

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.288
Historic Name:	Bigelow, Henry Bryant House
Common Name:	
Address:	728 Sudbury Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	South Quarter
Local No:	F11-3989-3
Year Constructed:	1908
Architect(s):	Levalier, John
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Wood 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

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F11-3989-3
-3989-4

CONCORD

288

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1992

Town

CONCORD

Sect B

Neighborhood or village)

South Quarter

728 Sudbury Road

Henry B. Bigelow House

Name

dwelling

Present

dwelling

Original

1908

Construction

Bigelow family records

Colonial/Flemish Revival

Architect

John Levalier

Builder

Exterior Material:

brick

Foundation

brick

Wall/Trim

slate

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Barn, early garage, henhouse/studio,
root cellar, two modern sheds

Major Alterations (with dates)

wooden balcony and stairway at rear:
1992.

Condition

excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes

Date N/A

Acreage

30 acres

Setting

Set back from road via long tree-lined drive flanked by meadows. House faces south toward river over brick terrace and sweeping meadow. Outbuildings to northeast.

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 Karen Silver
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

This house, like its neighbor on the Abbott estate to the northeast, is the only example of its kind in Concord. It is a hybrid, cosmopolitan building, with much Colonial Revival detail, but a more continental spirit in its high, compact massing and prominent stepped "Flemish" gable ends. Clad in brick veneer, it is a 2 1/2-story cross-gabled building, with a five-bay facade facing the river, a two-story rear wing with ell behind, and a pair of tall end chimneys. The windows are a mixture of types. 6-over-6- and 6-over-1-sash appear on the facade, an unusual 6/6/6-sash on one gable end, a 3-part 8/1 "picture" window at the southwest corner, and a tripartite on the north end. Over the facade are five pedimented, slate-sided dormers; a polygonal bay window with parapet balcony projects from the north elevation.

The main center entry has a double-leafed multi-light door recessed under a classical vestibule trimmed with tapered flat Tuscan pilasters and a high-style entablature with triglyphs and metopes in the frieze. A second entry on the north side has a segmental pediment and round Tuscan pilasters. An open porch on the south end repeats the Tuscan theme, with columns on high bases and a similar entablature to that at the main (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.

In the early years of this century many scholars and professionals in the natural sciences moved to Concord's hospitable rural environment. This house by the river was built for the curator of Harvard's Agassiz Museum, Dr. Henry Bryant Bigelow (b. 1879) and his family. He married Elizabeth Perkins Shattuck in 1906, and they moved into this house in 1908. It originally stood on 13 acres and the property was later expanded to 100 acres. Mrs. Bigelow's brother subsequently purchased the large farm that formerly belonged to the French family (see #342 Sudbury Road,) which stretched from here north through Hubbardville almost to the railroad. As a result, in Tolman's words, "the woods and meadows from Heath's Bridge to the old Agricultural Fair Grounds are now...being posted against hunting, (and) form a welcome presence for our wild birds and animals."

In 1909 and 1911 Dr. Bigelow wrote two volumes on marine biology for the Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. In 1928 he became Director of the new Institution of Oceanography at Woods Hole, a post he held until 1938. In 1931 he was appointed full professor of Zoology at Harvard. For twenty years he was president, and later chairman, of the Board of Trustees at Woods Hole, and in 1960 in his memory the institution founded the Bigelow Medal for eminence in oceanography. Dr. Bigelow also published several books on oceanography and marine biology.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Interviews with owner, and daughter of original owners, March, 1992.

Keyes/Tolman.

Bigelow, Henry. Memoirs of a Long and Active Life. 1964.

☒ 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

Henry Bigelow House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

288

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

entry. Other architectural trim includes the dramatic "Flemish" stepped-parapet gable ends, a second stepped wall treatment at the rear wing, and a parapet balcony on the bay window. The wooden front cornice is unboxed, and adorned with exposed rafter ends.

Associated with the house is an unusually complete component of early wood-shingled outbuildings, which includes a gable-end barn, early two-car garage, root cellar, and henhouse (formerly a pottery studio.)



North side



Barn, shed, cellar

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
728 Sudbury Road

Area(s)	FormNo.
	288

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 building qualifies for individual listing on the National Register under Criterion A for its association with oceanographer and Agassiz Museum curator Henry B. Bigelow. It also is eligible under Criterion C. for its well-preserved early-twentieth-century Colonial/Flemish Revival architecture. The house possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.