

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.P
Historic Name:	Bow Street Area
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Residential District; Workers Housing
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Industry; Transportation
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. P

FORM G - STREETSCAPE

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

USGS Quad

CONCORD

Area(s)

P

Form Numbers

520-522

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NOV 17 1992

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Photograph

(3"x 3" or 3"x 5", only black and white)

Indicate the street addresses on the back of the photo.

Indicate the roll and print number of the negative here on the form. Staple photo to the left side of the form

and additional photographs onto an additional piece of bond paper.

Town CONCORD

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Concord center

Addresses (inclusive) 36, 42, 52

Bow Street

Range of Dates or Period ca. 1875-6

Predominant Architectural Styles/Forms _____

Mansard cottages

Alterations rear addns. at 36, 52;
door, some window replacement at 36,
exter. chimney at 42, front steps on

Major Intrusions _____

none

General Condition good

Sketch Map

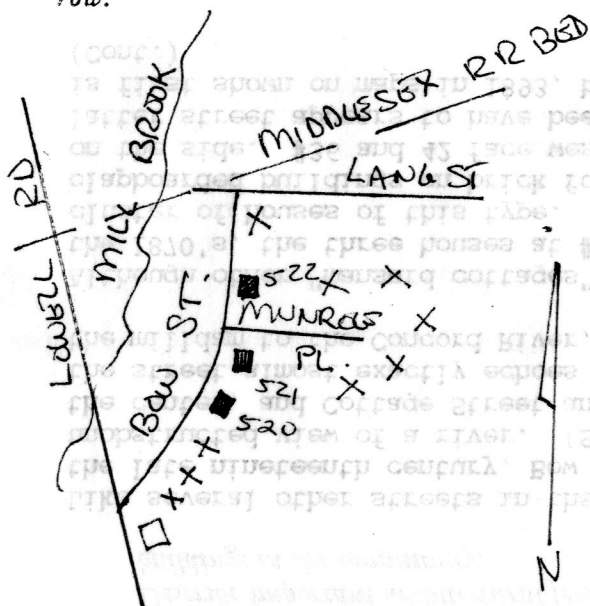
Draw a map of the streetscape indicating properties within it. Number each property. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient. Indicate North with an arrow.

Acreage approx. 2 acres

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992



STREETSCAPE FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Describe important architectural features. Evaluate in terms of other examples of streetscapes and similar buildings in the community.

Like several other streets in the centers of Concord and West Concord laid out in the late nineteenth century, Bow Street was sited so its houses would have an unobstructed view of a river. (See e.g. lower Elm Street and Musketaquid Road at the center, and Cottage Street and Assabet Avenue in West Concord.) In this case the street almost exactly echoes the curve of the Mill Brook as it flows north from the milldam to the Concord River, hence the descriptive name, "Bow" Street.

Although other "mansard cottages" were built at scattered locations in Concord in the 1870's, the three houses at #s 36, 42, and 52 Bow Street are the town's only cluster of houses of this type. Nearly identical, they are all square, 1 1/2-story clapboarded buildings on brick foundations, with two ells--one at the rear and one on the side. #36 and 42 face west; #52 faces south, toward Munroe Place. (The latter street appears to have been planned, but not laid out, by William Munroe. It is first shown on maps in 1893, but was not built upon until the end of the 1930's.) (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Explain the history of this streetscape, and how it relates to the overall development of the community.

Bow Street was accepted by the town in 1876, although these three houses may have been started somewhat earlier. Its development was the last of the many real estate projects of William J. Munroe, Jr., who also developed Cottage Lane and part of lower Thoreau Street, and was responsible both for the 1872 building of the library and the accompanying re-design of Main Street/lower Sudbury Road. In the case of Bow Street, he apparently determined that there would be a small market for rental housing when the Middlesex Central Railroad was extended from Bedford in 1872 to a terminus at Lowell Road, where the usual turntable, engine and car houses, and passenger depot were built.

The railroad tracks and buildings are gone, but these three houses remain as reminders of the railroad workers who occupied them. #36 was first the home of Harry Whittle, a railroad conductor and, according to Keyes, his "handsome, showy wife." It was later occupied by express agent Steven Brooks, and by 1893 by plumber and stove-dealer George Emmott (see #18 River Street.) (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and atlases: 1889, 1893, 1906.

Town directories and tax valuations.

Joslin, Elmer. "Notes on the Acceptances or Layouts of Public Ways in the Town of Concord," 1956.

Keyes/Tolman.

Richardson.

Walcott "Titles."

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

CON. P

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Bow Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

All three houses have two-bay facades, composed of a polygonal bay window beside what were probably similar heavily-molded glass-and-panel doors. Each main entry retains its heavy, bracketed canopy, and the original two-light doors remain at #s 42 and 52; the latter still displays one of its etched-glass lights.) #36 has a pair of bay windows on the side wall, and #52 has one. Each house has shallow-pitched dormers in the roof, and all undoubtedly had the 2-over-2-sash windows that were typical of the times. (Both sash and blinds remain at #s 42 and 52; #36 has un-shuttered 1-over-1 replacement windows.) #36 also appears to have lost its cornice bracketing, but the other two houses display their original brackets at the rooflines, and #42 retains openwork porch posts on the ell veranda.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In the 1890's, the tenant of #52 was George A. Butters, superintendent of the milk car that was so essential to the livelihood of Concord's dairy farmers.

After William Munroe's death in 1877, all three houses were apparently sold out of his estate as a group. In 1915 they were owned by Miss Louise Kennedy of Monument Street.

CON-P

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Bow Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
P 520-522

AREA DATA SHEET

(Asterisk indicates property is covered on an individual form)

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	Description	Condition	Approximate date
520 H8-1304	36 Bow St. -	Mansard cottage -	fair	1875-6
521 H8-1305	42 Bow St. -	Mansard cottage -	excellent	1875-6
522 H8-1311	52 Bow St. -	Mansard cottage -	fair	1875-6

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. P

AREA P

Pl. CONCORD
USGS- CONCORD
SECTION - B

520 - 36 Bow ST

521 - 42 Bow ST

522 - 52 Bow ST

CON. P

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
Bow Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
P	520-522

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☒ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

36, 42, and 52 Bow Street meet Criterion C for listing on the National Register as a small residential district of nearly-identical "mansard cottages." The area possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.



36-52 Bow Street



52 Bow Street (CON. 522)



42 Bow Street (CON. 521)



52 Bow Street (CON. 522)