

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.48
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Colburn - Belknap - Wheildon House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	207 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-789-1
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1780
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal; Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Other Residential; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Recreation
<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: 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

G9-789-1

CONCORD

DU

48

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

CONCORD

Town

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

207 Main Street

Address

Colburn/Belknap House

Historic Name

W.W. Wheildon House  
dwelling

Present

dwelling

Original

Date of Construction late 18th century;  
remodeled ca. 1856

Architect Wheeler

" 1835

Form

Greek Revival update of  
earlier house

Architect/Builder

original unknown; Bradley Blaudrach

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  
shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

20th century: fire escapes added,  
glassed sunporch at rear

Condition excellent

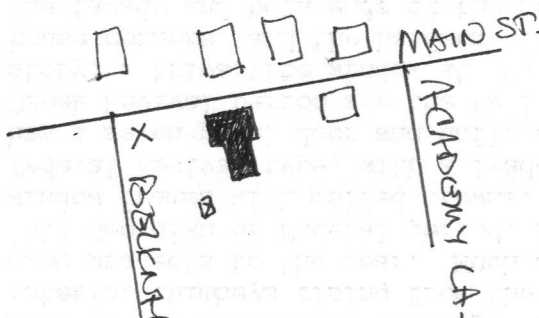
Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date ca. 1835

Acreage one acre

Setting In line of large Georgian,  
Federal, and Greek Revival residences on  
south side of Main St. Ironwork fences  
with heavy granite posts and wooden gates  
across front. Modern house to west.

## 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 Ann Young  
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.*

Like several of the large, well-preserved houses on this section of Main Street, #207 is a Greek Revival update of an earlier building. In this case, the main gable-roofed, 2 1/2-story, five-by-four-bay house was apparently built in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Its basic proportions are intact, as are two tall interior chimneys rising from the outer edge of the front roof slope. A 1 1/2-story wing projects to the rear. Much of the architectural detail, too, remains from the late Georgian or Federal period, including the main house cornice and the projecting window frames with molded crowns. The main center entry is a wide Federal or Federal Revival type, with a leaded-glass fanlight and 2/3-length sidelights. It has a seven-panel door and unfluted pilasters. Dating to the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival period are the tall, large-paned 6-over-9-sash windows at the first story, a tripartite window at the center of the second, the paneled pilasters at the house corners, and the handsome fluted Doric colonnade/veranda, which wraps around the facade and both ends of the house. Two oval windows, one at the second story of on each end of the house, probably were installed in the Federal Revival period, between 1890 and 1910.

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 several houses on lower Main Street that have been moved, this building is also significant as one of the two or three oldest. Of uncertain construction date, it originally stood on the late-eighteenth-century farm of Gen. James Colburn (ca. 1757-1803) north of today's Elm Street in the vicinity of Baker Avenue. (Colburn's Hill was named for the Colburn family.) General Colburn, who had married Rebecca Wheeler in 1779, was probably appointed a general in connection with the Concord Light Infantry. He eventually left Concord to become a Boston merchant, and after his death his widow returned here and married Jonas Lee.

The lot on which the house now stands was bought in 1833 by Josiah Davis, a businessman and real estate speculator who at one time or another owned several of the lots and houses on Main Street. Later that same year he sold it to carpenter **Bradley Blanchard**, who is known to have put a double dwelling house on the property some time between 1833 and 1837, when he sold it, with a mortgage, to **Jonathan B. Redman**. (This tallies with Keyes, who says that Blanchard moved a large wooden house here from Colburn Hill about 1835 and "partly finished" it. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1909.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Wheeler House File #M9.  
Town directories and tax files.  
Richardson, Concord Chronicle.  
Social Circle Memoirs.  
Fenn, Mary. Old Houses of Concord. 1974.  
Fondiler and Robinson. "Vernacular Carpenters."

☒ 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

Colburn/Blanchard/  
Wheildon House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

46

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The Redman transaction may indicate that Blanchard only mortgaged, rather than sold, the property. In any case, he is indicated again as owner in 1840. (A carpenter's shop was standing here, as well, in that year.) Samuel Hoar as mortgage holder was involved in some transactions here, possibly a mortgage foreclosure, and in 1843 he conveyed the property to Abiel Wheeler, who in turn sold it to **Sewall F. Belknap**, one of the major entrepreneurs involved in bringing the Fitchburg Railroad through Concord in 1844.

Sewall Belknap used the coming of the railroad to engage in considerable real estate speculation. He also bought the old Jonas Heywood farm, which extended east from the Sudbury River to the Sudbury Road area, and laid out a new section of road, (now part of Main Street), to replace part of the old Lancaster Road that had become part of the railroad right of way, parceling out house lots between the new road and the railroad (west of today's Thoreau Street.) He made this house his home, and apparently converted it to a single-family residence.

After the railroad was completed through Concord, Belknap had moved to Windsor, VT, and rented out #207 to William W. Wheildon. In 1847 he sold the house to his tenant. Mr. Wheildon and his family used the house only as a summer residence for several years, living in Charlestown during the winter. In 1856 they made it their permanent home.

**William Wheildon** (1805-1892) was an editor and publisher. In Charlestown he established the Bunker Hill Aurora, and continued as its editor and "proprietor" until 1870. After that time he continued as a journalist, with sidelines as a historian, scientist, and lecturer. He frequently contributed articles to the Boston papers. He established a pear orchard on this property, for which he was well-known in the Concord area. Mr. Wheildon and his wife, Juliet, died within eight days of each other, and the house was subsequently occupied by their daughters and son-in-law, **T. Quincy Browne**, (1830-1914) who had married their daughter Juliet in 1852. He was a Boston broker and businessman and treasurer of the Assabet Woolen Mill in Maynard. He had also served as the Russian vice-consul in Boston, where he resided for much of the time that he owned this house. Juliet Browne died in 1887, and in 1892 Quincy Browne married another Wheildon daughter, Caroline. They evidently rented out part of the house, as directories list Boston banker William Allen and his son Thomas at this address.

Upon Mr. Browne's death in 1914 the house was sold to steamship contractor **George Phelan**, who lived here with his elderly mother until 1922. In 1924 the property was bought by **Edward and Harriet Motley**. After Mr. Motley died in 1949, Mrs. Motley married Harford Powel, who died in 1957. Mrs. Powel died in 1975, after which the lot was subdivided by Peter Hall. In 1977 the house was bought by the **Concord Alternative Residence, Inc.**, which calls it Belknap House. It is run as a congregate housing option for people over age 65 seeking an intermediate type of living arrangement between independent housekeeping and nursing homes.

CON. 48

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
207 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	48

### 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

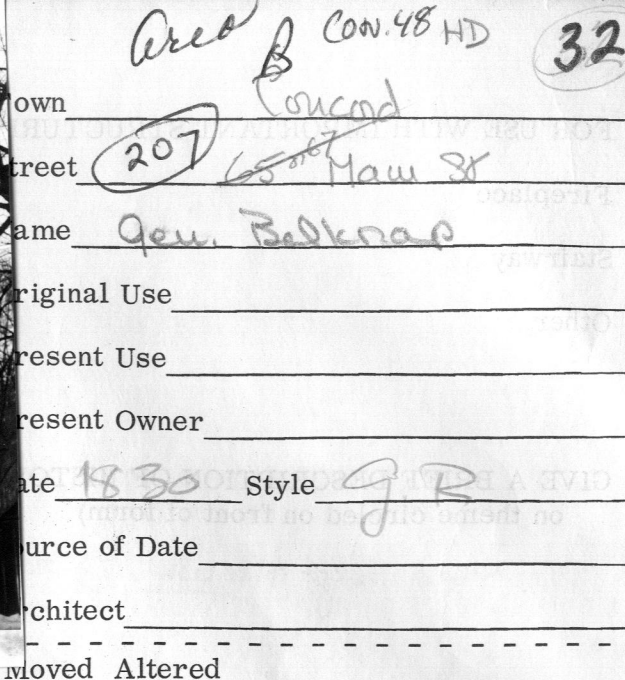
Criteria:    ☒ A    ☐ B    ☒ C    ☐ D

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 role in the development of Concord center as the late-eighteenth-century farmhouse of Gen. James Colburn, as well as for its association with editor and publisher William Wheildon and Assabet Woolen Mill treasurer T. Quincy Browne, it meets Criterion A. As a well-preserved example of a late-eighteenth-century house updated in the Greek Revival style, it meets Criterion C. In spite of having been moved, it possesses integrity of design, <sup>location</sup> setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



#### 4. DESCRIPTION

HD



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)

Owned by Harold Blair Family

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

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

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