

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.CT
Historic Name:	Elm Street - Elm Place Area
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Other Institutional; Residential District; Workers Housing
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Industry
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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FORM G - STREETSCAPE

AREA

FORM NO.

I, CT	
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Concord

Street Name

Elm St. and Elm Place

Addresses (inclusive)

875/77 & 885/87

Elm St.; 19-41 Elm Place

Description

General Date or Period

1884

Dominant Architectural Styles

Italianate vernacular

Other Intrusions

swimming pool at
885/87 Elm St., a few 20th century
sheds at rear

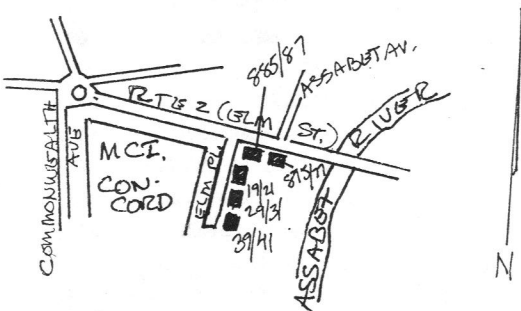
Alterations

shingle roofs altered to
slate, 1897. One identical house at 865/67
Elm St. demolished in 20th century

Acreage

approximately 3 acres

Sketch Map: Draw map of street, clearly
showing all buildings; indicate street
addresses for all buildings; identify
intrusions.
Indicate north.



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

Recorded by

A. Forbes

Organization

BU; Concord Hist. Comm.

Date

5/87

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other streetscapes within the community.

The five identical houses at Elm Place and Elm St., (this section is now part of Rte 2,) remain from an original group of six built in 1883-84 for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, possibly by CH Chandler of Malden. They are similar in scale, proportion and detail to the earlier double houses on "Commonwealth Row" on the opposite side of the Massachusetts Reformatory, (now MCI-Concord.) Their design copies their predecessors' one-story central rear ell with single stove chimney, paired double-leaf doors, 2-over-2 sash windows with molded architraves, and water table at the base of the wall. They differ, however, in their paired facade windows, central rear dormers, and more elaborate, distinctively Italianate front and rear door hoods supported by elaborate brackets. The repetition of their identical forms and voids, angles, colors, and details, makes this group, as in the houses on Commonwealth Row, one of the most visually consistent streetscapes in Concord.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of streetscape and how the streetscape relates to the development of the community.

Appropriations for this house group were passed by the state legislature in 1883, just after both a new governor and a new State Prison warden had taken office, and thus reflect one way that these new administrators chose to make their mark on the prison system. More stylish in ornamentation than their earlier counterparts on "Commonwealth Row," they give visual form to the more liberal and lenient policies of both Gov. Butler and Warden Roland Usher that were soon to result in the establishment of the Massachusetts Reformatory here in late 1884. They also illustrate a response on the part of the state to criticisms against stringent conditions at the prison for both inmates and employees; the latter who were still finding it difficult to obtain living accommodations near the prison.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Sanborn's Fire Insurance Maps. 1918.
- Massachusetts General Court. Senate Documents, 1883 and 1884.
- Annual Reports of the State Prison at Concord. 1883, 1884.
- Annual Reports of the Massachusetts Reformatory. 1885-1905.
- The Concord Freeman. 1883, 1884.



19-41 Elm Place



39/41 Elm Place ("Green Row") (CON. 1741)



19-41 Elm Place



875/77 Elm Street (CON. 1735)