

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.233
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Brown, John - Dakin, Samuel House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Roberts, Elizabeth Wentworth House
<b>Address:</b>	81 Estabrook Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	North Quarter
<b>Local No:</b>	G7-1344-1
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1770
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Howe, Manning and Almy
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Georgian; Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Boarding House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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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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CON. 233

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
G7-1344-1	CONCORD		233

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

RECEIVED

Town CONCORD SECT A



(neighborhood or village) old "North Quarter"

81 Estabrook Road

Address Brown/Dakin House;

Historic Name Present dwelling

Original dwelling

of Construction 18th century

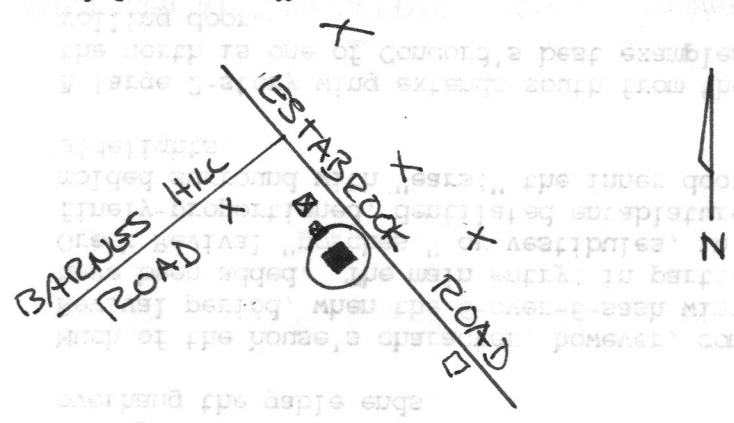
Architect Wheeler

Form Georgian vernacular

Architect/Builder unknown

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.



Exterior Material: granite on facade;

Foundation fieldstone sides

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures early barn; modern shingled garage

Major Alterations (with dates) early chimney(s) gone; exterior chimney added, south end.

Condition excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage 2.45 acres

Setting On rural residential road with houses of mainly modern houses on

large lots. Open lawn with mature trees; fieldstone retaining wall at front.

Recorded by A. Forbes  
research by Corina Favorito

Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1991

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

#81 Estabrook Road, like many of Concord's older farmhouses, is a fortuitous blend of elements from the eighteenth-century Georgian period and the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival. It is a classic 2 1/2-story five-bay building, two-rooms deep, with typical vernacular Georgian detailing in the narrow cornerboards and molded, boxed front cornice with prominent molding and dentil course below. True to the type, the roof does not overhang the gable ends.

Much of the house's character, however, comes from an update during the early Greek Revival period, when the 6-over-6-sash windows, with molded surrounds, would probably have been added. The main entry, in particular, is one of the loveliest pedimented Greek Revival "porches," or vestibules, in Concord, with tapered Doric pilasters and a finely-proportioned, dentilated entablature. The outer entry is a 6-panel door with molded surround with "ears;" the inner door is a 4-panel flanked by full-length sidelights.

A large 2-story wing extends south from the rear southwest corner of the main house. To the north is one of Concord's best examples of a shingled, banked "English" barn with rolling door.

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.

The history of this property goes back to the founding of Concord as an English settlement. It was the first house lot of William Spencer, one of the underwriters of the first settlement, who, although he continued to make his home in Cambridge, was present at the purchase from the Indians. After he died, the property was purchased in 1654 by Richard Temple, together with the land and mill site at Spencer Brook. In 1671 Richard Temple sold this part of the land to Thomas Brown. He left it to his son, Boaz, and it was subsequently inherited by Boaz' son Thomas Brown, a blacksmith, and in turn by his son, John Brown, also a blacksmith, who had a blacksmith shop on Lexington Road.

It is not known exactly when the house was built, although a small house belonging to John Brown is shown at this location in the 1754 map of the north quarter, and it is possible that it comprises at least some portion of the present building. In 1777 John Brown sold the property to his cousin, Capt. David Brown, one of two Concord men who were captains of the militia in 1775. David Brown sold the house (but not the 20-acre homestead lot or the 80-acre family farm,) to Dr. Joseph Hunt, son of his neighbor, Deacon Simon Hunt. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871; 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.  
Shattuck, Lemuel. History of the Town of Concord. 1835.  
Town Directories.  
Gross, Robert. The Minutemen and Their World.  
Richardson, Concord Chronicle. P. 103. (Cont.)

☒ 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

CONCORDBrown/Dakin House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.  
233

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Dr. Hunt appears to have lived here for only a short time, if at all, then moved to Lexington Road, and the property was acquired by carpenter **Samuel Dakin**, who is the most likely owner to have enlarged and updated the house to its present form. It passed to his son, farmer **Eli Dakin**, who owned it until his death in the late 1880's.

The property was then purchased by farmer **Charles Burrill**. After the Civil War he was involved in a bitter court case, based on his contracting with the mayor of Boston to provide several thousand recruits for the Union army. The city repudiated his \$750,000 claim for compensation. Although he contested the matter for 23 years, the case was eventually settled for \$40,000, with only \$3,000 going to Burrill. He died in 1893, and from at least 1900-1919 the property was used by his widow **Anna Burrill** as a boarding house. Among the tenants were Dr. Theodore Chamberlin and English author W. Alwyn Ireland. Some of the boarders were students, including Fritz Riefkohl, who graduated from MIT and the US Naval Academy. He became a Captain, and during World War II commanded the destroyer Vincennes, which was torpedoed at Guadalcanal. He was subsequently governor of the Virgin Islands.

For many years after Mrs. Burrill died the owner of #81 was **Miss Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts**, a painter who painted the portrait group of Grand Army men that hangs in the Town House. In 1917 she founded the Concord Art Association. Thanks to her beneficence, its permanent collection includes paintings by John Singleton Copley, Benjamin West, and Thomas Sully, and prints and etchings by Whistler, Rembrandt, Mary Cassatt, Millet, and others. She left the property to her companion, **Miss Grace Keyes**. (Miss Keyes also owned the house just to the south at #45 Estabrook.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord: Climate for Freedom. 1967. P. 70.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "House File."  
Richardson. Concord Chronicle.  
Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord". 1885.

**MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

*MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012*

MACRIS No. CON-233



Barn

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
81 Estabrook Road

Area(s)	Form No.
	233

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually   ☐ District   ☐ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A      B      C      D

☒   ☒   ☒   ☐

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

One of the most well-preserved of Concord's hybrid eighteenth- to mid-nineteenth-century outlying farmhouses, blending both the vernacular Georgian and Greek Revival styles, this house qualifies under Criterion C of the National Register. For its role in the Revolution as the home of Militia Captain David Brown, it also qualifies under Criteria A and B.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

81 Estabrook Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.  
 233

Additional information by Anne Forbes, November, 2000:

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

Since 1991, this property has been reduced to 1.57 acres.

An examination of architectural plans dating to 1926 shows that the main part of this building was formerly one of Concord's many three-bay half-houses, an eighteenth- through early nineteenth-century house type of which Concord once had many examples. Most were eventually expanded to full five-bay houses in a manner similar to what was achieved here by architects Howe, Manning & Almy in 1926-27. In this case, a full-height section with two more window bays was added to the main block north of the entry, and a former northwest rear ell was incorporated into the enlarged structure. A new cornice was added across the entire facade, and the windows on the added section were specified to "match and line with existing," with their surrounds replicating those on the south part of the facade. At the same time, the existing front door with its Greek Revival sidelights was repositioned slightly to align with what had become the center second-story facade window. 1926 architects' drawings also indicate that at that time a porch wrapped around from the front to the south side of the house, and that its front section was removed in the renovations, while the portion along the south end may have remained for a time. The vestibule in existence today was apparently added at the time of the renovations, possibly replacing an existing vestibule.

While the southwest rear wing is traditionally considered to be the oldest part of the house, an interior inspection would be necessary to make an assessment of its age.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Early history: additional information

Further research will be necessary to more closely determine the age of the two older parts of this building--the half-house comprising the central and south portion of the main block, and the southwest wing, which is reported to be the oldest section. A small house was standing at this location by 1660, on a farm that had been owned by William Spencer, Richard Temple, and Thomas Boaz Brown. Thomas Brown's son, **John Brown** (1694-1750), who inherited the property, established his blacksmith shop and built at least part of the house at 105 Lexington Road (see Form #333) in about 1719. He sold that property in 1739, however, and he and his family apparently moved back here to his father's former land. The house shown under his name on Benjamin Brown's 1754 plan of part of the North Quarter supports this assumption.

Research by historian Ruth Wheeler implies that at least a portion of the present house was standing by 1777, when John Brown's son **John** (1724-1803) sold it to his cousin, **Capt. David Brown**. David Brown's homestead was located at a site southeast of this one, however, on the old road that is now Liberty Street, and he sold this house, with 3 1/2 acres, to **Dr. Joseph Hunt** a few months after he bought it. It may have been Dr. Hunt, who moved to the center fifteen years later, who built the half-house portion of the building. Alternatively, it may have been constructed by the next owner, carpenter and housewright **Samuel Dakin, Jr.** (1768-1818), who bought the property from Hunt in 1792. (His father was also a housewright, and may have had a hand in its construction). (Cont.)

OCT 01 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

81 Estabrook Road

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)

Form No.  
 233

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Samuel Dakin, Jr., who was married twice (first to Elizabeth, daughter of Abner Wheeler, and second to Sophia Parkman, daughter of William Parkman) was Grand Master of the Concord Masons at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

According to Ruth Wheeler's research, the next owners were **Eli Dakin**, and his son **Eli** (b. 1808 or 1810). Although by one account the property was acquired about 1845 by **Sanford Adams**, the maps of 1852, 1856, 1871/72, and 1875 all show it under the Dakin name.

Howe, Manning, & Almy

The firm of Howe, Manning, & Almy, who enlarged the house in 1926-27 for Elizabeth Wentworth Roberts, were among the group of early twentieth-century Boston architects who developed a specialty in restoration work. Their career direction may have been chosen as a necessity, as they were virtually the first architectural firm in the area composed entirely of women. As they faced the formidable task of penetrating a field dominated by men, large architectural commissions were not likely to come their way. Eleanor Manning, whose long career lasted into the 1970s, was the first woman graduate of M.I.T. Her partners were Lois L. Howe, and from 1926 to at least 1937, Mary Almy. It is notable that they were given this commission, their only one identified to date in Concord, by Miss Roberts, one of the most influential women of her time on the local scene.

For many years the firm worked mainly on domestic architecture in the Boston suburbs. Projects in the Boston area include houses at 9 Joy Street and 52 Pinckney Street, Boston, and in Cambridge, 15 Fayerweather Steet (1916) and the renovation of the 1813 house at 11 Hawthorn Street (1926). Among their more extensive projects was the renovation of the Dickinson Homestead, home of poet Emily Dickinson, in Amherst in the 1920s.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES, cont.

Boston Public Library: architects' files.

Howe, Manning, & Almy. Architectural plans and elevations, 1926.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Exhibit: "Women in American Architecture," 1977.

Rettig, Robert B. *Guide to Cambridge Architecture: Ten Walking Tours*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1969.

Wheeler, Ruth. "North Bridge Neighbors: a history of Area B, Minuteman National Historical Park." 1964.