

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.1721
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Hosmer, James - Sheehan, Jeremiah House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Brown, William Dawes House
<b>Address:</b>	Concord Greene 1024 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West Concord
<b>Local No:</b>	0101-3106, E9-3809
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1814
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Business Office; Dairy; Orchard; Quarry; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Industry
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.H: Hosmer - Sheehan Farms
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Aluminum Siding; Wood Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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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)

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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

E9-3809:  
0101-3106

Maynard

H

1721

Town Concord

Place (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Hosmer/Sheehan FarmAddress 1024 Main StreetHistoric Name Joseph and Lydia Hosmer  
HouseUses: Present condominium office and  
dwelling  
Original dwellingDate of Construction ca. 1814Source WheelerStyle/Form FederalArchitect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

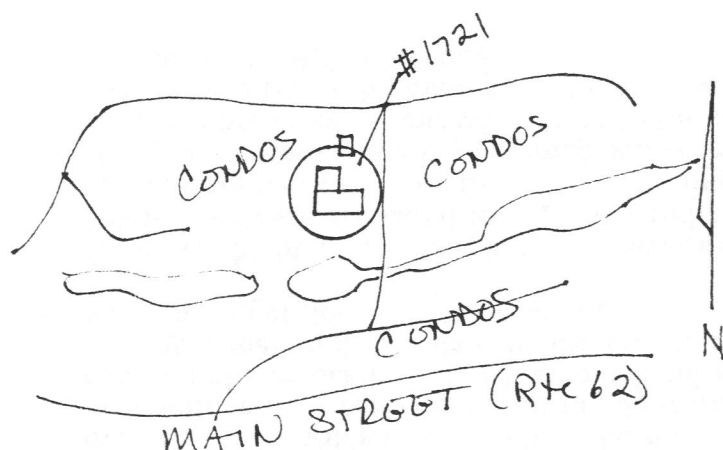
Foundation granite block and rubbleWall/Trim aluminum sidingRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

pool house to rearMajor Alterations (with dates) ell at rear--1930's; glassed porch/entry--mid-20th C.Rear ell removed. (See also page 2).Condition fairMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage ca. 25 acresSetting On hill in center of condominiumcomplex, facing south over lawn and smallpond. Surrounded by tall deciduous 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, consultant  
research by Joan Turner and Jane Dahlberg  
Organization Concord Hist. Commission

Date 12/96 FEB 03 1997

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

Facing south over a pond in the very center of one of Concord's largest and earliest condominium complexes is a large, two-story federal farmhouse of ca. 1814. Typical of its era, it is one room deep, five- by two bays, with a shallow-hipped roof. One rear chimney, probably remaining from a pair, rises from the northeast corner of the roof. The windows, perhaps originally 6-over-6-sash, are 6-over-1's, with molded surrounds. The main center entry has been radically altered by the mid-twentieth-century replacement of the door with a wide horizontal-glass and panel door and by the addition of a vertically-paneled surround and a glassed-in porch, but it still retains full-length, 5-pane sidelights that probably date to the Greek Revival era. Another entry, on the east side, has a modern 9-light door in a plain surround.

Although the building was sided with aluminum in about 1970, an unusually large amount of its trim details, fairly sophisticated for a rural farmhouse of the time, remain. The cornerboards stand on plinths trimmed with a quarter-round molding, and at the roofline is a frieze with both a molding along the bottom and a bed molding across the top. A complex crown molding trims the eaves. A wide gambrel-roofed rear wing dates to the 1930's, but continues some of the same molding and cornice profiles as the main part of the house. The wing replaces a former 2-story kitchen ell that was moved to Baker Avenue.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Explain 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 surviving farmhouses in the central and western portions of Concord that were built by members of the large Hosmer family, descendants of original settlers James and Alice Hosmer. Most of these houses stand on the remains of former farms that were divided out for sons or daughters from the large landholdings of their fathers. Often transfers were made to the children while the parents were still alive. Such was the case with the John Hosmer farm at 25 Marlborough Road (see Form #274), and, in the same generation, with this one. Elijah Hosmer (1749-1828), a former Revolutionary soldier who apparently lived in a house near other Hosmers on or near Baker Avenue, transferred his farm to his son, **Joseph Hosmer** (1782[3]-1854) when he was about sixty-five. In 1814, Joseph married Lydia Davis (1789-1873), granddaughter of Maj. Joseph Hosmer, and, according to local tradition, this house was built for their marriage. For forty years afterward, they ran the farm from this house, and raised four children here.

Sources conflict as to exactly what happened to the farm in the middle of the nineteenth century. Jarvis, who confuses the Hosmer generations in his "Houses and People in Concord", says that Joseph moved to Illinois. It does appear that Joseph and Lydia left Concord, as the map of 1852 shows the property under the ownership of "S. and L. Hosmer". This would appear to be Joseph's two unmarried sisters, Sally and Lydia Hosmer, who inherited Elijah Hosmer's house upon his death. The same ownership is shown on the map of 1856. Deeds show that in that year, Lydia Hosmer sold the farm to **William D. Brown**. Further deed examination would be necessary to tell whether this Lydia was Joseph's sister or wife, however. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1871, 1875, 1889.

Concord Directories.

Garrellick, Renee. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars. 1985.

Kloss, Marilyn B. "A History of concord Greene: 1635-1995". 1995.

Jarvis. "Houses and People in Concord." 1882. (Cont.)

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Concord 1024 Main Street  
Joseph and Lydia Hosmer  
House  
Area(s) Form No.  
H 1721

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

William D. Brown was probably William Dawes Brown of West Concord, who was also a farmer. He lived at the Brown family homestead at 1694 Main Street (See Form #129--NR) and owned a large farm along the south side of the street that had come down from his grandfather, Col. Roger Brown. He thus would not have lived here, but may have used the land for some of his own crops or animals for a few years.

In 1867 William Brown sold the Hosmer farm to **Jeremiah Sheehan** (1838-1926). "Jere" Sheehan, who became one of the most influential citizens in the development of West Concord, had immigrated from Cork, Ireland in 1858. During his long life, he overcame many of the local prejudices against Irish immigrants, even representing the west part of town on the Board of Selectmen. He was also on the Board of Road Commissioners, and a charter member of the Concord Council of the Knights of Columbus. He built up a prosperous dairy farm here, where he also maintained a large apple orchard on both sides of Main Street, and grew truck crops. In 1881 he planted five acres of "pickles", and on the eve of World War I he hired a workforce of twenty men to harvest strawberries, cucumbers, and lettuce. In 1895 he built a big new barn, (burned down 1972), measuring 80 by 40 feet, at which he held a barn-warming for 500 guests.

A broadminded man, he was a principal founder and supporter of both Our Lady Help of Christians and the Union Church. He was also a driving force behind the building of the Concord Junction Depot (Union Station), Association Hall at 84-88 Commonwealth Avenue, and the locating of the Boston Harness Company factory on its Main Street site. Hoping to attract industry to the east side of the Assabet River, he actually donated the harness shop land himself. (See Area Form G: Harness Shop Hill.)

The farm that Jeremiah Sheehan acquired sprouted a typical crop of New England stones, and much of the section north of Main Street had a considerable amount of granite ledge. Over the years Mr. Sheehan developed a sideline "harvesting" granite from his land, some of it by blasting, and both sold it and used it to build walls and foundations. Most of the foundations of the houses put up by the Boston Harness Company on Cottage and Crest Streets in 1889-90 were built by Jere Sheehan with stone from his own property.

In the housing boom of the late nineteenth century at West Concord, Jeremiah Sheehan, in conjunction with his brother, Daniel, owned and developed considerable real estate himself on land subdivided out from the farm. Throughout the 1890's, he frequently advertised houses "to let" near the Boston Harness Company, several of them on Main Street opposite the farmhouse. In 1899 he laid out a subdivision on part of the apple orchard, creating Old Bridge Road and planning other streets nearby. (See Area Form H: Hosmer/Sheehan Farm.)

Jeremiah Sheehan died in 1826, and his second wife, Mary, in 1929. The farm and house were purchased from Mrs. Sheehan's estate by **Edward and Olivia Comeau**. Edward Comeau, who was born in Nova Scotia, was like Jere Sheehan both a farmer and general contractor. His first job, in partnership with mason Gilbert Grimes in 1898, was on the Concord, Maynard, & Hudson Street Railway, which was then extending its streetcar tracks west to Hudson. Also like his predecessor, he specialized in stone-masonry, building many walls and foundations. Like Jere Sheehan, he did considerable construction work for the town, and in West Concord, he built the West Concord Supermarket in 1936. Several decades later, the family company, still E.A. Comeau, Inc., built the shopping plaza on the site of the old Derby farmhouse on Main street. The Comeau's grandson, Dean Comeau, developed Concord Greene, at first a complex of rental units, on the old farm in 1976-79. Four small houses that were standing on Baker Avenue were torn down at that time. Concord Greene was converted to condominiums in 1980 by Shell Development Corp.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community	Property
Concord	1024 Main Street
	Joseph and Lydia Hosmer
	House
Area(s)	Form No.
H	1721

**BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.**

Concord Town Reports.

Concord Free Public Library: obituary files.

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Concord Chronicle. 1967.

Shattuck. History of the Town of Concord. 1835.

Wheeler House File #M22.

Wood, Albert. "Plan of Proposed New Street and House Lots at Concord Junction Owned by Jeremiah Sheehan". 1899.