

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.210
Historic Name:	Congregational Parsonage - Gourgas House
Common Name:	
Address:	98 Monument St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	H8-1220
Year Constructed:	c 1827
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Parsonage; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Recreation; Religion
Area(s):	CON.DV: North Bridge - Monument Square Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/05/1973)
Building Materials(s):	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

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FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

80 Boylston Street

H8-1228

CONCORD

DV

210



CONCORD

Neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

98 Monument Street

Name Congregational Parsonage

Gourgas House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction ca. 1827

Keyes/Tolman; church records

In Federal/Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

large barn; second house to rear
on same lot (#100 Monument St.)

Major Alterations (with dates)

modern
sliding doors on rear wing. See also
Page 2.

Condition excellent

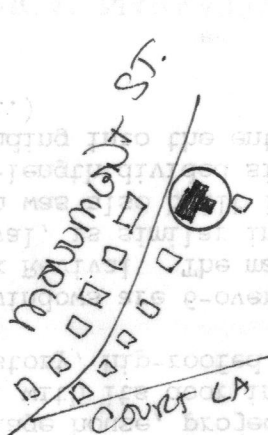
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage 47,802 sq. ft.

Setting In residential district of
19th- and early-20th-century houses at
town center. Deep yard, with second
house to rear; granite wall, granite and
wood picket fence across front.

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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by research by Donna Salacuse
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

98 Monument Street typifies the mid-1820's in Concord, when the old Federal house-types were still being built, but were beginning to show some early Greek Revival detailing. It is an extremely well-preserved 2-story building, one room deep, with a pair of interior rear chimneys. A two-story wing, formerly sheds or a carriage house, projects to the rear, almost touching a tall barn of the "English" type, with its door in the south side. (Modern garage doors have been added.) A one-story, hip-roofed ell on the north end of the house was added before 1853.

The windows are 6-over-6-sash, their slightly pedimented surrounds heralding the Greek Revival. The main entry, of a type typical of the transition to the Greek Revival, is similar in design to the entry on the house across the street at #93, which was also built in the mid-1820's. It has a 6-panel door flanked by full-length divided sidelights, and pilasters with recessed panels and capitals extending into the entablature. A deeply-molded cornice adorns the lintel.
(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 is significant in Concord's history for two associations--with a religious institution and a local newspaper, the Concord Freeman. It was built in about 1827 as the parsonage for the newly-formed Trinitarian Church. The church does not appear to have owned the building. It was first owned and occupied by the church's original minister, the Rev. Daniel Southmayd (b. 1802), who was installed in April of 1827. By 1830 he was succeeded in both the house and church by the Rev. John Wilder.

Shortly thereafter, the property was acquired by Francis Richard Gourgass (1811-1853), publisher of the Concord Freeman, one of the town's two rival newspapers. The son of a wealthy Swiss-French father and an English mother, Gourgass had come to Concord from Weston when as a headstrong boy he attended school at the Academy on Middle Street, boarding with Deacon Hubbard. He took over the bankrupt paper in 1835 when he was only twenty-four. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1830; 1852; 1856; 1871; 1875, 1889, 1893.
Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.
Town Directories and tax lists.
Richardson, Concord Chronicle. (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

CONCORDGourgas House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

210

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Other architectural trim continues the Federal vocabulary of plain (though here very wide) cornerboards, a prominent molding under the front cornice, and no roof overhang at the gable ends, although the roof rake is trimmed with a molding. A polygonal bay window on the east end was probably added at the end of the nineteenth century.

Francis Gourgas is said to have installed the town's first bathroom in this house, complete with tub and watercloset. He built the room on the north end for a library, and filled the house with antique furniture, china, and portraits of his ancestors.

To the rear, at #100 Monument St., is a small altered 1 1/2-story clapboarded cottage, which is apparently a twentieth-century conversion of an outbuilding shown on maps as early as 1893.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He brought an aristocratic, European flair to the little town, as well as a brilliant anti-establishment political sense that quickly helped turn the Freeman into the leading Democratic newspaper in Middlesex County. In 1838, as a result of his part in helping get Martin Van Buren elected to the White House, he was appointed to the coveted office of postmaster, formerly held by John Keyes. When Van Buren was defeated by William Henry Harrison in the next election, however, Gourgas himself was replaced as postmaster, by John Stacy.

Francis Gourgas later became a selectman, chairing the board in 1846. He served both as State Representative and State Senator from Concord, and became speaker of the State Assembly and a member of the Constitutional Convention. He died in 1853. After his death, the house was occupied for many years by his widow, Abigail, and two unmarried children, John, whose occupation was farming, and Abby Gourgas. Both John and Abby died in 1918, and for some time thereafter the house was the summer residence of their brother, **Francis Gourgas, Jr.**

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Scudder. Concord, American Town.

Walcott. "Titles."

Teele, J.W., ed. The Meeting House on the Green.

Brooks. The People of Concord.

Social Circle Memoirs.

CON-210

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
98 Monument Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	210

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 house meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register, and as part of a residential district of well-preserved buildings of the nineteenth- to early-twentieth centuries at Concord center. As the home of prominent newspaper editor Francis Gourgass, as well as for its role as the Congregational parsonage for several years, it meets Criterion A. As an excellent example of ~~x~~ transitional Federal/Greek Revival architecture, it also meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.