

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.394
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Little, Harry Britton House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Littleholme
<b>Address:</b>	263 Simon Willard Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	F8-1790-2
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1914
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Little, Harry Britton
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.AD: Nashawtuc Hill Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Wood Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



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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

CON. 394

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Assessor's number

F8-1790-2

USGS Quad

CONCORD

Area(s)

AD

Form Number

394

Town

CONCORD

SECT A

Place (neighborhood or village)

263 Simon Willard Road

Harry Little House

Name "Littleholme" ~~House~~

dwelling

dwelling

Original 1914

Construction Harry Little's Concord

Colonial Revival

Builder Harry Little

Material:

parged

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

wood shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

no apparent alterations

Condition

excellent

Moved

☒

no

☐

yes

Date

N/A

Acreage

2.5 acres

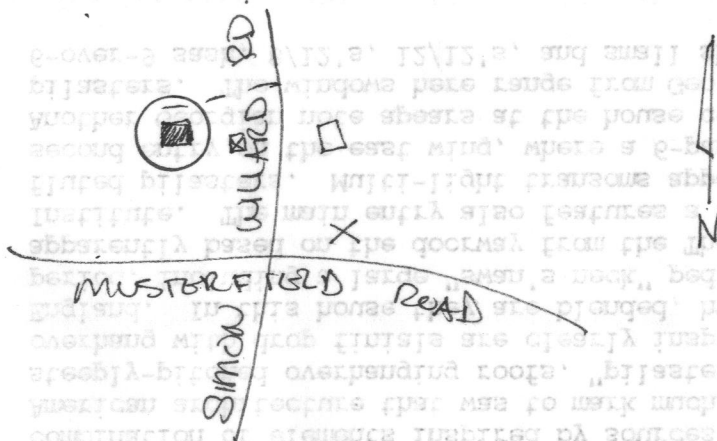
Setting

Stands side to street on

large wooded lot, in neighborhood of  
stylish twentieth-century residences.

## 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

for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

# BUILDING FORM

CON. 394

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

263 Simon Willard Road is extremely important as an early example of Colonial Revival architecture by Harry Little. It is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay structure flanked by slightly lower wings on either side. It displays the inventive combination of elements inspired by sources from different periods of Colonial American architecture that was to mark much of Harry Little's later work. The steeply-pitched overhanging roofs, "pilastered" center chimney, and second-story overhang with drop finials are clearly inspired by the First Period houses of New England. In this house they are blended, however, with elements from the Georgian period, including a large "swan's neck" pediment at the main center entry, apparently based on the doorway from the Thomas Poynton House, now in Salem's Essex Institute. The main entry also features a bolection molding in the entablature, and fluted pilasters. Multi-light transoms appear both at the main entry and at a second entry on the east wing, where a 6-panel door is flanked by flat pilasters. Another Georgian note appears at the house corners, which are also adorned with pilasters. The windows here range from Georgian to Federal in design, and include 6-over-9 sash, 8/12's, 12/12's, and small shed-roofed dormers over the facade.

## 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 highly significant as the home of twentieth-century architect Harry Britton Little (1882-1944,) and as only the second house he designed. One of the most prolific and influential architects of the period between the two world wars, he is especially renowned for the always scholarly, and often highly inventive, work he did in a variety of revival styles. His most well-known project is the completion of the gothic style National Cathedral in Washington and its accompanying College of Preachers in Washington D.C. One of the best places to view a wide range of his work, however, is here in his home town of Concord. He moved to Concord in 1914, where his first work was this house, "Littleholme," which he built for his own family. Other houses inspired by its steep-roofed Colonial Revival architecture were to follow, including its near neighbor, the Horace Arnold House. He has several Colonial Revival public buildings to his credit here, as well, including the beautiful Trinitarian Congregational Church of 1924, the Fowler Memorial Library in West Concord and the Concord Museum (both 1930), and the hybrid Colonial/Classical Revival Middlesex Savings Bank of 1932. He also shaped the face of Concord through (Cont.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Day, Frederic. Harry Little's Concord, museum catalog, the Concord Museum. Social Circle Memoirs. VI, p. 49. Memoir by David Little.

- ☐ 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

CONCORDHarry Little House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

several substantial renovations and remodelings. The best known locally are his 1934 transformation of the Free Public Library from a very Victorian Gothic building to a Jeffersonian structure, and the large addition to the Middlesex Mutual Insurance Co. building on Monument Square. Less well-known are the 1941 extension of the Trinity Church chancel, and two renovated storefronts on Main Street--Anderson's Market at #42, and Helen's Restaurant at #23. The range of building types he tackled was extremely broad, and included a dormitory for the Fern School, and Crosby's Filling Station at the corner of Route 2 and Cambridge Turnpike (now gone.)

Harry Little had been well schooled in the Beaux Arts style in Paris. Upon his return in 1910-11 he entered the Boston firm of Cram and Ferguson, where he learned first hand the intricacies of Gothic architecture from Ralph Adams Cram. From 1916 to 1919 he struck out on his own, then in 1920 went into partnership with E. Donald Robb and Philip Hubert Frohman as the firm of Frohman, Robb, and Little, which continued until Robb's death in 1942.

The land on which Littleholme was built was purchased from William Wheeler, who had gradually been developing houselots on the former Nashawtuc Farm since the early 1890's. The earliest houses on the farm had been built on Nashawtuc Hill itself, but by 1914 Wheeler had laid out most of Simon Willard Road and divided out parcels on the lower land west of the hill. Over the years Harry Little acquired 13 acres around the house, which he owned until his death in 1944.



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
263 Simon Willard  
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.*

This building is one of the following resources which meet Criteria A and C of the National Register as part of a National Register District for Nashawtuc Hill, a high-style planned residential development of Queen Anne, Shingle Style, Colonial Revival and French Revival and Provincial architecture that spanned the mid-1880's through 1930's. Each resource possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

9 Musketaquid Road, 23 Musketaquid Road, 39 Musketaquid Road - Blanchard/Motte House, 49 Musketaquid Road - Houston garage/cottage, 61 Musketaquid Road - FA Houston House, 73 Musketaquid Road, Nashawtuc Road - Nashawtuc Bridge, 138 Nashawtuc Road - Allen French House, 190 Nashawtuc Road - William Wheeler House, 199 Nashawtuc Road - Herbert Blanchard House, 204 Nashawtuc Road - Wheeler Carriage House, 235 Nashawtuc Road - Walter K. Shaw House, 247 Nashawtuc Road - Shaw garage/cottage, Nashawtuc Road - sledding hill, 275 Nashawtuc Road - WK Shaw, Jr. House, Nashawtuc Road - Gate House for Nashawtuc Reservoir, 325 Nashawtuc Road, 357 Nashawtuc Road - Jonas Miles House, 385 Nashawtuc Road, 415 Nashawtuc Road - E.L. Parker House, 437 Nashawtuc Road - W.H. Bowker House, 26 Simon Willard Road - Newman/Abbott House, 38 Simon Willard Road - Buttrick House, 39 Simon Willard Road, 52 Simon Willard Road - Murphy House, 53 Simon Willard Road, 173 (175) Simon Willard Road - Nashawtuc Farm foreman's cottage, 199 Simon Willard Road - Horace Arnold House, 256 Simon Willard Road - Berkeley Wheeler House, 263 Simon Willard Road - Harry Little House, Willard Common - landscaped park, Willard Common - monument to Simon Willard, 59 Willard Common - Ferry House

#263 Simon Willard Road also meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register as the home of prominent early-twentieth-century architect Harry Britton Little (Criteria A and B,) and as an extremely well-preserved illustration of his own work, (Criterion C.)