

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.268
Historic Name:	Brown, Benjamin W. House
Common Name:	
Address:	238 Elm St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	F9-1772
Year Constructed:	c 1884
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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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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CON. 268

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F9-1772

CONCORD

268

CONCORD



neighborhood or village)

Concord center

238 Elm Street

Name Benjamin W. Brown House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction ca. 1884-85

maps; style

Form vernacular Italianate

Builder unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

brick

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

porch posts, some windows replaced;
one-story rear addition

Condition

good

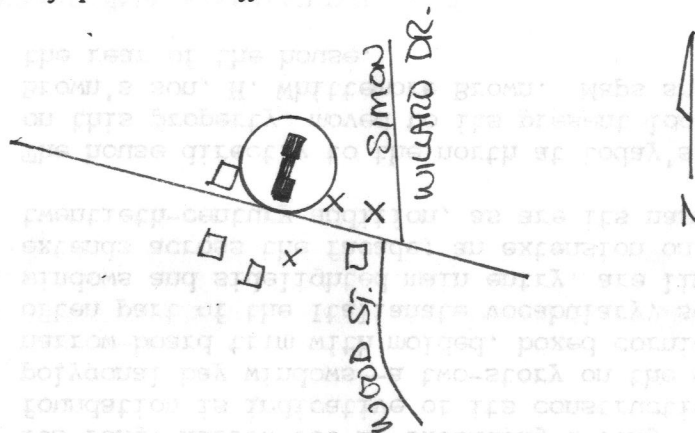
Moved ☐ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting On residential main street,
in area of mixed modern and large late-
19th-century houses. High evergreen
hedge across 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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by

Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

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.

A 2 1/2-story, two-bay "gable-end" building, #238 Elm Street is a relatively modest house, considering that it was the home of one of Concord's most important late nineteenth-century entrepreneurs. It is larger than it looks, however, as it exploits its long, narrow lot by extending a long two-story wing to the rear. The brick foundation is indicative of its construction date, in the 1880's, as are the two polygonal bay windows--a two-story on the east side, a one-story on the facade--and the narrow-board trim with molded, boxed cornice. Although the latter features are most often part of the Italianate vocabulary, several elements, including the 6-over-6-sash windows and sidelighted main entry, are lingering Greek Revival features. A veranda extends across the facade; an extension on its east end is undoubtedly a twentieth-century addition, as are its narrow square posts.

The house directly to the north at today's #27 Simon Willard Lane was formerly the barn on this property, moved to its present location and converted to a dwelling by Benjamin Brown's son, H. Whittemore Brown. Maps show that the barn was originally attached to the rear of the house.

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.

Benjamin W. Brown (1847-1914) was the son of farmer J. Warren Brown of 1266 Lowell Road. In about 1871, when his father died, Benjamin inherited the farm and operated it for several years in conjunction with his mother, brother, and sisters. By 1884 he sold the farm, however, and moved to Concord center, where he built this house. He established a flour, feed and hay business on the west side of the Fitchburg Railroad, eventually building the utilitarian buildings that have stood at #178 Sudbury Road since 1896. Around the turn of the century he took over the operation of the Concord Grain Elevator near Belknap Street, as well.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1883-4 Nashawtuc Hill plan, 1889, 1893, 1906.
Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.
Town Directories and tax lists.
Concord Chronicle.
Obituary file.

- ☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*