

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.88
Historic Name:	Sanborn, Franklin Benjamin House
Common Name:	
Address:	106 Elm St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-1728
Year Constructed:	1880
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival; Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Literature
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle 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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CON.88

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F9, G9-1728

CONCORD

88

Town

CONCORD

SECT B

(neighborhood or village)

Concord center

106 Elm Street

Address

Franklin Sanborn House

Historic Name

dwelling

Present

Original

dwelling

Year of Construction

1880

Source

Concord Chronicle

Style/Form

Victorian eclectic

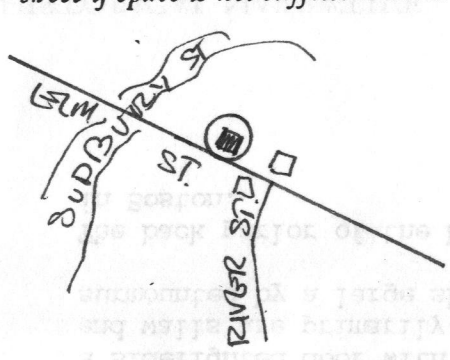
Architect/Builder

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:

Foundation

brick

Wall/Trim

clapboard, with
brick ends
asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

Shed-roofed clapboarded addition and
deck at rear; open porch/terrace
across front.

Condition

good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes

Date N/A

Acres

one acre

Setting

At bend in river beside stone-
arch bridge. Deep yard with row of arbor-
vitae, stone wall with granite posts at
front.

Recorded by

A. Forbes
research by Donna Salacuse

Organization

for Concord Hist. Commission

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.

This house is unique in Concord. A tall, 2 1/2-story, two-room-deep gambrel-roofed building, it is clad in clapboards, with brick ends embellished with patterned brick band coursing and a stepped parapet. A pair of high chimneys rises from each end wall. High on the west wall is a tablet which is said to seal in the love letters of Sanborn's first wife, Ariana; its inscription reads "1880, ARI, ANA, 1850." The facade is five bays at the second story, three at the first, where double 4-over-4-sash windows flank a sidelighted door with heavy projecting lintel. Windows at the upper story and on the end walls are primarily 6-over-6-sash. A casement window appears over the main entry, surmounted by a large shingled, gabled roof dormer with stickwork decoration.

The back parlor of the house was fitted with a mantel taken from a Federal-period house in Boston.

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.

One of the most significant houses in Concord center--locally, regionally, and nationally--is the house built by **Franklin Benjamin Sanborn** (1831-1917) in 1880. Noted as a journalist, biographer, teacher, prominent abolitionist and leader of reform movements in mental, charitable, and penal institutions, he was one of the most influential men in Concord.

Born at Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, he came to Concord fresh from Harvard in 1855, where he had founded and edited The Harvard Magazine. He was asked to move here by Ralph Waldo Emerson, who persuaded him to open a school that would take the place of the old Academy, which had closed its doors several years before. (See #25 Middle Street.) For eight years he directed and taught in what came to be called simply Sanborn's School on Sudbury Road, providing a much superior education to both boys and girls than what was available in the public schools at that time. Among his pupils were the children of Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Horace Mann. Sanborn first lived in rooms in the house on Main Street that is now 50/52 Belknap Street, and his sister, Sarah, soon joined him. He became active in the 1850's political movements to prevent the spread of slavery, and befriended John Brown, who came to visit him here in Concord only five months before Harper's Ferry. In a notorious incident he was the object of an attempted kidnapping by federal officers, escaping only with the help of some of his illustrious

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet (Cont.)

Maps, atlases: 1883-4 Nashawtuc Hill plan, 1889, 1893, 1906.
 Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.
 Town Directories and tax lists.
 Baldwin, Raymond. Memoir in Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle VI, 1962.
Concord Chronicle.
 Greeley, Dana M. Know these Concordians. 1975.

☒ 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

CONCORD

Franklin Sanborn House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
88

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Franklin Sanborn was one of the national leaders of the abolitionist movement, became secretary of the Emigrant Aid Society, and during the Civil War edited the Boston Commonwealth, a paper put out by the Friends of Emancipation. In 1863 he was appointed the first Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of State Charities, the first of its kind in the country. He was chairman of the Board of State Charities from 1874-76, and Massachusetts Inspector of Charities from 1879 to 1888. In these capacities he did much traveling, and instituted many reforms. On one trip he met a little girl named Annie Sullivan in a Tewksbury almshouse, who begged him for the chance to go to school. He had her transferred to the Perkins Institute for the Blind, and she later became the teacher of Helen Keller.

Writing, teaching, and the expression of his opinions were constant throughout his life. He was resident editor of the Springfield Republican from 1868 to 1872, and corresponding editor from then until 1914. From 1867 to 1897 he also edited the Journal of Sciences. In 1879 he helped Bronson Alcott and others establish the School of Philosophy, for which he served as secretary and treasurer during its nearly ten years of existence. He later edited volumes of the lectures given there. He was also one of the founders of the American Social Sciences Association, the National Prison Association, the National Conference of Charities, the Clarke School for the Deaf, and the Massachusetts Infant Asylum.

In 1882, after moving to this house, he published his first major book, the biography of his friend Henry David Thoreau. He published several volumes for and about Bronson Alcott, and in 1885 the Life and Letters of John Brown. He also wrote definitive biographies of Emerson, Goethe, Alcott, and Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, founder of the Perkins Institute. A passionate advocate of reform in prisons, almshouses, and mental institutions, he published the memoirs of his associate in the latter regard, Pliny Earle.

Franklin Sanborn's first wife, Ariana Walker, lived only eight days after their marriage. He was married again, to his cousin, Louisa Leavitt, in 1862. They moved to Springfield when he first became editor there, but returned to Concord in 1872. Sources conflict as to whether Louisa's mother and sisters bought the house next door at #94 Elm Street before or after this one was built. Raymond Baldwin, writing in the Social Circle Memoirs, says that Sanborn bought the land for this house from the Leavitts, who had owned both properties.

In the 1890's Sanborn invited his good friend, the poet William Ellery Channing, to live in the house. Channing spent the last ten years of his life here, until his death in 1901.

After Sanborn's death in 1917, the house was purchased by Herbert Buttrick Hosmer (1885-1960.) Known as "Bebe" Hosmer, he was the son of Herbert W. Hosmer.



Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

CON. 88
Property Address
106 Elm Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	88

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 both individual listing on the National Register as part of a district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For its association with one of Concord's most important and influential citizens, journalist, educator, reformer and abolitionist Franklin B. Sanborn, it meets Criteria A and B. As a well-preserved example of an unusual step-gabled Victorian house at Concord center, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

FORM B - STRUCTURE SURVEY
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Is this structure historically significant to:
Town Commonwealth Nation

Structure has historical connection with the
following themes: (See also reverse side)

Agriculture	Commerce/Industry
Architecture	Science/Invention
Art/Sculpture	Travel/Communication
Education	Military Affairs
Government	Religion/Philosophy
Literature	Indians
Music	Development of Town/City

2. Town

Street

Name

Original Use

Present Use

Present Owner

Date

Source of Date

Architect

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered

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

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low

Material:

WALL COVER: Wood

Brick Stone Other

STORIES: 1 2 3 4

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4

Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency

Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4

Portico Balcony

Recessed

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard

Tower Cupola Dormer windows

Balustrade Grillwork

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical

Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features:

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured

OUTBUILDINGS

LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street

Property has feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

Photo VII-22

68-573

E-09 065 11029

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

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)

Built by ^{the} abolitionist friend of John Brown

Frank B. Sanborn, well known journalist, biographer of Alcott, Thoreau, Channing, John Brown. For a time house was home of Wm Ellery Channing.

Sanborn became famous after Civil War when there was attempt to kidnap him allegedly per order of President of U.S. Senate for not appearing before the Senate to be examined in interest of Southern slave power

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

Hudson, Colonial Concord

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner: _____

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