

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.141
Historic Name:	Hosmer, Nathan House
Common Name:	
Address:	69 Walden St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	H9-116
Year Constructed:	r 1820
Architect(s):	Hosmer, Nathan S.
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	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

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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

H9-116

CONCORD

DU

141

Town

CONCORD

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

69 Walden Street

SS

Nathan Hosmer House

Historic Name

dwelling

Present

double-house

Original

early 19th century

Date of Construction

Keyes; visual assessment

e

Federal period

Form

Nathan Hosmer

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

granite

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

wood shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

2/2 windows replaced with 12/12's,
early 1980's.

Condition

excellent

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date ca. 1828:

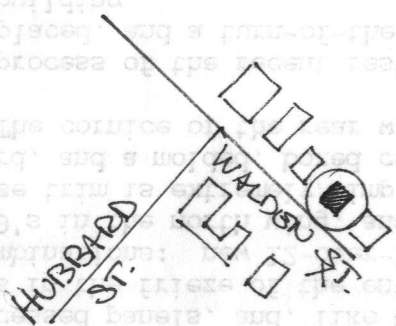
parts may have been moved from Milldam

Acreage

less than one acre

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

Organization

for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year)

June, 1992

Setting

Close to street at edge of commercial district. Opposite church, between similar early-19th-century house and brick bank. Narrow picket-fenced yard.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

This carefully restored building, like its companion next door at #79, is one of Concord center's best examples of the simple 2 1/2-story, five-bay, one-room-deep Federal period house with paired rear chimneys. Also like #79, it has a pair of two-story wings extending to the rear (at least one may be earlier than the front part of the house,) and a projecting, pedimented lobby entrance or "porch" at the center entry. Here the entry has 6-over-9-sash windows in the sides, a 6-panel door with recessed panels, and, like #79, a surround of recessed-paneled pilasters with capitals in the frieze of the entablature. The windows here present a variety of sash combinations: new 12-over-12's, 6-over-6's under the gables of the main house, 6-over-9's in the north wing, and 6/6, 8/12, and 8/8 in the south wing. As at #79, the house trim is extremely simple. The main house has narrow cornerboards, a sillboard, and a molded, boxed cornice with returns, but no overhang at the gable ends. The cornice of the rear wings is unboxed.

In the process of the recent restoration most the existing 2-over-2-sash windows were replaced, and a turn-of-the-century open porch was removed from the south side of the building.

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.

#69 Walden Street is one of a pair of late Federal-period houses at the northern edge of Walden Street's residential section. Like its companion next door at #77/79, it is significant for its association with the Hosmer family, in particular the two generations of carpenter-builders who lived and worked at Concord center. Unfortunately, the origins of #s 69 and 77/79 are often confused, even by Fondiler and Meyer in their paper, "Vernacular Carpenters of Concord."

Research by Ruth Wheeler, corroborated by Keyes/Tolman, indicates that parts, at least, of both buildings were built by master carpenter Nathan Hosmer, who had a cabinet shop on the Milldam prior to 1816. When the Milldam Corporation was building new stores on the south side of the Milldam in 1828, he moved the shop to #79 Walden Street and converted it to a house. #69 is shown standing by 1830, as well, also under Nathan Hosmer's name, and at least part of one of its wings may be another structure relocated from the Milldam. It is possible that he erected houses at both #69 and 79 at once, or that he may have built this one first, later converting or enlarging the old shop into a house at #77/79 for his son, Rufus, at the time of his wedding in 1832. Three of Nathan Hosmer's sons, Nathan, Rufus, and Silas were builders. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830; 1852; 1856; 1871; 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.
Wheeler House File #W3 (for #77/79 Walden St.)
Keyes/Tolman.
Jarvis.
Town directories and tax files.
"Vernacular Carpenters...."
Mass. Historical Commission newsletter, 1983.
Concord Free Library photo file.

☒ 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

CONCORDNathan Hosmer House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

141

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

At least the eldest, **Nathan** (b. 1807), may have been involved both in the building of the house and its ownership. Both he and **Rufus** (1809-1860) were carpenter-builders; **Silas** (1813-1891) was primarily a mason. (See "Vernacular Carpenters" for an account of some of their building projects.)

Clearly, more research will be necessary to trace the exact line of ownership of this house. It was evidently sold out of the Hosmer family around the middle of the nineteenth century, and for several years was rented out as a "double tenement". By 1856 the owners were **Heywood and Brooks**. This is probably **George Heywood** and **George M. Brooks**, both of whom owned real estate at the center. It is shown under their ownership through at least 1875. By the early 1880's it had been bought by **Mrs. Mary R. Wright**, widow of **James Wright**. She lived in the south part, and rented the north part to grocer **Frank Garfield** for some years. (He was part owner in what was then **Walcott, Garfield & Holden's** grocery store on Main Street.) Around the turn of the century the house was acquired by house-painter **Edward Clahane**. After his death the house was owned and occupied by his widow and at least some of his children. (Cf. # 95/97 Hubbard Street for a house owned by 1915 by his daughters **Emma** and **Ellen**.)

In about 1980 the house was in seriously deteriorated condition, and was proposed for demolition. Instead, it was restored by **Martha** and **John Hamilton**; the restoration of the house won a preservation award from the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 1983.



Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

CON. 141
Property Address
69 Walden Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	141

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 building meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register for its association with Nathan Hosmer of the prolific Hosmer family of nineteenth-century carpenters, masons, and builders, (Criterion A.) As a well-preserved example of early nineteenth-century Federal-period architecture interpreted by a known local carpenter, it also meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.