

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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| Inventory No: | CON.263 |
| Historic Name: | Hosmer Homestead |
| Common Name: | Hosmer, Stephen - Baker, George House and Farm |
| Address: | 138 Baker Ave |
| City/Town: | Concord |
| Village/Neighborhood: | |
| Local No: | E9-3797-2 |
| Year Constructed: | c 1710 |
| Architect(s): | |
| Architectural Style(s): | Georgian |
| Use(s): | Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House |
| Significance: | Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning |
| Area(s): | |
| Designation(s): | Nat'l Register Individual Property (06/03/1999) |
| Building Materials(s): | Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Concrete Unspecified; 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
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

E8, E9-3797-2

MAYNARD

263

Town CONCORD(neighborhood or village) SELAAddress 138 Baker AvenueHistoric Name Hosmer Homestead/George Baker HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction early & mid-18th centuryEvidence Wheeler; visual evidenceStyle/Form Georgian vernacularArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

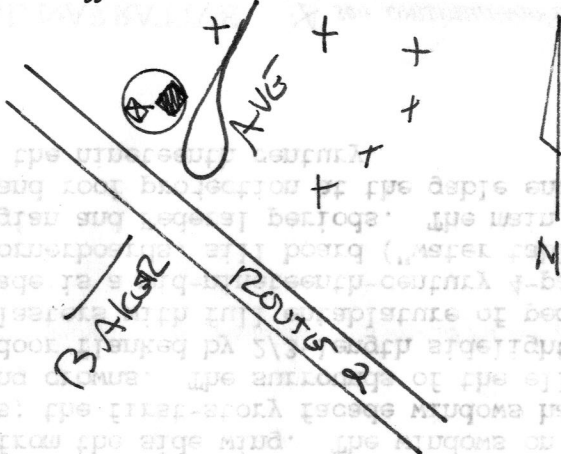
Foundation graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

slate-roofed, gable-end barnMajor Alterations (with dates) Early20th-C. sun porch, N. end.Condition ExcellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 1.59 acresSetting At S. end of north Baker Ave.
in neighborhood of modern houses; Rte 2 just south. Granite post-and-wood-rail fence around front yard.

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 A. ForbesOrganization research by Cathy Parmelee for Concord Hist. CommissionDate (month/day/year) 1991

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

Part of this house may date to ca. 1710. The house as seen today, however, is a typical mid-eighteenth-century "double-pile", pitch-roofed house-- 2 1/2-stories high, and five by two bays--with central chimney. A long two-story wing extends to the south side, with a 2-story wing behind it. A hip-roofed bay with balcony on its north side projects forward from the side wing. The windows on the main house are 6-over-6-sash with molded surrounds; the first-story facade windows have typical Georgian heavily-molded, projecting crowns. The surrounds of the ell windows are plain. The main entry, a 6-panel door flanked by 2/3-length sidelights, has a wide Colonial Revival surround of Doric pilasters with full entablature of pediment and metopes. A second door on the wing facade is a mid-nineteenth-century 4-panel type. The house trim includes the narrow cornerboards, sill board ("water table",) and lower cornice molding typical of the Georgian and Federal periods. The main cornice, however, has a Greek Revival molding and roof projection at the gable ends--both probably an update of the middle third of the nineteenth century.

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.

Although the exact construction date of this house is unknown, the oldest section is likely to be the house built some time around 1710 by Stephen Hosmer, grandson of James Hosmer, one of the original settlers of Concord. James Hosmer had been granted considerable land west of the Sudbury River in the South Quarter, which was divided over subsequent generations into farms for his children and grandchildren. Stephen married Prudence Billings in 1707, a likely time for his acquisition of the farm and the construction of at least part of this house. An influential citizen, he was a Selectman in 1700, 1703, and 1729.

The house remained in the Hosmer family for over 100 years. The next owner was Stephen and Prudence's son Josiah Hosmer, who married Hannah Wesson in 1738, and it was probably he who enlarged the building into the present two-over-two-room, central-chimney house. Both Josiah and his brother Stephen, Jr. were among the 20 founding members of the West Congregation, (or so-called "Black Horse Church",) a group of former parishioners of the Rev. Daniel Bliss, who left the church in protest over his policies to form their own congregation in 1745. (See #45 Hubbard Street.)
(Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ see continuation sheet

- Interview with owner, 3/91.
- Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1906.
- Town Directories.
- Keyes.
- Shattuck.
- Hosmer geneology. (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

CONCORD

Hosmer Homestead

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

263

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The property passed to Josiah's son **Jesse**, a Minute Man during the Revolution who died at age 84 in 1824, and thence to Jesse's son **Abel**, who married Olive Davis of Acton. He owned it through the middle of the nineteenth century, increasing the farm's 75 acres to over 118.

Upon his death in ca. 1860 it passed to Jesse and Olive's son **Prescott Hosmer** (b. 1827.) By 1889 the farm was sold out of the family by Prescott's widow Julia in a transaction that was relatively common in the nineteenth century--it was purchased by the man who had been the foreman for the Hosmer's, **George Minot Baker, 2nd** originally of Lincoln. He owned it through the first part of this century, doubled its stable capacity, and for many years boarded over 100 horses here. He served the town as a tax assessor at the turn of the century.

By 1921 to at least 1937 the property belonged to the Allen family. It was purchased by farmer **Abbot Allen**, who lived here with his wife and four sons, Abbot, Jr., Afthur, Gifford, Henry, and daughter Laura, who married Ralph Adams. It became known as the "Allen Farm," and in the 1930's is listed under the ownership of Gifford Allen and Mrs. L.A. Adams. In the middle of this century the house was the site of an alternative school called "The School We Have--Identity, Inc." The property then belonged briefly to a religious sect, the Divine Light Mission.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Wheeler House File.

Jarvis, Edward. "Houses and People in Concord, 1810-1820." 1882.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle. P. 26, 88.



Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
138 Baker Ave.

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Area(s) | Form No. |
| | 263 |

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually ☐ District ☐ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A | B | C | D |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Statement of Significance by Anne McCarthy Forbes

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

As an intact example of an eighteenth-century "double-pile" vernacular Georgian farmhouse, #138 Baker Ave. meets Criterion C of the National Register. It also qualifies under Criterion A for its role in the community development of the town (agricultural--farming, boarding of horses) and its association with the Hosmer family, which was intimately involved with the development of the western part of town for 200 years.

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