

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.265
Historic Name:	Wheeler, Harvey House
Common Name:	
Address:	253 Elm St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	F9-3940
Year Constructed:	1883
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival; Italianate
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard 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

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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

F9-3940

CONCORD

265

CONCORD

Set B

Neighborhood or village)

Concord center

253 Elm Street

Name Harvey Wheeler House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction 1883

Social Circle Memoirs

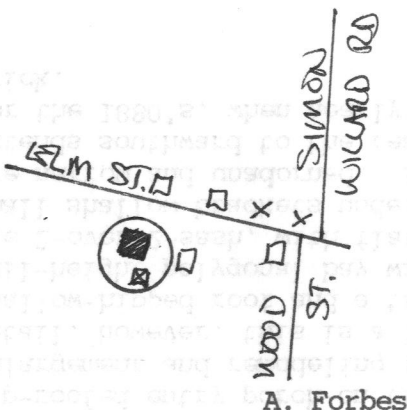
Form Italianate, with
Colonial Revival elements
unknown

Architect/Builder



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 _____
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization _____
June, 1992

Date (month/day/year) _____

Exterior Material:

granite

Foundation wood clapboard

Wall/Trim asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures
slate-hip-roofed 2-car garage

Major Alterations (with dates)
no significant alterations

Condition excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage two acres

Setting On residential main street,
in area of mixed modern and large late-
19th-century houses. Deep, open, two-
acre lot.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

#253 Elm Street, especially when contrasted with the stylish Shingle-Style house across the street at #252, is an intriguing combination of the Italianate and the Colonial Revival. Elements of the latter style, notably the sidelighted main entry and hip-roofed entry porch on triple Tuscan columns, were probably the result of an enlargement and remodeling that took place in about 1910. In form and most of its detail, however, this is a large, formal Italianate building. It is two stories, with a shallow-hipped roof and a tall interior end chimney on the west side. A pair of full-height polygonal bay windows flank the central entry on the facade. The windows are 2-over-2-sash, with flat-molded surrounds; those on the second story facade have small shallow brackets under the sills. The cornice is bracketed, and the cornerboards are narrow and unadorned. A large two-story wing with one-story east side section extends southward to the rear. The use of dressed granite in the foundation is unusual for the 1880's, when nearly all houses in Concord were utilizing the less expensive brick.

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 significant for its association with one of Concord's few local factory owners of the late industrial period, **Harvey Wheeler** (1847-1917.) He grew up on his family's farm at Nine Acre Corner, where he first worked for seven years. He then took various jobs in Somerville and Brighton, traveled to California where he was involved in the development of some mills and mines, and returned to Concord in 1880. In 1881 he bought a half interest in the company that was to occupy him for the rest of his life, a harness manufactory in Boston, married Anne Bent of Canton, and moved briefly to Arlington, then Medford. In 1882 he moved most of the company operations to the State Prison in West Concord, and in 1883 he became sole owner. In 1890 he built a factory on Main Street by the Assabet, with houses for its employees on Cottage and Crest Streets. Known locally as "the harness shop", it was incorporated in 1892 as the Boston Harness Company; Harvey Wheeler remained its treasurer and manager until his death.

Harvey Wheeler held many offices of responsibility in Concord. He served on the Board of Selectmen from 1895 to 1899, and three terms in the state legislature, beginning in 1903. He became a trustee of the Middlesex Institute of Savings in 1900, and served as its president from 1901 until his death in 1917. He was also a First Lieutenant in the Concord Artillery after the Civil War, and was active in veterans' and military affairs.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases, and plans: 1883-4 Nashawtuc Hill plan, 1889, 1893, 1906.

Concord Chronicle.

Macdonald, Loren, in Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle, VI, 126-137. 1918.

Keyes/Tolman.

Town directories.

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

CON-265

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
253 Elm Street

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.

253 Elm Street meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register both for its association with Harvey Wheeler, owner of one of Concord's few late-industrial factories, the Boston Harness Company. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.