

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.415
Historic Name:	Adams, Charles Francis III House
Common Name:	Mount Vernon
Address:	240 Fairhaven Hill Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	G12-4005-1
Year Constructed:	1899
Architect(s):	Hale, Herbert D.
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.AO: Fairhaven Hill
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Stucco; Wood Foundation: Stone, Uncut



DEMOLISHED

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 23, 2020 at 12:40 PM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G12-4005-1

CONCORD

A0

415

CONCORD

Town

Sect 3

Neighborhood or village)

Fairhaven Hill

240 Fairhaven Hill Road

Name estate: Charles Francis Adams, III
"Mt. Vernon"
dwelling

sent dwelling

Original 1899

Construction Concord Chronicle

Classical Revival

Builder H.D. Hale

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble

Wall/Trim stucco

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
Clapboard garage, shed, modern cottage

Major Alterations (with dates)

1980's: north end extended

Condition excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

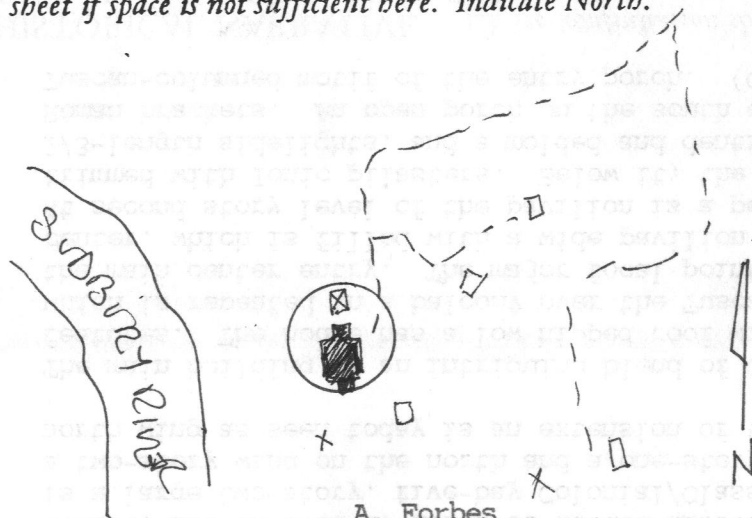
Acreage 12.8 acres

Setting

In wooded setting near top of Fairhaven Hill. Landscaped lawns to east, landscaped terrace, pool, and long open lawn to river at rear. Tennis court and cottages to southeast.

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 A. Forbes
research by Ann and Dick Ferraro
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.

One of the largest of Concord's turn-of-the-century riverfront residences, the Charles Francis Adams III estate is comprised of a main house, cottage, and former stable, set in over 27 acres of wooded hillside and riverfront landscape. The house is a large two-story, five-bay Colonial/Classical Revival stucco building flanked by a two-story wing on the north and a one-story open porch on the south. Most of the north wing as seen today is an extension of the 1980's.

The main building is an intriguing blend of Colonial and Classical Revival features. The house has a low hipped roof with a "Japanesque" balustrade, a feature which is repeated in a balcony over the Tuscan-columned entry porch which shelters the main center entry. The major focal point of the facade, in fact, is at the center, which is filled with a wide pavilion articulated by Ionic corner pilasters. At second story level of the pavilion is a pedimented tripartite window, also trimmed with Ionic pilasters. Below it, the entry has a large 6-panel door, 2/3-length sidelights, and a molded and dentilated lintel embellished with a pair of Roman brackets. An open porch on the south end of the building repeats the Tuscan-columned motif of the entry porch. (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.

The Charles Francis Adams III estate is highly significant as one of the first two large country estates not associated with farming built in Concord. The property evidently both adjoined, and some of it was formerly part of, the vast landholdings of Charles Francis Adams II on Fairhaven Hill and in Walden Woods. C.F. Adams II, son of Charles Francis Adams, ambassador to the Courth of St. James's during the Civil War, had come to Lincoln in 1893 and had acquired much real estate in both Lincoln and Concord. In 1899 his nephew, Charles Francis Adams III, built this residence, said to have been based on the home of a relative in Taunton, overlooking the Sudbury River. He and his wife Frances, who were married that same year, apparently called their estate "Mount Vernon." The house at #205 was built as servants' quarters, evidently for their coachman, and #215, now a house, was originally built as a stable.

The Adams family owned the property for most of the early part of this century, for some of that spending only spring and fall here. During that time their daughter, Kathryn, married Harry Morgan of New York City, son of J. Pierpont Morgan. Charles Francis Adams later became Secretary of the Navy under President Hoover, from 1929 to 1933. His son, Charles Francis Adams, Jr., later became president of Raytheon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Town directories and tax files.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle.

Obituary file, Concord Free Library.

Garrellick and Bailey. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars.

Interview with Richard O'Connor, Thoreau Society, 7/92.

Interview with Anna Manion, 1992.

- ☐ 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

C. F. Adams III House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

DESCRIPTION, cont.

The rear, riverfront facade of this house is noted for its colossal tetrastyle Ionic portico, a full two stories in height, which can be seen for a considerable distance from across the river. This side of the house, too, is trimmed with Ionic pilasters. Other architectural trim throughout the house consists of an elaborate entablature of modillioned and dentilated cornice over a frieze and architrave, and molded, paneled, and dentilated trim at the 8-over-8-sash windows.

The interior of the house is replete with high-style Colonial Revival features, including a central stairway with turned balusters. An original painting, executed directly on the wall, of the view from the house over the Sudbury River is still in excellent condition over the fireplace in the northwest parlor.

The main house on the Adams estate was designed by Boston architect H.D. Hale; the original plans are still in the owner's possession. It is not known whether the servants' quarters and stables were also designed by Mr. Hale. (See area form "Fairhaven Hill.")



CON. 415

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

C. F. Adams III House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)
AO

Form No.
415

Additional information by Anne Forbes, November, 2000:

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Charles Francis Adams III, son of John Quincy Adams (brother of Charles Francis Adams II), was born in Quincy in 1866. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1892, and served two terms as Mayor of Quincy (1896 and 1897). In 1898 he was appointed Treasurer of Harvard University, a post he held for over thirty years. In 1899 he married Frances Lovering of Taunton, daughter of longtime Congressman William Croade Lovering.

Mr. Adams served as a trustee or director of more than fifty financial, real estate, and industrial corporations, including AT&T, the Old Colony Railroad, Boston Consolidated Gas Company, John Hancock Life Insurance Company, and the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company. For most of his later life his permanent residence was in Boston. A lifelong yachtsman, in the 1920s he was considered the most expert amateur skipper in the country, acquiring international renown as skipper of the *Resolute*, which won the America's Cup in 1920.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES, cont.

Adams family genealogy.

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MASS. HIST. COMM

CON. 415

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community Property Address
CONCORD 240 Fairhaven Hill
 Road

Area(s)	FormNo.

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.

The Charles Francis Adams, III~~X~~ House meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register both for its association with Charles Francis Adams, Secretary of the Navy under President Hoover, and for its well-preserved Classical Revival architecture. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.

Four-alarm fire in Concord destroys historic mansion

By **Sofia Saric** Globe Correspondent, December 27, 2019, 8:24 p.m.



Firefighters were at the scene of blaze at 240 Fairhaven Hill Road in Concord. ARAM BOGHOSIAN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE

A 4-alarm fire destroyed a historic mansion in Concord Friday built more than a century ago for a descendant of John Quincy Adams, the nation's sixth president.

Fire crews responded to 240 Fairhaven Hill Road around 9:30 a.m. after a caretaker called to report the fire, the Concord Fire Department said in a statement.

Upon arrival, crews saw smoke coming from the first and second floors and parts of the roof.

“Firefighters began an aggressive attack on the first floor, but it is believed the fire had already spread to within the walls of the home and possibly to the attic,” the statement said.

No one was at home when the fire started, and no injuries were reported.

The Colonial/Classical Revival-style home was built in 1899 for John Quincy Adams’s descendant, Charles Francis Adams III, according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

The home was named “Mt. Vernon” and sits on 12.8 acres of landscaped land near the top of Fairhaven Hill, according to a document on the commission’s website.

The entire property was known as the Charles Francis Adams III Estate, and was considered “. . . highly significant as one of the first two large country estates not associated with farming built in Concord,” according to the document.

Concord fire officials believe the house is a “total loss,” the statement said.



The building was a total loss, officials said. ARAM BOGHOSIAN FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE/ARAM BOGHOSIAN FOR THE BOSTON GL

Town records show the 6,500-square foot home has five bedrooms and five bathrooms, and is valued at nearly \$3 million.

As of Friday evening, smoke was still rising from the massive house and crews were expected to remain on the scene overnight, according to the department.

Due to the heavy fire, firefighters were forced to evacuate and fight the blaze from the exterior, the statement said.

A fourth alarm was struck to bring additional manpower to the scene. More than a dozen local fire departments responded with assistance at the scene.

The house is located in a private residential neighborhood that is served by a small diameter potable water service. It was installed in the 1920s and is fed by a common private water supply.

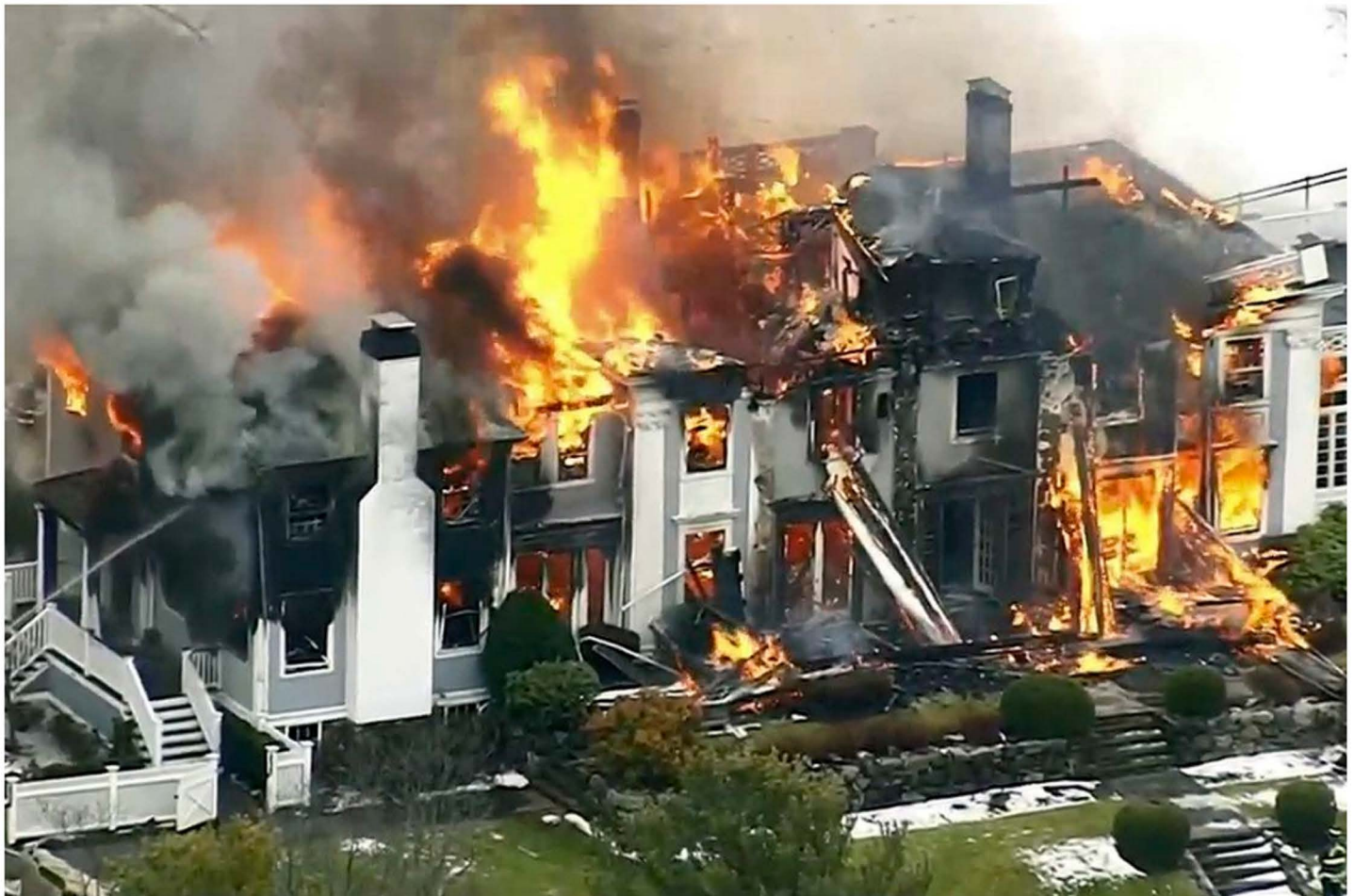
“We are having water supply problems, which you can probably see,” Concord Fire Chief Thomas Judge said during a press conference. “There’s no hydrants up in this part of town.”

Five tanker trucks were called to aid in supplying water, and crews laid down a fire hydrant supply line from Fairhaven Road.

“This was a massive fire, and getting it under control has been even more difficult due to the water pressure issues in the immediate area,” Judge said in a statement.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, the statement said.

Globe Correspondent Alyssa Lukpat contributed to this story. Material from the Associated Press was also used. Sofia Saric can be reached at Sofia.Saric@globe.com.



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