

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.58
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Britton, Joel - King, George House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	310 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-1714
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1845
<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



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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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:23 AM

## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-1714

CONCORD

DV

58

Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) SECT BConcord center310 Main Street

Historic Name Joel Britton House  
George King House  
dwelling

Present dwelling  
Original dwelling

Year of Construction 1845-46

Style Keyes/Tolman

Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Primary Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage/shed

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition excellent

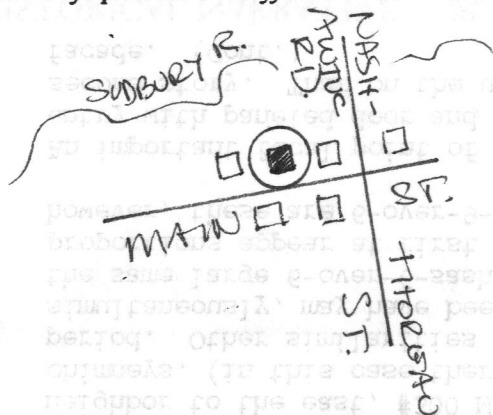
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A  
one acre

Acreage

Setting in residential district of 18th to 19th-century houses. Deep lot with mature plantings. Brick walk in 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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

# BUILDING FORM

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

#310 Main Street is one of Concord's best examples of the pedimented "temple-front" Greek Revival residence, in which the main roof gable projects forward over a facade colonnade. It is unique in Concord, however, in its use of four tapered square columns, adorned with recessed panels, for the colonnade. Like most of its type in the town, it is 2 1/2-stories high and five bays wide, with a two-story rear wing. Like its neighbor to the east, #300 Main Street, it shows the local continuation of tall corner chimneys, (in this case there are four), into the early part of the Greek Revival period. Other similarities to #300 suggest that the two houses, constructed almost simultaneously, may have been built by the same hand--the windows, in particular, have the same large 6-over-6-sash with flat pedimented surrounds. Windows of elongated proportions appear at first story level here, too. While those at #300 are 6-over-6's, however, these are 6-over-9-sash.

An important focal point of the facade is its center bay, where a fully-sidelighted entry with paneled door and a flat pedimented surround is located at both first and second story. That on the upper level opens onto a balcony that spans the width of the facade. (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.*

This house was built for Joel Britton in ca. 1845-6. According to Keyes he was a wood dealer, who sold the ties or "sleepers" for the Fitchburg Railroad, which came through town in 1844. (This is evidently the same Joel Britton who was a blacksmith--see #267 Main Street.) In 1848 he became insolvent, and it was probably at about that time that J.S. Keyes arranged a sale to the Concord Bank, which resold the house to Jonathan M. Dodd. He and his family lived here until about 1869.

The next owner was apparently Silas Holden, who rented it out to, among others, Franklin Sanborn (see #106 Elm Street), and Jabish Holmes. By 1875 the house belonged to Augustus P. Chamberlaine. He added some sheds at the rear, and is shown as owner through at least 1889, although he may have moved to his new house further out Elm Street (see #23 Lewis Road,) by that time. He may have still owned the property in 1893, when the Rev. Alfred P. Putnam is shown living here.

By 1896 the house had been purchased by George A. King, Esq. (1834-1919). Before coming to Concord he and his family had lived in Barnstable, where he practiced law and became known for an important case involving the Dartmouth Indian tribe's claim to land in the Westport area. While in Barnstable he was elected twice to the Massachusetts Senate, in 1869 and 1870, where he served on the Judiciary Committee. (Cont.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1906. Sanborns from 1903.

Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.

Town Directories and tax lists.

Interviews with owner, March, 1992.

Concord Chronicle.

Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars.

Concord Free Library photo file.

☒ 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

CONCORDJoel Britton House  
George King HouseMassachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

58

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The architectural trim of the house is an excellent example of the high-style Greek Revival. There are wide corner pilasters and a full three-part entablature that includes an echinus-molded cornice. The roof is pierced with pairs of dormers on the sides.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He was also a member of the Board of Overseers of the Mass. Agricultural College, and a strong advocate for the building of the Cape Cod Canal.

The Kings came to Concord in 1871, living first in the house at #102 Sudbury Road. Mr. King served the town as a member and Chairman of the School Committee, and Town Moderator for four years. He was a member of the Library Committee for forty-six years, and for much of that time was its chairman. He was extremely influential in building and diversifying the library's collection, and was largely responsible for the library's commission of Daniel Chester French to create the statue of Ralph Waldo Emerson, which was unveiled in 1914.

After Mr. King died, the house was sold to two new Concord residents, **Hans and Marian Miller**. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were among the founders of the Concord Players, joining the organization as soon as they arrived in Concord in 1920. Mrs. Miller was a town librarian, historian, and wrote for the Concord Journal for many years. She was chosen Concord's Honored Citizen several years before her death in 1987 at the age of 100. Hans Miller, a bookkeeper, built the miniature "Nashawtuc Lighthouse" which stood from 1930 to 1936 on the river to the rear of the property.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
310 Main 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.*

This house meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register and as part of a district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For its association with blacksmith Joel Britten and with prominent lawyer and town activist George A. King, it meets Criterion A. As a well-preserved example of a high-style temple-front Greek Revival house, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.