

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.42
Historic Name:	Whiting, Col. William - Smith, Henry F. House
Common Name:	
Address:	169 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	792, G9-791,792
Year Constructed:	r 1805
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; 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

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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

G9-791, 792

CONCORD

DU

42

Town CONCORD

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

169 Main Street

Historic Name Col. William Whiting House
Henry F. Smith House

Present dwellingOriginal dwelling

Year of Construction ca. 1800-10; recon-
struction of 1823
Wheeler

Form Federal/Greek RevivalArchitect/Builder unknown

Foundation Material:

Foundation dressed graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
on Parcel 792: modern house and late-
19th-C. carriage house (see CON.1841)

Major Alterations (with dates)

20th-C.: open porch on east end.
Front door replaced, 1950's.

Condition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage two parcels, less than one acre

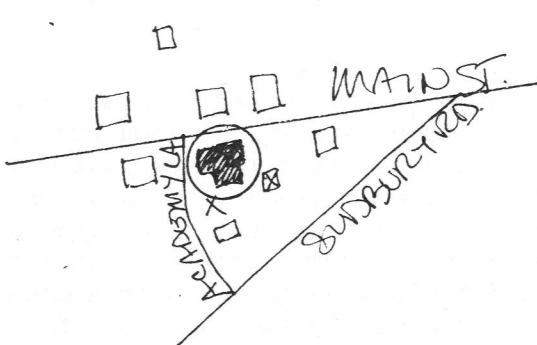
Setting At corner of Academy Lane
on south side of Main St. In area of
large Federal and Greek Revival resi-
dences. Two open lots, with modern
house at #21 Academy Lane.

NOV 17 1992



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 Pennie Logemann
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.

It is uncertain just how much of a pre-1820 house is incorporated into this structure. Undoubtedly most of it dates to the rebuilding after a fire of 1823. The brick end walls of the earlier Federal period structure stand under the clapboards, however, and the two pairs of tall end chimneys may be those that were incorporated into those exterior brick walls. The result of the rebuilding is one of Concord center's largest and most stylish transitional Federal/Greek Revival houses. It is a 2 1/2-story structure, two rooms deep, with a 2-story central rear wing. A one-story ell extends from the rear of the wing. The facade is five bays, with a wide pilastered, sidelighted and transomed entry with much carved and incised geometrical decoration in the entablature. A second entry in the rear west elevation of the wing, which has a two-light glass-and-panel door and an entry hood supported on a square, chamfered post, probably dates to ca. 1870. The windows are 6-over-6-sash with molded surrounds. A pitch-roofed dormer pierces the west slope of the roof of the rear wing. The house trim consists of a molded, boxed cornice with molding below, a sill board, and unadorned cornerboards. (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.

In spite of the considerable research done by Ruth Wheeler, it is not known who built the house which was standing here prior to 1823. In 1820 the property had been purchased by Col. William Whiting (1791-1863), a carriage manufacturer who built a carriage shop here. In 1823 the carriage shop was burned and the old house "almost ruined" in a disastrous fire. Col. Whiting immediately rebuilt the house, and it is likely that the brick end walls concealed under the clapboards remain from the former structure.

Col. Whiting was a prominent and successful citizen of Concord. He carried on a successful carriage business here for many years, and was a leader of the Concord Artillery. An accomplished musician, he played the flute both for the Artillery company and for the First Parish Church. He was active in the cause of anti-slavery, serving as president of the county Anti-Slavery Society, and vice-president at the state level. He is known to have sheltered runaway slaves as an active participant in the underground railroad, and Garrison, Wendell Phillips, and John Brown were all guests in this house. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.
Sanborns from 1897.

Keyes/Tolman.

Wheeler House File #M5.

Social Circle Memoirs, II.

Town directories and tax files. (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

CONCORDCol. William Whiting House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

H2

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Behind the house, now on a separate parcel, is one of Main Street's most elaborate late-nineteenth-century carriage houses. It is a three-bay building with a brick foundation, slate roof with cupola, and a through-cornice dormer on the facade. It has a profusion of "Carpenter Gothic" decoration in the form of scalloped verge boarding at the cupola, gable-ends, and at the pedimented hoods of the 2/2 windows. King-post trusses also adorn the gables.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

After Mr. Whiting's death in 1863, the property was bought by William Munroe, Jr. (See #185 Main Street.) One of Concord's wealthiest and most influential citizens, Mr. Munroe removed the carriage shop and other outbuildings, renovated the house, and changed the line of Academy Lane where it joined Main Street. He is said to have wanted to buy all the land in the triangle bounded by Academy Lane, Main Street, and Sudbury Road, but did not quite attain his goal. Instead, he sold this house to Henry F. Smith in 1868-9, and in 1871-2 donated the land for the Concord Free Library, overseeing its construction and the associated moving of buildings and realignment of Main Street and lower Sudbury Road.

Henry Smith was a partner in the Damon mills at West Concord between 1872 and 1876. Both before and after that he had been associated with other textile concerns, including serving as Superintendent of the Standish Mills in Plymouth. He owned the house until his death in 1928 at the age of 95.

The property was inherited by one of Mr. Smith's six sons, Theodore L. Smith, an engineer with the American Locomotive company, and a design engineer with Gillette. He owned it until 1951, when it was bought by Otto E. Wolff, vice-president of research at Polaroid, who owned it for about a year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Fondiler and Robinson, "Vernacular Carpenters."
Richardson, Concord Chronicle.
Garrellick, Clothier of the Assabet.
Interview with owner and Smith descendant, 2/92.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDCol. William Whiting House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
42

Main
Entry



Carriage
House



Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

CON. 42
Property Address
169 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	42

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 two prominent and influential nineteenth-century Concord citizens, carriage-manufacturer William Whiting and manufacturer Henry F. Smith, it meets Criterion A. As a well-preserved example of a high-style Federal/Greek Revival house, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, ^{location} setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



Area B HD CON-42 36 ✓
Concord
Main on Academy
William Whiting

Use _____
Use _____
Owner private
1820's Style Georgian
of Date _____
ect _____
Altered _____

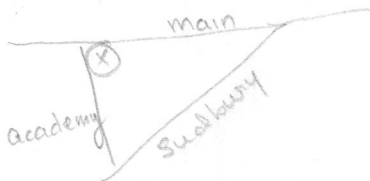
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by _____

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-14
68-565

8-09-065-1-036

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)

Author of War Powers Under the Constitution of the U.S. +
other legal works - Represented Boston in Congress

brick ends covered by wood - possibly due to delamination
in fire of 1823

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

R. Wheeler

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

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