

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.71
Historic Name:	Tower and Harlow House
Common Name:	Tower, Alonzo - Harlow, Andrew J. House
Address:	409-411 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-718
Year Constructed:	1884
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate; Queen Anne
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
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 Foundation: Brick



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-718

CONCORD

DU

71

Town CONCORD(neighborhood or village) Concord Center

409/411 Main Street

Tower and Harlow House

double-house

double-house

1884-86

date on mantelpiece;
Keyes/Tolman

Italianate/Queen Anne

unknown

Exterior Material:

brick

wood clapboard

asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) modern

Colonial Revival entry on west side;

door replaced on east.

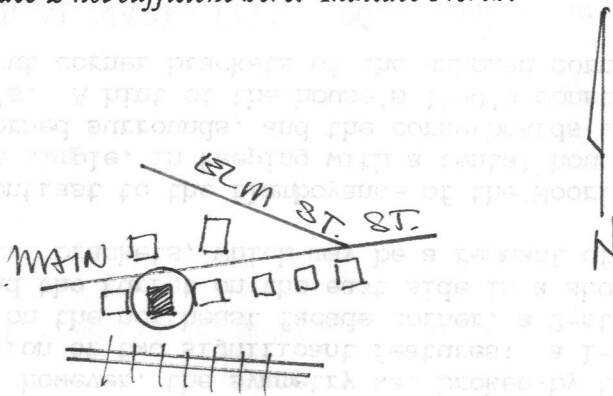
fair/good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acre

Setting In residential district of 19th- and early 20th-century houses at town center. On small, open yard with tall trees.

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
Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

#409/411 is one of the few "gable-end" double-houses on Main Street at Concord center. 2 1/2-stories high, it is divided down the center, with an entry on each side wall in front of a full-height, cross-gabled bay. Three high chimneys rise from the roof ridge; a one-story ell extends back from the center rear. Maps indicate that this was at one time a completely symmetrical house, with a wraparound veranda that extended from one entry all the way across the facade to the door on the opposite side. Sometime after 1903, however, the symmetry was broken by the removal of the rest of the veranda and the addition of two significant features: a 1-story polygonal bay window on the west side, and, on the northeast facade corner, a 2-story turret with a distinctive Moorish roof. Behind the turret on the east side is a short section of porch with turned posts and saw-cut brackets, which may be a remnant of the old veranda.

In contrast to the flamboyance of the Moorish turret, most of the detailing here is quite simple, in keeping with a rental house. The 2-over-2-sash windows have flat, unadorned surrounds, and the cornerboards are the plain, narrow type typical of the 1880's. A hint of the house's 1880's construction date appears in the Italianate saw-cut corner brackets of the unboxed cornice.

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.

Although Keyes does not mention this building in his 1885 "Houses in Concord," a date under one of the marble mantelpieces in the house indicates that #409/411 was constructed in 1884. It was apparently built as a joint investment by Alonzo Tower and Andrew J. Harlow, probably for a two-family rental house. At that time Andrew Harlow lived at #12 Elm Street, but Alonzo Tower may have been one of the first residents of this house. He came to Concord by 1866 from Stow, opened a tailoring business with Frank Tuttle on the Milldam at #36-40 Main Street, and later became a milk- and grain-dealer. At various times he owned several pieces of real estate on Wood Street and on this section of Main Street. After Mr. Harlow's death in 1891, the Towers moved to #12 Elm, and Mrs. Harlow moved to the east side of #409/411. She apparently died soon afterward, and when Alonzo Tower died, Mrs. Tower and her son Frederick and his family, moved back into the east side. In 1893 the tenant in the west half was a Mrs. Goodwin (possibly Mrs. Mary Goodwin, who later moved to the corner of River and Elm.) In 1915 it was George L. Dunning. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1903.
Keyes/Tolman.
Interview with tenant, 1/30/92

☐ 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

CONCORDTower and Harlow House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

71

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Fred Tower served as US postmaster in Concord from 1899 through much of the early part of this century. Prior to that time he was employed by the US Weather Bureau in Boston. He was very active in Trinity Church, serving as its treasurer, organist, and choirmaster. In 1935 he wrote the first history of the church.