

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.BY
Historic Name:	Robb, Russell Residence
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Punkatasset Hill
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Other Residential
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	



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 23, 2020 at 11:45 AM

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H6

CONCORD

B7

1131, 1132

CONCORD

neighborhood or village)

Punkatasset Hill

of Area Russell Robb residence

t Use residential

uction Dates or Period 1902

l Condition good

Intrusions and Alterations none

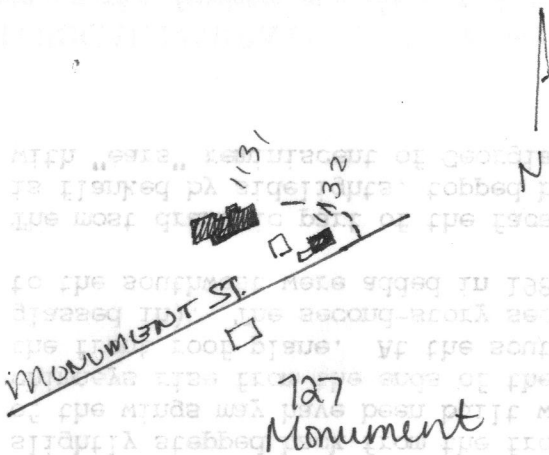
Sketch Map 709 Monument Street (Con. 1131) Acreage 229,213 sq. feet

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 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.

This is one of Monument's Streets several surviving examples of turn-of-the-century country estates. It is one of only a few, however, that was a not a renovation of an older farmstead. Today it consists, as it did in 1902, of a Colonial Revival house in a landscaped hillside setting, with an accompanying gardener's cottage/garage and stable, both just northeast of the house, closer to the road. The house is a large 2 1/2-story, five-bay hip-roofed building with two side wings, slightly stepped back from the front plain of the main facade. At least part of one of the wings may have been built when the house was enlarged in 1914. Two tall chimneys rise from the ends of the main roof, and three hip-roofed dormers pierce the front roof plane. At the south end of the house is a one-story porch, (now glassed in). The second-story section above it and a long pool house that abut it to the southwest were added in 1987; at the same time the north wing was extended.

The most dramatic part of the facade is the center entry, where a large 6-panel door is flanked by sidelights, topped by a transom, and surrounded by a molded architrave with "ears" reminiscent of Georgian detailing. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

Two earlier houses stood on this property, one belonging in the eighteenth century to the Brown family, and a house said to have been built in the middle of the nineteenth century by William Ellery Channing. It was later the home of the Rev. Samuel D. Robbins and, from at least 1856 to his death in 1885, Thomas Ford Hunt. (See also #53 Monument Street.)

In 1902 Russell Robb (1864-1927), one of the founders of the engineering firm of Stone & Webster in Boston, bought the property. He tore down the existing farmhouse, and built the present house 250 feet back from the road, with the accompanying stable and garage/gardener's cottage. In 1891 Russell Robb had joined with two MIT classmates, Charles Stone and Edwin Webster, to form the engineering company of Stone & Webster. He became a partner of the company, which at first specialized in electrical engineering, in 1905. Over the years it became a large, internationally-known corporation, with engineering construction, management, and financial and economic divisions. It was incorporated in 1920, with Russell Robb as senior vice-president, treasurer, and a director. In addition to his duties with Stone & Webster, Mr. Robb also lectured on business organization at the Harvard Business School, was a prolific writer on electricity, corporate management, and economics, and did much to establish the American electric light and power industry on a solid footing. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1906.
Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.
Town Directories and tax lists.
Memoirs of Members of the Social Circle. Sixth Series, 1975.

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

CON. BY

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

RECEIVED

Community

Property

JUL 15 1993

CONCORD

Russell Robb House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Area(s) Form No.
BY 1131, 1132

DESCRIPTION, cont.

As in the 1899 Charles Francis Adams III house on Fairhaven Hill, here the Georgian idiom is mixed with the Classical revival. The entry is recessed under a pedimented entablature supported on a pair of Doric columns flanked by pilasters embellished with a Greek key motif; the same columns and pilasters are repeated in the porch at the south end of the building. Other architectural trim is much more subdued. The cornerboards are narrow and unadorned, and the roof eaves are unboxed, and embellished only with exporsed rafter ends. Most of the windows are 6-over-6-sash, with molded surrounds. 9-over-9-sash windows at the first story of the main facade add an additional Classical Revival element, as do the tripartite windows on the second story of the wings.

The two other buildings on the property are set into the hillside on prominent fieldstone foundations. Both are clapboarded, with exposed rafter ends at the roof line. The gardener's (now butler's) cottage at #727 Monument St. retains its 6-over-6-sash windows and one sidelight beside the door. It is attached to a wide, one-bay garage. The stable was altered in 1987 by the addition of a hip-roofed second story, which houses a garage.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Mr. Robb married Edith Morse of Salem, a cousin of Mrs. Stedman Buttrick, in 1898. They first lived on Thoreau Street before building this house.

Over the years the Robbs acquired many acres of the surrounding land, including much of the woodland on the west side of the hill (today part of Estabrook Woods,) the former Minot Pratt Farm to the south at #635 Monument Street, and in about 1920 the former William Hunt estate across the street (used for several years between 1910 and 1919 for a series of private schools.)

Russell Robb held many town offices, including Trustee of Town Donations from 1911-18, trustee of the library from 1912 to 1927, and School Committee member from 1915-17. He was also appointed to the Committee on Public Safety of Massachusetts in 1917-18.

DATA SHEET

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	Description	Date	Condition
BY-1131 H6-1437-1	709 Monument Street -	Colonial Revival Clapboard; fieldstone foundation, slate roof.	1902	good
BY-1132 H6-1437-1	727 Monument Street -	Colonial Revival Clapboard; fieldstone foundation, slate roof.	ca. 1902	good

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CONO BY

AREA By
PL - PUNKATASETT
USGS - CONCORD
SECTION - C

1131 - 709 MONUMENT ST

1132 - 727 MONUMENT ST



727 Monument Street (CON. 1132)



727 Monument Street