

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.53
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Davis - Britton - Keyes House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	267 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-785
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1820
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek 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: Granite; Stone, Cut; 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

G9-785

CONCORD

DU

53

Town CONCORD SEA 3Place (neighborhood or village) Concord Center PO

267 Main Street

Name Davis/Britton Cottage  
Keyes Cottage  
dwellingPresent dwellingOriginal ca. 1820Construction WheelerStyle Greek RevivalBuilder unknown

Material:

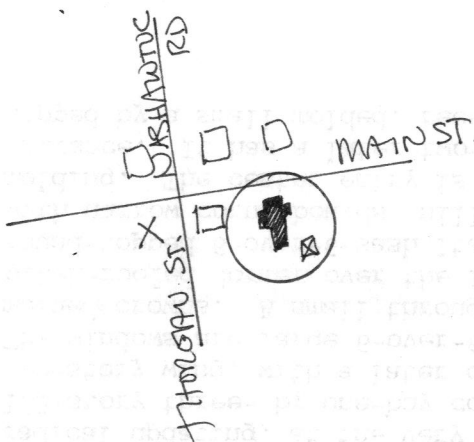
Foundation dressed granite  
and fieldstoneWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures 2-car garage

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

20th C.: 1-story ell on east and west  
ends.Condition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting In area of large Georgian,  
Federal, and Greek Revival residences on  
south side of Main St. High board  
fence and modern stone retaining wall  
at west.

## 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 Helen Roach  
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

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.*

This house is one of the smallest of the many early-nineteenth-century houses built on Main Street at Concord Center. Although Ruth Wheeler surmises that it must have been built about 1820, the presence of considerable Greek Revival detail suggests a radical updating, at the very least, took place several years later. It is a 1 1/2-story three- by one-bay cottage with a pair of rear interior chimneys. A two-story wing, with a later cross-gabled section at the end, extends to the rear. The windows are large 6-over-6-sash, with molded surrounds; those on the facade have molded crowns. A small through-cornice dormer is situated on the east end. A later pitch-roofed dormer over the facade has a wide, deep roof overhang and a round-topped 6-over-6-sash Italianate window. The trim here is extremely simple, with narrow cornerboards, sill board, and an unboxed cornice trimmed with an echinus molding. The center entry is through a narrow "porch" or projecting lobby entrance. It has a later two-light glass-and-panel door and a plain surround, topped by a small molded, recessed pediment.

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.*

Both this building and the house next door at #255 Main Street were apparently built for **Josiah Davis**, (see #186 Main Street,) who purchased both lots in 1819. He failed in business in 1837, and in 1845 the property was acquired by the Concord Bank, which sold this cottage to **Joel Britton** (see #310 Main Street.) Having made considerable money providing wood for the railroad ties of the Fitchburg Railroad, he built a grand residence at #310 Main Street, and as evidenced by his purchase of this house, must have dabbled in real estate as well. He was also a blacksmith, and responsible for the iron railing on the west side of the steps at the First Parish Church, which is marked with his name. In 1848 Joel Britton, too, became insolvent, and the cottage was acquired by **Daniel Shattuck**, who owned considerable property at the center at one time or another.

According to Keyes, Col. Shattuck sold the house in 1870 to **Frederick Hudson**. Mr. Hudson, who had been editor of the New York Herald during the Civil War, lived across the street at the house formerly on the lot at #252 Main Street, and probably rented out this cottage. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1909.

Keyes/Tolman.

Town directories and tax files.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle.

Wheeler House file #M15.

Social Circle Memoirs, II, 98, and VI, 37.

Moss. *Thoreau's Surveys in the Concord Library...*

☒ 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

CONCORDDavis/Keyes cottage

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

53

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He died in 1875, and both properties were apparently inherited by his son, attorney **Woodward Hudson**, who built himself a new house at #252. He "fitted up" #267 for his gardener, then later let it out to tenants, including George Tolman, and a family named Frost.

In about 1881 Hudson sold this property to **Prescott Keyes**. Prescott Keyes (later Judge Keyes,) married Alice Reynolds, daughter of Dr. Grindall Reynolds, pastor of the First Parish Church, who lived across the street at #276 Main Street. The Keyes lived here during the early years of their marriage, before moving to Mrs. Keyes' father's house in 1895. They retained ownership of the cottage for many years afterward, however. According to Keyes/Tolman, when the Keyes acquired the house they made several alterations and additions, including converting a shed into a kitchen, and opening up the fireplaces. After they moved to #276 in 1895, the cottage was again rented out, among the tenants were a Mrs. Gay and Dorothy Reynolds Roberts, Mrs. Keyes' niece, and her two children.

Mrs. Roberts moved to Lowell Road in 1929; the house was later purchased by **David Baldwin** (see #107 Westford Road,) who was a member of the first faculty of the Middlesex School.

CON. 53

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
267 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	53

## 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 store-keeper and d real-estate investor Josiah Davis, with Blacksmith Joel Britton, and as the first home of prominent Judge Prescott Keyes, it meets Criterion A. For its role in the development of Concord center as the only true cottage on the stylish lower section of Main Street, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, setting, ~~location~~, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.