

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.69
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Smith, Julius M. - Brown, Joseph D. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	398 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-713
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1865
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Second Empire
<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, 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

G9-713

CONCORD

DU

69

Town CONCORD

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

398 Main Street

ic Name Julius M. Smith/  
Joseph D. Brown House  
Present dwelling

Original dwelling

of Construction ca. 1865-66

e Keyes; visual assessment

Form Second Empire

ect/Builder unknown

or Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures early 20th-C. hip-roofed garage

Major Alterations (with dates) terrace  
across front; modern sunporch NW rear;  
rear entry vestibule on southwest.

Condition good

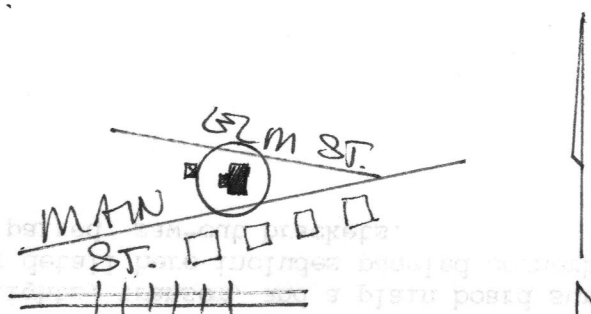
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting In residential district of  
19th- and early-20th-century houses at  
town center. On long triangular lawn  
at point of Main and Elm. Tall firs along  
Elm St., deciduous hedge along Main.

## 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  
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.*

#398 Main Street is a rare example of Second Empire residential architecture at Concord center. (See other examples at #44 Middle Street and 66 Monument Street.) It is a large, square two-story, three-bay house with a 1-story rear ell and the mansard roof that is the hallmark of the Second Empire style. The roof has shed-roofed, bracketed dormers on each side; most other windows are 2-over-2-sash with deep, heavy crowns. A paired 1-over-1 appears over the main entry, and a pair of 1-story bracketed rectangular bay windows project from the south side. The center entry has a 6-panel door with sidelights, transom, and a plain board surround. As is typical of the Second Empire, other detail here includes paneled cornerboards, sillboard, and an overhanging cornice with paired, saw-cut brackets.

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.*

Until the end of the 1880's the house lot for #398 Main Street filled all the area between Main and Elm to the Trinity Church lot and the properties along River Street. The house occupies the site of a former artisan's shop, probably the blacksmith shop built by William Badger in the 1840's (see #377 Main Street.) This house, one of the few constructed anywhere in Concord in the mid-1860's, was built for Julius M. Smith (1823-1912) after he sold his former house, then located at #252 Main Street, to Frederic Hudson. Mr. Smith had begun his career as a house painter, and had a house and store on Main Street. He sold his interest in the store in 1859, and in the 1860's he and Barzillai Hudson bought a coal and wood business from George Prescott. He also established a carriage factory south of the Fitchburg Railroad Station. He lived here at #398 for several years until he went bankrupt, whereupon he sold the house and moved in with Andrew J. Harlow (see #377 Main Street and 12 Elm Street).

The purchaser of #398 was farmer and milk dealer Joseph D. Brown, who is shown here by 1875. J.D. Brown was one of several children of J. Warren Brown, who with their mother helped operate the family farm at 1266 Lowell Road after their father died from a fall from an apple tree. (J.D.'s brother was Benjamin W. Brown--see #238 Elm Street.) Mr. Brown was elected to the town's first Board of Road Commissioners in 1871; he apparently moved to New York for a time in the early 1880's. (cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1903.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Town directories.  
Concord Chronicle.

☒ 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

Julius Smith/JD Brown  
House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)    Form No.

69

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The house was also occupied, and later purchased or inherited, by Mr. Brown's daughter's family, the **George E. Vialles**. George Vialle was a teller with the Boston National Bank, and was thus one of many residents in the area who commuted to the city to work. His sons, G. Walter and Herbert Brown Vialle, also lived here after they came of age, and Herbert followed his father in the banking business. In about 1912 G. Walter Vialle, owner of a garage and car agency at Concord center, built his own house at the rear of this property, today numbered 414 Main Street. (See also #14-18, 29/31, and 33 Walden Street.)

CON-69

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
398 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	69

## 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 well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. As the home of two prominent businessmen and entrepreneurs, Julius M. Smith and J.D. Brown, it qualifies under Criterion A. As a well-preserved example of a Second Empire house, the only one on Main Street at Concord center, it also meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, locatiion, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.