

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.52
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Hudson, Woodward House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	252 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-1711
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1889
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Frost, Willard
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<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: Stone, Uncut



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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

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-1711

CONCORD

DU

52

Town

CONCORD

SECT 3

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

252 Main Street

Address

Woodward Hudson House

Historic Name

dwelling

Present

dwelling

Original

1889-90

Date of Construction

Concord Chronicle

Style

Colonial Revival

Form

Architect/Builder

Willard Frost

Exterior Material:

stone

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Late-19th C. carriage house,  
(242 Main St.; on separate lot).

Major Alterations (with dates)

none

Condition

excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

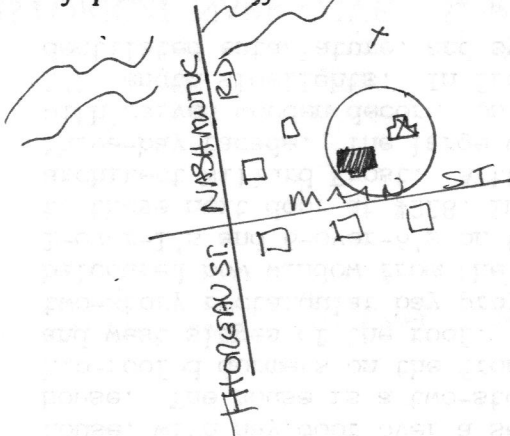
Acreage 50,140 square feet

Setting In line of large nineteenth-century residences on the north side of Main St. Wide, landscaped lot.

One ironwork gate with granite posts remains from former fence 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.



Recorded by Anne Forbes;  
research by J. Poppel, A. Hoyt  
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization  
June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

BUILDING FORM

CON. 52

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 houses built on this section of Main Street, #252 is also one of the most well preserved, both in its buildings and its setting. The house is a large, stylish Colonial Revival building set in the type of spacious lot with mature trees that has almost vanished from our town centers. A ca. 1900 cupolaed carriage house, with hay door over a set of modern garage doors, stands northeast of the house. The house is a two-story, double-hip-roofed structure with a roof walk and hip-roofed dormers on the front and sides. Two massive chimneys rise from the east and west slopes of the roof. A shallow two-story wing extends to the rear, a two-story rectangular bay projects from the east elevation, and a one-story balconied bow window from the west. The windows are large 2-over-1-sash, with some 1-over-1's and 6-over-6's on the sides. Their two-part louvered shutters, identical to those next door at #228, indicate that both houses may both have been designed by architect Willard Frost. A three-part window appears over the center entry of the three-bay facade. The large windows on the first story have high friezes, adorned with carved wooden decoration. The main entry has a wide 4-panel door with 1/2-length sidelights. In front of it is a Tuscan entry porch with triple columns, dentilated entablature, and spindle-work balcony.

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 the few houses on Main Street at the center for which the architect is known, #252 was built in 1889-90 according to plans drawn by Willard Frost. It was built for **Woodward Hudson** (1858-1938) and his wife Bessie Keyes Hudson. It stands on land that formerly belonged to Mr. Hudson's father, Frederic, a journalist who was one of the founders of the Associated Press, and editor of the New York Herald during the Civil War. From 1865 until his death in 1875 the elder Mr. Hudson had lived here in a house originally built by Julius Smith. In 1892, in <sup>the process of</sup> preparation for building his own residence, Woodward Hudson had the old house moved to the former West Primary Schoolhouse lot at the southeast corner of Main and Thoreau Streets, which he had acquired in a trade with the town for the lot on which the Hunt Gymnasium now stands. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1909.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Town directories and tax files.  
Richardson, Concord Chronicle.  
Social Circle Memoirs, V, 377-390.

☒ 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

Woodward Hudson House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)    Form No.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Other preparations included filling a large amount of the riverfront land behind the house, an operation in which 2000 two-horse wagon loads are said to have been moved from the ridge behind the Reuben Brown house on Lexington Road.

Woodward Hudson, who lived here until his death in 1938, had an illustrious career as an attorney. After a year with Ropes, Gray, and Loring in Boston in 1884, he formed a partnership, Parker, Thorp, & Hudson, with Joseph Thorp and Edmund Parker. In 1887 he became assistant counsel to the Boston & Albany Railroad, (for which his neighbor Samuel Hoar was then general counsel), and for the rest of his life devoted himself to the study and practice of railroad law. After Samuel Hoar's death he succeeded to the head of the law department of the New York Central, which had taken over the Boston & Albany. He served in that capacity from 1904 to 1916, when he became vice president and general counsel of the Boston & Maine. In 1918 he briefly became president of the corporation, but returned to his former status after the company was reorganized following a period of receivership and federal control. He retired in 1925.

Mr. Hudson held town office almost continuously from 1885 through 1909. He served six years on the School Committee, and seventeen as treasurer of the Public Library, sixteen of which were as a member of the corporation. He was a Selectman for one term, and spent six years on the Sewer Commission that oversaw the construction of the original sewer system. He was also a trustee of the Middlesex Institution for Savings.

Woodward Hudson had a deep love of nature and the horticulture of native plants. He planted Austrian pines on land he owned south of Heath's Bridge on Sudbury Road, and here at his home he transplanted pine and moosewood trees from Mount Monadnock, and dogwood from Jug Island for the riverbank. He built a tennis court on a building lot he owned on Hubbard Street for many years, which he kept in fit condition for the young people of Concord to use. (This is evidently the lot on which the house at #116 Hubbard Street is now located.)

CON-52

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community	Property Address
CONCORD	252 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	52

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 prominent railroad attorney Woodward Hudson, it meets Criterion A. 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, setting, materials, and workmanship, location, feeling and association.