tenant he could remember, and she later bought the house, maps show that in 1852 and 1856 the building was owned by T.F. Hunt. This would be Thomas Ford Hunt, who had lived for a while at #41, probably during the time prior to 1825 that his brother-in-law, Thomas Benjamin, was owner. They were both builders and masons, associated together in the business. According to Ruth Wheeler, Thomas Hunt built the brick house of Dr. Josiah Bartlett at 35 Lowell Road in 1830. Henry Thoreau made a survey of the lot in 1853, while Hunt was owner. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1903. Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's. Town Directories and tax lists. Interview with owner, 1992. Emerson, Ellen T. Life of Lidian J. Emerson. P. 153.

☒ 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

CONCORD

Stearns/Fuller/
Jackson House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
 204

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Maps also show that by 1871 #53 did belong to "L. Stearns". The property was subsequently purchased, probably in the late 1870's, by Mrs. C.O. Richardson, owner of #63, just north, and sold by her to Arthur G. Fuller of Charlestown soon afterward. Mr. Fuller apparently lived here for a few years, and changed the house considerably, adding the piazza and conservatory. He eventually moved to Lowell Road, but rented out the house to William Wheeler, who lived here until his house on Nashawtuc Hill was completed in 1886.

By 1889 the property belonged to Mrs. Susan Jackson, widow of Dr. Charles T. Jackson, who lived here for many years with her son Charles and daughter Lidian, first, apparently, as a tenant of Mrs. Stearns. She was the sister-in-law of both Lidian Jackson Emerson and Lucy Jackson Brown (see Ralph Waldo Emerson House [NR] and 181 Lexington Road.) At one time Lucy Jackson Brown boarded here, as well, before moving to the Wright Tavern in 1867.

Tolman tells of Mrs. Jackson's grandson, Herbert Spencer, who also lived here. He purchased two ships for trading between China and the Philippines, which, according to Keyes, were wrecked "through the knavery of Japanese masters and crews", forcing Mr. Spencer to "seek other employment." He eventually entered the Internal Revenue service in Manila, where, having "won the enmity of illicit distillers," he was murdered. The map of 1906 shows the owner as C. Chilton. In about 1947 the property was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Curt Billings.

CON. 204

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
53 Monument Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	204

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 house meets the criteria for listing on the National Register as part of a residential district of well-preserved buildings of the nineteenth- to early-twentieth centuries at Concord center. As the home of a succession of influential nineteenth-century Concord citizens, including builder Thomas Ford Hunt and Mrs. Susan Jackson, sister-in-law of Lidian Jackson Emerson, it meets Criterion A. As an excellent example of a modest "clipped-gable" Queen Anne house, it also meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, locatiion, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.