

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.143
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Hosmer, Rufus House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	77-79 Walden St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	H9-117
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1828
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Hosmer, Nathan S.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Cultural; Woodworking Mill
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Industry; Literature
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Granite



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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 1:49: PM

## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9-117

CONCORD

DW

143

LIND - 3/12/62

SET B

Town CONCORD

Neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

77/79 Walden Street

Rufus Hosmer House

Present double-houseOriginal double-houseDate of Construction ca. 1828-33; part earlierBuilder Wheeler; KeyesForm Federal periodArchitect/Builder Nathan S. Hosmer

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite and brickWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

2-car garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

no significant alterationsCondition excellentMoved ☐ no ☒ yes Date ca. 1828

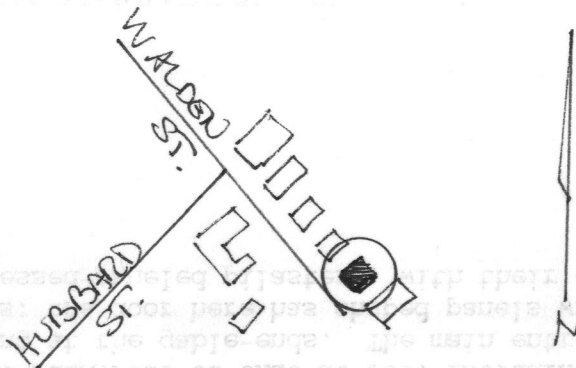
(parts)

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Close to street at edge of commercial district. Between similar early-19th-century house and late-19th-century dwelling. Privet hedge across front yard.

## 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 ForbesOrganization for Concord Hist. CommissionDate (month/day/year) June, 1992

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

Like its companion next door at #69 Walden Street, #77/79 is a 2 1/2-story five-bay, one-room-deep house with a pair of rear chimneys and a projecting center lobby entrance or "porch". Its two parallel two-story rear wings were both standing by 1852; one is believed to predate the main part of the house. (See below.) The windows are 6-over-6-sash, with molded surrounds. Much of the architectural trim here is identical to that at #69, including the molded, boxed cornice without a roof overhang at the gable-ends. The main entries of both houses are in pedimented porches; the door here has shaped panels with heavy moldings, and a simple surround of recessed-paneled pilasters, with their capitals in a plain entablature.

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.*

Part of this building is believed to be the old two-story, 46-foot-square cabinet shop of carpenter Nathan Hosmer, which stood on the east side of the old Milldam (on the site of today's #33 Main Street) early in the nineteenth century. With his business failing, by 1816 Hosmer had sold the building to Deacon Jarvis, but continued to live upstairs with his young family. In 1828, when the Milldam Corporation bought most of the land there and began replacing the buildings with stores, Hosmer moved the building to the present location, where he is said to have converted it to a house. It is not clear which part of #77/79 was the old cabinet shop; it is likely that it comprises one of the two rear wings, and that the main house itself was added onto it, (possibly in 1833, for the marriage of Nathan's son Rufus and Sophia Turner.)

Three of Nathan Hosmer's sons, Rufus, Nathan, and Silas, were also builders. Both Nathan (see #69 Walden Street) and Rufus were carpenters; Silas was primarily a mason. Among Rufus Hosmer's known works was the portico and some other carpentry for the 1832 Concord Bank and insurance building at #46-48 Main Street. (See "Vernacular Carpenters" for references to some of his other building projects.)  
(Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830; 1852; 1856; 1871; 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Jarvis.  
Town directories and tax files.  
Wheeler House File #W3.  
"Vernacular Carpenters of Concord"

☐ 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

CONCORDRufus Hosmer House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

143

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

For most of its existence #77/79 was a double-house. After Rufus Hosmer's death in 1860, his widow Sophia inherited the property, owning it until she died sometime after 1889. It belonged to her estate for several years thereafter, and was occupied by the Hosmers' daughters into the twentieth century. It was finally sold out of the family in 1934, to John Bent. Among the tenants who lived in the south side of the house in the latter part of the nineteenth century were H.L. Shattuck and, in the 1890's, the Rev. Abraham W. Jackson. Townsend Scudder lived here while working on his book, Concord, American Town, which was published in 1947.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

CON. 143  
Property Address  
77/79 Walden Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	143

## 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

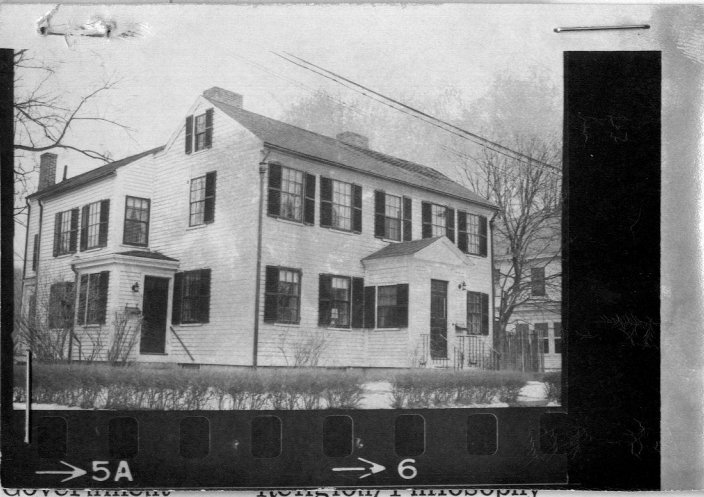
Anne McCarthy Forbes

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 Rufus 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 location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.



MA  
Of  
1.



Town Concord  
Street 39 Walden in HD  
Name Moved with Dam  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Owner private  
Date 18<sup>th</sup> c Style Georgian  
Source of Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_

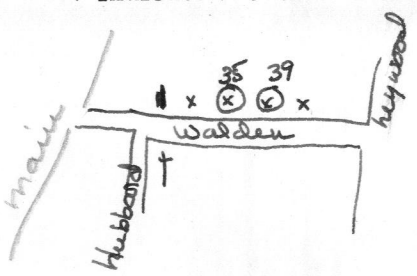
3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered from will dam  
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
WALL COVER: Wood clapboarding Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_  
STORIES: 1 2/3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 story Simple/Complex  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony enhance/modern 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: front + side doors; flat board over doors  
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_  
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 10'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street



Recorder \_\_\_\_\_  
For 68-477  
Photo W-6  
8.09.065.1.075

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

H-3(b)  
H-6 - A-3(d)  
2-2  
HD

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)

Scoutman will work down

4. DESCRIPTION

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds