

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.472
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Brown, Capt. John House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Loring, David House
<b>Address:</b>	1646-1652 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West Concord
<b>Local No:</b>	130, C10-2370-1
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1812
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Horse Or Cattle Farm; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.D: Westvale
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard 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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 12:10 PM

Massachusetts Historical Commission

C10-2370-1

Maynard

D

130

Massachusetts Archives Building

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, MA 02125

1646 MAIN ST.

Town Concord

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

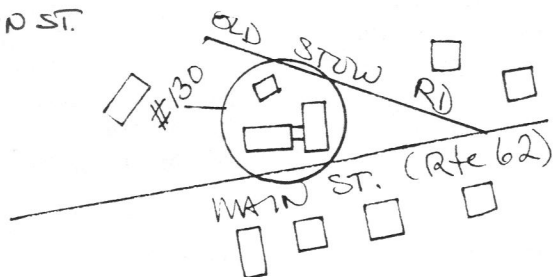
WestvaleAddress 1646, 1652 Main StreetHistoric Name Capt. John Brown HouseUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingDate of Construction 1812Source Hammond, WheelerStyle/Form FederalArchitect/Builder unknown

May 1996

## 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.

1652 MAIN ST.



## Exterior Material:

Foundation granite blockWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingle

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

3-car garage ca. 1925

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

noneCondition excellentMoved [ ] no [X] yes Date rear: mid-19th C.Acreage less than one acreSetting At point of long, triangular lot atintersection of Main St. and Old Stow RdRecorded by Anne Forbes, consultantOrganization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 12/96

FEB 03 1997

Open lawn with tall, mature deciduous trees.

CON. 472

## 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 is one of Concord's best examples of one of the typical house-types of the Federal era, the two-story, one-room-deep, hip-roofed house with a pair of rear chimneys. The window arrangement is five- by one-bay, with 6-over-6-sash in molded, projecting surrounds, with louvered shutters. The main entry is a rare Concord example of a high doorway with a leaded semi-circular fanlight, flanked by tall, tapered pilasters on high plinths, and topped by a plain frieze with architrave and complex crown molding at a deeply-projecting lintel. The door is a four-panel type, with raised field panels.

Joined to the main house by a lower gable-roofed section is a large, gable-roofed two-story wing that is said to be an earlier house, moved into position from a site farther up the hill in the middle of the nineteenth century. This part of the building has 6-over-6-sash windows with flat surrounds, and, on both south and north sides, a four-panel door with raised panels and four glass panes across the top. There is no elaborate detailing on this section: the door surround is unadorned, the cornerboards are narrow, and there is no roof overhang at the west gable end. This rear section stands on a mortared fieldstone foundation.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [ X ] *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.*

The main part of this house is significant for its association with farmer, soldier, and cotton-manufacturer John Brown, and with the development of two major industries at West Concord. It was built in 1812 by **Capt. John Brown** (b. 1783). He was the son of Col. Roger Brown of 1694 Main Street (See Form #477--NR), and had this house built on part of the family farm, which extended all the way east on both sides of Main Street to the Derby farm. Like his father, he was a Captain of the Concord Light Infantry. During the War of 1812, while still a Lieutenant, he had been briefly stationed in South Boston.

John Brown's father, a "clothier" who had run a fulling mill in Framingham, had come to Concord in the 1770's to establish a similar mill here on the Assabet, where the Conant family had been operating a grist mill since the early eighteenth century. In 1806 he sold his son the triangular piece of land next to his own house that was to become John's house lot in 1812, the year he married Sally Cogswell of Marlborough. That same year, he also sold John a one-third interest in the fulling mill.

A year and a half later, in 1808, John Brown went into partnership with his 63-year-old cousin, Ephraim Hartwell, a factory owner in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and by the end of the next year was operating a cotton-spinning mill adjacent to the Conant grist mill and his father's fulling mill. The building was, eventually, at least, one hundred by twenty-eight feet, and five stories high including the basement. (Cont.)

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [X] *see continuation sheet*

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

Concord Assessor's Records.

Concord Directories.

Garrelick, Renee. Clothier of the Assabet. 1988. (Cont.)

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Community

Property

Concord

1646/1652 Main St.  
John Brown House

Area(s)  
D

Form No.  
130

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

In 1813, in the favorable American manufacturing climate of the War of 1812, they took on Ephraim Hartwell's grandson, Ephraim Hartwell Bellows, as a third partner. Ephraim Hartwell died in 1816, and a year later, with business declining, John Brown sold a major portion of his interest in the company to Ephraim Bellows' father, Caleb. Caleb died in 1823, whereupon Ephraim Bellows purchased his interest, giving him the major control of the mill. Although the Brown/Bellows partnership, first for spinning, and later expanded to include weaving cotton cloth, had been maintained for over fifteen years, tensions between the two men were obviously growing during the early 1820's. Finally, in 1824, John Brown sold out his remaining ownership in the mill to Bellows. Bellows' payment was not forthcoming, however, and, represented by the two leading lawyers in Concord, Samuel Hoar and John Keyes, Brown successfully sued him for the money. Unable to pay the \$4671, Bellows left Concord in 1826 for a job as Agent for the Ware Manufacturing Company. He apparently earned enough to pay his debt to Brown without selling the West Concord mill, however, for he soon returned to Concord, and sold a controlling interest in the business to two new Boston partners. Their company sold it again to James Derby of New Hampshire, who, after three unprofitable years, sold it in 1834-35 to Calvin Damon, the owner who went on to expand it into the major industry of West Concord for the remainder of the nineteenth century. (See Form #128--the Damon Mill, 9 and 12 Pond Lane [NR]).

John Brown returned to farming for the rest of his life, although he is known to have performed at least a subsidiary job for Damon's expanded mill--"setting tire," a wheelwright's task. The farm associated with this house was about 165 acres; here Capt. Brown raised pigs, and cattle that he drove thirty miles once a year to the family pasture in Princeton that had been bought by his father. He died in about 1860, and his widow lived here for at least fifteen more years.

This house is also known as the first residence in Concord of manufacturer David Loring (1800-1870). He came to Concord in 1819 from Concord, New Hampshire, with his former employer, Mr. Henry Todd, who helped set him up in the business of manufacturing lead pipe. While boarding here in the Brown house, he met his future wife, Susan F. Sherman of Marlborough, whom he married in 1824. He manufactured pipe, and later sheet lead, on the site off Commonwealth Avenue that was later to become the pail factory of Ralph Warner.

In 1887 this house was bought, along with much of the remainder of the original Brown farm, by the mill owners, the Damon family. It remained in their possession through at least 1937.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Hammond, Charles. "Concord's 'Factory Village': 1776-1862". Old Time New England. LXVI, 1-2, 1975.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Factory Village, Concord, Massachusetts: 1654-1862." Manuscript. 1974.

Jarvis. "Houses and People in Concord."

Richardson. Concord Chronicle. 1967.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Westvale, Warnerville, and Prison Village." 1964.

Shattuck. History of the Town of Concord. 1835.

Social Circle Memoirs: David Loring, Charles E. Brown.

Wheeler House File #M26 and M24

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord, Climate for Freedom. 1967.



**MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

*MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012*

MACRIS No. CON. 472



*May 1996*

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community  
Concord

Property Address  
1646-1652 Main St.

Area(s)  
D

Form No(s).  
130

## 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

Statement of Significance by Anne Forbes

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

The Capt. John Brown House meets Criteria A and C of the National Register both individually and as a contributing part of a district comprised of buildings from the large eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Brown family farm at West Concord and associated with the Damon Mill, West Concord's most significant early industry. It fulfills Criterion A as the home of one of the two founders of the cotton mill that was later acquired by the Damon family, and Criterion C as one of Concord's best examples of a high-style house of the Federal period, and the only well-preserved one in West Concord.

The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

D. W. CONCORD  
USGS - MAY  
SECT A

In Area no.

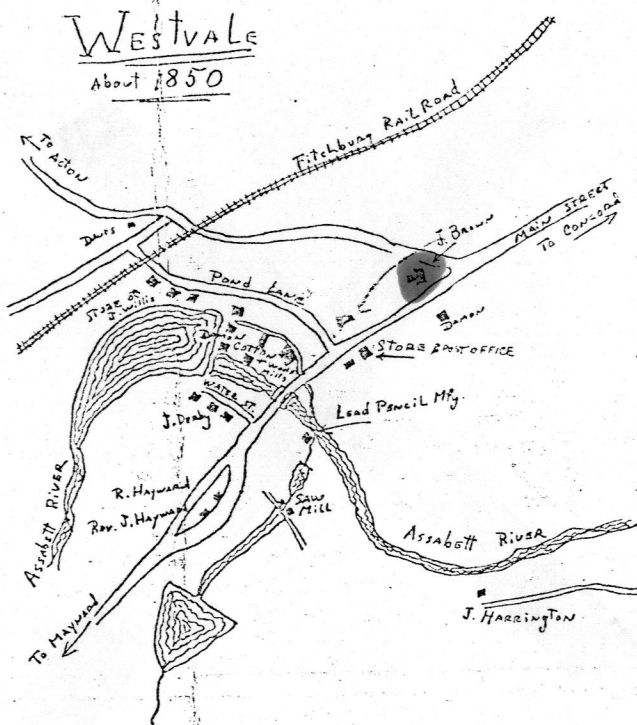
Form no.

D

CON. 472



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

1. Town Concord

Address 1646- 52 Main St.

Present use 2-Fam. Residence

Present owner Mr. & Mrs. Robt. Chatel

3. Description:

Date 1812 Front - Late 1700,s Rear

Source owners

Style Federal front - Georgian rear

Architect not known

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) new garage

Other features recently restored

Rear sectin moved from top of hill and  
attached to subject in mid 1800's

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre X Over one acre

Approximate frontage 500' / Old Stow Rd.  
300' / Main St.

Approximate distance of building from street  
20'

6. Recorded by Wilinsky and Benjamin

Organization Concord Historical Comm.

Date 10/77

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original use \_\_\_\_\_  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ Humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)





2. Town Concord (West) 472  
 Street 1646 Main St.  
433 Old Main St + Old Stow Rd  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
 Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
 Present Owner private  
 Date 78-10-7 Style Federal  
 Source of Date guess by style  
 Architect \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC Development of Town/City

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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 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: four lights - entablature + cornice

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING \_\_\_\_\_

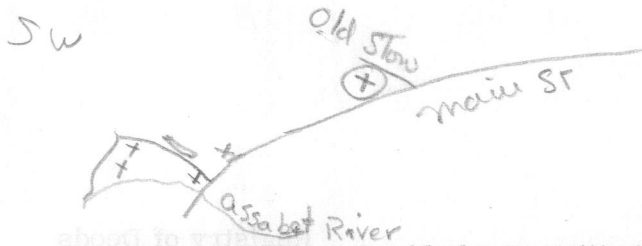
5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 25'

Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Polaroid E-09-065-1-119



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

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)

DESCRIPTION

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number Page

Registry of Deeds