

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.CU
Historic Name:	Assabet Avenue Streetscape
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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CON.CU

FORM G - STREETSCAPE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

J.C.U.	285
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Town West Concord

Street Name Assabet Avenue

Addresses (inclusive) 29 through 111

DESCRIPTION

General Date or Period 1892-1899

Predominant Architectural Styles _____

Greco/Italianate, Queen Anne, Four-Square

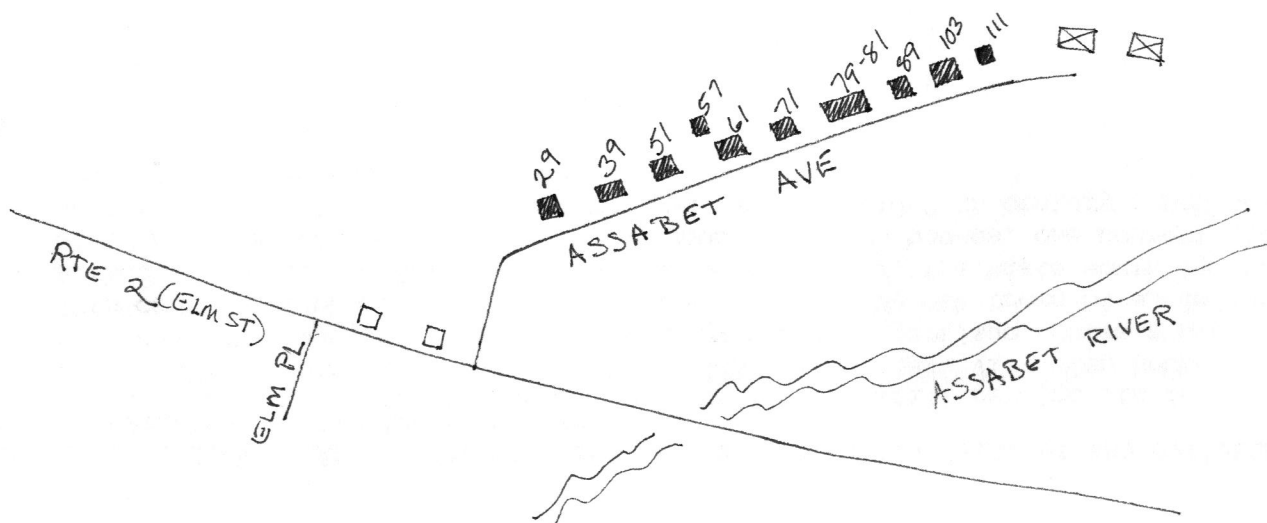
Major Intrusions none

Alterations Late 20th-century synthetic siding and facade deck at #61, siding, window-replacement and porch at #79/81.

Acreage Approximately 4 acres.

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black and white)
Indicate street addresses for
buildings shown on back of each
photo. Staple to left side of form.

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 Anne M. Forbes

Organization Concord Historical Comm.

Date 2/15/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Assabet Ave., built in the mid to late 1890's, still retains its feeling as a quiet, self-contained street of comfortable, middle-class, late Victorian houses. Situated on spacious lots, many of them accompanied by original carriage houses and early 20th-century clapboard garages, they are sheltered by oak trees of a similar vintage. Although neighboring Elm St. has become busy Route 2, the vista south to the Assabet River has remained unobstructed by development. Two houses, one nearest Rte 2, the other on the site of #111, have been torn down, and two mid-20th century ranch houses have been built at the far end of the street.

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

Formerly a wooded grove across Elm St. from the Mass. Reformatory, Assabet Av. was part of the 17-acre Riverside Park subdivision developed by George Russell, (who built the westernmost house on the street, now demolished, for himself), and Reformatory Superintendent Joseph Scott. The grandest street of Riverside Park, Assabet Ave. reveals the solidly middle-class status of the Reformatory officers and instructors, six of whom built houses here. Such a concentration of Reformatory employees also shows that the need for housing in the Reformatory area, which had been acute throughout the 1880's, was still high in the early '90's. The street was also the focus of much sports and social activity, centered on the Musketaquid Bicycle Club at #79/81. In 1895, the club had 75 members, and the popularity of bicycling is evidenced by the fact that in that year, fourteen agents at Concord Junction sold bicycles.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Sanborn Maps, 1918, 1927.
- Concord Enterprise, 1899.
- Concord Directories, 1905-6.
- Middlesex Registry of Deeds: Plan Book 77, Plan #16. 1892.
- Walcott, Charles H. Titles, Vol V. Undated manuscript.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

CON. CU

Community: W. Concord	Form No: JCU 85
Property Name: Assabet Av.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

As expected on a street of houses each built to order for its owner, the theme of Assabet Ave. is one of individuality and stylistic variety. #29, for instance, a late Greco-Italianate, gable-front house, primarily vertical in its massing, with square chamfered porch posts and delicate diagonal bracketing, contrasts with the more compact Victorian charm of #39, a 2-story house with two gabled end pavilions projecting from the facade. The high, square-core massing of #51 changes the mood again, as do three Queen Anne houses in the middle of the row, #'s 61, 71, and 79/81, with their asymmetrical massing and complex, steeply-pitched roof lines. The best-preserved of the Queen Annes, #89, retains an original oriel window, clipped, spandrelled corners, and turned-columned veranda with paneled balustrade. #103 is a heavy, generously-proportioned, twin-chimney example of the Four-Square design, also trimmed with a bracketed, turned-columned veranda and rear entry porch.



29 and 39 Assaket Avenue (CON. 1749 and CON. 1750)



61 and 71 Assaket Avenue (CON. 1753 and CON. 1754)



51 and 61 Assaket Avenue (CON. 1751 and CON. 1753)



79/81 Assaket Avenue (CON. 1755)



71 Assabet Avenue (CON. 1754)





