

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.R
Historic Name:	Stow Street Area
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Other Educational; Other Institutional; Residential District
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Education
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: Friday, October 23, 2020 at 10:58 AM

CON. R

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9, H10

CONCORD

R

366-369, 526-535;
944

RECEIVED

wn CONCORD

ce (neighborhood or village) _____

Concord Center

me of Area Stow Street

sent Use residential, municipal

nstruction Dates or Period mid-19th C. to 1936

erall Condition _____

fair to excellent

ajor Intrusions and Alterations modern

houses interspersed

ca. 25 acres

Acreage _____

A. Forbes

Recorded by _____

for Concord Histor. Comm.

Organization _____

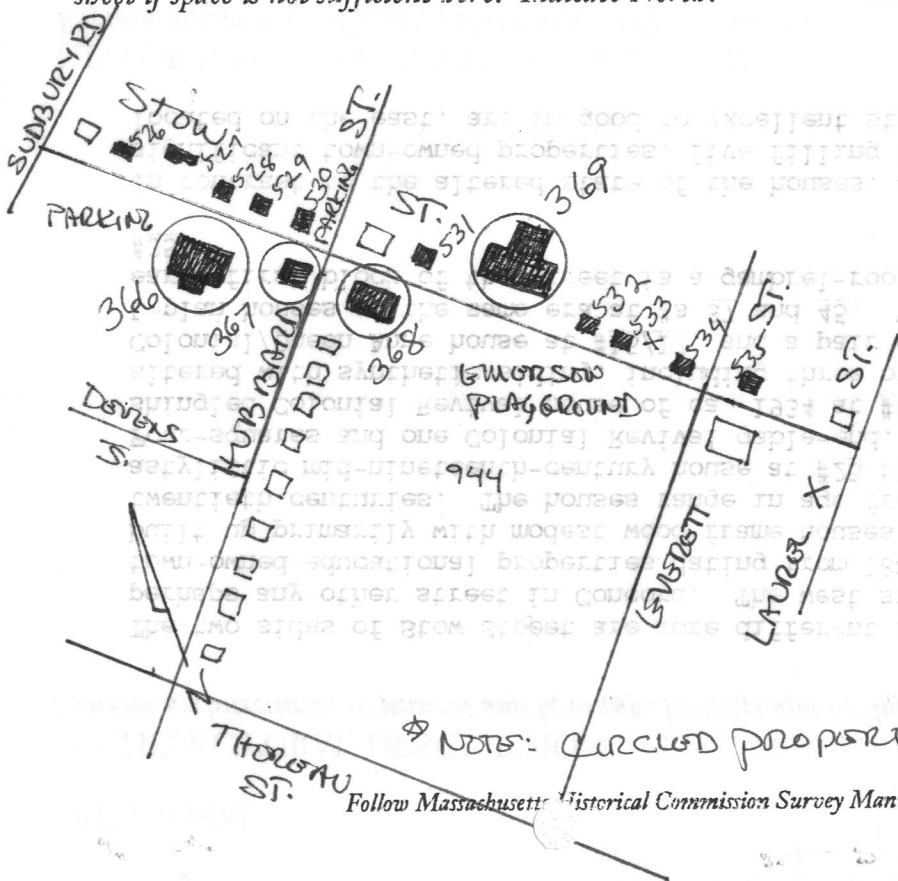
June, 1992

Date (month/day/year) _____

Stow Street, West side

Sketch Map

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.



NOTES: CIRCLED PROPERTIES ARE COVERED ON INDIVIDUAL FORMS.

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.



AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

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

The two sides of Stow Street are more different in architectural character than perhaps any other street in Concord. The west side is dominated by four major town-owned educational properties dating from 1880 through 1936; the east side is built up primarily with modest wood-frame houses of the mid-nineteenth- and early twentieth centuries. The houses range in age from an altered and enlarged astylistic mid-nineteenth-century house at #25 through a cluster of ca. 1910-1915 Four-squares and one Colonial Revival gable-end, at #s 133 through 171, to one shingled Colonial Revival house of ca. 1934 at #87. Most of the houses have been altered with synthetic siding, including three of the earliest--a ca. 1903 Dutch Colonial/Queen Anne house at #15/17, and a pair of modest Queen Anne two-story L-plan houses of the same era at #s 37 and 45. The most well-preserved house on the early first block of the street is a gambrel-roofed ca. 1890 Colonial Revival at #35.

In contrast to the altered state of the houses, six historically and architecturally significant town-owned properties, five filling the west side of the street, one located on the east, are in good to excellent states of preservation. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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

Stow Street, which contains the greatest concentration historic educational buildings in Concord, was developed in four stages. The first block from Sudbury Road to Hubbard Street, though laid out as early as 1851 by Henry Thoreau, was accepted by the town in 1889. In 1906 it was extended south to Everett Street, slightly further in 1914, and eventually to Laurel Street in 1933. It is unique in Concord for its juxtaposition of a line of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century houses on one side of the street, with a series of municipal properties, all but one located on opposite side. In fact, Stow Street has been called "schoolhouse row" for the concentration of schools and recreational facilities that have been located here. Over the years six school buildings, a gym, and a playground have stood along the street. Nearly all the municipal buildings fell victim to obsolescence or overcrowding over the years, and three, two high schools and an annex, are gone. Today, however, thanks to the versatility and perseverance of dedicated groups of Concord citizens, three of the four remaining structures have recently been rehabilitated and adapted to new uses. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: "Hubbard Estate Improvement," 1872; Atlases: 1875, 1889, 1906. Town Directory map 1893; Sanborns from 1903.
Town Directories and tax lists.
Joslin, Elmer. "Notes on the Acceptances or Layouts of Public Ways in the Town of Concord." 1956.
"Memoirs of the Social Circle in Concord."
Keyes/Tolman.
Richardson, Concord Chronicle.
Scudder. (Cont.)

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Stow Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
R 366-369; 526-535;
944

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The earliest, the 1880 former Emerson School at #58, is a major example of early shingled and tiled Queen Anne architecture with lingering Romanesque Revival overtones in its huge recessed brick and terra-cotta archway. It is also a significant example of the work of Boston architect John Faxon.

The first four-acre section of the Emerson Playground was laid out in 1887, probably as a flat, open grassed area similar to today's much larger playground, which is broken only by a maple-lined walk across the center. The playground is now 14 acres, and stretches from Stow to Thoreau Street. With the exception of the Emerson School, all the municipal buildings here, including the state armory on the third block of the street, (91 Everett Street), date to the early twentieth century. All are red brick, in the Colonial Revival style that by the 1920's had become the predominant form for public architecture. The three-story hip-roofed building at #40 Stow Street, now the Emerson Umbrella artists' studio complex, was built in 1929 as Concord's third High School. It was designed by the Boston firm of Kilham, Hopkins, & Greeley in a general Colonial Revival form with Art Deco accents. (Two former high school buildings, which also stood on the north side of Stow Street, are gone.) The 1935/6 Hunt Memorial Gymnasium at #90 is in the Federal Revival mode, with double-chimneyed parapet end walls and Palladian windows. On the eastern sections of the street are the 1912 Peter Bulkeley School at #115, with a recessed entry pavilion and flat, stepped-parapet roof, and the state armory, another T-plan, parapet-roofed structure, this time with Late Gothic Revival touches in the shallow buttressing of the building corners.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The earliest building in the area is the house at #25, probably built in the 1850's of '60's. It appears to have been enlarged from the cottage that blacksmith Francis Bigelow built at the rear of his property to house his shop workmen. (The Bigelow blacksmith shop formerly stood southwest of the Bigelow house at #19 Sudbury Road at about where the line of Stow Street is today. It burned down some time before 1875.) After the blacksmith shop burned, the cottage was rented out; among its tenants was Samuel Staples, Jr.

The street's educational legacy began in 1866-8 with the building of the town's first high school at the corner of Sudbury Road, where a large parking lot is today. It was followed in 1880 by the construction of the Emerson School at #58 on the northwest corner of Stow and the new Hubbard Street. When it opened, the Emerson School incorporated pupils from two of the district schools as well as the three at the center. The old district school system was officially ended in Concord a few years later, when the Emerson, together with the 1887 West Concord School, accommodated all the primary and grammar grades formerly served by the district schools. The interior was a copy of the Adams School in Quincy, although the Building Committee could not bring themselves to copy that building's "stark exterior." This building, which was in danger of demolition in this century, has recently been restored, and is now used by the town for housing. (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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CONCORDStow Street

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

With the concentration of so much of the town's children in these two buildings, a movement to establish a playground nearby grew strength over the course of the 1880's. In 1887, the town voted to accept a gift of four acres of land just east of Hubbard Street from the heirs of Ralph Waldo Emerson. The designated purpose was not just as "a free public playground for children and youths," but also for "a drill and parade ground and a place for the holding of municipal celebrations and ceremonies." Access to the new playground was addressed at the same Town Meeting, by a vote to acquire for the town Lot #11 on the south side of Hubbard Street, which stood between the playground and the Emerson School. Thus by 1887 there was a continuous line of town-owned land extending from the public library all the way to the new playground.

The school-age population in Concord increased rapidly in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The overflow at the High School was accommodated for a while in a small wood-frame High School Annex across Sudbury Road, but soon the need for both more space for the primary grades and a larger high school was acute. In 1888 funds were appropriated for the replacement of the high school, and for the removal of the 1869 building to the recently-acquired lot between Hubbard Street and the playground, to be used for the primary grades. The old high school became an additional primary school, the Ripley School. The new High School, which opened in 1890, was one of the town's many public buildings designed by local architect John Chapman. (See #350 Main Street.) Unfortunately, the second High School, the Ripley School, and the High School annex are all gone.

In 1912 an additional elementary school, the Peter Bulkeley School, was constructed at #115 Stow Street, and at the height of the Depression, the Hunt Memorial Gymnasium was built with a \$60,000 grant from the Federal government and a \$25,000 fund that had been donated years earlier by former School Committee member William Hunt.

As for the residential development of the east side of the street, #s 35, 37, and 47 were all apparently built on the same lot, probably as rental houses. #45 was the home for a while of the janitor of the three schools, Charles W. Sanford. He was also a policeman, probation and truant officer, a furniture dealer and real estate agent. He is remembered today, however, for his 1896 conviction for misappropriation of town funds while serving as town Tax Collector.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

- Seavey, Morton. "Concord Schools: from Candles to Kerosene: 1799-1893." Master's thesis, 1946.
- Porter, Sheldon R. "A History of the Concord, Massachusetts Public Schools from 1860 to 1950." Master's thesis, 1950.
- Moss, Marcia, ed. A Catalog of Thoreau's Surveys in the Concord Free Public Library. 1976.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Stow Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
R 366-369; 526-535;
944

AREA DATA SHEET

(Asterisk indicates property is covered on an individual form)

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	Approx. date and description	Condition
526 H9-811	15/17 Stow Street	- ca. 1903 Dutch Colonial/Queen Anne house synthetic siding; rubble foundation	fair
527 H9-812	25 Stow Street	- mid-19th C. astylistic 2-story house synthetic siding	fair
528 H9-813	33 35 Stow Street	- ca. 1890 Colonial Revival, gable-end to street wood clapboard and shingle; cobblestone foundation	good/fair
529 H9-814	37 Stow Street	- ca. 1890 Queen Anne vernacular house 2 1/2-story gambrel-roofed L-plan house synthetic siding; brick foundation	fair
*366 H9-809	40 Stow Street	- <u>Concord High School</u> - 1929 brick Colonial Revival School. 3-story hip-roofed building with 2-story flat-roofed wing on each end. Architects: Kilham, Hopkins, & Greeley.	excellent
530 H9-815	45 (41) Stow Street	- ca. 1890 Queen Anne vernacular house 2 1/2-story L-plan house. Synthetic siding; brick foundation	fair
*367 H9-809-1	58 Stow Street	- <u>Emerson School</u> - 1880 Q. Anne/Romanesque Revival, 2-story, hip-roofed school. Brick 1st story, Shingle second. Granite foundation, slate roof, terra cotta ornament. John Faxon, architect.	excellent
531 H9-152	87 Stow Street	- ca. 1934 Colonial Revival house Wood shingle; concrete foundation	excellent
*368 H9-154	90 Stow Street	- 1935-6 <u>Hunt Memorial Gymnasium</u> - Fed. Revival 2-story hip-roofed building with slate roof, end-wall parapet with tall paired chimneys. Palladian window on each end wall	excellent
*369 H9-147	115 Stow Street	- 1912 <u>Peter Bulkeley School</u> - Col. Revival Brick, 2-story T-plan building with flat roof and stepped parapet. Recessed entrance pavilion. Addn.s by Kilham, Hopkins, & Greeley--1929. Windows replaced.	fair/good

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AREA DATA SHEET, continued

(Asterisk indicates property is covered on an individual form)

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	Approx. date	description	Condition
944 H9, H10-186	Stow Street -		<u>Emerson Playground.</u> 14-acre grassed playground with east-west maple-lined walk across center. Includes baseball diamond, track, tennis and basketball courts. Surrounded by chain-link fence.	
532 H9-146	133 Stow Street -	ca. 1910	American Four-square Synthetic siding; rubble foundation	fair
533 H9-145	141 Stow Street -	ca. 1915	American Four-square Wood shingle; parged foundation	fair
534 H9-144-2	155 Stow Street -	ca. 1910-15	Colonial Revival gable-end Wood clapboard, exposed purlin- and rafter-ends	good
535 H9-143	171 Stow Street -	ca. 1910-15	American Four-square Synthetic siding; rubble foundation.	fair

AREA R
PL - CONCORD
USGS - CONCORD
SECTION - B

526 - 15-17 STOW ST

527 - 25 STOW ST

528 - ³³~~35~~ STOW ST

529 - 37 STOW ST

530 - 45 STOW ST

531 - 87 STOW ST

944 - STOW ST

532 - 133 STOW ST

533 - 141 STOW ST

534 - 155 STOW ST

535 - 171 STOW ST



15, 25 Stow Street (CON. 526, CON. 527)



87 Stow Street (CON. 531)



33 Stow Street (CON. 528)



131-151 Stow S



171 (CON. 535) and 151 Stow Street