

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.63
Historic Name:	Brown, Charles E. House
Common Name:	
Address:	349 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-724
Year Constructed:	c 1884
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Queen Anne
Use(s):	Other Religious; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Religion
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Shingle Foundation: Brick



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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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Assessor's number

G9-724

USGS Quad

CONCORD

Area(s)

DU

Form Number

63

RECEIVED

Town

CONCORD

Sect B

(neighborhood or village)

Concord center

349 Main Street

SS

Charles E. and Florence
Brown house
dwelling

Present dwelling
Original dwelling

ca. 1884
of Construction

Keyes/Tolman
Queen Anne

Form unknown

Architect/Builder

For Material:

brick

Foundation

Wall/Trim wood clapboard and shingle

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

early-20th-century garage

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition excellent

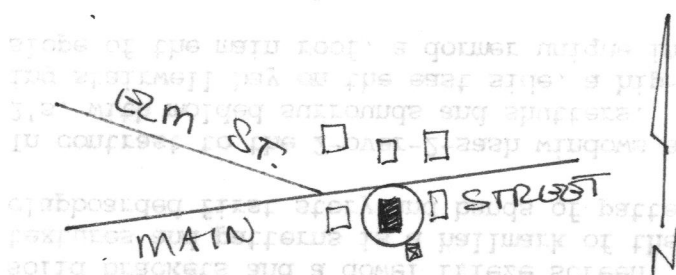
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting In residential district of 18th-
to 19th-century houses. Row of pine trees
across front; stockade fence at west side
yard.

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 research by Carla Garbarino
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

Along with #339, its companion to the east, #349 Main Street is one of the most stylish examples of early Queen Anne residential architecture at Concord center. Typically complex in plan, it is a cross-shaped 2 1/2-story house with a two-story rear wing, one-story rear side ell, and a single-room extension tucked into the angle between the facade and the west wing. The second story of the facade overhangs the first, over a wide polygonal bay window area underneath. A steeply-pitched roof extends down from the main roof over the entry at the northeast corner, where a double-leaf glass-and-panel door with small panes surrounding a large central pane is located. The porch, as at #339, is supported on a turned corner post; other porch decoration consists of small solid brackets and a dowel frieze screen. The emphasis placed on a variety of surface textures and patterns is a hallmark of the Queen Anne--here it takes the form of a clapboarded first story and bands of patterned shingles on the upper walls.

In contrast to the 2-over-2-sash windows at #339, on this house most windows are 6-over-2's, with molded surrounds and shutters. A tall narrow window is located in a projecting stairwell bay on the east side, a hip-roofed dormer over the porch, and, on the west slope of the main roof, a dormer unique in Concord for its wide-bracketed, conical roof.

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 #349 and its companion at #339 were built on property owned by Henry J. Hosmer of 363 Main Street. He built this house for his step-daughter, Florence Whiting, who married Charles E. Brown. The couple moved into their new house shortly after their marriage in the fall of 1884, and lived here for the rest of their lives. Florence Whiting Brown was the daughter of Mr. Hosmer's wife, Dr. Laura Whiting Hosmer, and Dr. Danforth Whiting. Charles Brown (1850-1932) was one of the many Milldam merchants who made their homes on this section of Main Street. Having first started in business with his father, Dea. John Brown (see #166 Main Street), he spent most of his thirty years in the retail trade as proprietor of Charles E. Brown Dry Goods on Main Street. According to one source, from 1885 he owned the building at #29 Main Street, which was known as "Brown's Block." In 1898 he sold his business to A.W. Hosmer, and the next year began a twenty-one-year career as Treasurer of the Middlesex Institution for Savings. He also served in the State Legislature, as a director of the American Powder Mills and of the Concord National Bank, as Water Commissioner, town Treasurer, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and Town Clerk. He served two terms in the state legislature in 1897-1898. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1903.
Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.
Town Directories and tax lists.
Social Circle Memoirs.

☒ 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

Charles and Florence
Brown House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
 63

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

At the turn of the century Mr. and Mrs. Brown became founders of the Christian Science Church in Concord. From 1899 to 1903 church services were held here in the house. In 1904 the small congregation hired the Masonic Hall for their services, at which Mr. Brown continued to serve as First Reader. In 1908 the society became incorporated, and in 1914 erected their church at the northwest corner of Monument Square, guided largely by Charles Brown as first president and chairman of the building committee.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
349 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	63

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. As the home of merchant, bank treasurer, and longtime town-officer Charles E. Brown and his wife Florence, both of whom were also the primary founders of Concord's Christian Science Church, it qualifies under Criterion A. As an extremely well-preserved example of one of only a few Queen Anne houses on Main Street at Concord center, it also meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.