

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.41
Historic Name:	Davis, Josiah House - Brides House
Common Name:	Concord Academy School Admin. Bldg. - Aloian House
Address:	166 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-1705
Year Constructed:	c 1790
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Boarding House; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Educational; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Literature
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; 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

G9-1705

CONCORD

DU

41

NOV 17 1992

CONCORD

Town

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

166 Main Street

SS

Historic Name Josiah Davis Double-house
"Brides' House"

Present school administration

Original double-house

of Construction ca. 1790

Source Fenn; visual
assessment

Form Federal period

Form unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite
and brick

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures several

other buildings on school campus

Major Alterations (with dates) 20th-century

glassed-in sun porch on west end.
(See also Page 3.)

Condition excellent

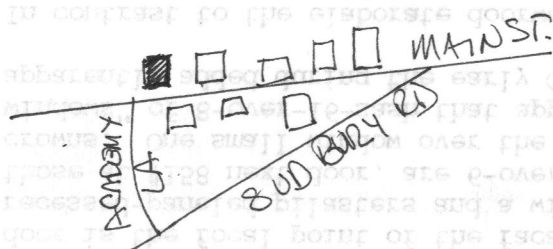
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage one half acre

Setting In line of large Georgian,
Federal, and Greek Revival residences on
north side of Main St. School buildings
to rear; granite curbing and low ever-
greens at 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.



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.

#166 Main Street is one of several large Federal period dwellings on the north side of Main Street at Concord Center, and contains many stylish details of the period. It is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay house with a shallow-pitched roof and two tall chimneys--one on the west side of a two-story rear center wing, the other just west of center on the front slope of the main roof. A finely-detailed Federal-style doorway with an elliptical louvered fanlight, leaded sidelights, and an eight panel door is the focal point of the facade. The door is eight-panel; the surround has recessed-paneled pilasters and a wide, broken pediment above. The windows, like those at #158 next door, are 6-over-6-sash in projecting frames, with molded crowns. One small window over the main entry may be a replacement. Three "long windows" of 8-over-16-sash that appear at the first story on the east end were apparently added during the early Greek Revival period.

In contrast to the elaborate doorway, the other architectural trim here is fairly subdued, consisting of a molded, boxed cornice, narrow cornerboards, and sillboard. The roof, which overhangs the end gables, may have been extended during the Greek Revival period. (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 was built as a double-house in about 1790, probably as a speculative real estate venture, by Josiah Davis, who had a house and store just to the southwest. He owned #166 until about the mid-1830's, and among his tenants were some of Concord's most well-known citizens. Author and historian Lemuel Shattuck lived here from 1823 to 1834, when he moved to Boston to become a publisher and book dealer. Much of the work for his 1835 History of Concord must have been done while he lived in this house. While in Concord he was a master of the Masonic Lodge, member of the School Committee, and Superintendent of the Sunday School. He wrote the first report on the town schools in 1830, an antecedent of a policy he later put into action at the state level in 1838, when as a member of the State legislature he initiated a law that required every town in Massachusetts to prepare an annual school report. He later became a prominent genealogist and statistician, and was called to Washington to help prepare the census of 1850. Today he is recognized as the father of public health work, and in 1954 the Lemuel Shattuck Hospital was named for him. (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 #M8.
Town directories and tax files.
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

CONCORDJosiah Davis
Double House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

41

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

A 1 1/2-story extension on the west end is apparently a later addition; the glassed-in porch in front of it may be an alteration of a porch shown in that position as early as 1875--possibly another of Main Streets many Greek Revival Doric colonnades and porches. A second porch and shallow ell that stood at the east end were demolished between 1909 and 1918.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The family of John Thoreau, including the young Henry, lived here for a year from 1826 to May, 1827. Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar was an occupant shortly before 1845, when his own house was built, (see #194 Main Street). Dr. Josiah Bartlett and his wife lived here for a few years after their marriage. In fact, so many newlyweds rented the building that it became known colloquially as "the brides' house."

By 1850 the house had been acquired by Deacon John Brown, Jr. He moved here from West Concord at the time his family property there was sold to the Damon Estate. He and his family lived in the west half; tenants in the east part included Dr. Smith, a Mrs. Burr, who ran a boarding house in the building, and a Miss Mackay. Deacon Brown eventually occupied the whole house, and built a stable in the rear. He began in the drygoods business in Concord in 1845, when, after a stint with J.P. Heywood in the old green store, he bought the Wardwell Company on the south side of the Milldam, and established his own store on the north side. In 1861 he moved his business to the south side, then to new quarters to the east in 1873. (See #29 Main Street.) His son Charles followed him in the business, which became Charles E. Brown Drygoods.

John Brown was a Deacon in the First Parish Church, and became Parish Clerk when the church separated from the town in 1855. He lived here for over fifty years, and after his death the house was subsequently owned and occupied by his granddaughter and her husband Hugh F. Leith. In 1928 it was purchased by Frederic and Julia Gooding, whose heirs sold it to Concord Academy after Mrs. Gooding's death in 1984. The school calls it Aloian House, after David Aloian, a former headmaster.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Social Circle Memoirs. II, 141.

Fenn, Mary. Old Houses of Concord. 1974.

Fondiler and ~~Robinson~~ ^{Meyer}. "Vernacular Carpenters."

Silverman, Andrea. article in The Centipede, April, 1985.

CON-41

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community	Property Address
CONCORD	166 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	41

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 district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For its association with the prominent and influential real-estate investor and store-keeper Josiah Davis, it meets Criterion A. As a well-preserved example of a high-style Federal period house, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, ^{location,} setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.