

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.251
Historic Name:	Brown, Eleazer - Farmer, Jacob Brown House
Common Name:	
Address:	761 Lowell Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Hildreth's Corner
Local No:	F6-1636
Year Constructed:	r 1725
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Georgian
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wood 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 10:56 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F6-1636

CONCORD

251

CONCORD

Town

Place (neighborhood or village)

Hildreth's Corner

761 Lowell Road

SS

Eleazer Brown House

Historic Name

Jacob Brown Farmer House
dwelling

Present

dwelling

Original

ca. 1720's

Date of Construction

Wheeler

Style

Georgian vernacular

Form

unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

brick

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

wood shingle,

Roof

asphalt shingle
none

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

20th-

century: 2-story rear wing; deck at
rear. Ca. 1880: ell and barn
built.

Condition

good

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes

Date ca. 1880

Acreage

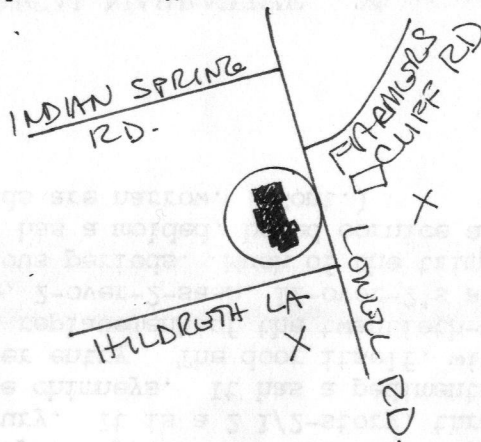
80,000 sq. feet

Setting

At north corner of Hildreth
Lane on large open lot. Set back from
street, curved drive in front.

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 Corina Favorito
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

BUILDING FORM

CON. 251

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

#761 Lowell Road is one of several "extended farmhouses" at Hildreth Corner. Its construction date is one of the area's many mysteries. Part of it may have been built as early as ca. 1722. The main house as seen today, however, appears to be mostly the product of the latter part of the eighteenth or early nineteenth century. It is a 2 1/2-story, three-bay, two-room-deep building with a pair of ridge chimneys. It has a pedimented projecting lobby entrance, or "porch" at its center entry. The door itself, with six panels and glass in the top two, appears to be a replacement of the twentieth-century Colonial Revival period. The windows here, 2-over-2-sash, 12-over-2's and 8-over-12's are also replacements, dating to various periods. Much of the trim, however, appears to at least pre-date 1830--the roof has a molded, boxed cornice at the eaves, but no end overhang. The corner boards are narrow. (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.

This house is one of several on Lowell Road and at Hildreth Corner associated with the Brown family, members of which were in Concord from at least 1640. The land on which the house stands was purchased by Eleazar Brown, Jr., (1676-1755) grandson of original settler Thomas Brown, in about 1719, and he apparently built his house here shortly afterward, probably in the early 1720's. Eleazar Brown was born in Chelmsford in 1676, was a weaver in Concord about 1698, left town for a while, and returned after his marriage in the early years of the eighteenth century. His farm here was small--about 40-50 acres of upland and woodland, and was one of the many in the North Quarter that stretched from the "Groton Road" (Lowell Road) west to Spencer Brook. In 1754 Eleazar conveyed this northern half of the farm to his son, Benjamin Brown, who sold it in 1769 to his nephew, Jacob Brown, (son of Abishai Brown), and moved to Swansea, New Hampshire. Jacob Brown was an unusually successful farmer for his time; when he died in 1816 he left more than \$7,000 to his heirs. Both he and his uncle served on the Board of Selectmen--Benjamin Brown in 1760 and 1761, and Jacob Brown from 1788 to 1795. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1906.
Keyes/Tolman.
Wheeler House File #Loll.
Town directories and tax files.
Richardson, 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

Brown/Farmer House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
 251

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

Extending to the north of the main house is a 1 1/2-story ell with 6-over-6-sash windows and three pedimented facade dormers. This is presumably the ell referred to by Keyes and Wheeler as having been added late in the nineteenth century. To its north is a higher 1 1/2-story wing, clapboarded on the front, and sheathed in weathered vertical boards on the rear. It has flat-arched openings for garage doors on the facade at the first story.

The fourth section of the house, also built late in the nineteenth century standing cross-gabled to the rest, is one of Hildreth Corner's many handsome 2 1/2-story barns. Its main wagon door, with transom above, is at the rear. A second, diagonal-boarded rolling door, also with transom, is located in the front section of the south wall. A hip-roofed belvedere crowns the roof.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Jacob Brown's daughter, Elizabeth, had married **Edward Farmer III** of Billerica, and their son, **Jacob Brown Farmer**, inherited the farm. He was a friend of Thoreau, and he and his farm are mentioned several times in Thoreau's journals. Shortly after the Civil War he moved to the center, and sold the house to **Daniel Brooks Clark**. Although D.B. Clark is still shown as the owner on the map of 1889, both Wheeler and Keyes say he sold the property to **Nathan Brooks Smith**, who moved the house back from the street, adding the ell and the barn. About 1883 Nathan sold it to his brother, **Charles F. Smith**, who made a living here as a farmer, milkman, and ice dealer.

He was survived here into the twentieth century by his widow. By 1906, however, the property is shown under the ownership of **Joseph Middleby**; by 1937 it was the property of **Charles J. Williams**.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
761 Lowell Road

Area(s)	FormNo.
	251

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.

The Brown/Farmer house meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register both as one of Hildreth Corner's well-preserved "extended farmhouses," and for its association with the Brown, Farmer and Clark families, prominent farmers in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. In spite of having been moved and updated at several periods, it is also eligible for its contribution to the architectural character of a potential district of eighteenth- to late-nineteenth-century farms and residences at Hildreth Corner. It possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



own Concord
 Street 1776 Lowell Rd
 Name Brown
 Original Use _____
 Present Use Farm house
 Present Owner private - Strick
 Date pre 1790 Style _____
 Source of Date Globe Article 12/64
1754 - Mrs Wheeler
 Architect _____

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered back from Rd
 IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great 1 Little None SITE endangered by + turned

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: brick
 WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____
 STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular
 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 1 1/2 + 2 story wing to N 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: entrance porch
 Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical Varied 6/6 8/12
 Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards
 OUTBUILDINGS barns LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 50'
 Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____
 For _____
 Photo VI-18
68-532 E-09-065.1.090

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

474

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)

Eleazer Brown Jr. sold land to Benjamin in 1754 who sold in 1769 to his nephew Jacob Brown who died in 1816 leaving the house to his grandson Jacob Brown Farmer. It was moved back from the street after war + new + new barn added. J.B. Farmer mentioned in Thoreau's Journal.

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

Wheeler

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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