

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.20
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Collier, Asa House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	79 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	H9-824
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1839
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Kussin, William
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Altered beyond recognition; Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Boarding House; Single Family Dwelling House; Speciality store
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce
<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: 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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:16 AM

## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9-824

CONCORD

DU

20

RECEIVED

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MASS. HIST. COMM

Town CONCORD

SECTION - B

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

P1

79 Main Street

c Name Asa Collier House

Present store

Original dwelling

f Construction probably 1839  
(between 1839 and 1845)  
Walcott "Titles"

Form formerly Greek Revival

ect/Builder unknown

or Material:

ation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  
none

Major Alterations (with dates) display  
bow windows on facade, entry altered,  
roof extended over driveway to  
1-story west addition. Front porch,  
dormers, upper east windows, one rear  
chimney demolished.

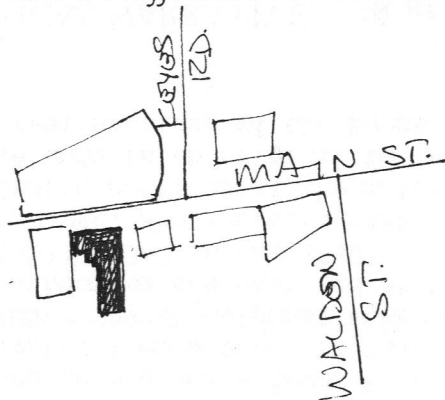
Condition fair

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting In commercial district,  
opposite cemetery in line of shops; con-  
verted house to east. Flagstone terrace,  
evergreen hedge at front, parking lot to  
rear.

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;  
research by Beatrice von Baeyer  
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

In spite of its many alterations, this house, along with #75 just to the east, is significant as a survivor of several early-nineteenth-century houses that once stood on this block just west of Walden Street. (Four out of the six have been demolished since 1890.) #79 was evidently a Federal-period "story-and-a-half" cottage. It is three bays wide, one room deep, and has a very long two-story rear wing. Like #75, it has one interior rear chimney. A one-story extension along the rear wing stands on a granite foundation; parts of it may be of an early date, possibly converted from a porch in that location. Many of the windows on the sides of the building may be original--they are 6-over-6-sash, with plain surrounds. A polygonal bay window on the east end of the main house, formerly two-stories high, was probably added in the 1880's. The eave windows of the facade, apparently added after 1946, are 3-over-3-sash. Much of the architectural trim has been replaced, including sections of the molded, boxed cornice. The lack of a roof overhang at the gable ends is an original feature, however, as is the molding under the cornice of the rear sections of the house. (Cont.)

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.

This house originally belonged to **Renselaer Bacon**, who had it built as "cottage house" some time between 1839 and 1845. Although it may have been built for him and his new wife, according to Keyes he rented it out, and sold it to **Asa C. Collier** in 1845. Asa Collier was a jeweller on the milldam. He added at least part of the rear ell, and built a barn on the property, as well as a small shop where he worked on watches after he retired from his jeweller's shop. Also living here by the early 1880's were the family of his daughter and her husband, bookkeeper **George S. Butters**, and Asa Collier's second wife, who was apparently the town abortionist.

After Asa Collier's death in ca. 1889, the Butters family used part of the building as a boarding house, and the property is shown under the name of their grandson, **Carleton C. Butters**, a broker in Boston. The Butters continued to live here until 1897, when Mrs. Butters was murdered, and her son seriously wounded, by one of the former boarders. Carlton Butters owned the property through the early part of this century. By 1915 part of it was rented out, to the Misses Sara and Eliza Jones, who made and sold candy in a shop called the Sign of the Kettle. (It is not clear whether they lived here at that time; they are shown on Commonwealth avenue between 1909 and 1917, and as residents here in 1929.) (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.

Sanborns from 1903.

Keyes/Tolman.

Walcott, "Titles."

Historic photographs, ca. 1946.

Town directories and tax files.

Interview with Fritz Kussin, 1992.

Concord Chronicle.

- ☐ 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

CONCORDAsa Collier House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

20

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Most of the changes to this property were apparently made after 1946. A facade porch which was standing by the end of the nineteenth century was demolished, as were a pair of large dormers and a very large carriage house to the rear. (See also page one.) In the middle of this century the rear wing was elongated by the present one-story extension, and the attached western sections were built in 1955, connecting the house to the brick building next door at #83/85 Main.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

After Carlton Butters died, the property was inherited by Victoria Wood. It was purchased in 1946 from one of her sons, Barrett Wood, by Fritz and Polly Kussin, who founded Kussin's clothing shop here. (It is still in operation today.) They made most of the additions and renovations described above, designed by Mr. Kussin's grandfather, William Kussin (see #27 River Street.)