

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.49
Historic Name:	Sohier, George House
Common Name:	Whitfield House - Concord Academy Headmaster House
Address:	228 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-1709-1
Year Constructed:	1894
Architect(s):	Frost, Willard; Haskell, John
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival
Use(s):	Other Educational; 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: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Uncut



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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

G9-1709-1

CONCORD

DU

49

Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) SELT BConcord Center

228 Main Street

George Sohler House

Historic Name

Present school headmistress's residenceOriginal dwellingDate of Construction 1894Source Concord ChronicleStyle/Form Colonial RevivalArchitect/Builder John Haskell, builder

Prior Material:

Foundation granite ashlar, fieldstoneWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures none

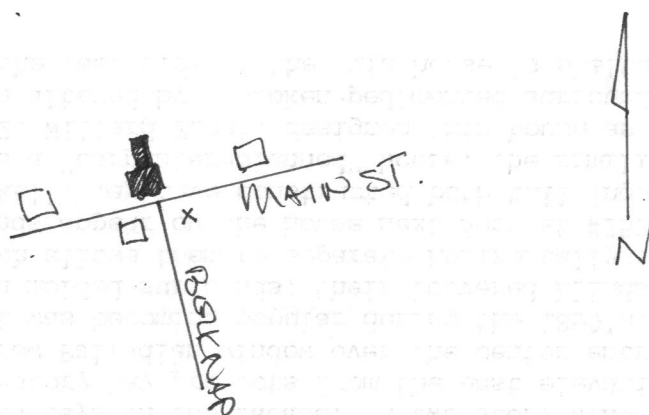
Major Alterations (with dates)

Late 20th century entry surround;
fire escape on west.Condition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 45,684 square feet

Setting In line of large nineteenth-century residences on the north side of Main St. Open lawn to east, one school building and tennis courts to rear. Circular drive at front. Opposite Belknap Street.

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 Anne Donoghue
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1992

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

One of the latest of the many large residences built on Main Street in the nineteenth century, #228 is a large, bulky, two-story Federal Revival structure. The main section has a high, double-hipped roof pierced by hip-roofed dormers on both east and west; its front slope is integrated with the roofs of two full-height round bays on the facade. A two-story wing extends to the northeast rear, and a two-story bay projects from the east elevation. The focal point of the facade, a narrow Palladian window over the center entry, expresses the Federal Revival taste that was becoming popular during the 1890's. The other windows are 6-over-6-sash with molded surrounds; their louvered blinds are of an unusual two-part design, which allows them to separate horizontally at the center. (The fact that the same blinds appear on the house next door at #252 indicates that the same builder, John Haskell, may have constructed both buildings. Alternatively, although Tolman calls this a "carpenter-planned" house, the similarities may mean that the architect of #252, Willard Frost, designed this house as well.) The main entry has apparently been altered by a broken-pedimented surround and 20th-century steps. A second entry on the east side of the main house is sheltered by a square-posted porch.

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 1894-95 house was built on the last open house lot remaining on the whole lower section of Main Street from the Milldam to Thoreau Street. The parcel had belonged to the Cheney family for many years, and had been what John Cheney had loved to call, after reciting a long syllogism about Concord's place on the globe, "the pleasantest and best" field in the world. The lot was purchased from John Cheney's daughter, Caroline, by George D. Sohler (1845-1923), who in 1894 hired former waterworks superintendent turned building contractor, John Haskell, to build his fine new house.

Little is known about George Sohler himself. He apparently lived here until his death, and several other people, most of them family members, are listed in directories as living here over the years, as well. Among them were his sons, Frederick, Louis and Walter Sohler, both mechanical engineers, artist Alice Ruggles Sohler (wife of Louis,) and Jeanette Sohler, a teacher and evidently George's daughter. Also listed here in the early part of this century was artist Frederick A. Bosley (ca. 1910), an eminent portrait painter, who married George's daughter, Emily. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1906; Sanborns from 1909.
Keyes/Tolman.
Town directories and tax files.
Richardson, Concord Chronicle.
Obituary file, Concord Library.
McFarland. A History of Concord Academy.

☒ 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

CONCORDGeorge D. Sohler House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

49

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

After George Sohler died the property was evidently acquired by William and Helen Wadsworth. They appear to have come to Concord from New York; Mr. Wadsworth was a trust officer.

In 1973 Concord Academy purchased the property, and in 1977 it became the home for the headmaster, known as "Whitfield House."

CON. 49

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
228 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	49

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 listing on the National Register as part of a district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For its role in the development of Concord center as stylish "infill" building of the late nineteenth century, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, ^{location} setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.