

Theme: terature, Drama, Music

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ralph Waldo Emerson House

AND/OR COMMON
Ralph Waldo Emerson House**2 LOCATION**STREET & NUMBER
28 Cambridge Turnpike (near intersection Lexington Road) NOT FOR PUBLICATIONCITY, TOWN
Concord
VICINITY OF
Fifth
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTSTATE
Massachusetts 025
COUNTY
Middlesex
CODE
017**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association

STREET & NUMBER
Box 333CITY, TOWN
Concord 01742
VICINITY OF
Massachusetts
STATE**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Middlesex Registry of Deeds, Southern District
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Cambridge 02141
STATE
Massachusetts**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE
none

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ralph Waldo Emerson House stands southwest of Cambridge Turnpike near its intersection with Lexington Road in Concord, Massachusetts. The house was built in 1828-29 by John T. Coolidge for his son Charles. Emerson purchased it, with some 2 acres of land, in 1835. He subsequently added to the property, bringing it to the current 9 acres. Immediately to the rear of the house are a garden (maintained much as it was in Emerson's day), the original wooden barn, and a small shed. The remainder of the property, which reaches to Walden Street, is a sloping meadow, through the center of which flows Mill Brook.

When Emerson purchased the 2-story frame and clapboard house, it consisted of an L-shaped main block with hipped roof and a rear service wing with pitched roof. In 1836, he added two rooms at the southwest corner of the main block, giving it a square shape. The upper of those rooms, known as the "Straw Carpet Chamber", was altered and enlarged (by the addition of a bay window) in 1857. At the same time, another room, lighted by a shed dormer, was created in the attic on the southwest side of the house. Named "the den", it was intended as a work area for Emerson, though he rarely used it. Entrances to the house are located at the center of the northeast (front) and southeast elevations; each is covered by a 1-story porch with Doric columns and full entablature. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with louvered blinds.

The interior of the house follows a center hall plan with two large, square rooms at either side. To the left of the front entrance are a guest room, which Emerson called the "Pilgrim's Chamber", and the dining room, with the kitchen in the service wing beyond. To the right are Emerson's study, in which the major part of his reading and writing was done, and the parlor. On the second floor are four bedrooms; notable features of the master bedroom are two alcoves reached through round-headed, keystone arches.

The Emerson House was seriously damaged by a fire in July, 1872. Starting in the attic, it destroyed the roof and much of the second floor. Most of the contents of the house were saved, however, and funds subscribed by Emerson's friends paid for a complete restoration of the building.

The Emerson House is now maintained in good condition. All of its rooms remain as they were after the 1872-73 restoration except the study, whose contents were removed to the Concord Antiquarian Society and replaced by duplicate pieces about 1930.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1828-29; 1835-82

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

not known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large but unpretentious frame house was the home of the noted poet, essayist and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson from the time of his second marriage in 1835 until his death in 1882. All of his major works, including Nature (1836), "The American Scholar" (1837), the two volumes of Essays (1841, 1844), Representative Men (1850), and English Traits (1856), were prepared here. Though most famous during his lifetime as a lecturer, Emerson is now best known for his essays, most often adapted from his lectures, which express his personal transcendental philosophy of an organic universe predicated not only on the power of man to change things but on the goodness of change itself.

The house, which Emerson purchased, had been constructed in 1828-29. Seriously damaged by fire in 1872, it was immediately restored, largely by private subscriptions from Emerson's friends. Following the deaths of Emerson's wife and children, the last of them in 1930, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association was created to administer the property. The house is furnished as it was during Emerson's lifetime with the exception of the study, the original contents of which have been removed to the Concord Antiquarian Society. The Emerson House is open to the public from April 15 to October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Ralph Waldo Emerson, born in Boston on May 25, 1803, was the descendant of a long line of ministers. His father William, pastor of Boston's First Church, died in 1811, leaving Emerson's mother to bring up five sons in financial difficulty. In 1814, the family moved to Concord, where Emerson's mother and his aunt, Mary Moody Emerson, raised the children with an eye to the education and vocation dictated by their ancestry.

Emerson was sent to Boston Latin School and then, by means of scholarships and part-time teaching, was able to attend Harvard College, graduating in 1821. In order to save money for attending Harvard Divinity School and to help pay for the education of his younger brothers, he taught for the next four years in the girls' school established by his older brother William. Emerson entered the Divinity School in 1825 and was licensed for the ministry the following year. However, family circumstances and his own poor health as well as financial difficulty delayed his career. In 1829, Emerson was

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cabot, James E. A Memoir of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1887).
 Emerson, Edward W., ed. The Complete Works of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1903-04).
 Emerson, Edward W. and W.E. Forbes, ed. The Journals of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1909-14).
 Rusk, Ralph L. ed. The Letters of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1939).
 _____ . The Life of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1949).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.0

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	307250	4703010	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (indicated in red on the attached assessors map):
 beginning at the intersection of the southern curbline of Cambridge Turnpike and the eastern line of Parcel 239, owned by the Town of Concord; thence, along the eastern lines of Parcels 239, 238, and 240, owned by the Town of Concord, to the northern curbline of Walden Street; thence, along said northern curbline to the western line of Parcel 246; thence, along said western line to its intersection with the southern line of Parcel 242; thence, along the southern and western(continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Polly M. Rettig, Historian, Landmark Review Project; original form prepared by J. Walter Coleman, Historian, 10/19/61

ORGANIZATION <u>Historic Sites Survey, NPS</u>	DATE <u>2/18/75</u>
STREET & NUMBER <u>1100 L. Street, N.W.</u>	TELEPHONE <u>202-523-5464</u>
CITY OR TOWN <u>Washington 20240</u>	STATE <u>District of Columbia</u>

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE N/A National Historic Landmark

Landmark Designated: Dec 29, 1962

TITLE

DATE Bounder Certified: 11-3-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ((NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS))

Chief, Hist. & Date. Surveys

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE Bounder Returned: 11/12/95

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting Director, DAMP

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

ordained as minister of the Second Church in Boston. That same year, he married Ellen Tucker of New Hampshire.

Though Emerson rapidly won a reputation for his eloquence in the pulpit, he was unable to cope with routine pastoral demands and, more significantly, began to repudiate the restricting character of Christianity in general, which, in his view, failed to nurture the moral nature of man. Emerson's own sermons were unusually free of traditional doctrine; he divested Christianity of all external and historical supports, making its basis the individual's private intuition of moral law and its test a life of virtue and character. An opponent of all forms, he wanted a freer and larger sphere of influence and, following his wife's death in 1831, abruptly resigned his pastorate.

In 1832 Emerson traveled to Europe where he became more closely acquainted with the philosophy of German idealism and talked with Landor, Mill, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Carlyle; his meeting with the latter led to a correspondence which lasted almost forty years. At home again in 1833, he established himself as a lyceum lecturer, beginning with courses in natural history and biography. In 1834 he returned to Concord and the following year, in preparation for his marriage to Lydia Jackson of Plymouth, Massachusetts, purchased the house in which he would live for the rest of his life. There he settled into a quiet domestic routine of writing in the morning, walking alone in the afternoon, and talking with his family and friends in the evening-- a pattern interrupted only by travel and lecture engagements.

Emerson had begun in 1833 to work on an explanation of his personal philosophy, which he published anonymously in 1836 in the form of a short book entitled Nature; this was his essential statement and all of his subsequent work was an extension, amplification or amendment of the ideas it affirmed. The heart of Emerson's philosophy, as the title of his book suggests, was the organic concept, a belief in a living nature still in the process of becoming, a nature immanent with spirit, fulfilling the ideas of God and also capable of fulfilling the ideas of man. In this Emersonian conception, man was not estranged from nature, but intimate with her, sharing the flow of her spiritual tides, and able, by means of his own creative powers of perception, to grasp her law and, thereby, with his ideas, to be himself a creator of the as-yet-unformed future. The essential and liberating idea of Nature, to be applied in Emerson's later work to all aspects of human life, was that by his own constitution and by the corresponding constitution of the universe, man was not the victim of his environment. Mind, not matter, was supreme. Ideas were sovereign, and with them as his instruments man could shape the universe to his needs.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

Emerson translated Nature into specific terms in 1837 with his Phi Beta Kappa address at Harvard, "The American Scholar", which Oliver Wendell Holmes called "our intellectual Declaration of Independence". In that address, Emerson described the duties and resources of the liberated intellectual in America, who would fulfill his own genius by abandoning the traditional institutions of culture and in nature exploring the possibilities of his own new world. In effect, he put the scholar above the priest, making him the servant of truth whose duty was the "conversion of the world".

In 1836, Emerson had been instrumental in forming the group known as the Transcendental Club, which continued to meet regularly for discussion until 1843; its members included Bronson Alcott, Orestes Bronson, Theodore Parker, and James Freeman Clarke, and Henry David Thoreau was a frequent guest. When the group began to publish its magazine, The Dial, under the editorship of Margaret Fuller in July, 1840, Emerson became a major contributor. Between 1842 and the final appearance of The Dial in 1844, Emerson himself was its editor, though he was far more interested in the poetry and metaphysics which appeared in the magazine than in the practical aspects of the various reform programs it proposed.

Emerson consolidated his reputation with the publication of his two series of Essays in 1841, becoming for much of mid-century America the spokesman for a new religion which squared with the times even while supplying a method for criticizing them. In 1845 Emerson delivered the series of lectures which he published in 1850 as Representative Men and the next year issued his Poems. Though Emerson thought poetry the highest form of utterance and always referred to himself as a poet, he did not publish another volume of verse until 1867, when May-Day and Other Pieces appeared. On a lecture tour of England in 1847, Emerson visited Carlyle again and met Macaulay, Thackeray, Dickens, and Tenneyson; the trip provided the basis for a series of lectures delivered the next season and published in 1856 as English Traits.

Emerson's chief occupation during the 1850's was politics. He had opposed the annexation of Texas and the Fugitive-Slave Law and now filled his journal with comments on the great issue rapidly dividing the country. He advocated sending arms to the anti-slavery faction in Kansas, made a number of anti-slavery speeches, and championed John Brown when the latter arrived at Concord in 1857.

Emerson continued with his lecturing and, to some extent, his writing after 1860 but, with the exception of May-Day, his work was marked by waning powers. He acknowledged this in "Terminus", written in 1866: "It is time

((NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS))

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CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 4

to be old/ To take in sail...Contract thy firament/ To compass of a tent". When his home was seriously damaged by fire in July, 1872, James Russell Lowell and other friends provided funds to make good the loss and to allow Emerson a vacation while work on the house was completed. He visited Europe, satisfied an old desire to see the Valley of the Nile, and then retired to Concord where he spent his remaining years. Emerson attempted some further writing--Letters and Social Aims was published in 1876, but only after James Elliot Cabot had been called in to sort out the muddled manuscripts--but in general he slid into a serene and dignified senility, which ended with his death in April, 1882.

Following the deaths of Emerson's wife and children, the last of which occurred in 1930, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association was formed to preserve the poet's house at Concord. Concern for the safety of the contents of Emerson's study prompted their removal to the nearby headquarters of the Concord Antiquarian Society. With that exception, the house and its furnishings remain as they were after the restoration of 1872-73.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE

Ralph Waldo Emerson House, Concord, Massachusetts
Verbal Boundary Description (continued)
lines of Parcel 242 to the southern curbline of Cambridge Turnpike; thence, along
said southern curbline to the point of beginning.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

to be old/ To take in sail...Contract thy firmament/ To compass of a tent". When his home was seriously damaged by fire in July, 1872, James Russell Lowell and other friends provided funds to make good the loss and to allow Emerson a vacation while work on the house was completed. He visited Europe, satisfied an old desire to see the Valley of the Nile, and then retired to Concord where he spent his remaining years. Emerson attempted some further writing--Letters and Social Aims was published in 1876, but only after James Elliot Cabot had been called in to sort out the muddled manuscripts--but in general he slid into a serene and dignified senility, which ended with his death in April, 1882.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

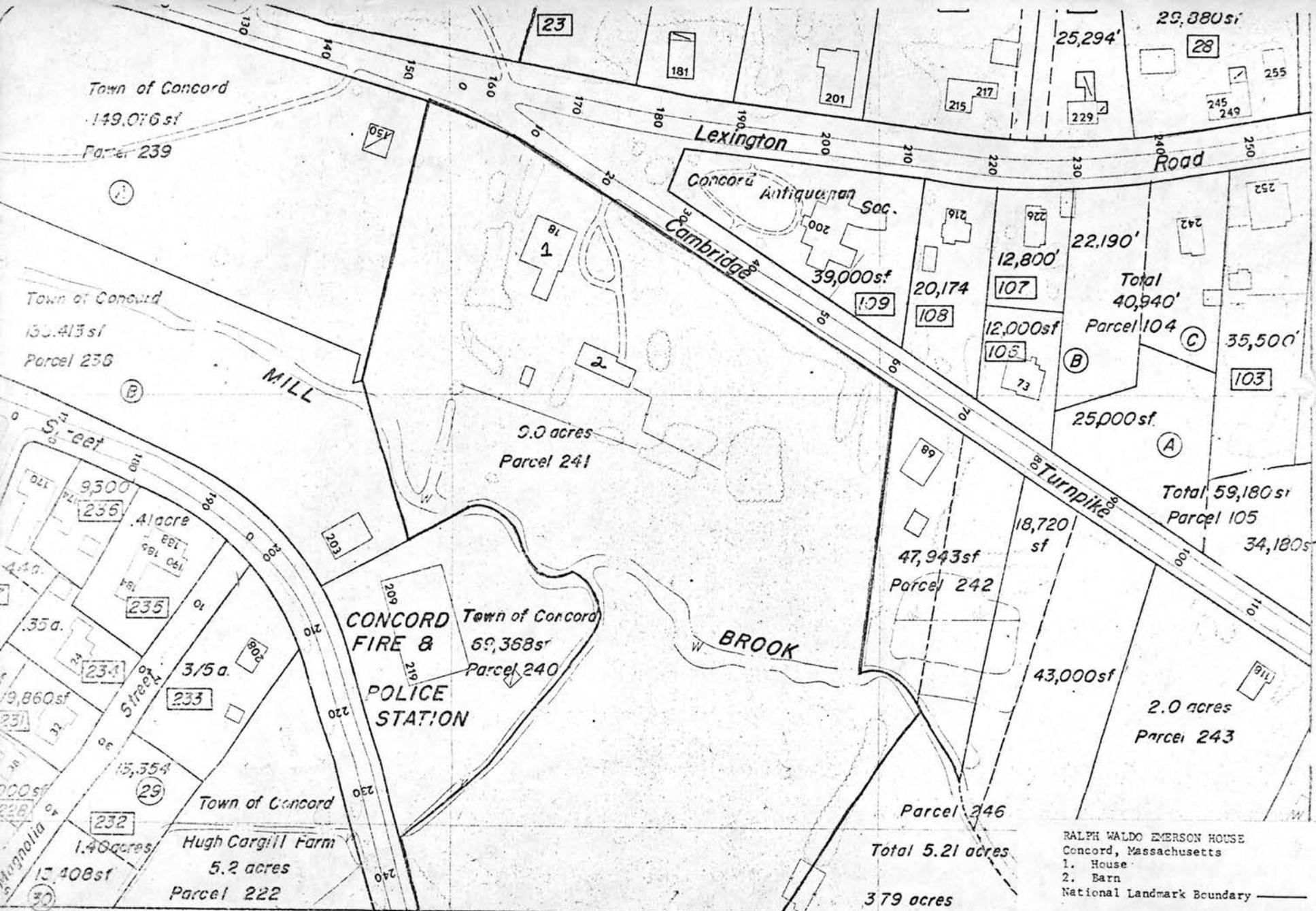
ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE

Ralph Waldo Emerson House, Concord, Massachusetts

Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

lines of Parcel 242 to the southern curblineline of Cambridge Turnpike; thence, along said southern curblineline to the point of beginning.



Town of Concord
149,076 sf
Parcel 239

Town of Concord
133,413 sf
Parcel 236

9,500
Parcel 235
4 acres
Parcel 235
3/5 a.
Parcel 234
19,860 sf
Parcel 231
15,354
Parcel 232
1.40 acres
17,408 sf
Parcel 230

Town of Concord
Hugh Cargill Farm
5.2 acres
Parcel 222

CONCORD
FIRE &
POLICE
STATION
Town of Concord
69,368 sf
Parcel 240

9.0 acres
Parcel 241

Concord Antiquarian Soc.
39,000 sf
Parcel 200

47,943 sf
Parcel 242

Parcel 246
Total 5.21 acres
379 acres

RALPH WALDO EMERSON HOUSE
Concord, Massachusetts
1. House
2. Barn
National Landmark Boundary

Total 40,940'
Parcel 104
Total 59,180 sf
Parcel 105
34,180 sf

INDEX TO ADJOINING SHEETS

REVISED: 12/72

G 8	H 8	I 8
G 9	H 9	I 9
G 10	H 10	I 10

H 9

TOWN OF CONCORD Concord, Massachusetts



69-3995

Concord, Massachusetts: Home of American writer
Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Source: Concord Free Public Library Copy Neg.

69-3995[✓] - Concord, Mass. Home of Amer. writer Ralph
Waldo Emerson



17

Ralph Waldo Emerson Home

70
E-68



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ralph Waldo Emerson House

AND/OR COMMON Ralph Waldo Emerson House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Concord

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Middlesex

STATE
Massachusetts

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Polly M. Rettig, Landmark Review Project DATE OF PHOTO November, 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Sites Survey, NPS, 1100 L. Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO. 2

view from east, side of main block and service wing



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PHOTO NO. 3

view from southwest, rear of main block and service wing

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AND/OR COMMON

Ralph Waldo Emerson House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Concord

___VICINITY OF

Middlesex COUNTY

Massachusetts STATE

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Concord Quadrangle

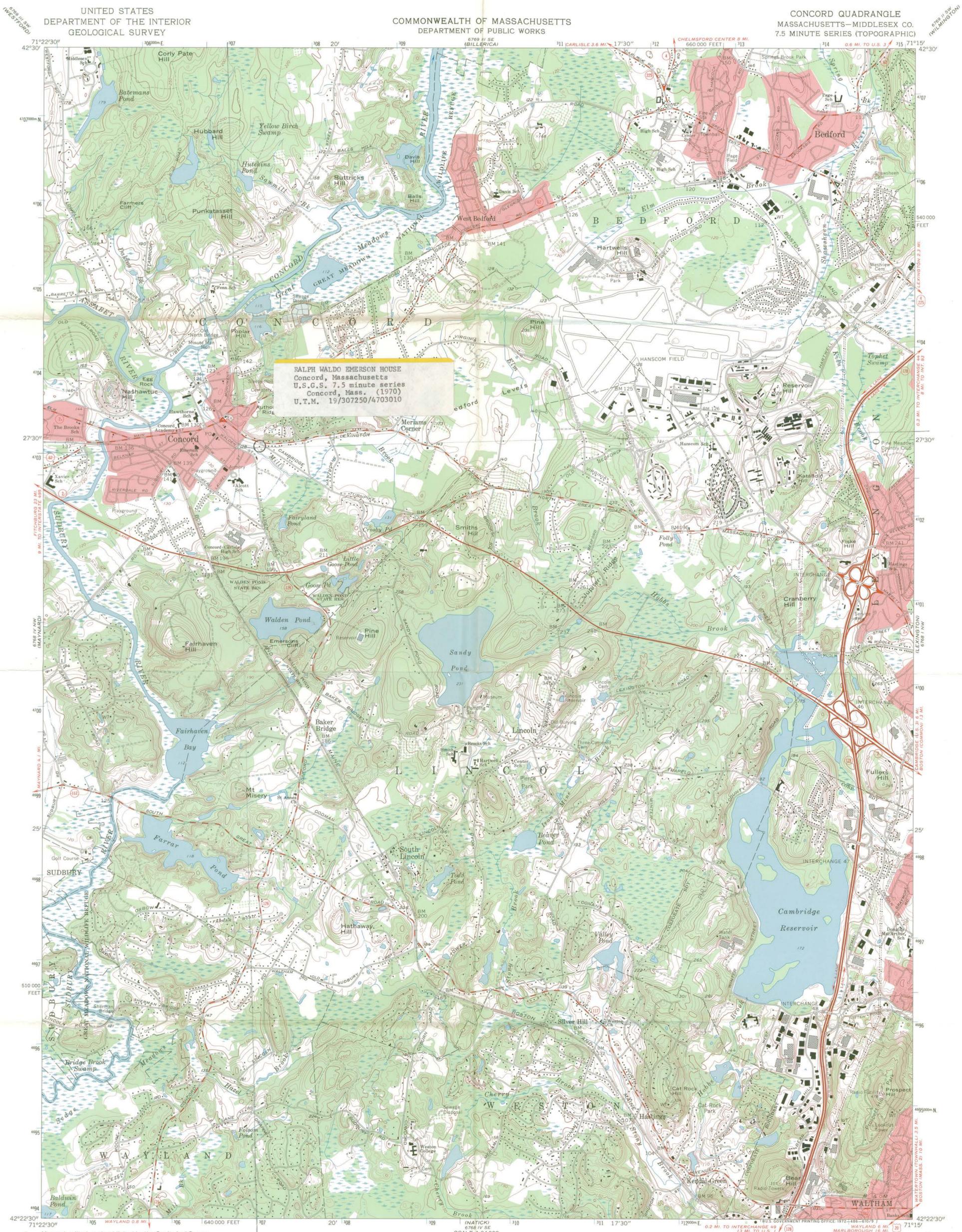
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DATE 1970

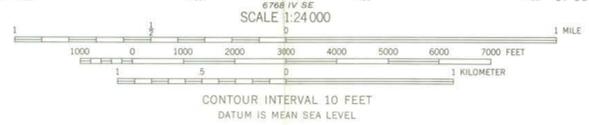
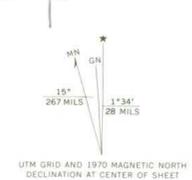
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1940. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

○ Interstate Route □ U.S. Route ○ State Route



CONCORD, MASS.
N4222.5—W7115.7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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AND/OR COMMON Ralph Waldo Emerson House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Concord VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE Massachusetts

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series Concord Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
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___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

Massachusetts

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

assessors map prepared from aerial photograph

SCALE

1" = 100"

DATE

12/72

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



PREPARED BY PHOTOGRAMMETRIC METHODS FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY OF 1960 BY AIR SURVEY CORPORATION ARLINGTON 9, VIRGINIA

SCALE: 1" = 100'
 DATUM IS US C & G S MEAN SEA LEVEL
 500 FOOT GRID BASED ON MASSACHUSETTS COORDINATE SYSTEM

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 REVISED: 12-72

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TOWN OF CONCORD

Concord, Massachusetts

RALPH WALDO EMERSON HOUSE
 Concord, Massachusetts
 1. House
 2. Barn
 National Landmark Boundary



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 10, 2013

J. Paul Loether
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor
National Register of Historic Places
1201 I (eye) Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Re: Address changes for properties listed on the NRHP

As we digitize our inventory of historic resources, we are discovering discrepancies in property addresses due to renumbering, changing the address to a side street that abuts the parcel, or assigning a precise address where none had existed. In some cases, property owners have notified us of an incorrect address. We are, therefore, writing to request technical corrections in the National Register records for the following:

Chelsea (Suffolk County)

- Chelsea Garden Cemetery (NRIND 2/9/2001)—new address is 70 Central Avenue (formerly Shawmut Street) **01000089**

Cheshire (Berkshire County)

- Hall's Tavern (NRIND 3/10/1983)—new address is 31 North Street (formerly North Street) **83000568**

Cohasset (Norfolk County)

- Pratt Historic Building (NRIND 9/7/2006)—new address is 106-110 South Main Street (formerly 106 South Main Street) **06000816**

Concord (Middlesex County)

- Emerson, Ralph Waldo House (NRIND/NHL 10/15/1966; NRDIS 9/13/1977)—new address is 18 Cambridge Turnpike (formerly 28 Cambridge Turnpike near intersection of Lexington Road) **66000365** NHL
- Sleepy Hollow Cemetery (NRIND 8/19/1998)—new address is 34A Bedford Street (formerly 24 Court Lane) **98000991**

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc

Dennis (Barnstable County)

- West Schoolhouse (NRIND 4/24/1975)—new address is 61 Whig Street (formerly NobsCUSset Road) 75000262 ✓
- Dennis, Josiah Manse (NRIND 2/15/1974)— new address is 61 Whig Street (formerly NobsCUSset Road and Whig Street) West Schoolhouse and Josaih Dennis Manse, which stand adjacent to each other, have the same address. 74000360 ✓

Easton (Bristol County)

- North Easton Railroad Station/Old Colony Railroad Station (NRIND 4/11/72; NRDIS 11/3/1972 and 12/23/1987; NHL 12/23/1987)—new address is 80 Mechanic Street (formerly Oliver Street or off Oliver St along railroad right of way) 72000125 ✓

Holden (Worcester County)

- Willard-Fisk Farm (NRIND 2/23/1996)— new address is 121 Whitney Street (formerly 123 Whitney Street) 96000163 ✓

Wilmington (Middlesex County)

- West Schoolhouse (NRIND 2/23/1990)— new address is 141 Shawsheen Avenue (formerly Shawsheen Avenue at Aldrich Road) 90000144 ✓

Winthrop (Suffolk County)

- Newton, Edward B. School (NRIND 8/21/1997)— new address is 131 Pauline Street (formerly 45 Pauline Street) 97000878 ✓
- Winthrop, Deane House (NRIND/TRA, First Period Buildings of Eastern MA, 3/9/1990)—new address is 34 Shirley Street (formerly 40 Shirley Street) 90000162 ✓

Woburn (Middlesex County)

- U. S. Post Office-Woburn Center Station (NRIND 10/19/1987)—new address is 1 Abbott Street (formerly 2 Abbott Street) 86003436 ✓

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Emerson, Ralph Waldo, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/05/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 66000365

NOMINATOR: OTHER

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1.3.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beal

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 1.3.14

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

National Historic Landmarks Program
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nomination preparer, notes from the staff of the National Historic Landmarks Program, and/or other material the NHL program received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Ralph Waldo Emerson House

AND/OR COMMON
Ralph Waldo Emerson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
28 Cambridge Turnpike (near intersection Lexington Road)

CITY, TOWN
Concord

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fifth

STATE
Massachusetts

VICINITY OF
Middlesex

CODE
025

COUNTY
Middlesex

CODE
017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association

STREET & NUMBER
Box 333

CITY, TOWN
Concord

STATE
Massachusetts

VICINITY OF
01742

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Middlesex Registry of Deeds, Southern District

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Cambridge

STATE
Massachusetts

02141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
none

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

CHECK ONE

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Handwritten description area with faint lines and illegible text.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1828-29; 1835-82

BUILDER/ARCHITECT not known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Physical Description, Ralph Waldo Emerson House, Conc. J, Massachusetts

The Ralph Waldo Emerson House stands southwest of Cambridge Turnpike near its intersection with Lexington Road in Concord, Massachusetts. The house was built in 1828-29 by John T. Coolidge for his son Charles. Emerson purchased it, with some 2 acres of land, in 1835. He subsequently added to the property, bringing it to the current 9 acres. Immediately to the rear of the house are a garden (maintained much as it was in Emerson's day), the original wooden barn, and a small shed. The remainder of the property, which reaches to Walden Street, is a sloping meadow, through the center of which flows Mill Brook.

When Emerson purchased the 2-story frame and clapboard house, it consisted of an L-shaped main block with hipped roof and a rear service wing with pitched roof. In 1836, he added two rooms at the southwest corner of the main block, giving it a square shape. The upper of those rooms, known as the "Straw Carpet Chamber", was altered and enlarged (by the addition of a bay window) in 1857. At the same time, another room, lighted by a shed dormer, was created in the attic on the southwest side of the house. Named "the den", it was intended as a work area for Emerson, though he rarely used it. Entrances to the house are located at the center of the northeast (front) and southeast elevations; each is covered by a 1-story porch with Doric columns and full entablature. Windows are 6/6 double-hung sash with louvered blinds.

The interior of the house follows a center hall plan with two large, square rooms at either side. To the left of the front entrance are a guest room, which Emerson called the "Pilgrim's Chamber", and the dining room, with the kitchen in the service wing beyond. To the right are Emerson's study, in which the major part of his reading and writing was done, and the parlor. On the second floor are four bedrooms; notable features of the master bedroom are two alcoves reached through round-headed, keystone arches.

The Emerson House was seriously damaged by a fire in July, 1872. Starting in the attic, it destroyed the roof and much of the second floor. Most of the contents of the house were saved, however, and funds subscribed by Emerson's friends paid for a complete restoration of the building.

The Emerson House is now maintained in good condition. All of its rooms remain as they were after the 1872-73 restoration except the study, whose contents were removed to the Concord Antiquarian Society and replaced by duplicate pieces about 1930.

Statement of significance, Ralph Waldo Emerson House, Concord, Massachusetts

This large but unpretentious frame house was the home of the noted poet, essayist and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson from the time of his second marriage in 1835 until his death in 1882. All of his major works, including Nature (1836), "The American Scholar" (1837), the two volumes of Essays (1841,1844), Representative Men (1850), and English Traits (1856), were prepared here. Though most famous during his lifetime as a lecturer, Emerson is now best known for his essays, most often adapted from his lectures, which express his personal transcendental philosophy of an organic universe predicated not only on the power of man to change things but on the goodness of change itself.

The house, which Emerson purchased, had been constructed in 1828-29. Seriously damaged by fire in 1872, it was immediately restored, largely by private subscriptions from Emerson's friends. Following the deaths of Emerson's wife and children, the last of them in 1930, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association was created to administer the property. The house is furnished as it was during Emerson's lifetime with the exception of the study, the original contents of which have been removed to the Concord Antiquarian Society. The Emerson House is open to the public from April 15 to October 31, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday, 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Biographical Summary

Ralph Waldo Emerson, born in Boston on May 25, 1803, was the descendant of a long line of ministers. His father William, pastor of Boston's First Church, died in 1811, leaving Emerson's mother to bring up five sons in financial difficulty. In 1814, the family moved to Concord, where Emerson's mother and his aunt, Mary Moody Emerson, raised the children with an eye to the education and vocation dictated by their ancestry.

Emerson was sent to Boston Latin School and then , by means of scholar-

ships and part-time teaching, was able to attend Harvard College, graduating in 1821. In order to save money for attending Harvard Divinity School and ✓ to help pay for the education of his younger brothers, he taught for the next four years in the girls' school established by his older brother William. Emerson entered the Divinity School in 1825 and was licensed for the ministry the following year. However, family circumstances and his own poor health as well as financial difficulty delayed his career. In 1829, Emerson was ordained as minister of the Second Church in Boston. That same year, he married Ellen Tucker of New Hampshire.

Though Emerson rapidly won a reputation for his eloquence in the pulpit, he was unable to cope with routine pastoral demands and, more significantly, began to repudiate the restricting character of Christianity in general, ✓ which, in his view, failed to nurture the moral nature of man. Emerson's own ✓ sermons were unusually free of traditional doctrine; he divested Christianity of all external and historical supports, making its basis the individual's private intuition of moral law and its test a life of virtue and character. An opponent of all forms, he wanted a freer and larger sphere of influence and, following his wife's death in 1831, abruptly resigned his pastorate.

In 1832 Emerson traveled to Europe where he became more closely acquainted with the philosophy of German idealism and talked with Landor, Mill, Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Carlyle; his meeting with the latter led to a correspondence which lasted almost forty years. At home again in 1833, he established himself as a lyceum lecturer, beginning with courses in natural history and biography. In 1834 he returned to Concord and the following year, in preparation for his marriage to Lydia Jackson of Plymouth, Massachusetts, purchased the house in which he would live for the rest of his life. There he settled into a quiet domestic routine of writing in the morning, walking alone in the afternoon, and talking with his family and friends in the evening--

a pattern interrupted only by travel and lecture engagements.

Emerson had begun in 1833 to work on an explanation of his personal philosophy, which he published anonymously in 1836 in the form of a short book entitled Nature; this was his essential statement and all of his subsequent work was an extension, amplification or amendment of the ideas it affirmed. The heart of Emerson's philosophy, as the title of his book suggests, was the organic concept, a belief in a living nature still in the process of becoming, a nature immanent with spirit, fulfilling the ideas of God and also capable of fulfilling the ideas of man. In this Emersonian conception, man was not estranged from nature, but intimate with her, sharing the flow of her spiritual tides, and able, by means of his own creative powers of perception, to grasp her law and, there^eby, with his ideas, to be himself a creator of the as-yet-unformed future. The essential and liberating idea of Nature, to be applied in Emerson's later work to all aspects of human life, was that by his own constitution and by the corresponding constitution of the universe, man was not the victim of his environment. Mind, not matter, was supreme. Ideas were sovereign, and with them as his instruments man could shape the universe to his needs.

Emerson translated Nature into specific terms in 1837 with his Phi Beta Kappa address at Harvard, "The American Scholar", which Oliver Wendell Holmes called "our intellectual Declaration of Independence". In the address Emerson described the duties and resources of the liberated intellectual in America, who would fulfill his own genius by abandoning the traditional institutions of culture and in nature exploring the possibilities of his own new world. In effect, he put the scholar above the priest, making him the servant of truth whose duty was the "conversion of the world".

In 1836, Emerson had been instrumental in forming the group known as the Transcendental Club, which continued to meet regularly for discussion

until 1843; its members included Bronson Alcott, Orestes Bronson, Theodore Parker, and James Freeman Clarke, and Henry David Thoreau was a frequent guest. When the group began to publish its magazine, The Dial, under the editorship of Margaret Fuller in July, 1840, Emerson became a major contributor. Between 1842 and the final appearance of The Dial in 1844, Emerson himself was its editor, though he was far more interested in the poetry and metaphysics which appeared in the magazine than in the practical aspects of the various reform programs it proposed.

Emerson consolidated his reputation with the publication of his two series of Essays in 1841 and 1844, becoming for much of mid-century America the spokesman for a new religion which squared with the times even while supplying a method for criticizing them. In 1845 Emerson delivered the series of lectures which he published in 1850 as Representative Men and the next year issued his Poems. Though Emerson thought poetry the highest form of utterance and always referred to himself as a poet, he did not publish another volume of verse until 1867, when May-Day and Other Pieces appeared. On a lecture tour of England in 1847, Emerson visited Carlyle again and met Macaulay, Thackeray, Dickens, and Tenneyson; the trip provided the basis for a series of lectures delivered the next season and published in 1856 as English Traits.

Emerson's chief occupation during the 1850's was politics. He had opposed the annexation of Texas and the Fugitive-Slave Law and now filled his journal with comments on the great issue rapidly dividing the country. He advocated sending arms to the anti-slavery faction in Kansas, made a number of anti-slavery speeches, and championed John Brown when the latter arrived at Concord in 1857.

Emerson continued with his lecturing and, to some extent, his writing after 1860 but, with the exception of May-Day, his work was marked by waning powers. He acknowledged this in "Terminus", written in 1866: "It is time

to be old/ To take in sail...Contract thy firmament/ To compass of a tent". When his home was seriously damaged by fire in July, 1872, James Russell Lowell and other friends provided funds to make good the loss and to allow Emerson a vacation while work on the house was completed. He visited Europe, satisfied an old desire to see the Valley of the Nile, and then retired to Concord where he spent his remaining years. Emerson attempted some further writing--Letters and Social Aims was published in 1876, but only after James Elliot Cabot had been called in to sort out the muddled manuscripts--but in general he slid into a serene and dignified senility, which ended with his death in April, 1882.

Following the deaths of Emerson's wife and children, the last of which occurred in 1930, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association was formed to preserve the poet's house at Concord. Concern for the safety of the contents of Emerson's study prompted their removal to the nearby headquarters of the Concord Antiquarian Society. With that exception, the house and its furnishings remain as they were after the restoration of 1872-73.

(COPY)

November 7, 1935

Memorandum for the Solicitor:

You have requested a memorandum on the question of whether, under the authority granted by the act of August 21, 1935, Public No. 292, 74th Congress, the United States can acquire Emerson's Concord house. This historic house is now owned by a Mrs. John Ames. Because she is not in a position to preserve it adequately, she is considering its sale.

There is authority under section 2(d) of the Historic Sites Act to "acquire in the name of the United States by gift, purchase, or otherwise any property, personal or real, or any interest or estate therein," for the purpose of preserving for public use **historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States.** That Emerson's Concord house is one of historic significance within the meaning of this act I have no doubt.

There is, however, no fund available for purchasing the property, and the act provides specifically "That no such property shall be acquired or contract or agreement for the acquisition thereof made which will obligate the general fund of the Treasury for the payment of such property, unless or until Congress has appropriated money which is available for that purpose." Accordingly, an appropriation by Congress will have to be made.

My suggestion is that a study should be made by the Historic Division of the National Park Service. If the property is found sufficiently desirable, either a donation through a private citizen can be arranged or an appropriation by Congress can be requested.

Assistant Solicitor.

(COPY)

November 23, 1935

Dear Nathan:

I would suggest that you follow through the recommendation made in Stinson's memorandum and suggest that the Historic Division of the National Park Service make a study of the situation.

Ben U.C.

(COPY)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
WASHINGTON

December 3, 1935

Memorandum to the
National Park Service

Attention: Mr. Chatelain

My attention has been called to the fact that Emerson's Concord house is about to be sold. It is now owned by one Mrs. John Ames, but she is considering disposing of it because she is not in a position to preserve it adequately.

My informant desired to know whether the United States could acquire it under the Historical Sites Act of August 21, 1935. It was pointed out in response that there is authority under this act to accept donations of such historical sites but that a purchase can be made only when Congress appropriates money for that purpose.

I am not in a position to know what action you care to take on the acquisition of this property. I do understand, however, that you are well equipped to make a historical study on the basis of which it can be decided as an administrative matter whether it is desirable to arrange either a purchase or a donation. Accordingly, I call the site and its present status as to ownership to your attention for such further action as you think advisable.

Nathan R. Margold
Solicitor

Mass

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

~~Dr. Stauffer~~
9 P.S.
Study File

December 9, 1935

Memorandum for Mr. Gardner:

There are attached for your information copies of memoranda from the Solicitor's Office concerning Emerson's home in Concord. ✓

We probably will be getting calls from various sources for information on this place, so that a study should be made as soon as possible.

Herman Kahn
Herman Kahn

Enclosure 748381

South Point Complex, an area containing a group of sites that document the longest and most complete record of human occupation in the Hawaiian Islands, and Iolani Palace, the scene of the formal transfer of the Hawaiian Islands to the United States in 1898, an event marking the rise of the United States as a world power.

Cultural landmarks of interest to the historian and writer include a number of sites all the way from Maine to California. They are noted by a number of houses and sites in New England; such as, the home of Herman Melville, "Arrowhead"; William Cullen Bryant Home; Emily Dickinson Home; James Russell Lowell; John Greenleaf Whittier; and William H. Prescott. Others in widely scattered sections of the country include the Walt Whitman Home, Camden, New Jersey; Sunnyside, Washington Irving's Home, New York; the George W. Cable House, New Orleans; Joel Chandler Harris House, Atlanta; James Whitcomb Riley House, Indiana; Mark Twain Home, Missouri; and the Hubert Howe Bancroft Ranch House, California.

Conservationists will applaud the selection of the John Muir House, Contra Costa County, California, where much of his best writing was accomplished.

Landmarks of interest to the theatre-goer and musician include: The Player's Club, New York City; Walnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia; Carnegie Hall and the Metropolitan Opera, New York City; and the Academy of Music, Philadelphia.

Brief descriptions of the 65 sites recommended by the Advisory Board and Secretary Udall under the four studies of the National Survey: Alaska and Hawaii Aboriginal Cultures; Hawaii History; and Literature, Drama and Music are attached.

x x x

Alaska Aboriginal Culture

In the study of Alaska Aboriginal Culture, nine sites were listed by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments as possessing exceptional value (national significance) in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. Two of these, Ipiutak and Iyatayet, were classified as the result of previous Advisory Board action. Another, Sitka National Monument, is a unit of the National Park System. The remaining six sites are eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status:

1. Palugvik, Hawkins Island, Prince William Sound. This site marks the eastern range of Eskimo archeology in southern Alaska, and helps clarify the relationship of Eskimos to the Tlingit Indians.
2. Yukon Island, (Main Site), Kachemak Bay, Cook Inlet. This is the oldest and most continuously occupied of the Cook Inlet sites. These sites collectively led to the definition of the Kachemak Bay Culture. Kachemak Bay Culture is a generalized Eskimo culture type related both to that of Asiatic groups, and of the Salish Indians further south.
3. Chaluka, Unmak Island, Aleutian Chain. The Chaluka site is a large village mound which holds remains of all culture periods so far identified in this region. While work there is not yet complete, Chaluka promises the first careful stratigraphic treatment of a single large Aleutian site. The site is in Federal ownership.
4. Gambell, St. Lawrence Island. The Gambell sites were the first in the greater Bering Strait region to be scientifically investigated and reported upon. Investigation of these sites first provided data on the sequence of cultures on St. Lawrence Island, and through this work, the accumulated information on Eskimo prehistory could be reduced to chronological order. These sites are in Federal ownership.
5. Wales, Cape Prince of Wales, Seward Peninsula. The Wales sites include materials dating from around 600 to 800 A.D. up to recent times. A living Eskimo community in the area brings the local aboriginal cultural record up to the present day. The sites are in Federal ownership.
6. Birnirk, Point Barrow. The series of mounds at this site provided material by which the archeologists have been able to describe the development of Eskimo culture in this northernmost part of the United States from around A.D. 600 to the present day.

Hawaii Aboriginal Culture

In the study of Hawaii Aboriginal Culture, twelve sites were listed by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments as possessing exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. One site, City of Refuge National Historical Park, is administered by the National Park Service. The remaining eleven sites are eligible for Landmark status. They are as follows:

1. Wailua Complex of Heiaus, Island of Kauai. Located at the mouth of the Wailua River, this complex consists of a city of refuge, four important heiaus, royal birthstones, and sacrificial rock. This series of heiaus and sacred sites forms one of the most important complexes of archeological sites in the Hawaiian Islands. The sites typify a long period of Hawaiian prehistory as well as many aspects of Hawaiian aboriginal culture.
2. Puu o Makuka Heiau, Island of Oahu. Located on the north side of the island near Waimea, this is the largest heiau of Oahu. Since Oahu's greatest priests came from this district, it is probably also the most important single heiau in the Hawaiian Islands.
3. Huilua Fish Pond, Island of Oahu. The aboriginal people of Hawaii stored and raised fish for food. The Huilua pond, located on Kahana Bay, on the east coast of Oahu, is one of the last surviving ponds on this island. According to tradition, this picturesque pond was built by the menehunes for raising and storing fish.
4. Hokuhano-Ualapue Complex, Island of Molokai. Located on the south coast of the island, this complex forms one of the most important and impressive exhibits in the State of Hawaii. It includes six important heiaus and two fine fish ponds.
5. Kaunolu Village Site, Island of Ranai. Located on the southwest cape of the island, this was once a typical vigorous Hawaiian fishing community. Its ruins represent nearly all phases of Hawaiian culture and are extremely well preserved.
6. Loaloa Heiau, Island of Maui. This temple, built on the southeast coast of the island, near Kaupo, is believed to have been constructed by King Piilani. It was the center and prime site of a cluster of sites around Kaupo. This complex of sites includes remains of villages and other heiaus.

7. Mookini Heiau, Island of Hawaii. This huge temple is located on the northern tip of the island near Upolu Point. The temple, one of Hawaii's largest, is a "luakini" or sacrificial heiau. Traditional Hawaiian history states that this heiau was constructed in the 11th century by Paa o, a famous priest who came into Hawaii from Tahiti. The birthstone of King Kamehameha I is located nearby.

8. Mauna Kea Adz Quarry, Island of Hawaii. Located on the top of Mauna Kea, this is the largest basalt adz quarry in the world. The adz was the single most important stone tool in Polynesia. To this quarry the ancient Hawaiians came to obtain the material needed for their stone artifacts.

9. Honokohau Settlement, Island of Hawaii. Located on the west coast of the island, just north of Kailua, this settlement preserves sites which date from prehistoric times to 1920. The sites are virtually intact and include 50 ancient house sites, four heiaus, three fish ponds, and a holua slide.

10. Keauhou Holua Slide, Island of Hawaii. Tobogganing on stone slides was a sport reserved for the chiefs. This slide is located at Keauhou on the west coast of the island, and is the best preserved and largest toboggan slide in the State. The slide served as the site of the "olympic games" of the Hawaiian people.

11. South Point Complex, Island of Hawaii. This area at the extreme southern point of the island contains a group of sites that document the longest and most complete record of human occupation in the Hawaiian Islands. It includes the Sand Dune site, which produced the earliest radiocarbon date (A.D. 124) in the State.

In addition, the following areas administered by the National Park Service also have features typifying this theme:

1. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Island of Hawaii.
2. Haleakala National Park, Island of Maui.

Hawaiian History

In the theme study on Hawaiian history, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments listed eleven sites as possessing exceptional value (national significance) in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. Three of these sites are units of the National Park System. The remaining eight sites are eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status. They are as follows:

1. Cook Landing Site, Waimea, Island of Kauai. According to the best evidence available, Waimea Beach is the site where Captain James Cook, the English Explorer, first landed in the Hawaiian Islands on June 30, 1778. Captain Cook is remembered in history as the discoverer of the Hawaiian Islands. The site is owned in part by the State of Hawaii and in part with the county of Kauai.
2. Puukohola Heiau, Island of Hawaii. At this stone temple King Kamehameha the Great sacrificed Keoua, his chief rival for control of the Hawaiian Islands. This event occurred in the summer of 1791 and led to the unification of the Hawaiian Islands as a single kingdom. The site is privately owned.
3. Kamakahonu, Residence of King Kamehameha I, Island of Hawaii. In 1812 King Kamehameha I moved his residence from Honolulu to this site at Kamakahonu Cove. Here also his son Liholiho, abolished the Kapu system and the Hawaiian religion. The site is partly in private ownership; partly in State ownership.
4. Russian Fort, Waimea, Island of Kauai. In 1817 the Russian-American Company built this stone fort at the mouth of the Waimea River. The Russians were expelled, however, by King Kamehameha I and Hawaiian troops occupied the fort. The ruins of the fort commemorate the period of international rivalry for influence in the Islands. The site is privately owned.
5. Kawaiahao Church and Mission Houses, Honolulu, Island of Oahu. Beginning in the mid-1820's, Kawaiahao Church was virtually the State church of the Hawaiian Kingdom, and it commemorates the importance of Protestant missionaries as a force in 19th century Hawaiian life and spreading American influence in the Islands. The Mission houses are related structures which commemorate this influence. The Kawaiahao Church is owned by the Congregational Church. The Mission structures are owned by the Hawaiian Mission Children's Society.
6. Lahaina (Historic District), Island of Maui. This town preserves the atmosphere of a mid-19th century seaport. It commemorates the

19th century period when the American whaling fleet visited the port and when American missionaries were an important influence in the Islands.

7. Sugar Mill at Koloa, Island of Kauai. The ruins of this sugar mill, on the former Ladd & Company's plantation, date from 1841-1842. Sugar first became important in the economy of Hawaii in 1835 and after 1836 sugar production became Hawaii's largest industry. The site is privately owned.

8. Iolani Palace, Honolulu, Island of Oahu. Iolani Palace was the royal residence of the last two rulers of the Hawaiian Kingdom, King Kalahaua and Queen Liliuokalani. It is the most important surviving symbol of Hawaiian independence. Transfer of sovereignty of the Islands to the United States took place on the palace steps on August 21, 1898. The palace is owned by the State of Hawaii and currently houses the State senate and legislature and the Governor's offices.

In addition, three sites in the National Park System also have associations with Hawaiian history. They are as follows:

1. City of Refuge National Historic Site
2. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park
3. Haleakala National Park

Literature, Drama, and Music

In the study of Literature, Drama, and Music, thirty-eight sites were listed by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments as possessing exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. These sites are eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status. They are as follows:

1. Hubert Howe Bancroft Ranch House, Spring Valley, San Diego County, California. Bancroft was the monumental historian of the western half of the American continent. He and his associates produced 39 volumes of history related to the West. He bought the ranch in 1885, and lived there until his death in 1918. Owned by Spring Valley Chamber of Commerce.
2. Jack London's Ranch, Glen Ellen, Sonoma County, California. One of the most spectacular American literary figures in the first decade of the 20th century, London purchased the 130-acre hill ranch in 1905, and here wrote several of his most significant novels. This is the setting for his book The Valley of the Moon. The area is now a State Historical Park including 49 acres of the original ranch, London's grave, the ruins of "the Wolf House," and a two-story stone building erected as a museum after his death. It is owned by the State of California.
3. John Muir House, Contra Costa County, California. John Muir, great nature writer, explorer and conservationist, settled on this ranch in 1880, at the age of 42. Much of his best writing was accomplished during his residence here. The site contains 5 acres of the original 800-acre ranch and two houses in which he lived for 10 and 14 years respectively. The houses are in excellent condition. The site is in private ownership.
4. Frank Norris Cabin, Redwood Retreat, Santa Clara County, California. Frank Norris, generally regarded as the most stimulating and militant of the early American naturalist writers and an exposé of sordid business practices, died at the age of 32. He and his wife built a two-room, one-story, log cabin near Redwood Retreat, a short time before his death. The cabin, surrounded by redwoods, is unchanged and intact. It is in private ownership.
5. Mark Twain Home (Memorial), 531 Farrington Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut. Mark Twain lived in this house from 1874 until 1891, during which time he wrote most of his great works. The design of the house reflects Mark Twain's personality and family life. Here he was host to many of the distinguished figures of his day and

enjoyed the companionship of congenial friends. Many times associated with the author are in the home, which is well maintained and in very good condition. It is owned by the Mark Twain Library and Memorial Commission.

6. Joel Chandler Harris House, 1050 Gordon Street, Atlanta, Georgia. Joel Chandler Harris lived here from 1881 until his death in 1908, and here he wrote most of the famous "Uncle Remus" stories. The house is in good condition and contains many items associated with Harris. It is owned by the Joel Chandler Harris Memorial Association.

7. James Whitcomb Riley House, 528 Lockerbie Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. James Whitcomb Riley, the Hoosier poet, has always had a distinctive appeal to a large segment of Americans. His homely poems are fondly known to a wide group of readers. This home, in which he lived after 1877, is a Victorian residence of brick trimmed with stone. It is in good condition and contains many of the original furnishings and relics of the poet. Owned by the James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association.

8. George W. Cable House, 1313 Eighth Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. George Washington Cable is familiarly known as the author who wrote so charmingly of the Louisiana Creoles. He is an outstanding early example of a craftsman who wrote accurately of an interesting locale. He built this house himself, wrote much of his best work here, and entertained many famous literary figures. The house has been converted into a two-story duplex but retains much of its original appearance. It is privately owned.

9. Early Home of Longfellow, 487 Congress Street, Portland, Maine. This is a 17-room brick house containing many Longfellow mementos. Longfellow lived here periodically during most of his early years except while attending college or traveling. After his second marriage in 1843, he moved to the Craigie-Longfellow house in Cambridge. One of the familiar associations with the Portland home is the well-known poem, The Rainy Day, which was inspired by Longfellow following the death of his wife and by the view of the garden in the rear of the house. It is open to the public and contains many mementos of the poet and his family. Owned by the Maine Historical Society.

10. Harriet Beecher Stowe House, 63 Federal Street, Brunswick, Maine. This is a white frame building, originally containing 9 rooms and an attic. The interior has been altered for hotel purposes. Here in 1851-52, Mrs. Stowe wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin. She lived here with

her growing family and her husband, who was a professor at Bowdoin. Mrs. Stowe's study room is intact and furnished with original items. The house, built in 1804, is an inn and is well preserved. The exterior is original in appearance.

11. "Arrowhead," Home of Herman Melville, Holmes Road, Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Herman Melville, now regarded as a very distinguished novelist but largely unrecognized until after his death, lived at Pittsfield for 13 years, 1850-63. The house appears to have been an 8-room frame structure of colonial style. Some changes have been made since the 1930's but the front is substantially intact. It is in private ownership.

12. Beacon Hill Historic District, Boston, Massachusetts. The legislature of Massachusetts in 1955 designated 22 acres of land in Boston as the Beacon Hill Historic District. While the area is near the business center of Boston, commercial development has proceeded in other directions and the area is about ninety per cent residential. Its architecture is interesting and representative of the Federal period of the early 19th century. The area is chiefly significant as the residence of a very distinguished group of writers, statesmen and artists including, to name a few, Webster, Motley, Charles Francis Adams, Celia Thaxter, Parkman, Aldrich, Channing, and Edwin Booth. It is in private ownership.

13. William Cullen Bryant Home, a few miles from Cummington in Western Massachusetts. William Cullen Bryant, famous poet and editor, lived here during his early years and commenced writing poems here, including Thanatopsis and Ode to a Waterfowl. He returned to Cummington during his later years. This is a 27-room frame building beautifully situated on a hillside with a fine view. It was built by Bryant's father, about 1799. The home is open to the public during the summer and is completely furnished with authentic Bryant objects. It is owned by The Trustees of Public Reservations.

14. Craigie-Longfellow House, 105 Brattle Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow lived in this 18-room frame house from 1837 until 1882. During this time it was a meeting place for the poet's many distinguished associates and here he wrote most of his famous works. Washington lived in this house at times during his campaign in the vicinity of Boston, 1775-1776. The house is open to the public and is owned by the Longfellow Trust.

15. Home of Emily Dickinson, 280 Main Street, Amherst, Massachusetts.

This 14-room brick house, built in 1813, was the birthplace and home of Emily Dickinson. Generally regarded as unexcelled among American women poets, Miss Dickinson lived a completely sheltered life and did not permit her poems to be published during her lifetime. The house is closely associated, therefore, with her retiring nature. The house is in good condition and is in private ownership. It is not open to the public.

16. "Elmwood," Home of James Russell Lowell. This frame house on Elmwood Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts, was the home of James Russell Lowell during his active life as professor at Harvard, as first editor of the Atlantic Monthly, and later association with the North American Review. Lowell was considered by his biographer, M. A. DeWolfe Howe, the foremost American man of letters in his time. The home is in excellent condition and is privately owned.

17. Ralph Waldo Emerson House, Lexington Road and Cambridge Turnpike, Concord, Massachusetts. Ralph Waldo Emerson, poet and essayist, lived here from 1835 until his death in 1882. Henry David Thoreau lived here occasionally when Emerson was making a tour. The original house burned in 1872, but was rebuilt by the author's friends. A white square building in a setting of pines, the house is open to the public and contains Emerson's famous library and many objects associated with him. It is owned by Amherst College.

18. The Old Manse, Monument Street, Concord, Massachusetts. The Old Manse is a frame building constructed about 1765 by the Reverend William Emerson, grandfather of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Nathaniel Hawthorne and his bride, Sophia Peabody, lived in the Old Manse about four years following 1842. Hawthorne wrote a fine description of the home in his Mosses from an Old Manse. The house is located near the site of the Revolutionary battle at Concord Bridge. It is in good condition and is administered by The Trustees of Public Reservations.

19. Orchard House, Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts. This frame house, owned by the famous Alcott family, was the home in which Louisa May Alcott wrote Little Women. The house is well preserved and has many intimate associations which are appreciated by readers of Miss Alcott's works. It is owned by the Louisa May Alcott Memorial Foundation.

20. Francis Parkman House, 50 Chestnut Street, Boston, Massachusetts. This early federal brick structure was the home of Francis Parkman, one of America's most distinguished historians and literary figures. Parkman is best known for his writings on the history of Canada and the West. The house, built in 1824, has an arched recessed doorway, a slate hip roof and high flues. It is privately owned.

21. William H. Prescott House, Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts. William Hickling Prescott, a fine historian with distinguished literary ability, lived in this house during many of his productive years. A comfortable 4-story brick structure in good condition, the house is owned by the Society of Colonial Dames.

22. Walden Pond, Middlesex County, 1½ miles from Concord, Massachusetts. Walden Pond is a reservation of 144 acres most of which is a pleasant New England lake with a wooded shore line and a modern bathing beach at one end. Here Henry David Thoreau lived in a simple cabin from 1845 until 1847, and wrote his famous diary entitled Walden Pond. The site of the cabin is marked with a cairn of rocks. The area is a Massachusetts State Park.

23. The Wayside, located in Concord on the Boston Road. The Wayside is a 12-room house with a tower study made of brick, covered with shiplap, and built in 1717. It was the home of Hawthorne during two periods, of Bronson Alcott and his daughter, Louisa May, and of Margaret Sydney (Lothrop), author of the popular novel The Five Little Peppers. The home was also visited by many famous people including Thoreau, Emerson, Whittier, and Mark Twain. It is in private ownership.

24. Home of John Greenleaf Whittier, Pickerd and Friend Streets, Amesbury, Massachusetts. This 10-room frame house was purchased by Whittier in 1836, and here he lived and did most of his major writing until his death in 1892. The greater part of the furnishings, including the poet's desk, are intact as Whittier left them. The house is open to the public and is in good condition. It is owned by the Whittier Home Association.

25. Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) Boyhood Home, Hannibal, Missouri. Mark Twain lived in this frame house in a small town on the Mississippi River from 1839 when he was four years of age until 1853. Here he lived through the experiences which gave him material for some of his great writings, particularly Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer. The house is owned by the City of Hannibal.

26. Walt Whitman Home, 330 Mickle Street, Camden, New Jersey. Walt Whitman lived in this house during the last 8 years of his life. It is the one site most significantly connected with his work. Built about 1848, this small frame house is well preserved and contains furnishings known to have been there during the author's lifetime. A collection of books, papers, and other Whitman objects is on display. The house is owned by the State of New Jersey.
27. "Sunnyside," Home of Washington Irving, Tarrytown, New York. Part of this house of 16 rooms was built about 1656, by the Van Tassel family. Irving bought it in 1835, and enjoyed the pleasant life of a popular country squire when he was not traveling in Europe. The house is in good condition and is open to the public. It is owned by Sleepy Hollow Restorations, Inc.
28. Woodchuck Lodge, Home of John Burroughs, 2 miles from Roxbury, New York. This rustic frame house was built by Burroughs in 1908 on the ancestral farm. Here he spent his summers and entertained many visitors including Thomas A. Edison and Henry Ford. The house is occupied at times by relatives of the writer. It is in good condition and is in private ownership.
29. Paul Laurence Dunbar House, 219 North Summit Street, Dayton, Ohio. Paul Laurence Dunbar, an outstanding poet and the first Negro to attain important recognition in the field of literature, lived in this home during the last three years of his life, 1903-1906. It is a plain, two-story, 9-room brick house in good condition containing many of the poet's personal belongings. It is owned by the State of Ohio and administered by the Ohio Historical Society.
30. Edgar Allan Poe House, Brandywine at North 7th Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This is a small brick cottage where Poe lived from 1842 to 1844. Poe accomplished much of his best writing during his 6 years residence in Philadelphia. The last two years, spent in this cottage, are most closely related to the intimate joys and tragedies of his life. The home is open to the public and serves as a museum. It is owned by the Edgar Allan Poe Club of Philadelphia.
31. "The Abbey," Joaquin Miller Home, Oakland, California. The Abbey was built by Cincinnatus Hiner "Joaquin" Miller in 1886, and here he lived until his death 27 years later. The home consists of three one-story, one-room frame structures joined together to form a single unit. It is well maintained and is operated as a museum. It is a California State Historical Landmark owned by the City of Oakland, California.
32. Noah Webster Birthplace, West Hartford, Connecticut. The birthplace and home of Noah Webster, famous lexicographer and textbook writer, is a good example of an early salt box house dating from about 1676, and is architecturally very interesting. It is owned by the town of West Hartford and is maintained as a museum.

33. Players Club, 16 Gramercy Park, New York, New York. Edwin Booth, the famous actor, lived in this house and presented it to "The Players" in 1888. Booth was the founder and first president of the club. The house was redesigned for its new use by Stanford White. It contains a rare collection of books, manuscripts and other theatrical material. It is owned by The Players.

34. The Walnut Street Theater, 9th and Walnut Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Walnut Street Theater, in existence since 1809, is the oldest surviving theater in the United States and, according to Arthur H. Quinn, is "probably the oldest in the English speaking world." Despite its several remodelings both inside and out, the basic structure of the theater remains as an exceptional illustration of the history of the American theater past and present. It is owned by the 9th and Walnut Streets Corporation.

35. The MacDowell Colony, Peterborough, New Hampshire. The well-known composer Edward MacDowell was honored in 1907, the year before his death, by the founding of the Edward MacDowell Association to promote the various arts. The Colony is comprised of some 600 acres and 33 buildings serving as dwellings and studios for artists. A notable library specializing in music has been assembled. It is owned by the Edward MacDowell Association, Inc.

36. Carnegie Hall, 7th Avenue and 57th Street, New York, New York. Music Hall, as it was originally named, was built in 1891. The name was changed 7 years later to honor Andrew Carnegie, a principal benefactor. This structure was instrumental in making New York City a center of music not only in rendition but also in composition, and in the distribution of musical instruments. Most of the famous musicians since that time have performed in this 6-story Italian Renaissance structure. It is owned by the City of New York.

37. Metropolitan Opera, Broadway and 39th to 40th Streets, New York, New York. The Metropolitan Opera opened in 1883 and it has long been recognized as a landmark in this field. A long list of composers have had their works presented here by an equally distinguished roster of operatic performers. The building is owned by the Metropolitan Opera Association, Inc.

38. The Academy of Music, Broad and Locust Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia Academy of Music, since its opening in 1857, has become an outstanding landmark in the history of American music. It is today the country's oldest musical auditorium still retaining its original form and serving its original purpose. The Academy, for more than a half century, has been the home of the distinguished Philadelphia Orchestra. It is owned by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association.

Theme XVIII, Travel and Communication

Allegheny Portage Railroad of Pennsylvania Canal, Pennsylvania

The Allegheny Portage Railroad was built in the period 1831-1834 as a part of the Pennsylvania Canal. Its function was to provide a way of lifting barge traffic on the canal 1,400 feet over the Allegheny Summit westbound and 1,200 feet eastbound, and to lower the traffic in opposite directions, on the 36-mile railroad that connected the western and eastern ends of the canal between Hollidaysburg and Johnstown, Pennsylvania. This was accomplished by an ingenious system of inclines which represented the most difficult engineering accomplishment in the canal building era of United States internal improvements.

"The Fur Trade"

Joseph Bailly Homestead, Porter County, Indiana

The independent fur trader, Joseph Bailly, is often referred to as the first white settler in Northern Indiana. His home, begun in 1822 and situated on the trails from Fort Dearborn to Fort Wayne and to Detroit, became a meeting place for whites and Indians, an "oasis" for travelers, and a religious and cultural center. Located in Porter County, near Chesterton, Indiana, the property is privately owned.

Letter January 4, 1963 to Owner of Ralph Waldo Emerson House, Massachusetts notifying him of eligibility of Landmark status, signed by Assistant Director Price.

Owner: Mr. David Emerson, Treasurer; Emerson Association; Lexington and Cambridge Turnpike; Concord, Massachusetts.

Letters also sent to: Sen. Leverett Saltonstall, Dec. 27, 1962
Sen. Benjamin A. Smith II, Dec. 27, 1962
Cong. F. Bradford Morse, Dec. 27-62

RALPH WALDO EMERSON MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

c/o J. M. Forbes & Co.
199 Washington Street, Boston 8, Mass.
Room 614

February 6, 1963

Mr. Jackson E. Price
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington 25, D. C.

Subject: Home of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Concord, Mass.
Reference: L58-CHA

Dear Mr. Price:

This is to acknowledge your letter of January 4, stating that the R. W. Emerson Memorial Association property in Concord is eligible to be registered as a National Historic Landmark.

After reviewing the description of the Emerson Home, which was enclosed, we are submitting a revised draft giving certain additional information, and correcting several items particularly the fact that the original contents of the Emerson Study is now in the Concord Antiquarian Society.

We are glad to participate in your program for giving National recognition to historic landmarks, and have made application to the National Park Service on the forms which you sent us.

Sincerely,

DAVID EMERSON (signed)

DE:b
Enclosure

COPY

(copy sent to N.E. Reg. 3-18-63)

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

February 6, 1963

FEB 8 10 26 AM '63

L58
~~e~~
CHA
FEB 11 1963

Fullerton

Mr. Conrad L. Wirth, Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Wirth:

As the (~~owner~~, owners) of Home of Ralph Waldo Emerson located in
(name of site)
Cambridge Turnpike
Concord Middlesex Massachusetts
(City) (County) (State)

(, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate () and bronze marker, 17" x 18", () designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status (, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my, our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.

2. Toward this end, (, we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.

3. (, we) also agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.

4. If for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate nor the Marker will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

David Emerson
David Emerson, Treasurer

Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Ass'n.

February 14, 1963

L58-CHAH

Mr. David Emerson
Treasurer
Emerson Association
Lexington & Cambridge Turnpike
Concord, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Emerson:

We were pleased to receive your application for the Registered National Historic Landmark certificate and plaque for Ralph Waldo Emerson House in Concord, Massachusetts.

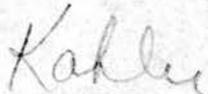
The Landmarks program is administered largely through our Regional Offices, except for the preparation of the certificates and plaques by the Washington Office. The enclosed statement will provide information regarding the size, description, etc., of the certificates and plaques.

When the certificate and plaque for the Ralph Waldo Emerson House are ready, they will be sent to Regional Director Ronald P. Lee, Northeast Region, National Park Service, 143 South Third Street, Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania, for presentation to you.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the program, or if you desire more information, please feel free to write to us or directly to Mr. Lee.

We are happy to have the Ralph Waldo Emerson House included in the Registry.

Sincerely yours,


Herbert E. Kahler
Chief, Division of
History and Archeology

Enclosure

cc:
Regional Director, Northeast w/cy of application form

JOLittleton:gb

Northeast Region
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

L58

June 27, 1963

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Regional Director

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Correct Names of Landmark Sites to be used on Certificates

There are listed below the correct names of Landmarks to be used on the certificates:

"Scotch"-Boardman House, Massachusetts
Home of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Massachusetts
U.S.S. Constellation, Maryland
Franklin B. Hough House, New York
Home of John Greenleaf Whittier, Massachusetts
Old Manse, Massachusetts
Hurley, New York

The Town Board of Hurley would like to know if it would be possible to have the certificate ready for presentation on July 13 when they plan a celebration.

/s/ Ronald F. Lee
Regional Director

C O P Y

L58-CHAH

September 5, 1963

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Northeast Region

From: Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:
Certificates to be Sent to Owners

We are enclosing the following Registered National Historic Landmark
Certificates for sites in your Region:

Headquarters House, Massachusetts
Home of Ralph Waldo Emerson, Massachusetts
Franklin Hough House, New York
Old Manse, Massachusetts
"Scotch"-Boardman House, Massachusetts
U.S.S. Constellation, Maryland
Home of John Greenleaf Whittier, Massachusetts

/s/ Charles W. Porter III

Enclosures 7

cc:
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg

J. M. FORBES & CO.
 199 WASHINGTON STREET
 BOSTON 8, MASSACHUSETTS

NORTHEAST REGION		Initial and Date
	Reg. Director	
	Asst. to Reg. Dir.	
	Program Coord.	
	Asst. Reg. Dir.-Adm.	
	Finance & Prop.	
	Personnel	
March 26,	1964	
	Asst. Reg. Dir.-Ext.	
	History & Arch.	
	Natural History	
	Oper. & Maint.	
	Ranger Services	
	Asst. Reg. Dir.-EP	
	N.P.C. - Area 1	

Ronald F. Lee, Regional Director
 U. S. Department of the Interior
 Northeast Region
 143 South Third Street
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Subject: R. W. Emerson Home (Reference L58)

Dear Mr. Lee:

We are glad to know that the certificate and plaque for the Home of Ralph Waldo Emerson are ready, and we would be very glad to have a representative of the National Park Service come here to exchange information so that we will have good mutual understanding.

The house will be opened for the season beginning April 19th, so we would like to have this visit as soon as convenient for your representative, and prior to April 19th.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David Emerson
 David Emerson

DE:b

APR 6 1964

Mr. Littleton

L58-CHAM

RH

April 2, 1964

*Ralph Waldo Emerson
Home.*

Mr. David Emerson
J. M. Forbes & Co.
199 Washington Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Emerson:

This is to confirm our telephone conversation of March 31, and to say that it will be a pleasure to see you at 10:00 A. M., April 10. As you requested, I shall bring the Registered National Historic Landmark plaque and certificate to your office.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

S. Sydney Bradford
Survey Historian

cc:

← Director, attention Resource Studies
w/copy of incoming

KP Ross 8/7/74
B Levystein HSS 8/8/74

Henne

AUG 8 1974

H3417-PS

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, North Atlantic Region
From: Acting Chief, Historic Sites Survey
Subject: Receipt of National Historic Landmark Biennial Inspection Reports

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of biennial inspection reports for the following national historic landmarks:

- Ralph Waldo Emerson House, Massachusetts
- Orchard House, Massachusetts
- Wright's Tavern, Massachusetts
- Walden Pond, Massachusetts
- Old Manse, Massachusetts
- Walt Whitman House, New Jersey
- Lindenwald, New York
- Frederick E. Church Home, New York
- Van Alen House, New York
- Thomas Cole House, New York
- Trinity Church, Rhode Island
- Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House, Rhode Island
- Eleazer Arnold House, Rhode Island
- Edward King House, Rhode Island
- Thomas P. Ives House, Rhode Island
- Governor Stephen Hopkins House
- University Hall, Brown University, Rhode Island
- U.S. War College, Rhode Island
- Vernon House, Rhode Island
- Brick Market, Rhode Island
- Gilbert Stuart Birthplace, Rhode Island
- John Brown House, Rhode Island
- College Hill Historic District, Rhode Island
- Redwood Library, Rhode Island
- Old Slater Mill, Rhode Island
- First Baptist Meeting House, Rhode Island

Old State House, Rhode Island
Newport Historic District, Rhode Island
Hunter House, Rhode Island
Corliss-Carrington House, Rhode Island
William Watts Sherman House, Rhode Island

Your continued cooperation in keeping us informed of further developments regarding landmarks in your Region, including changes of ownership and any potential threats to their integrity or existence, will be greatly appreciated.

/s/ Benjamin Levy

Benjamin Levy

FNP:B Levy:KP Ross:kr 8/7/74
bcc: Director's Reading File
DI
✓PS-Sheely

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PS (HSS)

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO

Emerson (Ralph Waldo) House
Lexington Road and Cambridge
Turnpike, Concord, Massachusetts

Date of visit September 5, 1968

Visited by Edwin W. Small, Project Coordinator, Boston NPS Group
(name) (title) (office)

Received by Mrs. John Dempsey, Caretaker for Emerson Association
(name) (title) (office)

Condition*: The house, stable, grounds and meadows that comprised the dwelling place of Ralph Waldo Emerson for most of his life after 1834 are maintained in excellent condition by members of the Emerson family, who are affiliated as the Emerson Association for the purpose of preserving this property. The house, which had been only recently built, in 1828-1829, when the philosopher bought the place and moved in, is very representative of the period - square, two full stories under a hipped roof and painted white. This structure well illustrates the above type of dwelling in New England near the close of its period of popularity just as the Franklin Pierce Homestead in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, also a Registered National Historic Landmark and erected three decades earlier, is a fine example of the type as it was just coming into style.

The property, to the writer at least, is more interesting as a place than a house and we are inclined to think of it as more of a homestead than just a house. The latter inside lacks much of the distinctive appeal to be found in the homes of other men of letters. Possibly this may be due to the fact that the contents of Emerson's study are no longer in the house, having been removed and assembled again as a major exhibit in the fireproof building of the Concord Antiquarian Society shortly after the latter was erected across the street in 1930. It is still agreeable, however, to view the place as a whole as typical of comfortable yet not pretentious living in the New England countryside during the last
Operation**

The custodian and her husband occupy quarters in the back /century. part of the house and afford adequate protection for the property, which borders the southerly side of the Cambridge Turnpike at the junction with Lexington Road. A good ornamental fence of appropriate style with gates encloses the well-spaced frontage provided for both the house and stable, and a stonewall fittingly separates the highway from the meadows which lie to the east and south of the house and stable. The interests of the Emerson family in the property and in Concord generally are well represented by David and Raymond Emerson, both of whom reside with their families on Estabrook Road.

The house is open, as Mrs. Dempsey expressed it, "whenever the sign is out." More specifically, this means from April 19 to November 30, except Mondays, 10 - 11:30 and 1:30 - 5:30, and Sundays, 2:30 - 5:30. Adults are charged 50 cents and children 25 cents. From June to September, Mrs. Dempsey receives help in showing the house from a college student, usually from a family residing in Concord. A young man by the name of Gordon Roberts was present at the time of our visit and appeared to be sufficiently familiar with the life of Emerson, the house and its furnishings. Attendance has gradually built up over
(cont'd)

*Grounds, structure/s, furnishings

**Note any changes in ownership, sponsoring organizations, operating staff, use, location of plaque and certificate, etc.

Special Problems Maintenance of the property apparently presents no particular problem to the Emerson family. The property is also fortunate in having accommodations for a resident caretaker to afford constant protection, a feature both the Alcott Home and the Old Manse lack but need. It would seem that more visitors to Concord might be interested in seeing the house. After viewing the sixteen or more period rooms in the Concord Antiquarian Society that cover the evolution of domestic interiors from about 1640 down to 1840, many no doubt have had their fill for the day. In any case, visitors coming to the Antiquarian Society get a fine perspective of Emerson's dwelling place as they look across the Cambridge Turnpike.

Operation: (continued from page 1) the past two decades from about 3,000 to 5,000 annually. The house has severe competition from the museum and period rooms of the Concord Antiquarian Society across the street and other historic houses on exhibition in the town. In view of this competition and by making comparisons, it can be readily understood why this property receives only a quarter or less of the visitors who go elsewhere.

The Registered National Historic Landmark certificate and plaque were delivered by Historic Sites Historian Sydney Bradford on April 10, 1964. Both are appropriately displayed. The plaque is on the front of the house at the northeasterly corner and the framed certificate in the parlor to the left of the central hallway.

Suggestions Offered None

Edwin W. Small

(signed)

Edwin W. Small
Project Coordinator

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC
AND NATURAL LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO:
Emerson (Ralph Waldo) House
Lexington Rd. & Cambridge Turnpike
Concord, Massachusetts

Date of visit November 4, 1970

Visited by Edwin W. Small, Assistant to Director, New England
(name) (title) (Office)
Northeast Region

Received by Mrs. John Dempsey, Caretaker for, Ralph Waldo Emerson
(name) (title) (Office)
Memorial Association

Condition* The house, stable, grounds and meadows that comprised the dwelling place of Ralph Waldo Emerson for most of his life after 1834 were described in some detail in the report of our last visit on September 5, 1968. There has been no perceptible change in the condition of all parts of the property over the past two years and as a whole it continues to be in excellent shape. As stated in our last report, the appeal of the property lies not only in the house itself but in the setting of the entire homestead which remains much the same as it was in the days of the great philosopher and prophet of the American way of life.

The grounds are well cared for and the buildings kept in a good state of repair. No immediate repainting appears to be necessary. The ornamental fence in front of the house received some minor repairs and was repainted in 1969. The path from the front gate to the front door is of unusual interest as it is made up of white marble slabs which seem to have been in place for a long time.

*Grounds, structure/s, furnishings

Operation** The caretaker and her husband occupy quarters in the back part of the house, which is of considerable size and pretty well shielded from the front access used by visitors. During the period of residence by the Dempseys, there have been no important incidents of vandalism or other problems of protection. About 5,000 to 6,000 visitors are received annually in a season that runs from April 19 to December 1. The hours weekdays are 10 - 11:30 and 1:30 - 5:30, and Sundays, 2:30 - 5:30. The house is closed on Mondays. Adults are now charged 75 cents, but the fee for children is still 25 cents. Many of the visitors appear to represent a fraction of those who come to see the period rooms of the Concord Antiquarian Society across the Cambridge Turnpike in the triangle formed at the juncture with Lexington Road. Visitors usually park their cars on both sides of the Cambridge Turnpike and walk over to the house after viewing the exhibits in the Antiquarian Society. Included among these are Emerson's study and its contents which were moved and set up again intact soon after the building of the Antiquarian Society was erected in 1930. This step was taken in order to provide fireproof protection for the study. Seeing the study as a major exhibit at the Antiquarian Society no doubt prompts some visitors to come to the house also. Mrs. Dempsey receives some assistance in showing the house during the months visitors are most numerous. This may be either a local college student home for the summer or one of several ladies who live nearby and are familiar with ~~the house and its furnishings.~~ the house and its furnishings. The landmark certificate and plaque are both displayed as noted on our last visit. The plaque is on the front of the house at the northeasterly corner and the framed certificate in the front parlor to the left of the central hallway.

Special Problems: There appear to be none so long as continuity remains in the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association or the Emerson Association as it is most commonly referred to for convenience and brevity. The association is made up of members of the Emerson family either by descent or marriage. The current president or head of the association is Mrs. John (Edith Gregg) Forbes, a resident of Cambridge. Any business relating to the property, however, is best addressed to David Emerson, who resides on Estabrook Road in Concord and has continually handled the finances of ~~the association as treasurer.~~ the association as treasurer. The open space in the meadows of the property which lies east of the house beside the Cambridge Turnpike is certain to be in demand for development or other uses in the years that lie ahead. A demand of a temporary nature in the near future may be for overflow parking to accommodate visitors expected in Concord for celebration of the Revolutionary War Bicentennial coming up in 1975.

Suggestions Offered: None. The anticipated need for more help in showing the house and caring for the property during the year of the Bicentennial celebration was discussed with Mrs. Dempsey.

(SGD.) EDWIN W. SMALL

(Signed)

March 23, 1971

(Date)

**Note any changes in ownership, sponsoring organizations, operating staff, use, location of plaque and certificate, etc.

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO
Ralph Waldo Emerson House
Cambridge Turnpike
Concord, Massachusetts 01742

Date of visit May 31, 1974

Visited by Earl R. Harris, Landmarks Specialist, North Atlantic
(name) (title) (office)
Regional Office

Received by Mrs. Victoria Dempsey, Caretaker, At House
(name) (title) (office)

Condition* Author and educator Ralph Waldo Emerson lived here from 1835 to 1882. The house, barn, and grounds are in excellent condition and are well maintained by Mr. and Mrs John Dempsey who live in the rear. The house is painted white and receives a new coat as needed. The rooms are kept in the period of the mid-19th century. The property is owned and managed by the Emerson Association. The plaque is on the front of the house while the certificate hangs in the front parlor.

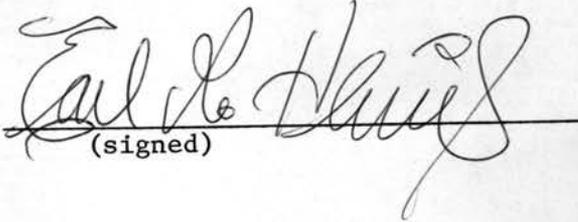
Operation* The house is open April 19 to November 1 daily except Mondays. There is a fee of \$1.00 for adults and .25 cents for children 6 and over. A tour of the house takes about thirty minutes. Special tours can be arranged during the off season. Two or three extra tour leaders are employed during the summer. About 6,000 visitors toured the house in 1973.

*Grounds, structure/s, furnishings

**Note any changes in ownership, sponsoring organizations, operating staff, use, location of plaque and certificate, etc.

Special Problems: None with the property. The Concord Antiquarian Society across the Turnpike from the Emerson House has a museum which has some 17 rooms which trace the development of Concord from the 17th through the 19th centuries. This large complex sits at the intersection of Route 2A and the Turnpike. It draws many thousands of visitors who never see or visit the Emerson House.

Suggestions Offered None.


(signed)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE Massachusetts	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. Theme XX - The Arts & Sciences - Subtheme: Literature, Drama & Music
3. NAME(S) OF SITE Emerson Home	4. APPROX. ACREAGE 3 acres
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Lexington Road and Cambridge Turnpike, Concord	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) Emerson Association	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882), lived in Concord after 1834. The present large frame house was built in 1872-73, replacing and duplicating one which had burned.

Emerson was a lecturer, teacher, essayist, writer. Mark Van Doren (Dictionary of American Biography), says of him "Few Americans have been more picturesque; none holds a solid position in the history of American life."

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Cambridge History of American Literature; Oliver Wendell Holmes, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1884)

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IABS, etc.)

None

10. PHOTOGRAPHS * ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION Good	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) House Museum	13. DATE OF VISIT June 19, 1961
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Walter Coleman</i>	15. TITLE Staff Historian	16. DATE October 19, 1961	

* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

Revised by Coleman
2/11/63.

sed
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Emerson Home, Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts

This square frame building in a setting of pine trees was the home of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous writer, lecturer and philosopher. It is owned and administered by the Emerson Association, and is open to the public. The present house was built in 1872, largely by private subscriptions from his friends after the original home burned while the owner was in Europe. Emerson lived in this house and its predecessor from 1835, until his death in 1842.

Following graduation from Harvard in 1821, he served for a time as a minister and, although he decided to leave this calling, it may be said that through his essays and his lectures, he was always a preacher. He developed a practical philosophy of human conduct in which the human individual was sacred and in which self-reliance was looked upon as evidence of perception of the divine will. He expressed his philosophy in powerful and beautiful English and was often considered the most inspirational American writer of his type. Now best known for his essays which express his personal transcendentalist philosophy, he was perhaps more famous during his lifetime as a lecturer. The house has a Victorian interior with furnishings, portraits, and hangings of Emerson's day and contains his fine library of classics and first editions.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Emerson Home, Lexington Road, Concord, Massachusetts

This square frame building, flanked by pine trees was the home of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous writer, lecturer, and philosopher. It is owned and administered by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association and from April to December is open to the public.

Emerson bought the house, then newly built, in 1835. In 1872, he and his family escaped by night when the house was partially destroyed by fire. It was restored, largely by private subscriptions from his friends while he was in Europe. It was his home from the time of his second marriage in 1835 until his death in 1882.

Following graduation from Harvard in 1821 and the Divinity School in 1826, he became minister of the Second Church in Boston from 1829-1832. Although he decided to leave this calling, it may be said that through his essays and his lectures, he was always a preacher. He developed a practical philosophy of human conduct in which the human individual was sacred and in which self-reliance was looked upon as evidence of perception of the Divine will. He expressed his philosophy in powerful and beautiful English and was by many considered the most inspirational American writer of his day. Now, best known for his essays which express his personal transcendentalist philosophy, he was, perhaps, more famous during his lifetime as a lecturer.

The house has a Victorian interior with all furnishing, portraits and hangings as in Emerson's day with the exception of the Study which has replicas of the original, the whole contents of the Study having been transferred across the street to the Concord Antiquarian Society which had built a room of the same orientation and proportions to contain the Emerson Study, library, pictures and furniture.



RALPH WALDO EMERSON HOME, MASS.
Photographer, J. W. Coleman, 6/19/61
Negative in Washington Office

Needs copy on buff form

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ralph Waldo Emerson House

AND/OR COMMON

Ralph Waldo Emerson House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Concord

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Middlesex

STATE

Massachusetts

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Historic Sites Survey

DATE OF PHOTO

1961

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Sites Survey, NPS, 1100 L Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Front facade viewed from northeast

PHOTO NO: 1

red in revised

EMERSON HOME, CAMBRIDGE TURNPIKE, CONCORD MASSACHUSETTS

This square frame building, flanked by pine trees was the home of Ralph Waldo Emerson, the famous writer, lecturer and philosopher. It is owned and administered by the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association and from April to December is open to the public.

Emerson bought the house, then newly built, in 1835. In 1872 he and his family escaped by night when the house was partially destroyed by fire. It was restored, largely by private subscriptions from his friends while he was in Europe. It was his home from the time of his second marriage in 1835 until his death in 1882.

Following graduation from Harvard in 1821 and the Divinity School in 1826, he became minister of the Second Church in Boston from 1829-1832. Although he decided to leave this calling, it may be said that through his essays and his lectures, he was always a preacher. He developed a practical philosophy of human conduct in which the human individual was sacred and in which self-reliance was looked upon as evidence of perception of the Divine will. He expressed his philosophy in powerful and beautiful English and was by many considered the most inspirational American writer of his day. Now, best known for his essays which express his personal transcendentalist philosophy, he was perhaps, more famous during his lifetime as a lecturer.

The house has a Victorian interior with all furnishings, portraits and hangings as in Emerson's day with the exception of the Study which has replicas of the original, the whole contents of the Study having been transferred across the street to the Concord Antiquarian Society which had built a room of the same orientation and proportions to contain the Emerson Study, library, pictures and furniture.

Copy sent to Reg. 3/18/63

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

EMERSON HOUSE IN CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS

Although he was born in Boston and passed most of his first thirty years there, Ralph Waldo Emerson spent the greater part of his life in Concord, famed as the site of the opening scenes of the American Revolution. Here his writing was done; and here ^{were} his closest friends. So attached was he to this quiet New England town that he used to describe it as a world in itself. This laudatory opinion has been echoed by many literary critics, and some of them have even gone so far as to call it the intellectual capital of the United States in the 1840's and 1850's. Although so sweeping a declaration, like all similarly broad generalizations, is open to serious question, none can doubt the brilliance of the galaxy of writers connected with the Concord of this period. Such outstanding men of American thought as the nature-loving Henry David Thoreau, the poet Ellery Channing, the abolitionist Frank B. Sanborn, the statesmen George Frisbie Hoar and his brother, E. Rockwood Hoar, the eccentric Bronson Alcott and his famous daughter, Louisa May, lived here; Nathaniel Hawthorne made Concord his home from 1842 to 1845 and again from 1860 to 1864; Margaret Fuller, George William Curtis, Theodore Parker, Wendell Phillips and Charles Sumner frequently visited here. With the possible exception of Hawthorne, however, no such fulsome praise has been given to any of these figures as has been heaped upon Emerson. Vernon L. Parrington calls him "the most searching critic" of the life of his day, and the Cambridge History of

American Literature goes even further and terms him "the outstanding figure¹ of American letters". "The impact of his shining, energizing personality", writes Carl Van Doren, "is still strong".² Renowned in his native land for his tolerance, rationalism, broad sympathies, love of liberty, trenchant prose and beautiful poetry, Emerson has probably excited more admiration abroad than any other American author. Well may Concord be proud of the man who made its name almost synonymous with his own during his lifetime.

It was in 1834 that Emerson moved to the town that he was to make again famous. He dwelt at first with his mother in the Old Manse, in which his grandfather had lived and in which his father had been born, but the following year, in anticipation of his marriage to Lydia Jackson, he bought for \$3,500 the plain wooden house of two stories with gable roof, which John T. Coolidge, a well-to-do merchant of Boston, had built for his son Charles several years previously.³ Included in this purchase were two acres and six rods of land. The house, which was to be Emerson's home from this time until his death in 1882, stood about eighty feet from the Gen-
the Gen-
about eighty feet from the bridge Turnpike, up which the British had marched on the memorable April 19, 1775. When the house was purchased, it was highly regarded locally, for in Emerson's words it had "the only good cellar that had been built in Concord."⁴ At this time, too, the structure was of an L shape, but the next year Emerson completed the square by adding a parlor behind his study, with a chamber above.⁵ Thus the building acquired the square, comely appearance,

1. Vernon L. Parrington, Main Currents in American Thought, vol. II, p. 386; William P. Trent, editor, The Cambridge History of American Literature, vol. II, p. 349.

2. Dictionary of American Biography, vol. VI, p. 141.

3. Edward Waldo Emerson and Waldo Emerson Forbes, Journals of Ralph Waldo Emerson, vol. III, pp. 540-542; George W. Curtis and others, Homes of American Authors, p. 244.

4. Ibid.

5. Emerson, Journals, vol. III, p. 541.

typical of so many houses in old New England villages. In order to preserve his only free outlook, Emerson was forced within a few years to buy seven acres of land just to the east of his original purchase.

When Emerson went to live in his new home, a row of chestnut trees planted by Charles Coolidge stood in the yard. Back of the house the land sloped gently to a meadow through which a brook flowed to Concord River. In the course of time the bare appearance of the land was somewhat modified by planting evergreens in the yard, nearly one hundred apple and pear trees in the orchard and flowers of all sorts in the garden. Mrs. Emerson and Thoreau, it is said, tended the garden, while Emerson cared for the orchard. About 1847 Bronson Alcott built at the left of the house on the farther edge of "a narrow open reach of greensward" a rustic bower constructed of crooked roots and boughs. It was planned to be a rural study for Emerson, but not being "technically based and pointed", it was never serviceable and soon rotted away.

Arthur Gilman, writing in 1879, described the Emerson home as follows:

"It is a plain, square, wooden house, standing in a grove of pine trees which conceal the front and side from the gaze of passers. Tall chestnut trees ornament the old-fashioned yard through which a road leads to the plain yellow barn in the rear. A garden fills half an acre at the back, and has for years been famous for its roses which are the especial pride and care of the mistress of the house and are freely given to all who wish them; this garden also has a rare collection of hollyhocks, the flowers that Wordsworth loved, and most of the old time annuals and shrubs. From the road a gate, which is always open, leads over marble flag-stones to the broad, low step before the hospitable door."

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6. James Elliot Cabot, A Memoir of Ralph Waldo Emerson, vol. I, p. 230.
 7. Theodore H. Wolfe, Literary Shrines, p. 46.
 8. Ibid.
 9. Curtis, Homes, pp. 242-244.
 10. Arthur Gilman and others, Poets' Homes, p. 140.

-4-

Emerson's household at first included his mother and his brother Charles. The death of Charles in 1836, on the eve of his marriage to Elizabeth Hoar, did not, however, permanently reduce the size of the household, for within a few years two sons and two daughters were born to the Emersons. From time to time, also, Thoreau made long sojourns in the house, and indeed lived there as housekeeper from 1841 to 1843 and again in 1847 while the family was absent in Europe.¹¹ The Emersons once proposed to Bronson Alcott that he and his family live with them, but Mrs. Alcott rejected this suggestion, although her husband was enthusiastic about it.

Margaret Fuller passed months here as a guest, and here, too, Frederika Bremer paid a long visit. Thoreau, Ellery Channing, Frank Sanborn, the Alcotts, and the Hoars were frequent visitors to the Emerson house. Others who occasionally visited here were Hawthorne, George William Curtis, Charles Sumner, Moncure Conway, Theodore Parker, Wendell Phillips, John Brown, Howells, Whittier, Longfellow, Lowell, and Walt Whitman. In Emerson's parlor were held the more formal seances of the Concord galaxy.¹² A general invitation was also often extended to young and old to assemble on Sunday evenings in the pleasant parlor for conversation.¹² These talks were often led by Mr. Alcott or, if the discussion was religious, by Reverend Mr. Channing or by Reverend Mr. Reynolds, the pastor of the Unitarian Church.

Emerson's library, in which most of his reading and writing was done, was immediately to the right on entering the house. It was a plain rectangular room, simply furnished. The books were arranged upon wooden shelves which lined

11. Dictionary of American Biography, vol. VI, p. 137.

12. Gillman, Poets' Homes, p. 148; Wolfe, Literary Shrines, pp. 47-48.

one side of the room; a large mahogany table stood in the middle of the room, covered with his manuscripts; close by was his rocking-chair in which he always sat when writing or reading. A large fireplace with high brass andirons occupied the lower end of the room. On the mantle were busts and statuettes of men prominent in the life of the period. On the walls were several engravings and a copy of Michaelangelo's "Fates". Without either desk or desk chair, the library had much the appearance of an ordinary sitting-room. ¹³

Two doors, one on each side of the fireplace in the library, led into the parlor which filled the southern end of the house. This room was hung with crimson curtains and "carpeted with the same warm color". Opposite the spacious fireplace stood a large mirror. A picture of Mrs. Forbes, one of Emerson's daughters, hung here, as did one of Carlyle, with an inscription of friendship on the back. An oil painting, the work of Mrs. Hawthorne, hung in one corner. ¹⁴

The hall divided the center of the house, with two square rooms on either side. Over a heavy mahogany table was a picture of Ganymede. On the stairway, late in Emerson's life, stood a bust of him executed by the famous sculptor, Daniel Chester French. On the second floor above the parlor was Mrs. Emerson's bedroom, with its old four-poster bed and other pieces of antique mahogany. ¹⁵

Emerson was threatened with the permanent loss of his house in July 1872, when fire broke out in the garret and, spreading with great rapidity, quickly ¹⁶ consumed the roof and much of the second floor. The lower part of the house was also greatly injured by smoke and water. Through the assistance of neighbors, however, almost all of Emerson's books and papers were saved, as well as most of

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13. Curtis, Homes, p. 246; Allen French, Old Concord, p. 107.
14. Caroline Ticknor, Classic Concord, p. 8; Gilman, Poets' Homes, p. 144.
15. Ticknor, Concord, p. 9.
16. Cabot, Memoir, vol. II, pp. 653-654.

the furniture downstairs.

Under these trying circumstances Emerson's friends and admirers came to his assistance and donated about \$12,000 to be used in rebuilding the house and in restoring it to its "former shape and aspect".

17

In his restored home Emerson lived until his death in 1882, and here his wife dwelt after him until her own death in 1894. His son, Edward, lived here for a time, and his unmarried daughter, Ellen, remained in the old homestead until she died in 1909.

18

Information as to the condition of the house to-day was not available, but judging from Caroline Tickner's account of it in 1926, most of the old furnishings have been preserved and little, if any, changes have been made in the house.

Intimately connected during nearly its entire history with the Emerson family, this house is one of the most notable in a town of notable houses. Not distinguished architecturally from many other dwellings in Concord, indeed, plain and unpretentious, this structure is fragrant with so many historic and literary memories that the Government would be justified in considering its acquisition by donation or purchase.

17. Anon., The Homes and Haunts of Our Elder Poets, p. 53
18. Wolfe, Literary Shrines, p. 51.

Requested: 12/9/35
Submitted: 12/23/35

QPS

By: A.P. Stauffer
Junior Historian
Branch of Historic Sites and Buildings.

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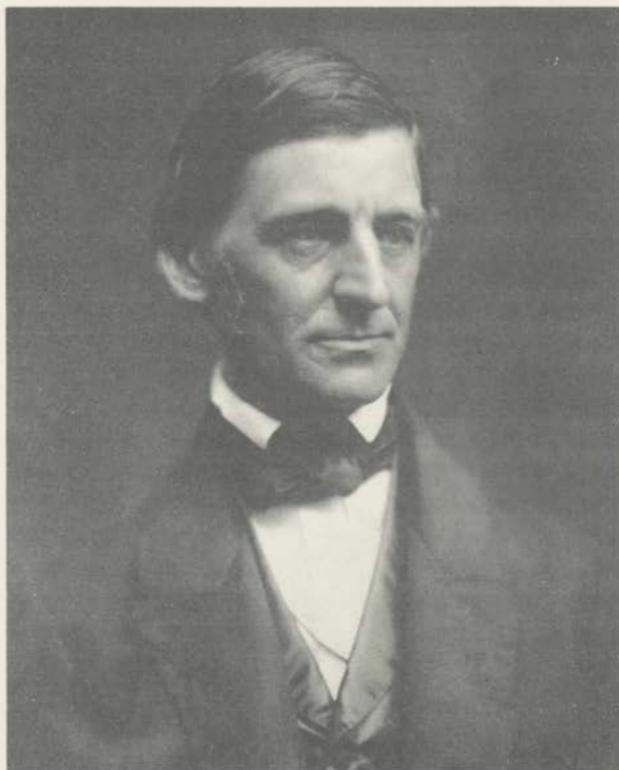
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- Trent, William P., editor, The Cambridge History of American Literature. Four volumes. New York, 1927.
- ✓ Wolfe, Theodore F., Literary Shrines. Philadelphia, 1895.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE EMERSON HOUSE

- Picture of the library or study about 1880. Anon., Homes and Haunts of Our Elder Poets, opp. p. 50.
- Picture of Emerson House about 1880. Ibid., opp. p. 34.
- Picture of Emerson House about 1897. E.A. Perry, Poets and Their Homes, ~~Illustration 19~~ illustration 19.
- Picture of Emerson House about 1853. George W. Curtis and others, Homes of American Authors, opp. p. 244. This is probably the best illustration of the Emerson House.
- Picture of Emerson House. Arthur Gilman, Poets' Homes, opp. p. 140.

THE EMERSON HOUSE
IN CONCORD





RALPH WALDO EMERSON
1803 - 1882
From daguerreotype taken in 1854
Emerson House
Concord, Massachusetts

The Emerson House In Concord

RALPH WALDO EMERSON bought this house in 1835 and moved into it with his newly-married wife, Lydia Jackson of Plymouth, and with his mother. It had been built a few years earlier by a member of the Coolidge family of Boston.

Emerson was not a newcomer to Concord. His grandfather, the Reverend William Emerson, had built the Old Manse in which he lived with his wife. He lost his life while serving as chaplain in the American army in 1776. Later his widow married the Reverend Ezra Ripley who had taken William Emerson's place as pastor of the church in Concord.

Ralph Waldo Emerson himself was born in Boston on May 25, 1803. His father, William Emerson II, was pastor of the First Church in Boston. The Emerson boys used to go to Concord to visit their grandmother and step-grandfather in the Old Manse.

In 1829 Ralph Waldo Emerson married Miss Ellen Tucker of Concord, New Hampshire, but she died of consumption in 1831 leaving her husband a saddened widower.

In 1832 he resigned as pastor of the Second Church in Boston and went abroad for his health in 1833.

When he moved into this house, it was an L-shaped building. The present parlor did not exist. Charles Emerson, the poet's younger brother, became engaged to Miss Elizabeth Hoar, a remarkable and charming woman, and Emerson invited his brother with his bride-to-be to live with him. So he built the parlor to complete the typical square of an old-fashioned house. The bedroom over the parlor had a sloping pent house roof. It was called the "Straw Carpet Chamber" and was meant for Charles and his wife, and the parlor below was meant for them, we understand.

Unfortunately, Charles died of consumption in 1836 before his marriage, just as his other brilliant brother, Edward, had died of consumption in Porto Rico in 1834.

Ralph Waldo Emerson and his mother had lived for a while in Newton, in Boston, and later in the Old Manse until his second marriage. Then, in this newly-purchased house, he became a permanent householder in Concord.

Here four children were born. The first one, Waldo, Jr., lived from 1836 to 1842 when he added one more tragic death to those from which the poet had suffered.

Here in this house Ellen T. Emerson was born in 1839, Edith Emerson in 1841, and Edward W. Emerson in 1844.

The children grew up in this, their home. Miss Ellen T. Emerson took charge of the house in 1892 after her mother's death, and in fact for several years before that, for her mother was very feeble in her later years.

In October, 1865, Edith Emerson married Colonel William H. Forbes, recently back from the Civil War. The ceremony took place in the parlor. The young couple went to Milton to live.

In 1874 Edward Waldo Emerson married Miss Annie Shepherd Keyes of Concord, daughter of Judge Keyes and sister of Judge Prescott Keyes.

Dr. Emerson practiced medicine in Concord from the time of his marriage until his father's death in 1882 when he devoted a large part of his time to editing Emerson's writings, and to writing himself. He also practiced the art of painting, and was for many years the teacher of anatomy at the school of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. He also performed various civic duties in Concord.

Emerson's mother died in 1853. In 1857 he made some alterations in the house. Over the parlor the "Straw Carpet Chamber" was replaced by a spacious room. Mr. and Mrs. Emerson who had lived for twenty-two years in the northeast corner room moved to the new southwest room. Miss Ellen took her grandmother's old room over the study (northwest corner) and the northeast room was given to Miss Edith.

The old nursery over the dining room was doubtless used at first by Edward, the young son, who later moved to a smaller room, "The Blue Room," over the kitchen.

The guest chamber on the ground floor, called by Emerson "The Pilgrim's Chamber," was on the northeast corner. In that room the Emerson children were born so that the convalescing mother would not have to climb stairs.

The third floor of the house was attic space. In 1857 one of the changes was to make a room on the southwest side of it which was named "the den" — Emerson had thought it might be a good place of retreat for work. But it could only be reached by a round-about jour-

ney; and it was cold in the winter and hot in the summer. So he used it little. Later his grandchildren and other youthful guests slept there.

Many well-known men visited Emerson in his house and many more called on him or came for a meal.

Henry Thoreau stayed in the house for several months during two winters when Emerson was away. The children thought of him almost as an older brother. Hawthorne, William Ellery Channing, Alcott, and Judge Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar were familiar faces in the house, and also his brother-in-law, Charles T. Jackson, discoverer of the anesthetic properties of ether, who lived in Boston.*

Occasionally, in the evenings, groups would gather in the parlor. One occasion has been recorded when his aunt, Mary Moody Emerson, a brilliant but erratic "sybil," vivaciously attacked some of the sayings of Henry James, Sr., the father of the novelist and the philosopher.

Emerson himself was apt to go on long walks in the woods near Walden Pond or elsewhere and would come back and write the results of his meditations or observations in his study.

To quote from Edward W. Emerson's book, "Emerson in Concord":

"Mr. Alcott in 1847 fashioned from gnarled limbs of pine, oak with knotty excrescences, and straight trunks of cedar, a fantastic but pleasing structure some hundred steps from the house for a retired study for his friend.

"In this work he was helped by Mr. Thoreau whose practical mind was chafed at seeing a building with no plan feeling its way up as it were, dictated at each step by the suggestion of the crooked bough that was used and necessarily often altered. He said, 'I feel as if I were nowhere doing nothing.' When it was done some one said: 'It looks like a church.' The idea was not to be tolerated by the transcendental architect so the porch had to come down for its look of untimely sanctimony. Thoreau drove the nails, and drove them well; but as Mr. Alcott made the eaves curve upward for beauty and lined the roof with velvet moss and *sphagnum* nature soon reclaimed it. Indeed Madame Emerson naïvely called it 'The Ruin' when it was fresh from the hand of the builder. In spite of its real beauty which drew many people to see it" it was untenable and Emerson could not use it as a study. Fortunately, a drawing of it was made by Miss Sarah F. Clark which now hangs in "The Pilgrim's Chamber." The following inscription may be seen under this drawing: "Every stick of this struc-

* See Edward W. Emerson in *The Atlantic Monthly*, November, 1896.

ture is said to be of unaltered shape as taken from the woods by its builders, A. Bronson Alcott and Henry Thoreau. Drawn from nature by Sarah F. Clark, Concord, A.D. 1857." Miss Clark was a sister of the Reverend James Freeman Clark of Boston.

On the night of July 24, 1872, a hired domestic servant who had arrived at the house the night before was allowed by Mr. and Mrs. Emerson to sleep in "the den." This woman apparently was interested in investigating the contents of some of the trunks in the attic at about two in the morning. Either she placed the lamp directly under the rafters of the roof, or it was knocked over. In any case she set the house on fire. Mr. and Mrs. Emerson awoke to find the house in flames. None of their children were at home. The neighbors before long were aroused and saved most of the contents of the house. The books were carried out of the study in baskets and blankets by daring boys who penetrated the room filled with suffocating smoke and removed these valuable books and manuscripts.

The attic was destroyed and there was much damage from smoke and water but the main structure was not badly injured. A large number of the family letters were stored in the closet of Miss Ellen's room. Some of these were destroyed, others may be seen with their charred edges.

The Emersons moved to the Old Manse to stay with their relatives.

A few days later Emerson's Harvard classmate and lifelong friend, Mr. Francis Cabot Lowell, called on him and presented to him a cheque of several thousand dollars, a gift from a group of his friends. Mr. Emerson was embarrassed at receiving this gift but was much touched by this act of his friends.

A plan was arranged and carried through that Mrs. Emerson should go to Milton to stay with her daughter, Edith, and that Emerson accompanied by his daughter, Ellen, should go to England where his son was studying medicine, and where he saw his old friend, Carlyle, and other friends. He also met Browning, Ruskin, and others.

From there they went to Paris, Italy, and Egypt and returned in the summer of 1873 to find the house made over and greatly improved. A number of changes had been made which remedied the faults of the house as it had been.

Here they lived till Emerson's death in 1882, Mrs. Emerson's in 1892, and Miss Ellen's in 1909. Miss Ellen had two notable Concord school teachers, Miss Helen Legate and Miss Grace Heard, as boarders.

These ladies carried on the tradition of simple housekeeping. Miss Legate died in 1947 and Miss Heard in 1949.

Mrs. William Forbes died in 1929 and her brother, Dr. Edward Emerson, in 1930. After their death the Ralph Waldo Emerson Memorial Association was formed. Certain members of the Association felt so strongly that the valuable books in Emerson's study ought not to remain in a wooden house that, in accordance with their wishes, the study with its furniture and books was moved to the Concord Antiquarian Society which occupies the land used by Emerson as a horse pasture. The manuscripts and a few of the most valuable books have been removed to the Houghton Library of Harvard University. Otherwise the house, except for a few minor changes, is very much as it was in 1882.

The garden is, in general, much as it used to be. Emerson was much interested in planting trees. His journals and letters record the planting of great numbers of fruit trees, pine trees, and others over a period of years.

The policy is now being followed of trying to keep the trees as nearly as possible as they were in 1882 by planting young trees in the place of old ones as they die.

The barn still stands. In the old days, there used to be two horses and two or three cows.

The meadow reaching to the road that leads to Walden Pond remains much as it was, and through it quietly flows the Mill Brook which runs into the Concord River.

THE EMERSON HOUSE is the first on the right after passing the House of the Concord Antiquarian Society, in the pilgrimage down the Lexington Road. It is a large white house of severe but substantial architecture, setting well in from the road, its approach marked by a group of sightly pines.

As the home of Ralph Waldo Emerson, its open door was always a welcome harbor for the many friends and admirers of the Concord Sage. Here Thoreau was an almost daily visitor and at times, a laborer in the fields and gardens. Here Margaret Fuller and other bright figures of *The Dial* often met for the discussion of the then pertinent questions. The Alcotts were constant visitors and in this house were held the earliest "Conversations" that developed into the renowned School of Philosophy. John Brown of Anti-slavery fame was welcomed here, finding in Concord many allies in his tremendous struggle for the emancipation of the slaves.



EMERSON HOUSE

RALPH WALDO EMERSON was born in Boston, May 25th, 1803, where much of his early life was passed. He did not take up a residence in Concord until 1834, but was not unknown to the town previous to that time because of the fact that a number of his ancestors had lived here. Indeed, it was his grandfather the Rev. William Emerson, who was so closely identified with Concord's part in the Revolutionary War, having been the town's minister at that time.

It is probable that Ralph Waldo Emerson is the best known of anyone who has ever lived here, as is so well shown by the thousands of his admirers who come to look upon his home and his haunts.

His first home was that of his grandfather, the Old Manse on Monument street, in which he lived about a year, moving in 1836 to the now well know "Emerson House," at the junction of the Cambridge Turnpike and Lexington Road. Here he lived for nearly fifty years, always the friend of, and loved by, his townsmen. In 1840 the "Transcendentalists," with Emerson as their leader, came into life as a quite important factor in the so-called higher life of that day, and because of this there was ever gathered about him many of the country's greatest thinkers. He died at his home here in 1882, and was buried in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery where so many of those near and dear to him lie in peace. His grave is marked by a beautiful boulder of quartz, simply mounted with a plate of bronze.



RALPH WALDO EMERSON.