

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.35
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Wheelock - Shepherd Tavern
<b>Common Name:</b>	Concord Academy Dormitory - Wheeler House
<b>Address:</b>	122 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-1706-3
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1794
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Dormitory; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Private School; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Transportation
<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: Brick; Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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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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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-1706-3

CONCORD

DU

35

NOV 17 1992

CONCORD

Town

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

122 Main Street

Address

Wheelock/Shepherd's  
Tavern  
school dormitory

Present

dwelling/tavern

Original

1794-96

of Construction

Concord Academy records

Date

Federal period

Form

unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

brick

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

some

Major Alterations (with dates)

windows replaced with 1/1's; chimneys  
removed and fire escape and dormers  
added on east.

Condition

good

X

N/A

Moved

no

yes

Date

less than one acre

Acreage

At edge of commercial district,  
Springite intersection of Main and Sudbury.  
First in line of large Federal and Greek  
Revival residences. School buildings to  
rear, low cobblestone retaining wall  
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.

MAIN ST.

SUDBURY RD.

N

Recorded by

Anne Forbes;  
research by Sally Dallas  
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.*

Although Concord has several examples of five-bay, pedimented 2 1/2-story Greek Revival houses built after 1820, #122 Main Street is the only building of its type built during the early Federal period. It is a very large 2 1/2-story gable-end structure. Two tall interior chimneys rise from the southwest and northwest corners. The facade is five bays wide at first and second stories, and its pediment has three windows, the center one with a small glassed fanlight. All surviving windows, (a few have been replaced,) are 6-over-6-sash with unadorned surrounds and early louvered blinds; the facade windows have the projecting frames typical of a pre-1820 construction date. The entry is one of the most high-style Federal examples in Concord. Of typically wide, shallow proportions, it has an elliptical leaded-glass fanlight and 2/3-length divided sidelights, a 6-panel door, and unfluted pilasters. The entry entablature, which has a flat, unadorned frieze, appears to have lost its original lintel--the existing lintel is very small and shallow. (It may have been removed for the construction of a late-19th-century entry porch, which is no longer there.) The house corners are embellished with quoining, and a frieze board projects above the second-story windows. (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 building is extremely significant as an important stagecoach tavern and gathering place of the Federal Period. It stands on part of the former farm of Elnathan Jones, Jr., where a small dwelling was standing in 1796. Research by school personnel indicates that the building was built by **Joseph Cordis** at about that time. It was definitely standing by 1801--the property was bought by **John Richardson** in 1798, who rented this building to **Jonathan Wheelock** for a tavern from 1801 through 1821. Wheelock left town deeply in debt, and subsequently he and his wife attempted to run the Munroe Tavern in Lexington, also without financial success.

In 1829 the building was taken over by **William Shepherd**, part owner of the stage line to Keene, N.H.; the stage passengers stopped here while the mail was sorted and horses changed. Mr. Shepherd called his establishment **Shepherd's Hotel**, and cultivated a "better" class of patrons than the teamsters who frequented the Bigelow Tavern just to the east (now gone.) He gave up the tavern in 1839 to take charge of a hotel in Manchester, which he ran successfully for the next forty years. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, Sanborns from 1903.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Wheeler House File #M1.  
Concord Academy records.  
Social Circle Memoirs. II, 82 and 356.  
Photo file, Concord Free Library.

☒ 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

CONCORDWheelock/Shepherd's  
Tavern

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

35

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Later additions to the building include a two-story polygonal bay window on the east side, and probably the pair of small pitch-roofed dormers on the west side of the roof. Two shed-roofed dormers on the east side would be of even later date.

Map evidence indicates that the rear wall of the building is of masonry construction. Some time between 1829 and 1844 a large addition was built onto the west side of the building. It had a coach and carriage shed on the first floor, and a hall on the second, where parties and balls were held. #122 was converted to a double house some time after 1856, and it may have been at that time that the "coach house" wing was separated from the building and turned around to become the dwelling house at #128 Main Street. #122's brick foundation, typical of the 1870's and '80's, may indicated that later it, too, was relocated on the property, possibly being moved back from the street in the early 1870's, when the intersection of Main Street and Sudbury Road was widened and redesigned. By 1903 a long narrow one-story extension is shown paralleling #122's west wall, and a small one-story ell extending from the northeast corner. By 1918 both were gone, and a small ell was located against the west side, and another in the center of the rear wall. Both were apparently removed some time after 1927.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Although Wheeler says the next owner of the tavern was Col. Joseph Holbrook, according to Marlowe it was "Howe's Hotel" from 1839 to 1846, and Holbrook owned it from 1846 to 1884. (He is shown here until at least 1856, but by 1875 the building appears on maps under other names.)

Under Holbrook's ownership it was known as the Coffee House. The coming of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 ushered in the end of the stage coaches and a decline in the hotel and tavern business, however. Col. Holbrook moved the "coach house" wing to the west and converted the tavern into a double-house. He lived in part of it, and rented the rest to tenants. Among them were G.W. Minns, principal of the high school in the 1870's.

Keyes says that Reuben Rice owned the building for a while, and maps indicate that the owner in 1875 was express-agent W.A. Webber, and in 1889, William Barrett. By 1906 it belonged to Cora Barrett, who owned the property just east, as well. (Tolman's notes contradict the map evidence somewhat. He says that the Webber family were tenants, and implies that William Barrett and his sister Jeanie S. were occupants, not owners.) In 1917 the building was converted to a single-family dwelling.

In 1959 Concord Academy acquired the property. The school rented the building to Nashoba Country Day School in 1960, then converted it to a dormitory and renamed it Wheeler House after a former secretary of the Academy.

CON. 35

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
122 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	35

## 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 building meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register and as part of a district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For the role it played in the town's development as an early nineteenth-century tavern it meets Criterion A; as the only example in Concord of a large, stylish gable-end building of the Federal period, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, <sup>location</sup> setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



Aerial B HD 38

Concord

122 54 Main

CONV. 35

Shepherd's Tavern

al Use

nt Use

nt Owner Concord Academy?

1801 Style Greek Revival

of Date Marlowe (17W)

ect

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered beginning of a row of well kept up 19th C. houses  
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cut stone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboarding Brick Stone Other

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End <sup>int.</sup> 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: fan + side lights; entabl. pilasters

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied round headed in pediment

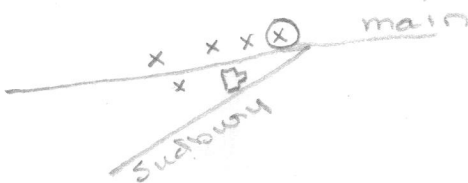
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured

OUTBUILDINGS

LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 15'  
Property has feet frontage on street



Recorder aw

For MHC

Photo VIII-3  
68-584

8.09.005.1.038

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)

Shepherd Took over Tavern in 1829. A past owner of stage route to Keene, N.H. Coffee house from 1810-22.

no other exact example of this architectural style in town.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, Registry of Deeds