

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.313
Historic Name:	Brown - Beaton House
Common Name:	Fay - Heywood House
Address:	105 Lexington Rd 33 Lexington Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	65, H9-22-2
Year Constructed:	c 1719
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DS: American Mile Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/06/1961); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
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

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:39: AM

CON-313

Massachusetts Historical Commission

H9-22-2

Concord

A

313

80 Boylston Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02116

DEC 07 1994

NR: DIS; LHD

Town Concord

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Concord center105 Lexington RoadHistoric Name Brown/Beaton HouseFay/Heywood HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1719Source of deed research by Ruth WheelerForm First Period/GeorgianArchitect/Builder unknown

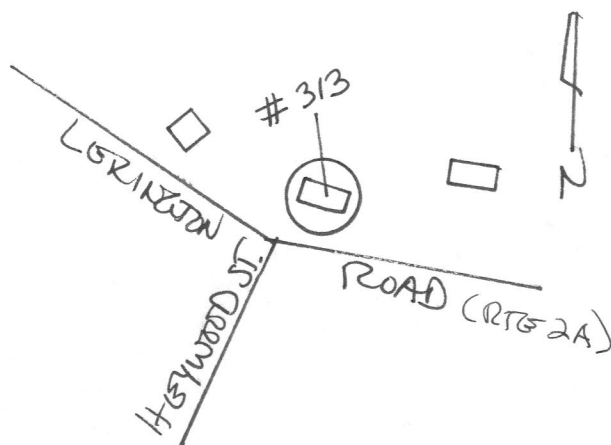
Exterior Material:

Foundation graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures Shed2-story wagon/carriage house--ca. 1800Major Alterations (with dates) See pp 2-3Paired window in 2nd story of porch removed--late 20th C.Condition excellentMoved [X] no [] yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting Close to road with ridge to rearFaces south over Heywood Street andmeadow.

MASS. HIST. COMM.

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 Forbes, consultant;research by Ann DonoghueOrganization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 10/24/94

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

One of Concord's largest and most stylish eighteenth-century "saltboxes", the Brown/Beaton/Heywood House has not changed much since the end of that century. It may have started out smaller than its present 2 1/2-story, five-bay, center-chimney form, but if so, it probably attained its present configuration by about 1740. One argument for a ca. 1719 date for most of the house is the existence of rare surviving lapped, beaded clapboards on the facade. Another distinctive feature of the building is the two-story, gable-roofed "porch" in the center of the facade. Abutting the east side of the house is an open porch on square, chamfered posts, leading to a one-story rear ell. Both probably date to the late nineteenth century. A small gable-roofed vestibule on the west end of the house, of unknown date, has a twentieth-century five-panel door.

The windows of the house, probably installed ca. 1740, have 6-over-6-sash set into projecting, pedimented enframements. The main center entry has a double-leaf door, each section with four raised panels, that is also characteristic of the mid-eighteenth century. It is surrounded by a molded architrave and a pair of tapered, flat pilasters. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Explain 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 the large property of which 105 Lexington Road was a part is one of the longest and most well-documented in Concord. It was originally the houselot designated to the Potter family (apparently Luke Potter,) at the founding of the town in 1635, and, like the others along lower Lexington Road, it encompassed several acres that stretched south to the Mill Brook and north over the ridge. The Potter house, built in 1636, was the only one of the original cluster to be located between the road and the brook. It stood just east of the line of today's Heywood Street, which cut through the south part of the property and came to be called Potter's Lane. (Another name for the street was Ford Lane, because it was the main location where the brook was forded in the decades before the Milldam was widened enough to accommodate vehicles.)

In 1715, Elizabeth Potter married blacksmith John Brown (b. 1694--son of Thomas and Rachel [Poulter] Brown). (Elizabeth was the daughter of Judah Potter, who then owned or occupied the Potter house; he was later killed when the building burned in 1731). In 1719 John Brown paid his father-in-law four pounds for 3/4 of an acre of land on the north side of the Bay Road (Lexington Road), where he located his smithy, and erected at least the first part of this house. Just west of the land was a cattle path that led over the hill to the common land where the owners of the houselots here pastured their cattle. Traces of this and other nearby paths are still visible. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns.
Concord Directories and Assessor's Records.
Concord Vital Records.
Jarvis. Houses & People in Concord. ca. 1884. (Cont.)

[X] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places*. If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached. *NR-listed 1977.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Concord Brown/Beaton/Heywood
House
Area(s) Form No.
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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont

Other architectural details of the main house included a deep, boxed overhang across the facade, and a wide water table at the foundation level. The fact that the roof of the front porch projects out over the wall may be a clue that its second story was a later addition.

Nearly touching the east side of the house is one of Concord's best-preserved early wagon/carriage houses. It is a long, two-story side-gabled building on a fieldstone foundation, and appears to date to the early years of the nineteenth century. A one-story, hip-roofed extension at its east end is probably a later addition. The windows are 6-over-6-sash; several of them have projecting enframements like those on the house. A wide, shallow-arched, keystone entrance remains at the west end of the facade. On the east part of the facade is a narrow entry with a vertical-board door with a solid, keystone fan above it.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

In 1739, the Browns sold their house, smithy, and the property, which had grown to seven acres, including the two-acre site below the road where the Potter house had stood, to **John Beaton**. Mr. Beaton, a Scotsman, later bought at least three more parcels in the area. The first, which he purchased from another Potter family member, Samuel, was five more acres above the road and two below, adjoining the first lot to the west. He subsequently bought the large lot to the east. John Beaton was a local merchant, whose store was first located in a little building on the west side of the house that later became a law office (see below), and was eventually moved to Bedford Street, in 1898. At one time the Beaton store is also believed to have been located in the building at 29 Lexington Road (Form #307), as a deed of 1753 refers to that property as land that John Beaton had acquired for a new store. He had a reputation for exactness and honesty, and "as honest as John Beaton" was an expression that showed the community's respect for him. Thoreau, in his journals, refers to George Minott's stories of John Beaton; histories detailing the "Concord Fight" also tell of the British taking his chaise to transport their wounded to Cambridge after the battle at the North Bridge on April 19, 1775.

John Beaton was town treasurer for 17 years, beginning in 1754, and was appointed a justice of the peace in 1765. He died in 1776. His widow subsequently married **Dr. Abel Prescott**, and moved to the Prescott home, located on the site of the later house at 343-355 Lexington Road (see Form #164). Dr. Prescott's daughter, **Lucy**, who married **Jonathan Fay** of Westborough in 1776, was the next owner of the house. She had met her husband several months earlier, when Harvard College relocated to Concord during the siege of Boston. As they were married before his graduation in 1778, they kept their marriage secret for nearly two years. In the early 1780's, after Jonathan had finished his law training with a Mr. Hichborn in Boston, he and Lucy returned to Concord. In about 1790, they moved into this house, which had been given to Lucy by her father. They named their home "Elm Wood", probably for the number of elms on the property. Dr. Prescott was by then a widower, and moved to a nearby house at the same time.

Lucy Fay lived here only briefly, as she died at the age of 34, in 1792. At the time of her death her children were staying at the temporary smallpox hospital at 383 Cambridge Turnpike (see Form #158), undergoing immunization. While waiting for their release, their father built the first tomb in Concord, at the southwest corner of the Hill Burying Ground (see Form 804), for his wife. (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Property

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	House
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A	313

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Jonathan Fay (1754-1811) was for many years the only lawyer in Concord, which had been without one since Daniel Bliss's hasty departure in the anti-Tory sentiment of 1775. Mr. Fay, in fact, trained some of the local lawyers of the next generation, including William Jones and Thomas Heald. According to Ruth Wheeler, he located his office in the little building that had been John Beaton's store. (Jonathan Barrett, however, writing Mr. Fay's Social Circle memoir in 1859, says that Jonathan Fay actually built the little green office at this time.) Jonathan Fay represented Concord in the state legislature from 1792 to 1796. He was one of the original founders of the Social Circle at its inception in 1785, was the first president of the Concord Fire Society in 1794, and the Charitable Library Society in 1795.

Until his death in 1811, Jonathan Fay resided here in the house with his children, who inherited it jointly. From 1814 to 1822, his daughter **Sophia** lived here with her husband, farmer Joseph Barrett, before they moved to the big farm on Nashawtuc Hill. The heirs were eventually bought out by the husband of another daughter, **Lucy**, who married **Dr. Abiel Heywood** in 1822. The house subsequently belonged to the Heywood family and their descendants through the middle of this century.

Abiel Heywood (1759-1839), who graduated from Harvard only three years after his father-in-law, commenced a medical practice in Concord in 1790. Although he was a surgeon in the state militia from 1793 to 1799, he apparently did not pursue medicine as a career after that time, turning to the law instead. He was appointed a justice of the peace in 1797, an associate justice of the Court of Sessions in 1800 and 1807, and a special justice of the Middlesex Court of Common Pleas in 1802. He later received several other county and state judicial appointments. At the local level, Dr. Heywood was Town Clerk for thirty-eight years, beginning in 1796, and chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the same period. He also served as tax assessor for thirty-three years. He was a founder of the old Academy, the library, a director of the Concord Bank from its founding in 1832 until his death, and of the Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Company from its 1826 organization (when he was elected its first president) until a few months before he died. He is said to have been the last man in town to wear old-fashioned knee-breeches, giving them up only upon his marriage to Lucy Fay, at the age of sixty-three, in 1822.

The next owner of the property was Lucy and Abiel's second son. **George Heywood** (1826-1897), who lived in the house all his life, was a highly-esteemed lawyer who trained at Harvard and in the office of Samuel and E. Rockwood Hoar. He succeeded Francis Gourgas as Town Clerk, and served in that office for forty years, two years longer than his father. During that time he was also, for several years each, Town Treasurer, tax assessor, collector, and spent twenty years on the Public Library Committee, some of them as town librarian. He was elected a director of the Concord Bank in 1852, and as its second president in 1860. For thirty-three years he was president of either the State or National Bank, and was treasurer of the Middlesex Institution for Savings from 1869 to 1893. He was also president of the Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Company from 1869 to 1896, and a director of the West Concord powder mills from the time of their organization until he died, for four years of that time serving as president. He was instrumental in the founding of the Concord water system, served as quarter-master and captain of the Concord Artillery, and engineer of the Fire Department. (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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Property

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Concord Brown/Beaton/Heywood
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

At the state level, he was Representative from Concord for five terms, during all of which he was a member of the Judiciary Committee, and served on other major committees as well. He was State Senator in 1864 and 1865, and served on the Executive Council from 1880 to 1883. He was also a director of the Eastern Railroad (forerunner of the Boston & Maine), and of the Fitchburg Railroad from 1866 until he died. A powerful man at both the local and state level, for many years toward the end of his life George Heywood was involved in a bitter feud, or at best an intense rivalry, with the much younger Prescott Keyes.

George Heywood married Eliza Pierce, daughter of Cyrus Pierce of 23 Lexington Road (see Form #306.) She was an invalid for many years, but survived her husband, living on in the house with their son, Charles, until her death in 1925. The property was owned by George Heywood's heirs through the early decades of this century. Among them, **Charles Fay Heywood** (1867-1938), a bachelor, was the main occupant of this building. He was cashier of the Concord National Bank from 1896 until his death. He was elected its vice-president in 1930, and became president in 1938. He was also a director of the Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Co., and president of the Middlesex Coal and Grain Co. in Bedford. He is remembered for the sizeable garden he kept on the family land across the street, where he had a vegetable cellar dug into the bank of the Mill Brook.

C. Fay Heywood spent his last years at the home of his sister, Edith, who had married Frederick W. Sellors of Boston, and built the house at 145 Lexington Road on part of the family land in 1898-99. (See Form #314). **Edith Sellors**, who died in 1945, apparently inherited #105. Upon her death, both houses became the property of her daughter, **Edith Fay Sellors** (b. 1895), who owned them until her death in 1983.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."

Memoirs of the Members of the Social Circle. Vol. I: "Jonathan Fay", 1859; Vol. II: "Abiel Heywood", 1853; Vol IV: "George Heywood" 1898; Vol. VI: "Charles Fay Heywood", 1972.

Richardson, Laurence. Concord Chronicle.
Shattuck.

Walcott, Charles. Concord in the Colonial Period.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord, Climate for Freedom.
"Concord House Files" L11.
Our American Mile.

AREA A-10514D NR 9-13-77
CON-313 65 313

MA
Of
1.



Literature
Music
Indians
Development of Town/City

2. Town Concord
Street 38¹⁰⁵ Lexington RD
Name Heywood House
Original Use home 11-CONCORD
Present Use home SE7 B USGS-CONCORD
Present Owner Edith Sellers (private)
Date 1719 Style Colonial
Source of Date p 16 American Hulse
Architect _____

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered _____

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great F Little None SITE endangered by _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cutstone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____

STORIES: 1 2/3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency? near ell, 1 story simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony - 2-story entrance Recessed _____

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard 2 story lean to
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

FACADE: Gable End: Front Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: ionic pilasters each side of door

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6 - pediments over 1st fl windows

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured _____

OUTBUILDINGS attached LANDSCAPING _____

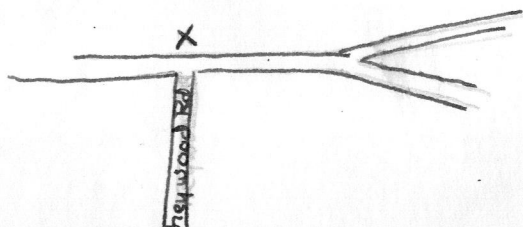
5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 6'

Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo III-12A EO9.005.1.065
68-465



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

bldg. 35 x 20 excluding attachments

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)

Brown sold to Bealon 1739

Keywood 1822 - Abiel Keywood - Town Clerk - leader in civic affairs, founder Middlesex Mutual Fire Ins. Co. -

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

Am. Hist. 16-25

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds