

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.AE
Historic Name:	River Street 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

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Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F-9, G-9

CONCORD

AE

395-398; 676-679



CONCORD

Neighborhood or village) _____

Concord Center

Area _____ River Street area

Use _____ residential

Construction Dates or Period ~~1850's - early 20th C.~~

Condition _____ fair to good

Intrusions and Alterations _____ none

7, 13, 21 River Street
Sketch Map (CON. 676, CON. 678, CON. 679)

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.

Acreage _____ ca. 3.5 acres

Recorded by _____ A. Forbes

Organization _____ for Concord Histor. Comm.

Date (month/day/year) _____ June, 1992



AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

River Street, a short residential cross-street of seven houses along the Sudbury River at Concord center, is significant for its architecture from two distinct periods--the late nineteenth century on the north end, and the 1920's-30's on the south. All four houses from the former period are stylistic hybrids, somewhat altered by changes over time. #18 is a tiny 1850's gable-end cottage with Greek Revival windows, sidelighted entry, and early saw-cut cornice bracketing. The clipped-gable house at #35 is an eclectic Italianate/Queen Anne building with polygonal bay windows, cornice bracketing, and an early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival porch. #27 was originally a typical Italianate house, but was transformed into a Colonial Revival residence in 1930 by one of Concord's most prolific early- and mid-twentieth-century architects, William Kussin. #21, the most altered of the early buildings, is a large 2 1/2-story hip-roofed house with many additions and projections; it appears to have been built in the Italianate vernacular style. Adding to the late-nineteenth-century revival character of this section is John Chapman's little 1884 stone English "country" Gothic chapel of Trinity Church, which faces Elm Street on the northeast corner. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

River Street, at one time called Cross Street, was laid out between Main and Elm Streets between 1875 and 1881. By the mid-1870's, William F. Hurd had acquired most of the land between Main Street and the Sudbury River in the vicinity of lower Elm Street. He developed much of it over the course of the late 1870's and '80's as a small residential area, building houses for rent on some of the lots, and selling off other parcels. It was undoubtedly he who was responsible for laying out River Street, as well. The northern half of the street was built up first, and all the buildings there had Elm Street addresses in the early part of this century.

Two houses on the street were built by Mr. Hurd on his own land. He had #35 built in the early 1880's for his stepdaughter Marcella Simonds Brown and her husband, William H. Brown. He constructed #21 ca. 1879 as a rental house, and according to Keyes it was occupied by John M. Gould until "a separation from his pretty wife broke up the family," and he moved to Newton. Subsequent tenants were Mrs. John Q.A. Griffin and her family, which included, for a short time in the mid-1880's, her eldest son Fred and his wife (see also #43 Middle Street.) Fred Griffin was a lawyer in Boston, and he and his family are still listed here in 1886, after his mother and two brothers had moved to Mrs. Cutter's boarding house on Sudbury Road. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Town directories.

Maps and atlases: 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1903.

Joslin, Elmer. "Notes on the Acceptances or Layouts of Public Ways in the Town of Concord," 1956.

Keyes/Tolman.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

River Street area

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

AE 395-398,
676-679

ARCHITECTURAL/DESIGN SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

At the southern end of the street are three much later buildings, each representing a popular house-type of the early decades of the twentieth century. #8 is a two-story, five-bay Colonial Revival house with a rubble foundation and pedimented, Tuscan-columned entry porch. #13 is a smaller Colonial Revival house, of Dutch Colonial proportions, but with a gabled, instead of a gambrel, roof. The latest house, #7, is a large 1930's Craftsman bungalow with an exterior chimney and a deep, overhanging roof, animated by exposed rafter ends.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

From at least 1893 through 1906 #21 was the home of Reginald H. Jones. He was a broker in Boston, as was his son, Reginald R., who also lived here. The house was later bought by D. Dana Bartlett, who sold it to Farnham Smith in 1933.

#18, the earliest house on the street, formerly stood at 56 Elm Street, where it was built in the late 1850's as a cottage for farmhands on the old Willard//Lee Farm, probably at that time the farm was owned by Capt. David Elwell. (See Area Form "Nashawtuc Hill".) It was moved to River Street in about 1893, was for several years the home of plumber and tinsmith George Emmott, and in 1960 was acquired by Trinity Church as the residence of its assistant minister. #27 was constructed ca. 1880 for the marriage of Lucy Reynolds and Charles Richardson. In 1884 the chapel of Trinity Church was built on land purchased at a considerable discount from William Hurd, and in 1913 its adjoining Parish House was added. (A house built for Hurd just west of the church lot in ca. 1880 was designed by architect John Chapman, also architect of Trinity. It served for many years as the Episcopal parsonage, but was torn down in 1965.)

The southern end of the street was developed in the early part of this century. #s 8 and 13 were built in the mid-1920's, and the Craftsman bungalow at #7 sometime in the 1930's. (Although Assessor's listing date this house to 1938, Building Permit records do not corroborate this. However, they do show that Frank Tucker remodeled a house on River Street in that year. It is possible that the reference is to this one, and that it was actually built several years earlier.) (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDRiver Street Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
AE 395-398,
676-679

AREA DATA SHEET

(Asterisk indicates property is covered on an individual form)

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	Historic name	description	Approximate date
* 396 G9-708	67-81 Elm Street -	Trinity Church	Gothic Revival	1884
676 F9-703	7 River St. -		Craftsman bungalow	1930's
677 G9-709	8 River St. -		Colonial Revival	1924
678 F9-704	13 River St. -		Colonial Revival cottage	1926
* 395 G9-708	18 River St. -	Elwell/Emmott Hse./ Trinity Church asst.	Greco-Italianate minister's residence	1856-59
679 F9-705	21 River St. -	Hurd rental house	Ital. vernacular	1879-80
* 397 F9-706	27 River St. -	Richardson House	Ital./Col. Revival	ca. 1880/1930
* 398 F9-707	35 River St. -	W.H. Brown house	Ital./Queen Anne	ca. 1880-84

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. AE

AREA AE
PL-CONCORD
SECTION-B
USGS-CONCORD

676 - 7 RIVER ST (ALSO AREA DU-LHD-3/12/62)

677 - 8 RIVER ST (ALSO AREA DU-LHD-3/12/62)

678 - 13 RIVER ST (ALSO AREA DU-LHD 3/12/62)

679 - 21 RIVER ST



18 and 8 River Street
(CON. 395 and CON. 677)