

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.CW
Historic Name:	Commonwealth Avenue Streetscape II
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

This file was accessed on: Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 12:25 PM

FORM G - STREETSCAPE

AREA

FORM NO.



West Concord

Street Name Commonwealth Ave.Addresses (inclusive) East side:308-330; west side: 303-343

Description

Original Date or Period Ca. 1879-89Dominant Architectural Styles ItalianateOther Intrusions none

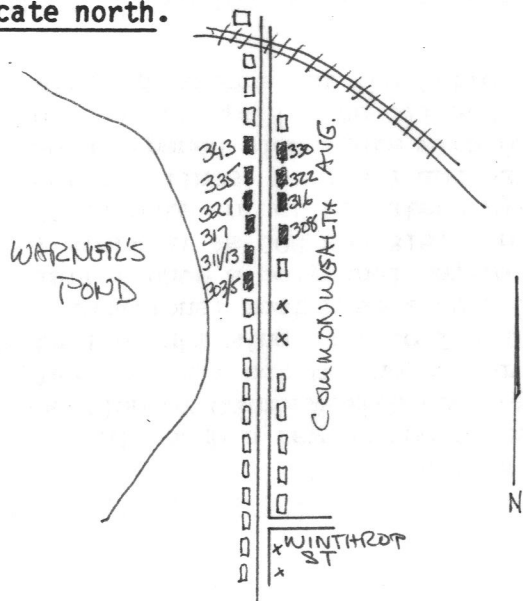
311/13, 317/19, 327, 335 Commonwealth Avenue
(CON. 1365), (CON. 1367), (CON. 1369), (CON. 1371)

Alterations front doors at 308, 311, 317, 322, 330; porch enclosures or additions at 316, 322, 327, 343; synthetic siding at 311, 317, 327, 335, 343.

Acres approximately 3.5 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 for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date 5/1/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Although a few of these ten houses have been sided and otherwise altered, this section of Commonwealth Ave. appears very much the way it must have looked in the 1880's. All but two houses are wood-frame, 2 1/2-story, gable-front structures with a full-height wing--a true Italianate "upright-and-wing" house-type. All have brick foundations; most have 2-over-2-sash fenestration. In addition, all but one of the latter have a polygonal bay-window on the facade--a 2-story bay at #317 through 343, 1-story at #s 308 and 316. On the east side of the street, #s 308 and 316 have typical Italianate corner pilasters with molded caps, and scroll brackets at the 1st-story cornice lines. #'s 317 and 327 have retained their 6-paneled front doors flanked by square-paned sidelights with paneled bases; a double-leaf door survives at #316. All houses, except for #s 311 and 317 are graced either with entry porches or verandas, although several of the latter have been enclosed or otherwise altered. The most

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

Formerly a 19th-century wagon path between Ralph Warner's pail factory and the Old Harvard Rd., (now Rte 2,) this section of Commonwealth Ave. was known as "Pail Factory Road" and, after the prison was built in 1878, "Prison Road". #s 308-335, and 343, along with another similar pair of houses at 260 and 266/268 Commonwealth, were built by pail factory owner and landowner Ralph Warner, in direct response to an acute shortage of housing for officers at the Reformatory. As The Concord Freeman reported in 1878, just after the prison opened, the line of ten double houses built that year by the Commonwealth just north of this area was inadequate from the start for those "waiting to go to housekeeping in the vicinity of the prison". This streetscape, as part of the building activity that the newspaper had predicted for the 1880's, is one illustration of the major role played by Ralph Warner in shaping the face of West Concord.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

The Concord Freeman, 1878: Aug. 22 and Sept. 12.
Walker, George, Map of Concord Junction, Part of Concord, 1889.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1918 and 1927.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: West Concord	Form No: E. J. CW
Property Name: upper Commonwealth Av.	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

elaborate veranda, at #330, has chamfered posts, scroll brackets with drops, and a grill-design railing.

Much of the charm of the streetscape results from the repetition of identical house forms. A few house pairs had been built prior to this time, such as the large double houses on upper Conant Street at Westvale in the 1860's, and Ralph Warner's two cottages of ca. 1874 on Lawsbrook Road. However, along with the eight tiny gable-and-ell cottages at the foot of Conant Street, built at about the same time, this is the earliest sizeable cluster of identical houses of any kind in West Concord.

The only mavericks of the group are #s 311/313 and 303/305. The former is an upright-and-wing house, but is somewhat smaller than the others, with paired 1-over-1-sash fenestration on the facade, pedimented gables, and an entry vestibule set into the angle formed by the house and wing. #303/305 is a charming little 2-story, pitch-roofed double house of ca. 1889. It is the only example in West Concord of this particular design--like the state-built double houses to the north, this house has a central rear ell, a pair of stove chimneys at the ridge, and an entry veranda with chamfered posts and plain diagonal braces which shelters twin double-leafed entry doors. Here, however, the veranda is flanked by two rectangular bay windows.



303/305 Commonwealth Avenue (CON. 1363)



316-338 Commonwealth Avenue



311/13, 317/19, 327, 335
(CON. 1365), (CON. 1367), (CON. 1369), (CON. 1371)



316-338 Commonwealth Avenue



327 Commonwealth Avenue (CON. 1369)



330 Commonwealth Avenue (CON. 1370)