

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.50
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Frost, Rev. Barzillai House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	235 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-788
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1844
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Literature
<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; Wood Flushboard 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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:21 AM

## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-788

CONCORD

DU

50

Town

CONCORD

SECT B

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

235 Main Street

SS

Barzillai Frost House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

of Construction 1844

Soc. Circle Memoirs

Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard and flushboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

1-car garage/shed at rear of lot.

Major Alterations (with dates)

20th century: 1- and 2-story  
extension on east end. Ca. 1896: rear  
bay window added, some windows re-  
placed. Ca. 1920's: ell converted to  
garage.

Condition excellent

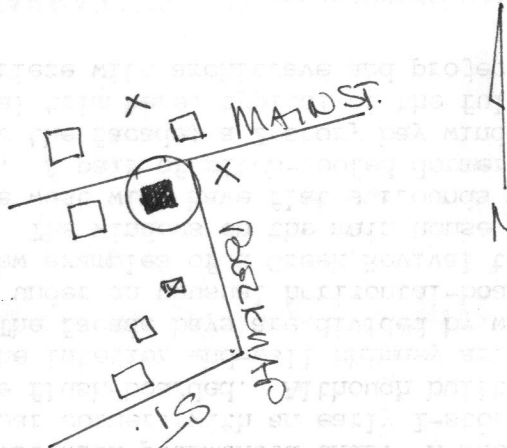
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting In area of large Georgian,  
Federal, and Greek Revival residences on  
south side of Main St., at corner of Bel-  
knap St. Wood and ironwork fence with  
rectangular granite posts 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.



Anne Forbes

Recorded by research by Cathy Parmelee  
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.

#235 is one of the smaller and simpler of the many Greek Revival houses at Concord center, but it is still one of the most stylish examples, and one of the best-preserved structures from that period on Main Street. It is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay house with pedimented ends. A short 2-story wing extends west from the southwest rear corner, with an early 1-story ell behind it. Both the facade and the east end are flush-boarded. Although built in the mid-1840's, the building continues the interior end-wall chimney arrangement seen on earlier houses in the vicinity. The facade bays are divided by wide flat pilasters, and the center entry is recessed under an unusual horizontal-board entablature. The entry has one of Concord's few examples of a Greek Revival two-panel door, flanked by full-length sidelights. The windows on the main house are 6-over-6-sash with molded surrounds. Those on the west wing have flat surrounds with projecting, molded pediments on the first story. A pair of pitch-roofed dormers with later pierced-work verge boarding appears over the facade; a 2-story bay window projects from the rear. The architectural trim here, typical of the fully-developed Greek Revival, includes a very wide frieze with architrave and projecting, molded cornice.

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 house is notable for several of its illustrious residents, many of whom made important contributions to their town. It was built in 1844 on a two-parcel lot purchased from David Loring and Sewall Belknap by the Rev. Barzillai Frost (1804-1858). He had been ordained here as an assistant to the 87-year-old Dr. Ezra Ripley of the First Parish Church in 1837, the same year that he married Elmira Stone. He succeeded Dr. Ripley as pastor upon the latter's death in 1841. According to Jarvis, "he created no enthusiasm, but he commanded the thorough respect and confidence of the people."

The Rev. Frost apparently remained officially employed by the church until his death in 1858, although he left active service in 1856. He sold the house in 1857 to William Leighton of Cambridge. Deeds show that the next owner was Moncure D. Conway of Cincinnati, a friend of Ralph Waldo Emerson, who purchased the property in 1862, and sold it the next year to Mary Jane Austin. A friend of the Alcotts, she was a novelist known also as Jane G. Austin. (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 #M10.  
 Town directories and tax files.  
 Richardson, Concord Chronicle.  
 Interview with owners, 1992.  
 Photo file, Concord Free Library. (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

Barzillai Frost House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

50

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Among her very popular books were The Nameless Nobleman, The Outpost, Standish of Standish and other historical novels. She and her husband, Loring H. Austin, a businessman in Lowell, moved to Boston in the early 1870's and rented out the house; among the tenants was attorney J. Fay Barrett.

In 1881 the Austins sold the house to Charles and Mary Ann Stearns of Concord. Mr. Stearns, an invalid, died a few years later, and Mrs. Stearns lived on in the house until her death in 1896.

Charles H. Walcott bought the house, and lived his last years here. He was a lawyer and historian, and best known in town today for his Concord in the Colonial Period, published in 1885. While still in school he had been appointed the town librarian (1865). He was later a commissioner of the Massachusetts Board of Arbitration, vice-president of the Middlesex Institution for Savings, as well as a Justice of the Peace, chairman of the Board of Assessors (1876), selectman, (1883,) and for a short time Superintendent of Schools (1872).

Mr. Walcott died in 1901, and his wife, Jessie, (a well-known illustrator of children's stories and magazines,) died in about 1907. In 1909 her heirs sold the property to Anne H. Jewell, wife of investment banker Pliny Jewell, II. The Jewells lived here until 1922, when the house was purchased by Ethel Hutchinson, wife of Dr. Charles W. Hutchinson. Dr. Hutchinson died in 1934, and Mrs. Hutchinson remained here until 1943.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Deed research.

House history by Charles Hutchinson, with notes by Mrs. Hutchinson. 1933.

Teele, ed. The Meeting House on the Green. 1985.

"Vernacular Carpenters."

Social Circle Memoirs.

Jarvis.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

CON-50  
Property Address  
235 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	50

## 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 both individual 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 association with Barzillai Frost, minister of the First Parish in the middle years of the nineteenth century, it meets Criterion A, and as a well-preserved example of a pilastered Greek Revival house, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, and location, workmanship, feeling and association.



Area B HD CON. 59 31  
Town Concord  
Street 235 Main St - Cor Belknap  
Name Rev. Banzillai Frost H  
Original Use Jane Austin  
Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Owner private  
Date 1830's Style Gothic Rev  
Source of Date newspaper  
Architect Enslin 12/30/38

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_  
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cut stone  
WALL COVER: Wood board + clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_  
STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency W side Simple/Complex  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_  
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork 2  
FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament  
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: recessed?  
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6  
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING natural

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 15-20  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo VII-17  
68-568

9.09.065.1.031

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)

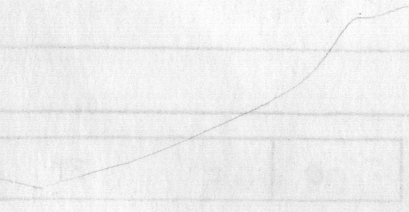
Frost obtained 1837 at Harvard Divinity School.  
served school committee, proprietor of library. officer  
of Lyceum  
Was sent annually Harvard boys to Tutor, among them  
James Russell Lowell in 1839

\* Home of Jane Austen - b. Worcester 1831 - d. Boston 1894  
novelist, friend of Alcott

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

\* Story of Concord-Swampscott

BIBLIOGRAPHY



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