

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 The Old Manse

AND/OR COMMON
The Old Manse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Monument Street

CITY, TOWN Concord
STATE Massachusetts

VICINITY OF Fifth
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fifth

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"/> 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 Trustees of Reservations

STREET & NUMBER
224 Adams Street

CITY, TOWN Milton 02186 VICINITY OF STATE Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Cambridge 02141 STATE Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (catalogue number Mass.-554)

DATE 1961 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE District of Columbia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Manse is located near the center of a 6.71 acre parcel of open land which stretches from Monument Street on the east to the bank of the Concord River on the west. Immediately to the north of the property are the avenue leading to the Old North Bridge and the Bridge itself. To the south is more open land, now a part of the Minute Man National Historical Park.

The Old Manse was built c. 1769 for the Rev. William Emerson and has remained relatively unaltered since that date. It is a 2 1/2 story frame and clapboard structure on a low stone foundation, with a gambrel roof broken by two interior chimneys. Windows are 12/12 double-hung sash topped by molded lintels and flanked by louvered blinds. Entrances are located at the center of the east (front), south, and west (rear) elevations. Those on the east and south are flanked by pilasters; all three are topped by triangular pediments. On the rear of the house, the southern two bays project to form a leanto, to which is attached a 1-story gable-roofed ell. To the south of the ell and attached to it at right angles is a 1-story gable-roofed shed. The gabled dormer at the center of the forward roof slope and the bay window at the side of the house on the southeast corner were added c. 1880.

The interior of the house follows a typical center hall plan. On the first floor are a formal parlor and dining room on the north side of the hall, a smaller parlor and kitchen on the south side, and a summer kitchen in the ell. On the second floor are three bedrooms and, at the northwest corner, the study used by both Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne. All of the rooms have paneling of fine though not unusual quality. Original French wallpaper in the small parlor and elsewhere in the house predates 1850. Much of the window glass is original; panes in the dining room and in the study bear inscriptions cut by Hawthorne and his wife with her diamond ring. That in the dining room reads, "Una Hawthorne (the author's first child, born in the house) stood on this window sill January 22, 1845, while the trees were all glass chandeliers, a goodly show which she liked much, tho' only ten months old."

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 checked="" 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

c. 1769; 1834; 1842-46

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

not known

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 2 1/2-story, gambrel-roofed house in Concord, Massachusetts, derives its primary significance from its association with Nathaniel Hawthorne, one of the greatest fiction writers in American literature. Hawthorne and his wife, the former Sophia Peabody, moved to the house immediately after their marriage in July, 1842. Their 3 1/2 years there are described in Hawthorne's American Notebooks and his essay "The Old Manse" as a marital idyll. It was Hawthorne who named the house the Old Manse; most of the tales included in his Mosses From an Old Manse (1846) were written there.

The Old Manse was constructed c. 1769 for the Rev. William Emerson, pastor of the Church in Concord (now the First Parish Church) and chaplain to the Continental Army at Ticonderoga. Rev. Emerson's grandson, essayist and philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson, visited the house frequently as a child and lived there in 1834, during which year he worked on the long essay published in 1836 under the title Nature. The Old Manse remained a private residence until 1939 when it was acquired by the Trustees of Reservations. It is open to the public daily from June 1 through October 15, on weekends from April 19 through June 1 and again from October 15 through November 11.

HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

The Old Manse was built c. 1769 for the Rev. William Emerson, pastor of the Church in Concord (now the First Parish Church). The Rev. Emerson was an ardent supporter of American independence. During the fight at the North Bridge on April 19, 1775, it is said that his wife and children watched from an upper window while he stood in the field beside the Manse encouraging the Minute Men and helping those of his congregation who fled to the Manse for safety. The following year, the Rev. Emerson marched with the Concord contingent to Ticonderoga where he served as chaplain to the Continental Army until he contracted camp fever and was sent home. He died at Rutland, Vermont, on October 20, 1776.

In 1780, Emerson's widow married his successor at the Concord Church, the Rev. Ezra Ripley, with whom she continued to live at the Old Manse, where their three children were born. Mrs. Ripley's grandson, Ralph Waldo Emerson, visited the Manse frequently during his childhood and lived there throughout 1834. During that year, he worked on the long essay which he published in 1836 under the title Nature.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Hawthorne, Julian. Nathaniel Hawthorne and His Wife, 2 vols. (1884).
 Hawthorne, Nathaniel. Mosses From an Old Manse (1846)
 Matthiessen, F.O. American Renaissance (1941).
 Rusk, Ralph L., ed. The Life of Ralph Waldo Emerson (1949).
 Stewart, Randall. Nathaniel Hawthorne: a Biography (1948).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6.71 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	3 0 6 8 5 0	4 7 0 4 2 3 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (shown in red on attached assessors map, Town of Concord):
 Beginning at the intersection of the western curbline of Monument Street and the northern line (extended) of Parcel 1269 (now a part of Minute Man National Historical Park); thence, westerly along said northern line (marked in part by a stone wall) to its intersection with the eastern bank of the Concord River; thence, easterly and northerly along said eastern bank to its intersection with the southern line of Parcel 1265 (the avenue leading to the Old North Bridge, marked by a--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 Historic Sites Survey, NPS

DATE 3/21/75

STREET & NUMBER 1100 L. Street, N.W.

TELEPHONE 202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN Washington 20240

STATE District of Columbia

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE 12/2/77

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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After the death of Ezra Ripley, his son Samuel, also a minister, rented the furnished house from 1842 to 1846 to Nathaniel Hawthorne and his bride, the former Sophia Peabody. Hawthorne gave the house its name and wrote much of the Mosses From an Old Manse (1846) in the upstairs room that Ralph Waldo Emerson had used as a study. During this period, Hawthorne's first child, Una, was born.

When the Hawthornes left in 1846, the Rev. Samuel Ripley returned to his birthplace with his wife and the youngest members of their large family. He died the following year, but his widow continued to live at the Manse until her own death many years later. Mrs. Ripley was a remarkable woman, distinguished for her learning (she tutored Harvard students in French, German, Italian, Greek and Latin, and specialized in mathematics); during her time, the Manse became one of the centers of the literary life of Concord.

Samuel Ripley's descendants continued to live in the Old Manse until 1939 when it and most of its furnishings were acquired by the Trustees of Reservations, a private organization for the preservation of significant natural and historical sites in Massachusetts. The Trustees open the Manse to the public daily from June 1 through October 15; from April 19 through June 1 and again October 15 through November 11, it is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sundays from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY, NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born in Salem, Massachusetts, on July 4, 1804. His boyhood was spent in Salem and near Lake Sebago in Maine. He attended Bowdoin College and graduated in the class of 1825. Three fellow students became his lifelong friends: Franklin Pierce, 14th President of the United States; Horatio Bridge, Commodore in the United States Navy; and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the noted American poet. Following college, Hawthorne returned to his mother's house in Salem (his father had died when Hawthorne

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was four years old), where he devoted himself to mastering the art of fiction. Always his own severest critic, he destroyed much of what he wrote during this early period.

After publishing Fanshawe, a rather undistinguished first novel, in 1828, Hawthorne turned to the short tale and eventually made it his distinctive métier. His tales originally appeared in various periodicals and later were collected in book form. Twice-Told Tales, his first collection, appeared in 1837 and in a second, enlarged edition in 1842. Since these volumes brought their author more fame than money, he took a job in the Boston Custom House in 1839-40. For six months in 1841, Hawthorne lived at Brook Farm, the Utopian literary and economic community founded by the Rev. George Ripley at West Roxbury, Massachusetts.

Hawthorne met Sophia Peabody in 1839. After their marriage on July 9, 1842, they went to the Old Manse in Concord to live. Their life there during the next 3 1/2 years, described in Hawthorne's American Notebooks and his essay "The Old Manse", is a famous marital idyll of American literature. In that period Hawthorne saw a good deal of his Concord neighbors Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau; he welcomed their companionship but rejected their Transcendental philosophy. While at the Manse he returned to the writing of tales. Mosses From an Old Manse appeared in 1846, but with the same result as his earlier collections: literary success, monetary failure. Unable to continue paying his rent, he returned with his wife and daughter to his mother's house in Salem.

Hawthorne was always a loyal member of the Democratic party and by pulling political strings received from the Polk Administration in 1846 an appointment to a position in the Salem Custom House. Three years later he was dismissed when the Whig administration of Zachary Taylor began. Though angered by his dismissal at first, he later called it a blessing, for in his enforced leisure he wrote The Scarlet Letter. The book, which appeared in 1850, made him famous and was eventually recognized as one of the greatest American novels.

When the sharp local references in the introductory essay to The Scarlet Letter made Hawthorne distinctly unpopular in Salem, he and his family moved to a small house overlooking the Stockbridge Bowl in the Berkshires near Lenox, Massachusetts. There he wrote The House of the Seven Gables, published in 1851. There also he enjoyed the friendship of Herman Melville, who lived in nearby Pittsfield. Despite the difference in their ages (Hawthorne was the elder by 15 years), the relationship was one of the most productive in American literature, for each encouraged and stimulated the other (it was during this period that Melville completed Moby Dick, his most significant work, which

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he dedicated to Hawthorne).

The Hawthornes spent the winter of 1851-52 at West Newton, Massachusetts, where he wrote The Blithdale Romance, a study of a socialist community based on his experience at Brook Farm. In the spring of 1852, he purchased The Wayside in Concord. There he wrote a campaign biography of Franklin Pierce. In 1853, after Pierce's election to the Presidency, Hawthorne was appointed United States Consul at Liverpool.

The Hawthornes remained in England until the end of Pierce's administration in 1857. While Hawthorne performed his consular duties well, he also found time for travel and sight-seeing, later recorded in his English Notebooks. His nearly two years in Italy (1858-59) provided the material for the Italian Notebooks. In 1859 the Hawthornes returned to England, where at Redcar and later at Leamington Hawthorne wrote The Marble Faun. His last completed novel, it appeared simultaneously in Boston and in London (under the title Transformation) early in 1860. In June of that year the Hawthornes returned to Concord and settled at The Wayside.

After 1860, Hawthorne's health failed rapidly and mysteriously. He managed to incorporate some of the material from his English journals in a series of articles published in the Atlantic Monthly and later collected under the title Our Old Home but, though he filled hundreds of manuscript pages with drafts of stories, his attempts at fiction were generally unsuccessful. Septimus Felton and Dr. Grimshawe's Secret, published posthumously, were fragmentary and inferior to their author's best work. While on a trip to the White Mountains with Franklin Pierce, Hawthorne died in his sleep on May 19, 1864, at Plymouth, New Hampshire. His body was returned to Concord and lies in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

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The Old Manse, Concord, Massachusetts

Geographical Data, Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

stone wall); thence, easterly along said southern line (extended) to its intersection with the western curblineline of Monument Street; thence, southerly along said western curblineline to the point of beginning.