

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.AA
Historic Name:	Thoreau - Belknap Streets Area
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Residential District
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 11:16 AM

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H-10

CONCORD

AA

387; 631-640

RECEIVED

Town

CONCORD

neighborhood or village)

Concord center

of Area 14-44 Thoreau Street;
53-74 Belknap Street

t Use residential/
commercial

uction Dates or Period mid-19th C.
to ca. 1925

l Condition fair to good

Intrusions and Alterations

modern garage/ambulance station
at southwest corner of intersection
ca. 3 acres

Acreage

Recorded by

A. Forbes

Organization

research by Trynje Hawks; Elinor Beane
for Concord Histor. Comm.

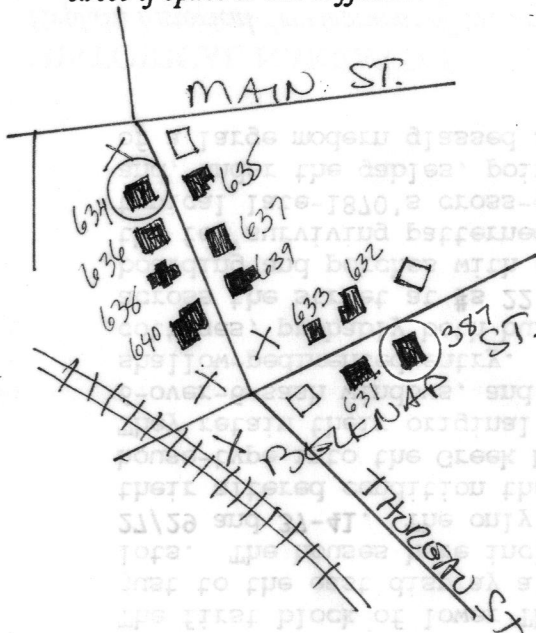
Date (month/day/year)

July, 1992

Belknap Street, South side

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.



NOTE: PROPERTIES CIRCLED ARE
COVERED ON INDIVIDUAL FORMS

AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The first block of lower Thoreau Street and the adjacent section of Belknap Street just to the east display a mixture of wood-frame residential architecture on small lots. The houses here include two three-bay story-and-a-half double-cottages at #s 27/29 and 37-41. The only pair of this type of house in Concord, in spite of their altered condition they provide a good illustration of this old Federal period house-type into the Greek Revival years of the middle of the nineteenth century. They retain their original lines and much of their detail, including large 6-over-6-sash windows, and at #37-41, full-length sidelights at the shallow-pedimented entry. A pair of charming late Gothic Revival cross-gabled cottages, probably both built in the early 1870's by the same carpenter, stand across the street at #s 22 and 34. They are trimmed with pierced-work verge boarding and porches with chamfered posts and decorative brackets. #34 has one of the few surviving patterned-slate roofs in Concord. #42-44 Thoreau Street is typical late-1870's cross-gabled "upright-and-wing" house with two-story bay windows and, under the gables, pointed-arched windows. It has been altered by the addition of a large modern glassed storefront. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this area relates to the historical development of the community.

In spite of the presence of a railroad depot from the late 1840's on, house development on lower Thoreau Street began slowly. The first block acquired its first houses at least two decades before the section to the south, then still part of the Wheeler farm, was built up. Of the three houses here on the west side, the house nearest Main Street, #14, is the latest in date. It was built in about 1892 as a rental house by Mrs. Susan Underhill, then owner of the large double house that formerly stood just north of it on the corner of Main Street. It was later purchased by Miss Edith Buck, a former tenant of the double house. She was a seamstress and milliner, and for many years her shop was located in Friend's Block at the corner of Main and Walden Streets. The pair of Gothic Revival cottages at #s 22 and 34 were some of the last investment properties constructed by William Munroe, Jr. in the early 1870's before he died. Mr. Munroe (see #185 Main Street) owned much real estate at Concord center, and put up many houses, cottages, and double-houses for sale or to rent. Among the properties and areas he developed were Bow Street, and this entire block between Main, Thoreau, Belknap and Cottage Streets. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and atlases: 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborn Maps from 1903.
 Town assessor's records.
 Town directories.
Concord Chronicle.
 Keyes/Tolman.
 Interviews with owners, 1991.

☐ Recommended as a National Register District. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDThoreau/ Belknap Sts.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
AA 387; 631-640

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

Among the group of four later houses on Belknap Street are a small Colonial Revival gable-end and a Dutch Colonial Revival house of the 1920's, a large stucco gambrel-roofed gable-end of ca. 1895 at #62, and at #68, a rare example in Concord of a ca. 1900 clapboard and shingle late Queen Anne house with inset porches and parallel facade gables.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Mr. Munroe soon sold #22 to Addison Fay, then president of the American Powdermills at West Concord (see #93 Monument Street.) Mr. Fay died in 1873, but his mother-in-law, Mrs. Augustus Adams, lived here into the 1880's. It was also evidently occupied in the summers by Mr. Fay's widow "when she came on from the west." In the 1880's one of the tenants was Frank A. Adams, the agent or secretary of the American Powder Company. The house was subsequently sold to William A. Blaisdell, and was also occupied by Miss Annie Blaisdell. In 1937 it was bought by the Huston family. Mr. Huston was a builder, and enlarged the house in 1945-46.

#34 was rented out to Edward G. Reynolds for several years. He was a bookkeeper and a relation of the Rev. Grindall Reynolds of #276 Main Street. By 1885 the house was occupied by butcher Alfred Bowman, who carried on his business in two outbuildings on the property. After William Munroe's death this house was in the hands of the Library Corporation for some years. It was eventually sold to Philip McManus, who owned it through at least 1906.

William Munroe apparently built the later house at #42/44 Thoreau Street, as well. Constructed in the late 1870's, he rented it to George E. Houghton, who had a market for many years. He had left Concord by 1896, and among the later tenants of the house were Herbert W. Blanchard, a lumber dealer in Boston, and Alvord Rose, a veterinarian.

At least one of the four buildings on the east side of Thoreau, #21, was moved into position. It was built on the property at #252 Main Street by Julius Smith (1823-1912) in about 1862. Mr. Smith had begun his career as a house painter, and had a store on Main Street, as well. He sold his interest in the store in 1859, and in the 1860's he and Barzillai Hudson bought a coal and wood business from George Prescott. He also established a carriage factory south of the Fitchburg Railroad Station. In 1865 the house had been purchased by journalist Frederic Hudson when he came to Concord around the time of the Civil War. Mr. Hudson, who had been editor of The New York Herald during the war years, was one of the founders of the Associated Press. He lived in the house until his death in 1875. In 1891 or 1892 his son Woodward Hudson had the house moved here to the rear of the old West Primary Schoolhouse lot, which he had acquired in 1887 in a trade with the town for the Hubbard Street lot on which the Hunt Gymnasium now stands. Mr. Hudson had the (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDThoreau/ Belknap Sts.

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Area(s) Form No.
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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

schoolhouse moved off the property (see #440 Main Street,) and apparently subdivided the lot. Horatio Richardson erected his residence on the front of the lot (see #277 Main Street,) and Hudson sold the rear section, with this building, to **Robertson James** in 1892. He rented it out for several years, and after his death it was purchased by **Walter M. and Anne Rush**, in 1924. It had a series of tenants for many years thereafter.

The two small double-cottages at #s 27/29 and 37-41 (Keyes calls them "Irish" cottages), if not moved from elsewhere, were probably built shortly after the middle of the nineteenth century. They were owned for years by members of the Gleason family--according to Tolman #27/29 belonged early in this century to **Dennis Gleason** and #37-41 to **Thomas Gleason**, a gateman at the Fitchburg Railroad crossing across the street. Both are shown there as early as 1886; in 1875 #37-41 is shown under the name of **E. Coughlin**. In 1906 the two cottages were also occupied by **Catherine Gleason**, a music teacher, and **Margaret Gleason**, a seamstress.

At the northeast corner of Thoreau and Belknap, (#43 Thoreau/74 Belknap) is another former house, now highly altered to a modern funeral home. It originally faced south, and was built shortly after the railroad came through, probably in the late 1840's. It was later owned and occupied by **Jacob B. Farmer**. Four other houses on Belknap just east of Thoreau were all built after 1893. The first was #62, built in ca. 1895 when this section of Belknap was still called Railroad Lane. It belonged to boot- and shoe-dealer **Maurice McWalter**, who had a shop in Brown's Block on the Milldam. He later became a lawyer. #68, probably built ca. 1900, was the house of mail agent **Thomas Powers**. Two later houses, #s 53 and 61 were built on the south side in the 1920's. Both stand on lots carved out of the large property of **James Garty** of 60 Middle Street. #53 was owned by **Emily G. Whitney**, widow of **George S. Whitney** of the Whitney Coal and Grain Company at West Concord. He may have lived here for a very short time before his death in 1924.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDLower Thoreau/
Belknap Streets

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Area(s) Form No.
AA 387; 631-640

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	AREA DATA SHEET description	date	condition
(Asterisk [*] indicates property is also covered on an individual form.)				
* 387 G9-773	53 Belknap Street	- Colonial Revival gable-end cottage Wide clapboard; concrete foundation.	1924	excellent
631 G9-776	61 Belknap Street	- Dutch Colonial Revival Clapboard; rubble foundation.	ca. 1925	good
632 G9-774	62 Belknap Street	- Col. Revival gambrel-roofed house Stucco; brick foundation.	ca. 1895	good
633 G9-775	66 Belknap Street	- Late Queen Anne Clapboard and shingle; rubble foundation.	ca. 1900	good
* 634 G9-734	14 Thoreau Street	- Shingle Style Shingle and clapboard; rubble foundation.	ca. 1892	good
635 G9-783	21 Thoreau Street	- Eclectic Victorian Clapboard; brick foundation.	ca. 1862	good
636 G9-739	22 Thoreau Street	- Gothic Revival Synthetic siding; brick foundation.	ca. 1872	fair
637 G9-782	29 /31 Thoreau Street	- Vernacular Victorian "story-and-a-half" cottage. Synthetic siding; brick foundation.	mid-19th C.	fair
638 G9-741	32 34 Thoreau Street	- Gothic Revival Clapboard; brick foundation; patterned slate roof.	ca. 1872	good
639 G9-781	37 37-41 Thoreau Street	- Vernacular Victorian "story-and-a-half" cottage. Clapboard; brick foundation.	mid-19th C.	fair
640 G9-742	38 42/44 Thoreau Street	- Italianate Clapboard; brick foundation.	late 1870's	fair



62 Belknap Street (CON.632)



21 Thoreau Street (CON.635)



68 and 74 Belknap Street



22 Thoreau Street (CON. 636)



29/31 Thoreau Street (CON. 637)



37-39 Thoreau Street (CON. 639)



34 Thoreau Street (CON. 638)



38 Thoreau Street (CON. 640)