

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.Q
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Brooks, George House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Other Residential
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Community Planning
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 23, 2020 at 10:58 AM

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9

CONCORD

Q

523-525

1 Sudbury Rd (CON. 523)  
NOV 17 1992

Town CONCORD

Place (neighborhood or village) Concord Center

Area George Brooks Residence

Use residential

Construction Dates or Period late 19th century

Condition good

Intrusions and Alterations none

Size ca. 4 acres

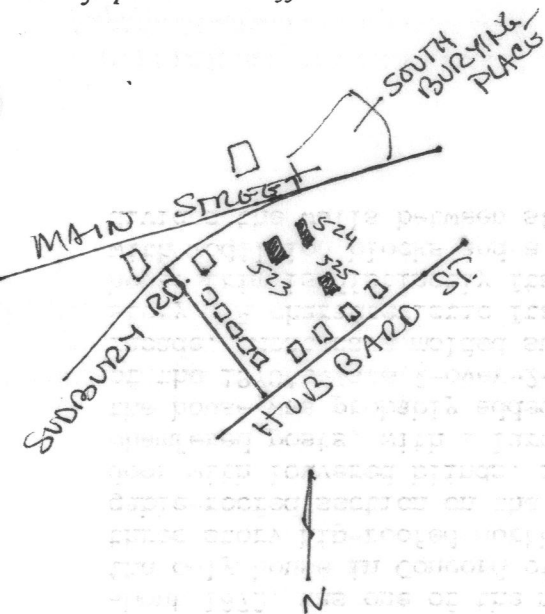
Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization for Concord Histor. Comm.

Date (month/day/year) July, 1992



Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.*

Called by Keyes "one of the fine places of the street," #1 Sudbury Road, built in about 1872, was one of the most high-style houses in Concord of its era. Virtually the only house in Concord of the true Italianate villa type, it has a tall three-story hip-roofed northeast towered section, and a slightly shorter gable-roofed section on the southwest. The main entry, a solid oak double-leafed door with louvered blinds, is recessed beneath a later porch on triple square, chamfered posts, with a large second-story bay above. A terrace across the front of the house was probably added when the porch section was built. The windows, typical of the 1870's, are 2-over-2-sash, with some paired and grouped 1-over-1-sash on the facade. Most have molded surrounds, with heavy, bracketed lintels at the first story. A characteristic Italianate oculus appears under the west facade gable. The house trim is distinctly Italianate. The boxed overhanging cornice is embellished with modillion blocks and a frieze with small raised medallions. Band coursing divides the walls between stories. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this area relates to the historical development of the community.*

This property is largely significant for its association with one of Concord's most prominent citizens of the latter part of the nineteenth century, **Judge George Merrick Brooks** (1824-1893,) Judge of Probate for Middlesex County for twenty-one years. The son of Nathan and Mary Merrick Brooks (see #45 Hubbard Street,) he inherited considerable property on both sides of the intersection of Main Street and Sudbury Road from his parents, including the site of the present library and the lot here on the south side, where the old Merrick House stood. He sold the property opposite to William Munroe in 1872 for the purpose of building the library, and was instrumental in having the old Brooks House (Black Horse Tavern) moved from that site to Hubbard Street so that the Phineas How family, then occupying the Merrick House, could move there. He then tore down the old Merrick House, and built #1 Sudbury Road for his own residence in its place.

George Brooks served both his town and his state in many capacities over the years. He was Chairman of the Concord Board of Selectmen in 1858 and 1859, and in those same years he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and then the Senate. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1875. 1889, 1893, 1906.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.

Town Directories and tax lists.

Concord Chronicle.

Social Circle Memoirs.

Interview with owner. 5/92.

☒ Recommended as a National Register District. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDGeorge Brooks House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

Q 523-525

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

Two other buildings stand on the former Brooks property. #101 Main Street is a small 2-story gambrel roofed 3-bay cottage of ca. 1890. It faces west, and its center entry is through a projecting facade bay where a narrow doorway is sheltered by a deep shed-roofed hood on crossed braces. Its windows are 2-over-2-sash. #99 Main Street, now a residence, still displays some of the Stick-style features it had when built as a barn/carriage house. Its west-facing facade has a high through-cornice dormer adorned with stick work and a king-post truss, a detail which is repeated on the north gable end. The windows here are primarily 6-over-6-sash, with an unusual 3-over-6-sash combination at the second story of the facade. The main entry is a Colonial Revival adaptation of the twentieth century, but there is an unusual 4-paneled diagonal-board door in the south garage wing, and a vertical-board door in the north end.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He briefly succeeded his father as Secretary and Treasurer of the insurance company in 1863, then became a Director of the company, and resumed his law practice. In 1869 he was elected to Congress as a Representative, serving for three years at the same time that E.R. Hoar was in the cabinet and George Frisbee Hoar was a Senator. In 1872 he resigned to assume the position as Middlesex Judge of Probate, which he held until his death in 1893.

The property was inherited by Judge Brooks' wife, Mary Brooks. Shortly before his death the judge had had the cottage at 101 Main Street built, possibly as a caretaker's cottage. The first employee to occupy it may have been William Buckley, who is listed in 1892 as gardener for the Brooks family. By 1896, however, he had moved to the house at #440 Walden Street to become a farmer. The cottage was later rented out; in 1915 it was occupied by C. Berkley Johnson and his family.

The property descended through the Brooks family for many years, and was eventually acquired by a family named Harlow. Some time in this century the barn was converted to a dwelling, and is now rented out as #99 Main Street.

CON. 7

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

George Brooks House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

Q 523-525

AREA DATA SHEET

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	name/description	date	condition
524 H9-820	99 Main Street -	former Italianate/Stick Style barn Clapboard and flushboard; brick foundation. Converted to dwelling. Much stick- and truss- work remaining.	ca 1870's	fair
525 H9-820-1	101 Main Street -	Queen Anne vernacular cottage Clapboard; brick foundation. Gambrel-roofed cottage with later additions.	ca. 1892	good
523 H9-819	1 Sudbury Road -	Italianate Clapboard; granite foundation.	ca. 1872	good

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No.

CON. Q

AREA Q  
AL-CONCORD  
SECTION-B  
J363-CONCORD

524- 99 MAIN ST

525- 101 MAIN ST

523- 1 SUDBURY RD





99 Main Street (CON. 524)



101 Main Street (CON. 525)

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

RECEIVED

JUL 15 1993

Community

CONCORD

CON. 9  
Property Address

1 Sudbury Road

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Area(s)	Form No.
Q	523

## 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.*

In spite of a fire that gutted much of the interior in 1990, this building qualifies for individual listing on the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the George Brooks, a prominent nineteenth-century judge and congressman, and meets Criterion C as the only representative in Concord of the high-style Italianate "villa" house-type. The fire did little damage to the exterior of the building, and the house possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.





own Ques B. HD? CON. G 41 Is this right house?  
reet Concord Area 1  
reet Dudbury + Mansf  
ame George Brooks House  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Owner private?  
ite 191870 Style Shed  
ource of Date aw  
rchitect \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: \_\_\_\_\_

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 not significant to arch. style Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency \_\_\_\_\_ Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard and ridge  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

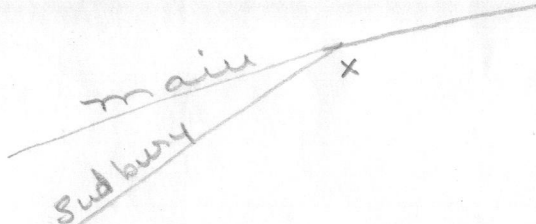
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: \_\_\_\_\_

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 50'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street



Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo VIII - 11 68-592 E 09.065.1.041

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

member of Congress 1869-72

Judge

deep sink of the earth, a place of horror and death

site endangered

DESCRIPTION

Material

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low

Brick Stone Other

WALL COVER: Wood

Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4

Simple/Complex

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency

Recessed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

Records of Court

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Occurred

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Recorder

For

Photo

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number Page

Registry of Deeds