

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.CZ
Historic Name:	Laws Brook Road Streetscape
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	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.CZ

FORM G - STREETSCAPE

AREA

FORM NO.

E.CZ

37

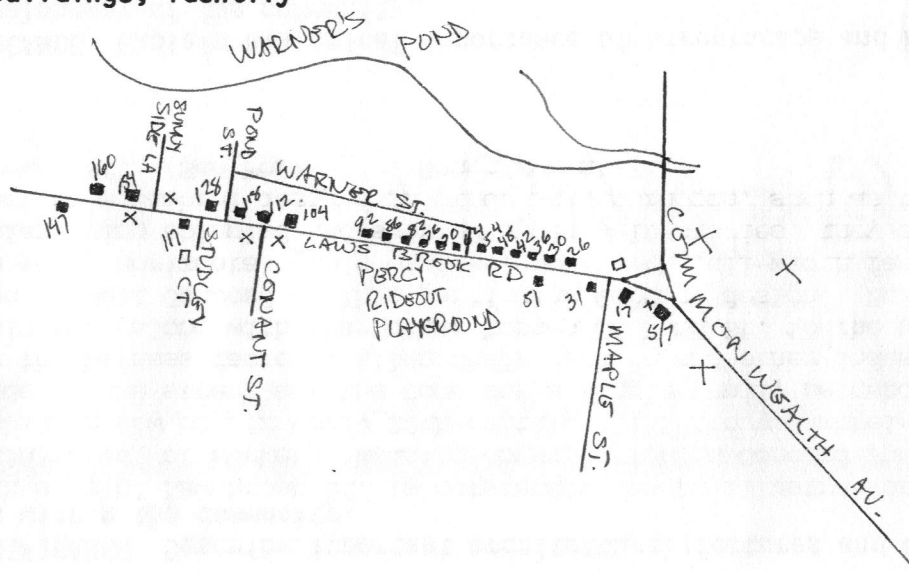
West Concord

t Name Lawsbrook Rd.sses (inclusive) 5-160

PTION

al Date or Period mid-19th cent.-1930minant Architectural Styles Gambrel, gable-front Victorian, early20th-century vernacularIntrusions 11, 97, 111, 138,
139--mid-20th century housesAlterations Porch enclosures on 5 houses,
synthetic siding on 16Acreage Approximately 9 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. ForbesOrganization for Concord Hist. Comm.Date 3/10/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

The north side of Lawsbrook Rd. is outstanding as an illustration of two stages, and hence two main forms, of workers' housing construction in Concord Junction. Looking west from the square, a row of six early 20th-century 1 1/2-story Gambrel-roofed cottages on the north side of the street set the tone for a single-family neighborhood that housed laborers for the harness factory, Allen Chair Factory and other industries at the Junction. This row, along with four other houses on Pond St. to the north, is the largest concentration in West Concord of this particular Gambrel design. Built gable-end to the street, with small horizontal gable windows, most with full-width facade verandas, and some still displaying shingled and skirted upper half-stories, they are a house type quite distinct from Gambrel designs in other neighborhoods, such as those with recessed entries on Damon St. (See Form# , Damon/Conant St.s)

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

Lawsbrook Road was developed in two main phases. The first took place from the 1870's to '90's, when it was still Old Acton Road. Pail factory owner Ralph Warner, who owned most of the land on the north side of the street, built the three houses at 64, 70, and 76 for his employees in the early 1870's. The Patrick Kerrigan house at 117, and probably the first Abiel Chase farmhouse, at 51, were the only others west of the pail factory at the time, indicating how sparsely scattered the homesteads in the area were before the coming of the Massachusetts Reformatory in the mid-'80's and the burgeoning industrial development at the Junction in the '90's. By the 1890's, 104 and 147 had been built, and #5/7 had become a hotel/boarding house, (first the Reece House, later the Elmwood Hotel,) which was to house local workers for decades, before relocating to 92-100 Commonwealth Av.

The second major building phase, in ca. 1905-1915, was the filling of most of the remaining space on the north side of the street by the Concord West End Land Co., the local syndicate which had bought most of Ralph Warner's land holdings in 1896. This final building boom extended Concord Junction workers' housing past the foot of Conant St., completing the merger of the northern part of Concord Junction with Westvale.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Beers, F.W. Map of Concord, from Beers' Atlas of Middlesex County, 1875.
Walker, George. Map of Concord Junction, 1889.
Untitled map, ca. 1871.
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1909, 1918, 1927.
The Concord Directory, 1905-6; 1909-10; 1913.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

West Concord

Form No:

CON.CZ

Property Name:

Lawsbrook Rd.

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Juxtaposition between earlier and later house groups is also a theme of the north side of the street--cf. the three small 1870's gable-front, knee-wall workers' cottages at 64, 70, and 76, the larger 2 1/2-story Greco/Italianate house at 104, built in the 1880's, and the seven square, 2 1/2-story gable-front houses, some with flared second-story skirts, that filled most of the remaining spaces some thirty years later.

The south side of the street shows a more varied pattern of construction, indicative of its gradual evolution from a small agricultural district to a residential neighborhood. This side is marked primarily by larger wood-frame houses and properties, ranging from three farmhouses, (a 1 1/2-story, pitch-roofed, mid-19th-century house at 117, and two 2 1/2-story gable-front Greco/Italianates of the 1870's and '90's, at 51 and 147,) to two late Queen Anne houses at #s 17 and 31. Of the latter pair, 17 is a pitch-roofed, 2 1/2-story, two-family house, built ca. 1899, with 2-story, full-width, facade verandas, unusual in West Concord. Next door at 5/7, a much-altered 2 1/2-story, pitch-roofed house remains from ca. late 1860's.



17 Lawsbrook Road (CON.1450)



54-26 Lawsbrook Road



26-54 Lawsbrook Road



76, 70 Lawsbrook Road (CON.1461, CON.1460)



104 Lawsbrook Road (CON-1466)