

## FIRST PERIOD SURVEY

FORM B - BUILDING

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

101

## PHOTOGRAPHS:

77:19 main view of house

77:20 "pip" chamfer stop

76:2A-3 Binding summer beam with quarter-round chamfer  
and taper stop in southeast chamber

Town ConcordAddress 572 Main St.Historic Name Joseph Hosmer HouseUse: Present ResidentialOriginal Residential

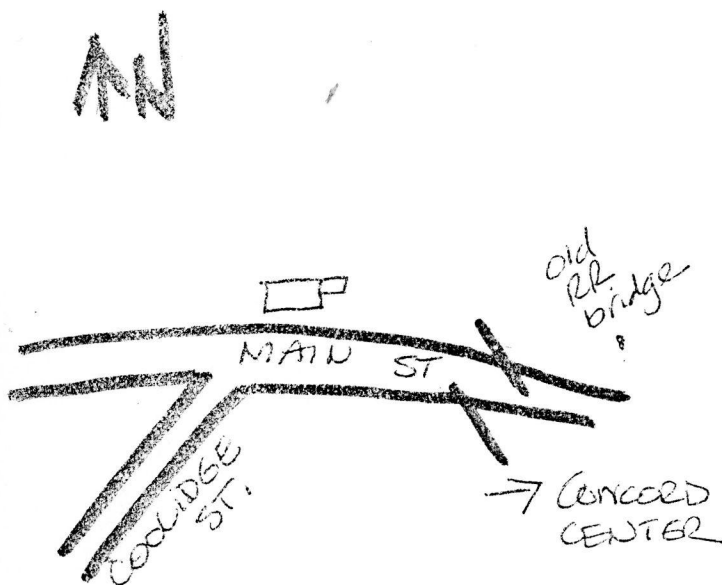
## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1700-1750Source Visual analysisStyle First PeriodArchitect NoneExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardsOutbuildings 19th c. garage with roomsabove -- former barn.

Major Alterations (with dates) addition  
to north (?) and union with house next  
door, ca. 1757; renovation, ca. 1915

Condition GoodMoved No Date --Acreage less than one acreSetting on small rise facing street,next to railroad, among 19th & 20th c.houses

Sketch Map:



Z E N

UTM REFERENCE 19 / 305-110 / 4703-050USGS QUADRANGLE ConcordSCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Elizabeth LamplOrganization Boston UniversityDate January 10, 1986

INVENTORY FORM CONTINU. ION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

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Property Name: Joseph Hosmer House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph Hosmer House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling in its First Period frame. The embellished timber frame, rare in its number of pips, makes it eligible under criterion C. The house shows either the progression or appropriation of stylistic trends in its quarter-round chamfers in the east, and beveled chamfers in the west. The unusual alteration of the chimney stack evinces one method of bringing First Period structures into the emerging Georgian aesthetic. The fusion of two distinct houses, probably occurring c. 1757, provides not only an interesting structural union, but a statement of the relationship between dwelling and workshop, as the owner was a cabinetmaker. The house is also significant under criterion D because it is likely to yield information through historical and archeological research. The sheathing and boxing may be hiding earlier decorative finishes and larger unused hearths.

## EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Joseph Hosmer House is a five bay central chimney clapboarded structure, two and one half stories high with an eastern latitudinal ell. The core of the structure is a First Period house with two possible derivations; 1) a two cell, two and one half story, central chimney plan or 2) a single cell, two and one half story plan enlarged to two cells later in the First Period. The chamfers are different in the eastern and western sides of the house--quarter round and beveled respectively. It is most likely that the two rooms to the north were added at the same time that the single cell, two story gambrel house next door was incorporated as an eastern ell. This change probably occurred c. 1757. The facade is Georgian, with 6-over-9 sash windows; the corners are marked by double capital pilasters. The front door is enclosed in a protruding lobby entry.

The east ell was originally a three bay, two story gambrel roof structure, most likely built during the first half of the eighteenth century. Its roof has been altered to meet the major portion of the house, resulting in an awkward hipped roof that retains its gambrel shape on its eastern slope. From the rear, the ell retains its original early gambrel shape of a short upper pitch and a steep, long lower pitch. A tall thin brick chimney pierces the gambrel ridge at its northern end. A second enclosed lobby entry, now unused, projects from the facade of the ell.

## MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

The early frame of the main section of the house is visible today only in the chamfered summer beams with elaborate stops. The quarter-round chamfers in the east side of the house indicate a pre-1700 date; the beveled chamfers in the west rooms could be either contemporary with them, or later First Period.

State to Inventory form at bottom

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The southeast first floor room has a longitudinal summer beam with a quarter-round chamfer with triangular stop and pip. The southeast chamber transverse summer beam has a similar quarter-round chamfer with triangular stop, but without a pip.

The southwest chamber has a transverse summer beam with beveled chamfer with taper stop and pip. The stop and pip at the northern end of the beam are rougher, more angular, the stop curling up and out, the pip deeply incised. On the western side of the beam, the pip appears to have been hewn away. The chimney girt is also beveled with a coarse, angular stop and pip at its northern end. (Both the stops at the southern end of the beams are concealed by the boxing of the plate.) The western tie in the room appears to be either a reused beam or has been turned over (perhaps when a new roof was added), as there are open mortises for joists beneath the plastered ceiling. The northwest first floor kitchen contains two transverse beams with quirk-beaded molding.

#### LATER SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

Most of the rooms contain Georgian or Federal finishes. The interior of the front door has four panels and two strap hinges which may be original. The southeast first floor room has field paneling, with simple Georgian molding surrounding the fireplace opening. There are molded cornices at the juncture of wall and ceiling, and below the chimney girts. The fireplace wall in the southwest and first floor room has field panelling and bolection molding around the fireplace with squat pilasters above the fireplace opening.

The northern rooms, probably added in the mid-18th century, contain an interesting example of one traditional First Period plan type altered to appeal to the Georgian sensibility. The central chimney stack has been extended into the rear rooms in a triangular shape, creating two angled fireplaces. The northeast one includes an outside oven, while the northwest one is now boarded up. The angled fireplace in the second floor is of exquisite Federal Design, with decoration resembling the work of Samuel McIntire.

The eastern ell is an early 18th century two-story, single cell structure probably joined to the main house in 1757. The two summer beams are boxed with quirk-bead molding. There is a fireplace on the northern wall with fielded paneling surrounding it. Cupboards and closets with H-hinges are to either side of the hearth. The outside walls are plastered or have horizontal paneling on their upper halves. The ell's original front entry, now leading to a bathroom, is a board and batten door with strap hinges. There is a delicate Late Georgian/Early Federal bookcase built into the eastern wall. A cupboard-like door of field paneling, now unused, was probably a second entry when the ell was a home.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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At the top of the stairway in the ell one can see the end rafter from the gambrel with its open trenches for purlins. In altering the gambrel to a hipped roof, this rafter has become obsolete and rests in the carpeting in the hallway. The change from gambrel to hip roof is evident in a crawlspace in the attic.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Local history claims that the gambrel ell was built c. 1672 and was the home of Obadiah Wheeler, an original Concord settler. The same sources suggest that the main portion of the house was built by Major Joseph Hosmer c. 1757. Stylistic evidence makes it more likely that the main house is the Wheeler House built c. 1672, and that the gambrel ell was built by c. 1757, when it was joined to the older house by Major Joseph Hosmer. Major Joseph Hosmer (1736-1821) was a well-known cabinet-maker and farmer. He was the son of Thomas and Prudence Hosmer, who in 1744 are said to have exchanged farms with a Mr. Hayward (Haywood) and moved into an existing house, supposedly demolished in 1820. Thomas Hosmer is also believed to have bought a farm from Mr. Joseph Shevally (Shavally), who purchased it from Obadiah Wheeler, the original owner. In 1757, Thomas Hosmer divided the farm between his sons Benjamin and Joseph, giving Benjamin the old homestead and Joseph the Shevally/Wheeler property. It is believed that Joseph built part of the house and integrated it into the Wheeler House, perhaps as extra space for his workshop, perhaps to house his live-in employees. Stylistic assessment makes it likely that Joseph only added the rear (northern) portion of the house to an existing older house in 1757, using conservative quirk-beaded frame but installing fashionable angled fireplaces. At the same time, he would have joined the enlarged house to the smaller, possibly also pre-existing, ell. Thorough deed research would be necessary to firmly establish these dates.

## REFERENCES

- Cummings, Abott Lowell. The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay. Cambridge, MA, 1979.
- Fenn, Mary. Old Houses of Concord. Published by the Old Concord Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. 1974.
- Shattuck, Lemuel. History of Concord Boston, 1835.
- Wheeler, Ruth. Climate for Freedom. Concord, MA, 1967



77:19 Main view of house

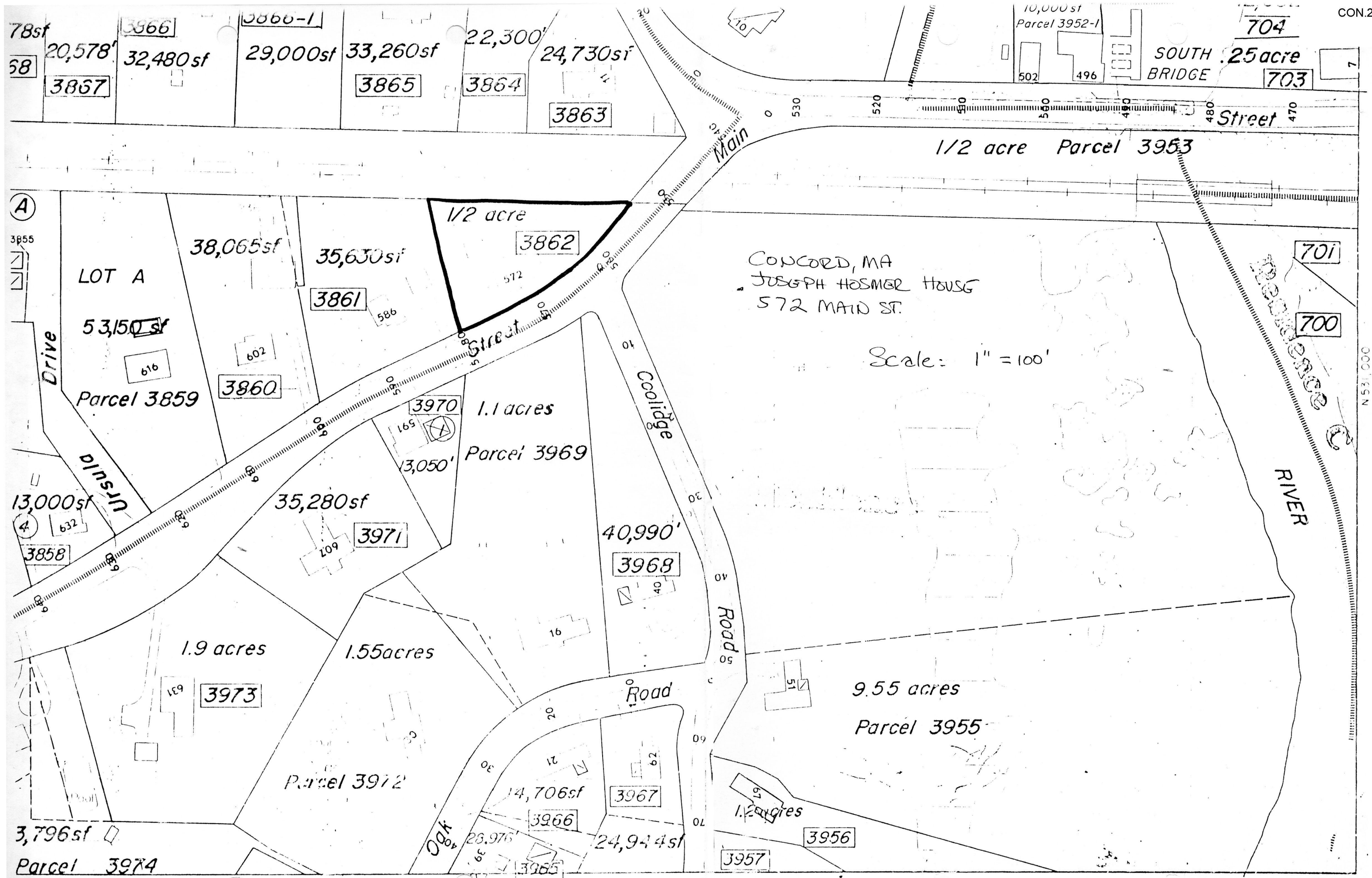


77:20 "pip" chamfer stop



76:2A-3 Binding summer beam with quarter-round chamfer and taper stop in southeast chamber





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