

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Inventory No:</b>           | CON.311  |
| <b>Historic Name:</b>          | Brown, Reuben Saddler's Shop   |
| <b>Common Name:</b>            | Fiske, Jonathan - Clark House  |
| <b>Address:</b>                | 69 Lexington Rd  |
| <b>City/Town:</b>              | Concord  |
| <b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>   | Concord Center   |
| <b>Local No:</b>               | 64, H9-20  |
| <b>Year Constructed:</b>       | 1724   |
| <b>Architect(s):</b>           |  |
| <b>Architectural Style(s):</b> | Colonial   |
| <b>Use(s):</b>                 | Leather Factory; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Governmental or Civic; Restaurant; Shop Other; Single Family Dwelling House |
| <b>Significance:</b>           | Architecture; Commerce; Industry; Military   |
| <b>Area(s):</b>                | CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist.<br>CON.DS: American Mile Historic District                                |
| <b>Designation(s):</b>         | Local Historic District (03/06/1961); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)   |
| <b>Building Materials(s):</b>  | Roof: Asphalt Shingle<br>Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard<br>Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut   |



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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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:39: AM

**FORM B - BUILDING**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Maynard

Area(s)

A

Form Number

311

DS

NR015- 9/13/77  
LHD- 3/8/01

Photograph

roll:negative(s):

Sketch Map

see attached map

**RECEIVED**

**JUL 31 2002**

**MASS. HIST. COMM**

Recorded by Ben Ford

Organization PAL

Date (month/day/year) 11/26/01

Town Concord

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Address 69 Lexington Rd.

Historic Name Fiske, Jonathan House

Uses: **Present** domestic dwelling

**Original** domestic dwelling

Date of Construction 1724

Source Forbes 1994

Style/Form Colonial

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

Major Alteration (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Two additions to the rear of the structure, both appear to be turn of the 20-c.

Condition excellent

Moved X no        yes Date       

Acreage 0.5

Setting Residential.

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

### 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.*

Note: This form was prepared as part of a survey of Revolutionary War and War of 1812 battlefields and associated historic properties in Massachusetts. It does not necessarily present the full significance of the property during previous or subsequent periods of development.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

Previously listed in NR NR# 77000172



**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Community:**

**Property Address:**

69 Lexington Rd.

**Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Facility  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125**

**Area(s)**

A

**Form No.**

311

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *(continued)***

The Fiske House is a 2.5 story house with a seven bay front and a gable roof located at 69 Lexington Road, Lexington. The southern two bays of the house appear to be an addition to the original house which had a centered entry and behind the ridge brick chimney. The southern section has a true gable roof, while the northern end is a salt box roof. The entire roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The structure is covered in clapboards with corner boards, and is generally unadorned. The entryway is enclosed with a hipped roof and side lights. The windows are 6 over 6 with plain frames. The placement of windows in the gable end is asymmetrical. The foundation is of dressed stone. The rest of the street is lined with historic structures. The house has good integrity and is in good condition.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE *(continued)***

The Fiske House and the Bulkeley-Brown House are associated with the actions of Reuben Brown leading up to and subsequent to the Lexington and Concord battle. The Bulkeley-Brown House was built ca. 1720 and passed from Henry Gould to Reuben Brown in 1773. Brown, a saddler, operated a shop in an adjacent lot. The Fiske House has been built out of that shop. Brown like many other artisans used his skills to help produce war materials for the approaching conflict. He made cartridge boxes, holsters, belts, and other necessary leather goods for the troops. On the day of the battle Colonel Buttrick dispatched Brown to scout at Lexington. Brown returned reporting that the British had fired on the Lexington men, sending the Concord militia and minutemen into full preparation. Upon their retreat the British pillaged Brown's shop and set fire, perhaps accidentally (this and the town house are the only two buildings touched by fire on the 19<sup>th</sup>), to his property. The fire was extinguished before it damaged the buildings. A British officer, Lieutenant Patter, was held prisoner briefly in the shop building. After Lexington and Concord Brown opted not to serve in the army, hiring a substitute each time he was drafted, and instead engaged in the more lucrative business of supplying leather goods to the Continental Army. This decision transformed him from being in danger of being run out of town for debts in 1770 to being one of the wealthiest men Concord in 1780. Since the Revolution the Brown House has been sold a number of times and has been the home of the Concord Antiquarian Society (1886-1930), a restaurant (1930-1946), an apartment building (1946-1954), and is once again a single family home. A recent Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory form acts as a chain of title on this structure.

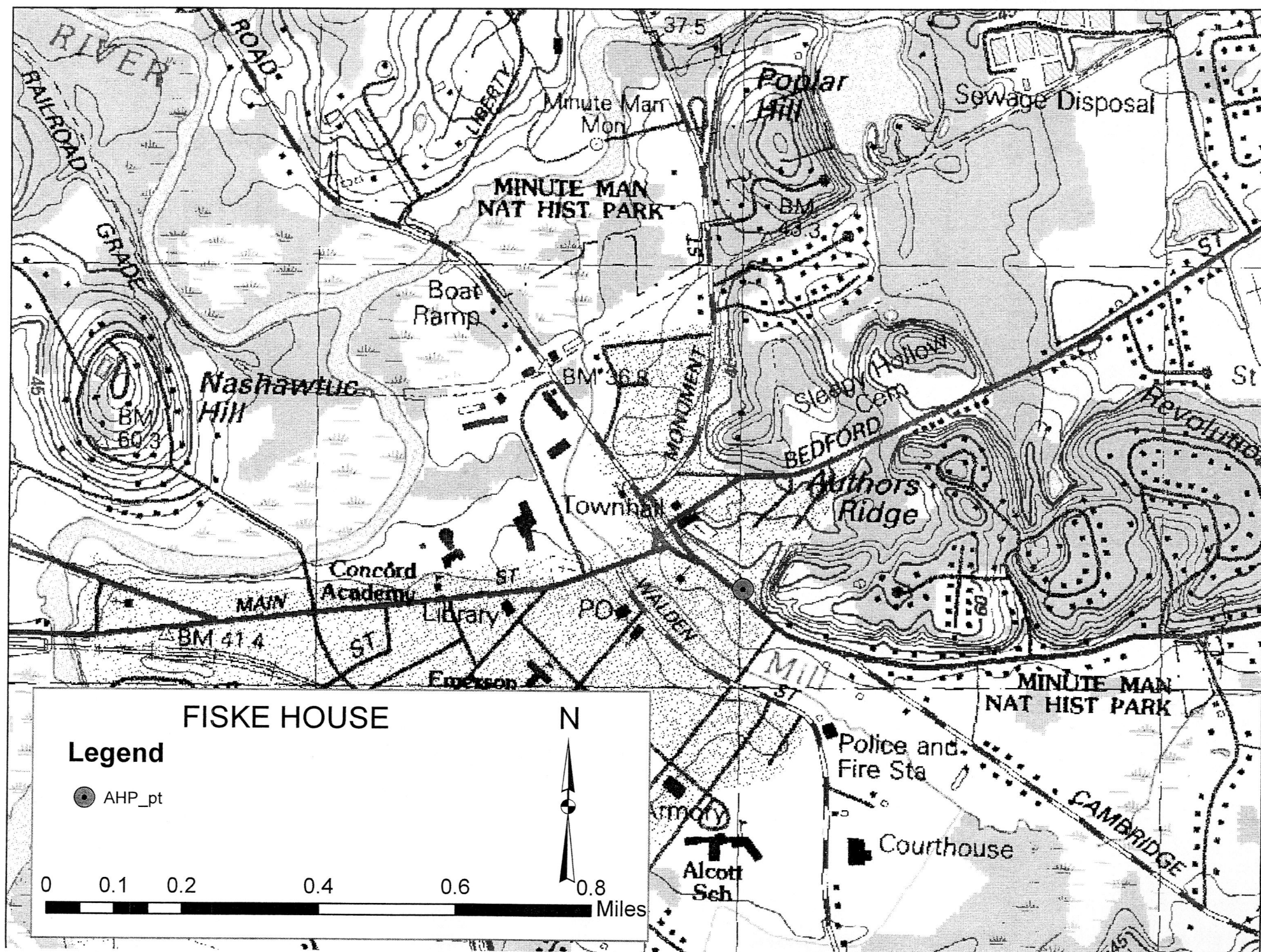
**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *(continued)***

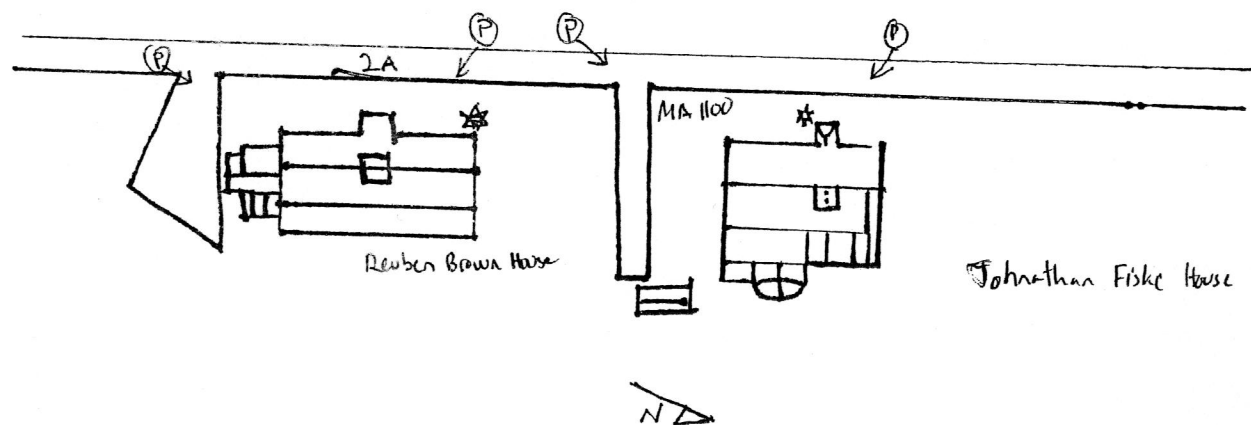
Concord Free Public Library, n.d.: Monument Square Historic District Vertical File  
Forbes, Anne, October 1992: Monument Square/Lexington Road, MHC Area A  
Forbes, Anne, November 1994: Reuben Brown House  
Forbes, Anne, December 1996: Colonial Inn (Minot/Thoreau House; White/Shattuck Store and House)  
Kalin, Louise and Mary Wilinsky, n.d.: Concord Monument Square - Lexington Road Historic District

**Maps**











CON-311

Massachusetts Historical Commission

H9-20

Concord

A 09

311

80 Boylston Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

NR: DIS; LHD

RECEIVED

DEC 07 1994

Town Concord

Neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Concord center

69/71 Lexington Road

Name Reuben Brown saddler's shop/  
Work House (Jonathan Fiske House?)Present dwellingOriginal saddler's shopConstruction second quarter 18th C.Deed research by Ruth Wheeler

Colonial and mid-19th C. vernac.

Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

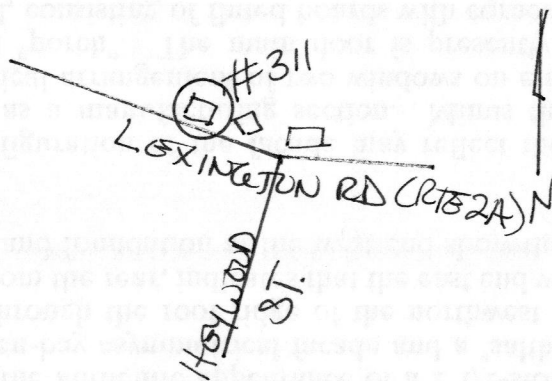
none

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

modern shed dormer at rear NW end; lobbyentrance early 19th century (?) (See p. 2)Condition excellentMoved [X] no [ ] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting On small, narrow lot; open front yardwith two tall maples, wide-picket fence at SEside. In area of 17th- late-19th C. houses

## 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, consultant

research by Ann Donoghue and Susan Hollis

Organization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 10/31/94

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ X ] *see continuation sheet*

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

Close architectural inspection may help to clear up some of the confusion about the evolution of this building, which is said to have been converted from a manufacturing shop to a dwelling in the 1850's, or may possibly have originally been part dwelling/part shop. (See below.) In any case, today it still displays the authentic appearance of a 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed eighteenth-century building with a long seven-bay asymmetrical facade and a "saltbox" profile at the northwest end. A large chimney breaks through the roof ridge of the northwest half of the house. A break in the main roof line, visible from the rear, indicates that the east end was probably an addition, and changes in clapboards, cornice, and foundation at the west end show that the northwest leanto was also not original to the house.

The configuration of the facade may reflect the use of one end, probably the southeast two-bay section, as a manufacturing section. Minus that part, the rest of the facade would be a near-symmetrical arrangement of two windows on either side of the main entry, which has a hip-roofed enclosed "porch". The main door is presently covered by a vertical-board storm door, but the surround, consisting of fluted boards with corner blocks and 2/3-length divided sidelights, suggests a mid-nineteenth-century date for the entry. The windows are 6-over-6-sash, in the molded, projecting enframements that were prevalent through the 1820's in Concord. (Most of those on the sides of the house have flat surrounds.) A 6-over-9-sash window in a projecting frame appears under each end gable. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [X] *see continuation sheet*

*Explain 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.*

Two theories, both evidently supported by deed research, exist as to the origin of this building. Like the Tolman Shops at 1 Lexington Road, it may have begun as one of the many manufacturing buildings on lower Lexington Road, and was converted to a dwelling after the middle of the nineteenth century. By most accounts, it was originally the saddlery shop associated with the series of saddle-makers who lived in the house at 77 Lexington Road. (See Form #312). Although the first saddles made on the property may have been manufactured in part of that house, deeds show that sometime between 1737 and 1750, when the widow of Edward Emerson, who had bought the entire parcel from Francis Fletcher in 1737, sold it, a separate "shop", along with the house and barn, stood here. The purchaser in that year was Henry Gould, another saddler. He made saddles until his death in 1772 or 1773. His widow, Elizabeth, sold the property, still with 7 acres, house, barn, and shop, to Reuben Brown. Reuben Brown had apparently been Henry Gould's apprentice, and continued to make saddles in the building well into the nineteenth century. He died in 1832.

An alternate version of the history of the property, suggested at least for a time by Ruth Wheeler, was that this might have been a house built by saddler Jonathan Fiske, who purchased a small piece of the Brown property, west of the house and adjacent to the road, in about 1725, and that, after it was repurchased by an owner of 77 Lexington, Reuben Brown might have later had his shop in just part of the building. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [X] *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns. Concord Directories and Assessor's Records. Concord Vital Records. Jarvis. Houses & People in Concord. ca. 1884. (Cont.)

[ X ] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places\*. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.* \*NR-listed 1977.



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Concord

Brown Shop/Clark House

Area(s)  
A

Form No.  
311

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

Other architectural detail includes narrow cornerboards, a sillboard, and a molded, boxed cornice without overhang at the gable-ends, but projecting over a bed molding at the eaves. As in some of the other houses nearby, the short, lapped clapboards, held with prominent rosehead nails, appear to date to the eighteenth century.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

If that is the case, then it would have been this building that was set on fire by the British on April 19, 1775, not the ell of #77.

In any case, the whole property, including both 69 and 77 Lexington Road, was inherited by **Reuben Brown, Jr.** He died in 1854, at which time all or most of both buildings were bought by **George Clark.** (His brother, Daniel B. Clark may also have been involved in its ownership.) George Clark, son of John Brooks Clark of Estabrook Road, was a manufacturer of wooden pumps, and may have used the old shop facilities for his work. He and his wife Julia (Melvin; Hoar) may have first lived at #77, but apparently soon moved into this building, which they converted into an entirely residential building. For a long time Mrs. Clark ran part of #69, and all of #77, as genteel boarding houses. Emerson's letters reveal that he and his family considered Mrs. Clark's boarding houses as overflow guest space for visiting family and friends.

George Clark died in 1871 at the age of 60. His widow continued to run the boarding house next door for many years (she sold it in 1886), but may have had more permanent tenants in part of this one, which was really a two-family house. During those years Mrs. Clark also made a considerable income by selling gravel dug out of the ridge to the rear of the house--so much so that there eventually became enough space for two other houses, today's #s 61 and 63, behind #69. (See Form # .)

Mrs. Clark died in 1899 at the age of 79. The property was inherited by her daughter, **Harriet (Hoar) Warren**, who was married to canoe-builder George Warren. The Warrens had formerly lived as tenants in this house, as well as in the northeast part of the house next door at 57 Lexington Road, before building and moving to the cottage at 61 Lexington Road. Among the tenants who rented part of this house from them early in the century were the Findeisen family, consisting of Minna and Maud, teachers at the Bulkeley School, and Hermina, apparently their mother, who may actually have owned part of the house. By 1923 the Warrens had sold #61 and moved back here, occupying one half of the house; the tenant of the other part of the house was mechanic Murray S. Manzer. Listed here in 1925 and 1926 were William and Ethel Potter. (William Potter was a barber on Main Street.) Other early-twentieth-century tenants included Charlotte Hopkins and Mabel Johnson.

Harriet Warren died in 1932 at the age of 87, and George Warren died in 1935. The property may have then been acquired by gardener Frank Kennie and his wife, Blanche. Other occupants in the thirties were Laurence and Martha Dee, and, in the 1940's, candy-manufacturer Marshall W. Cox and his wife Helen. In 1949 the house was the property of **James and Helen Healey**, who came to Concord from Chelmsford. Members of the Healey family lived here until the late 1970's.



CON. 311

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Concord Brown Shop/Clark House

Area(s)  
A

Form No.  
311

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."

Memoirs of the Members of the Social Circle: Nehemiah Ball, William H. Brown,  
Scudder.

Shattuck.

Walcott, Charles. Concord in the Colonial Period.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord, Climate for Freedom.

"Concord House Files" L11.

Our American Mile.

Deed research on #47 Lexington Road.



AREA (A) - NEA-B-64  
 1 DS CON-311 311  
 vn Concord  
 69  
 eet 23/45 Lexington RD 69  
 ne James E. Healy / Fiske  
 JONATHAN FISKE HOUSE  
 ginal Use  
 sent Use NABIS-9/13/77  
 LHD-3/6/61 P. Concord  
 sent Owner private? USGS. Concord  
 1724  
 e early 18th Style  
 rce of Date p. 27 Amer. Wide  
 hitect  
 ved Altered addition to SE  
 SITE endangered by

DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cut stone  
 WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other  
 STORIES: 1 2/3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 off Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency Simple/Complex  
 PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony entrance Recessed  
 ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
 Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork  
 FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament  
 Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: porch  
 Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6  
 Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured corner board  
 OUTBUILDINGS LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 20  
 Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street  
 Recorder  
 For  
 Photo II-10  
68-444  
 2.09 1.065 1.064

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

HD  
 unless I can find more about Healy  
 3-3

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Registry of Deeds