

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.40
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Hoar, Samuel House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Concord Academy Dormitory - Tucker House
<b>Address:</b>	158 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-1706-2
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1810
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Prescott, John L.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Dormitory; Military Other; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Military
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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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)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-1706-2

CONCORD

DU

40

CONCORD

Town

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

158 Main Street

SS

Samuel Hoar House

Historic Name

dormitory

Present

dwelling

Original

ca. 1810 and 1819

Date of Construction

Wheeler

Style

Federal

Form

unknown

Architect/Builder

(John Prescott, attrib.)

Primary Material:

dressed granite

Foundation

wood clapboard;

brick ends

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

other

buildings on school campus

Major Alterations (with dates)

fire escape

on east and west ends--mid-20th century

Condition

excellent

Moved

☒

no

☐

yes

Date

N/A

Acreage

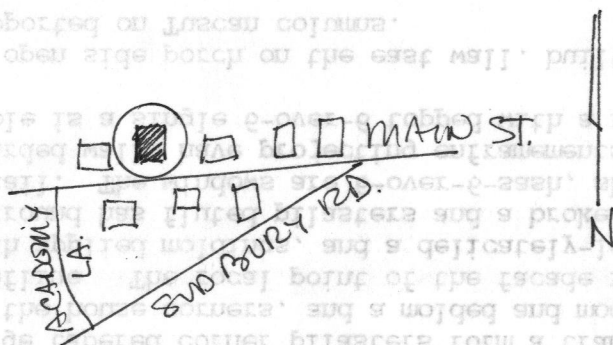
50,352 acres

Setting

In line of large Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival residences on north side of Main St. School buildings to rear; dowel-picket fence with wooden posts across front. Parking lot to east.

## 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.



Recorded by

Anne Forbes;  
research by Sally Dallas

Organization

for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year)

June, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

#158 is one of several high-style brick-ended houses built at Concord center in the early years of the nineteenth century. A beautifully-preserved building, it is a large gable-roofed 2 1/2-story, five-bay building with a two-story clapboarded rear wing. The brick end walls of the main house support two pairs of high chimneys, each pair connected by a high parapet wall. There is much well-crafted Federal detail here. Large tapered corner pilasters form a transition between the brick and clapboard walls at the house corners, and a molded and modillioned cornice, with returns, adorns the roofline. The focal point of the facade is the main entry, which has a 6-panel door with applied moldings, and a delicately-leaded semi-circular fanlight above. The surround has fluted pilasters and a broken pediment that echoes the roof cornice detail. The windows are 6-over-6-sash, shuttered throughout, and those in the clapboarded walls have projecting enframements with diminutive molded crowns. At each end gable is a single 6-over-6 topped with a round-arched panel.

An open side porch on the east wall, built some time between 1909 and 1918, is supported on Tuscan columns.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house was begun, but not completed, in about 1810 by carpenter John L. Prescott, whose father, Willoughby Prescott, owned a farm on both sides of Main Street at the time, and lived in a house nearby. Between 1812 and 1814, apparently still unfinished, the building was used as a recruitment center by the US Government during the War of 1812.

Why John Prescott never completed the house is not known. It is assumed, however, that he lived in it for a few years before he moved to Norridgewock, Maine, in 1819. Another early occupant of the building was Josiah Davis, who stayed here for a short time in 1813-14 while his house and store at #186 Main Street were under construction. In 1819 the house was purchased by its most illustrious owner, Samuel Hoar, who renovated it and lived here for the remainder of his life.

Samuel Hoar (1778-1856), known as "Squire Hoar," was one of the most powerful and influential men in Concord in the first half of the nineteenth century, and in his later life was considered the leading citizen of the town. A highly-respected lawyer, an expert on parochial law, and the acknowledged leader of the Middlesex bar, it is said that he appeared for one side or the other in three quarters of the cases tried in the county. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1903. Keyes/Tolman.  
Wheeler House File #M6.  
Town directories and tax files.  
Richardson, Concord Chronicle.  
Social Circle Memoirs. II.  
Fondiler and Robinson. "Vernacular Carpenters."  
McFarland, Philip. A History of Concord Academy. (Cont.)

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

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDSamuel Hoar House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

40

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He was elected to the Mass. House of Representatives, then the Senate, and to the Governor's Council. On the national level, he was elected to Congress in 1834, succeeding Edward Everett; he was an influential member of the Whig party, and later a founder of the Free-soil (Republican) party.

After his term in Congress, Squire Hoar retired from the practice of law to devote himself to the causes most dear to him, including temperance, education--both secular and religious--and various philanthropic interests. He became closely embroiled in the anti-slavery movement, including undertaking a dangerous assignment with his daughter Elizabeth to South Carolina, where the government was arresting free black people entering the state. His purpose for going was to prepare for a possible suit in the Supreme Court, but the public threats made to his life spoke more powerfully than even any legal arguments might have.

Samuel Hoar married Sarah Sherman, daughter of Roger Sherman, signer of the Declaration of Independence from Connecticut. He was also the patriarch of an illustrious family. His son Judge Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar succeeded him as the "first citizen of the town," (see #194 Main Street) and became US Attorney General under President Grant. Another son, George Frisbie Hoar, served four terms in the House of Representatives and nearly five in the Senate. His daughter, Elizabeth, one of the most well-educated women in Concord, did some eminent scholarly work and became the respected counselor of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

After the Squire's death, this house was evidently inherited by Elizabeth Hoar (1844-1878), who owned it until she died. As a young woman she had been engaged to Charles Emerson, brother of Ralph Waldo. After his sudden death, she devoted herself to her studies and to the scholarly work of others, most notably her close friends, Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau.

The next owner of the house was her brother, Edward S. Hoar (1823-1893). He had gone to California during the gold rush of 1849, where he practiced law, mined, ranched, and grew grapes for a number of years. He came back to Concord briefly after his father died, but did not return again for many years, at which time he again took up residence in the old house. (His wife was Elizabeth Bradford, daughter of Moses Bradford [see #s 128 and 140 Main Street.])

After his death the title passed to Edward and Elizabeth's nephew Samuel Hoar, (1845-1904), son of Ebenezer, who had lived for years in the east half of the double-house at #204 Main Street. He altered and enlarged the house and apparently rented it out. Following his death the house remained in the extended Hoar family until 1946. (His son Samuel, who lived there for a while, also rented it out for a time, and later sold it to his wife's brother, Van Vort Warren.) It was subsequently acquired by Concord Academy and named "Tucker House" after headmistress Josephine Tucker.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Greeley, Dana M. Know these Concordians. 1975.  
Brooks, Paul. The People of Concord. 1990.

CON-40

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
158 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	40

## 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.*

This house meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register and as part of a district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For its association with three generations of the prominent and influential Hoar family, it meets Criterion A. As the home of Concord's acknowledged "first citizen" of the first half of the nineteenth century, Squire Samuel Hoar, it meets Criterion B. As a well-preserved example of a high-style brick-ended Federal period house, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



wn Alfred B. HD CON. 40 37  
158  
feet 62 Concord  
me Squire Hoar House Tucker Hs  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Owner Concord Academy ?  
te c1810 Style Georgian  
Source of Date Journal 6/2/38  
chitect article

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: cut stone

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

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 story rear Simple/Complex

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

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

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

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: broken pediment

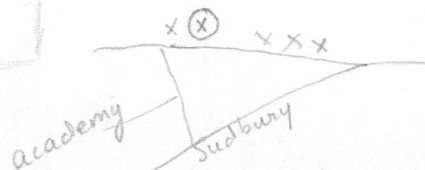
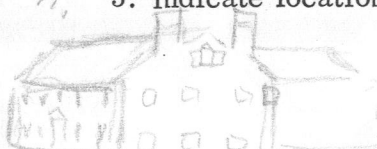
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 20'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street



Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo VIII - 10  
68-591

9.09.065.1.0 37

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

H-2 A-3  
2-2 HD

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)

slated 1810 by John Prescott, carpenter (moved to Maine 1819)  
 1812-14 recreating rendezvous by US Govt  
 Saml Hoar bought, finished house, lived to death in 1856  
 Sen. Hoar spent boyhood here -  
 Saml. Hoar elected Congress 1834  
 mem. Whig Convention of 1839 (Gen Harrison) + Founder of Free soil  
 (Rep) party -

1812 House - (construction halted used as recreation)

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

Journal 6/2/38 Wheeler article

# BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds