

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.260
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Smith, Joseph House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	498 Strawberry Hill Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	E5-1963-7
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1820
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal; Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Synthetic Other; Wood Foundation: Granite



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](http://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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 1:21: PM

## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

CON-260

E5-1963-7

MAYNARD

260

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116



CONCORD

Set A

Neighborhood or village)

498 Strawberry Hill Road

Name Joseph Smith House

Joseph A. Smith House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction early 19th century;

Some sections may be earlier  
Keyes; Wheeler

Form Federal/Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim synthetic siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) 2-s. exten-

sion at rear; 20th C.: att. barn/

garage, some new windows

Condition fair

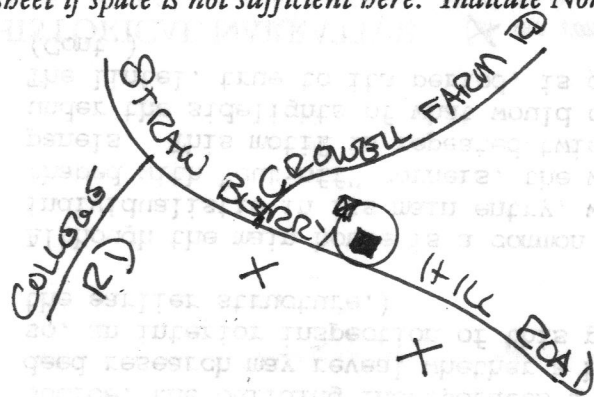
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage 2.318 acres

Setting At curve in road, woods opposite  
and south. Pond, meadows behind, stone  
wall in front. In area being built up  
with modern houses on large lots.

## 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 A. Forbes  
research by Beatrice von Baeyer  
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization May, 1991

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.*

Although it has been somewhat altered by the addition of a recent barn and synthetic siding, #498 is otherwise an excellent example of the type of large farmhouse seen in Concord's outlying farm districts early in the nineteenth century. The main building today is 2 1/2-stories, one-room deep, with a five-bay facade and a pair of tall rear chimneys. A long 1 1/2-story side ell with a "saltbox" profile, (the roof extending down to one story at the rear,) extends from its northeast corner. (According to one source, the building incorporates a late eighteenth-century "saltbox" house. Future deed research may reveal whether a house was standing on the property at that time; if so, an interior inspection of this portion of the house may indicate that this could be the earlier structure.)

Although the main house is a common early-nineteenth-century house-type, it is extremely individualistic in its main entry, where four recessed rectangular door panels are shaped with "cut-off" corners, the whole emphasized by wide moldings applied to the panels. This motif is repeated twice--in the capitals the side pilasters and in panels under the sidelights of what would otherwise be a typical late-Federal entry surround. The lintel, true to its period, is deeply-projecting, with compound molding underneath.

(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.*

The origins of the farm of which this house was a part are somewhat uncertain (it may date to the second half of the eighteenth century,) but its significance as an example of the evolution that some farms underwent over the course of the nineteenth century is without question. Its first identified owner is Joseph Smith, (ca. 1788-1835) who married Sarah Brown of Dover, and came to Concord from Westminster. As with most farms in the area, at the beginning of the nineteenth century the main agricultural activity here was mixed husbandry, and the production was relatively small, with only six cows, a pair of oxen, and one horse composing the usual stock on the farm.

The property was inherited by Joseph and Sarah's son Joseph A. Smith, (1818-1903) who added to its acreage (it had 75 acres in 1871) and, employing progressive farming methods, turned it into a model farm. Typical of many farms in the area, with the coming of new agricultural practices and improved shipping via railroad, the old mixed husbandry gave way to a combination of dairying and vegetable and fruit production. By 1871 Joseph A., partly through improving the drainage on the farm's relatively low-lying fields, was able to keep 25 cows, 6 horses, and ship 80 quarts of milk to market per day. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1906.

Town Directories.

Interviews with owner, 3/21, 3/26, 1991. (Cont.)

☐ 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

J. /JA Smith House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)      Form No.  
                    260

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

A second entry, in the ell facade, has a door with two long panels, typical of the early Greek Revival period, and a molded surround. An entry on the north end of the ell has a six-panel door. Most windows here are 6-over-6-sash, (3-over-6's appear in the upper story of the ell,) with molded surrounds. An open porch in the angle of the house and north wing dates to the latter part of the nineteenth century; a pitch-roofed dormer on the ell above it also appears in a pre-1900 photograph.

Much of the other house trim has been lost or covered by the siding, but a "water-table" board remains at sill level. The roof, typical of a pre-1830 building, does not overhang the gable ends.

A large board-and-batten gable-end barn, built ca. 1871, stood until ca. 1980 at the west of the present barn.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He raised corn, potatoes and other vegetables, including that popular Concord crop, asparagus. He also had an extensive apple orchard, grew grapes and strawberries, and carried on an ice business as a sideline. He updated the house and built a carriage house and the large board-and-batten barn that stood until recently to the north of the house. He is credited with having built one of the first two windmills in town, which he used for pumping water for the farm.

Joseph A. Smith also served his town as a member of both the School Committee and the Board of Assessors. His marriage, to Rebecca Brooks, daughter of Nathan Brooks of Acton, whose family homestead stood just over the Acton line to the northwest [cf. Acton Historic Survey #86--127 Strawberry Hill Road], underscores the connection between several families in this part of Concord with those in East Acton. Rebecca survived Joseph by a few years. After her death in 1906 the farm was inherited by their son, Erastus H. Smith (1864-1913), who moved to Concord center, and placed the farm management under a caretaker. (Erastus Smith was at various times publisher of The Concord Directory, a real estate agent and auctioneer, agent for the Board of Health, the town Tax Collector, and a Notary Public.)

After Erastus died, the farm was sold to George M. Parker, and occupied by his brother-in-law Charles S. Moulton. It remained under George Parker's ownership until 1951, when it was acquired by Mildred Crowell.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

"A New Farm out of an Old One", New England Farmer, Nov. 18, 1871.

Historic photographs.

Keyes, I, 125.

Research of Mildred Crowell.

Richardson. Concord Chronicle.



CON. 260 ✓ 96

wn Concord  
et 98 Strawberry Hill  
ne Jos. Brown Farmhouse  
ginal Use \_\_\_\_\_  
sent Use Farmhouse  
sent Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
e early 19C? Style Federal  
rce of Date aw. guess -  
hitect \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_  
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cut stone  
WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_  
STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End <sup>int.</sup> Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency near 2 story Simple/Complex  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_  
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_  
FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament  
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: entablature + cornice  
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6  
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

#### OUTBUILDINGS

#### LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 20'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo IX-7  
68-608

8.09.165. 1.096

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

H. 4.6/A-4  
4-4

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

This is presently the house of a woman who has lived in it

1. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASMENT: High Regular Low  
WALL COVER: Wood  
STORIES: 1 2 3 4  
CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4  
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony  
RECESSED

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds