

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.402
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Tower - Sawyer, Charles A. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	77 Wood St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	F9-3945-1
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1870
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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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)

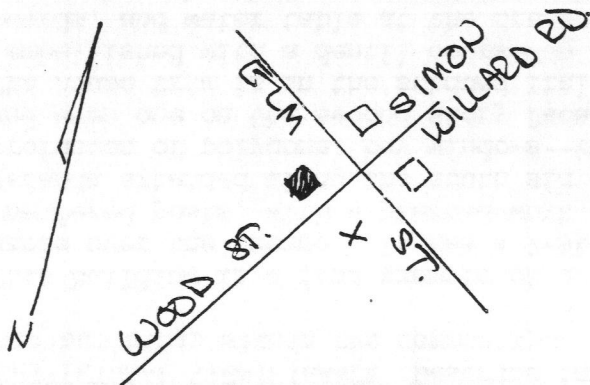
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## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116



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



UTM REFERENCE Parcel F9-3945-1

USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

AL - CONCORD  
USGS - CONCORD  
SET - B

AREA

FORM NO.

402

CONCORD

77 Wood Street

s \_\_\_\_\_  
ic Name Tower/Sawyer House

Present 2-family dwelling

Original dwelling

PTION (200-412' 156' 24')  
ca. 1870

maps, style

Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_  
converted carriage house

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
none

Condition good

Moved no Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Large hedge-lined

corner lot; granite curbing across  
front. In area of turn-of-the-century  
and modern houses.

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization Research by Susan Hollis  
for Concord Hist. Comm.

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.

This building is a fine example of a two-story, three-bay Italianate house with central gable over the facade. It has a 2-story rear wing and a facade veranda on square chamfered posts, with a pierced-work rail. (Early twentieth-century maps show that the veranda extended along the south side of the house at that time. The house has a profusion of polygonal bay windows--two-story on the north side, 1-story on the south, and even one on the second story facade under the gable, (possibly a later addition). The house trim is in the subdued Italianate mode, with a boxed, molded cornice, (embellished with a dentil course on the central gable,) narrow, unadorned corner boards, and water table at the dressed granite foundation. Windows are largely paired 1-over-1-sash; their surrounds are molded at the first story, and flat at the second story facade with heavy, bracketed hoods. A small oval window appears under the facade gable. The main entry has a typically Italianate glass-and-panel, double-leaf door with molded surround. The house has one off-center ridge chimney; the roof is slate.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Further research is needed to clarify both the history of this house and to obtain information on its residents. It appears to have been standing by 1875, when it was the property of "A. Tower." This is probably Alonzo Tower, a milk dealer and grain merchant who had come to Concord from Stow. He was a member of the Board of Selectmen in 1878. It appears under his name again in 1884. The property had apparently been part of a large farm, and the 1889 map shows that the house had an attached barn, and a huge hen house that stood west of the house. (This may be the 240-foot hennery that was taken apart and moved to various locations in that same year.) (See #78, 12 Elm St.)

By the 1890's #77 was the property of Charles A. Sawyer, who worked at 105 Federal Street, Boston; Alfred H. Sawyer, listed as an "agent" at 34 Oliver Street, Boston, also lived here at that time. Whatever his job, it must have been a lucrative one, as he was still there in 1910, "retired" at the age of 44.

This property is illustrative of some of the recreational activity on Concord's Rivers that reached its height before the turn of the century. Many residents who owned property on the riverbanks acquired boats and put up boathouses at that time. Charles Sawyer, who must have owned the property across Wood Street extending to the Sudbury River, acquired one of the most popular types of boats, a steam launch, and built a

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Site of the Brooks School in the mid-20th Century.

Town directories.

Maps, plans, and atlases: 1875, 1883-4, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1909. Richardson.