

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.86
Historic Name:	Hurd, William F. House
Common Name:	
Address:	78 Elm St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-1726
Year Constructed:	c 1877
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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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

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET

PL. CONCORD
USGS. CONCORD
SECT B

AREA

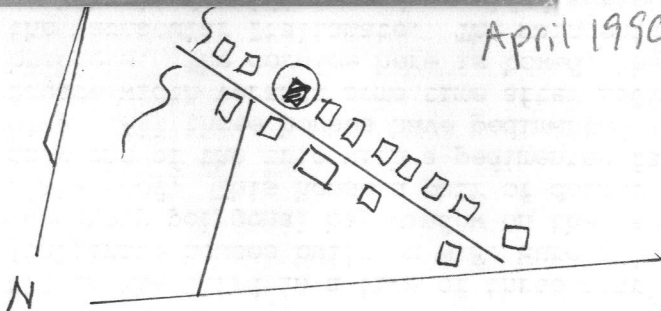
FORM NO.

86



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Town CONCORD

Address 78 Elm Street

Historic Name _____

Use: Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1876

Source maps, style

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

deck, picture window at rear

Condition good

Moved no Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting At base of Elm Street, in
area of late-19th-C. houses.

UTM REFERENCE Parcel C9-1726

USGS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization Research by Susan Hollis
for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date July, 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

For its connection with the late nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, and as a well-preserved example of the architecture of its time, this house qualifies as part of a National Register district under Criteria A and C.

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

#78 is the third in a line of three nearly identical 2 1/2-story, gable-end vernacular Italianate houses built on W.F. Hurd's land in ca. 1877-80. Like #70 Elm, #62 has a two-story polygonal bay window on the facade, a one-story bay on the west side, and a slate roof. This house a pair of dormer windows only on the east side, and it is the only one of the trio with a pedimented facade. It has a 2-story rear and northeast wing. All three houses have pedimented entry porches, the one here, which replaced a facade-width veranda some time after 1909, is supported on square posts with saw-cut brackets. The cornice here is boxed; the narrow cornerboards and frieze are typical of the vernacular Italianate. The main entry has a pair of double-leaf single-panel doors with applied moldings and a molded surround. Windows are 2-over-2-sash, also with molded surrounds. The foundation is brick.

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

The north side of Elm Street, (formerly Great Road,) between Main Street and the Sudbury River was low-lying swamp land until the late 1850's, when Samuel Wheeler, who owned the large farm to the north, began reclaiming the land. The farm failed and the farmhouse burned in 1859, however, and much of the Wheeler property on this side of the river, including this lot, was acquired at low cost by William F. Hurd, who laid out house lots in the vicinity, selling them off over the 1870's and '80's. According to Keyes, this house was one that Hurd had built, and is shown on maps by 1883. Like #s 62 and 70, he appears to have kept this as a rental house. It was occupied in the 1880's by high school principal William L. Eaton, who moved to his new house at 59 Elm Street in 1891. Mr. Eaton continued as principal until well into the twentieth century, and served from 1887 on the school committee as well. He is widely credited with the steady improvement in the Concord schools through the turn of the century. J.G. Chandler is shown here in 1893; in 1915 #78 was the home of William H. Brown.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Keyes, III/381.

Town directories.

Maps, plans, and atlases: 1883-4, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1903.

Interview with owner, 1990.