

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.108
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Brooks, Isaiah House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Brooks Inn
<b>Address:</b>	69 Middle St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-751
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1875
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Boarding House; Hotel or Inn; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Social History
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard 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)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREETPL - CONCORD  
USGS - CONCORD  
SET B

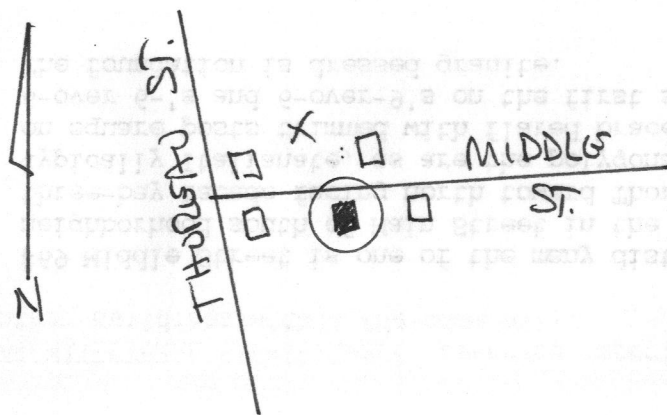
AREA

FORM NO.

108



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



CONCORD

69 Middle Street

Address

Isaiah Brooks House

Historic Name

dwelling

Present

dwelling; hotel/

Original Use

Description

ca. 1870-75

maps; style

Italianate

unknown

Architect

clapboard

Exterior Wall Fabric

garage

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

deck at rear

Condition

good

Moved

no

Date

N/A

Acreage

less than one acre

Setting

On side street of primarily

mid-19th century wood-frame houses.

Picket fenced yard.

UTM REFERENCE

Parcel G9-751

USGS QUADRANGLE

Recorded by

A. Forbes

Organization

Research by Cathie Sur  
for Concord Hist. Comm.

SCALE

Date

July, 1990

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

For its association with the late nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, and as a well-preserved example of the architecture of its time, 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.

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

#69 Middle Street is one of the many distinctive Italianate houses built in the neighborhood south of Main Street in the 1870's. It is a tall 2-story building, its three-bay facade facing north toward Thoreau Street. The unboxed, modillioned eaves are typically Italianate, as are the polygonal bay window on the gable end, and the veranda on square posts trimmed with flared braces. Most windows are 6-over-6-sash, with long 6-over-6's and 6-over-9's on the first story. A two-story wing extends to the south. The foundation is dressed granite.

## 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.

#69 is a good example of the many houses in this neighborhood that were built for people who had positions with the railroad. In this case, the house was built for Isaiah Brooks, an engineer who for thirty years ran a "special" train west from Concord. Mrs. Brooks, a dressmaker, was the leader of the women's suffrage movement in Concord, and the house was frequently used for meetings for the cause.

The house also illustrates a later connection with the development of Thoreau Street, just to the north. After her husband's death, Mrs. Brooks built a small livery stable for their son Charles on the property adjoining the house on Thoreau Street, acting for many years as a driver and guide to tourists herself. She also ran the house as a boarding house, the "Brooks Inn." (Cont.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Walcott. "Concord Roads." 1938.  
 Keyes.  
 Town directories.  
 Maps, plans, and atlases: 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1903..

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: CONCORD	Form No: 108
Property Name:           Isaiah Brooks House	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

According to Tolman, Charles, who had "evil associates," succumbed to alcoholism, and the livery business appears to have been sold by 1897 to brothers Philip and Francis McManus. They considerably enlarged the facility to include both a livery and sale stable. By 1906 Philip McManus is shown as the owner of the house, as well, and the brothers had built the house at # 61 Middle Street for their mother and sisters.