

FORM B - BUILDING

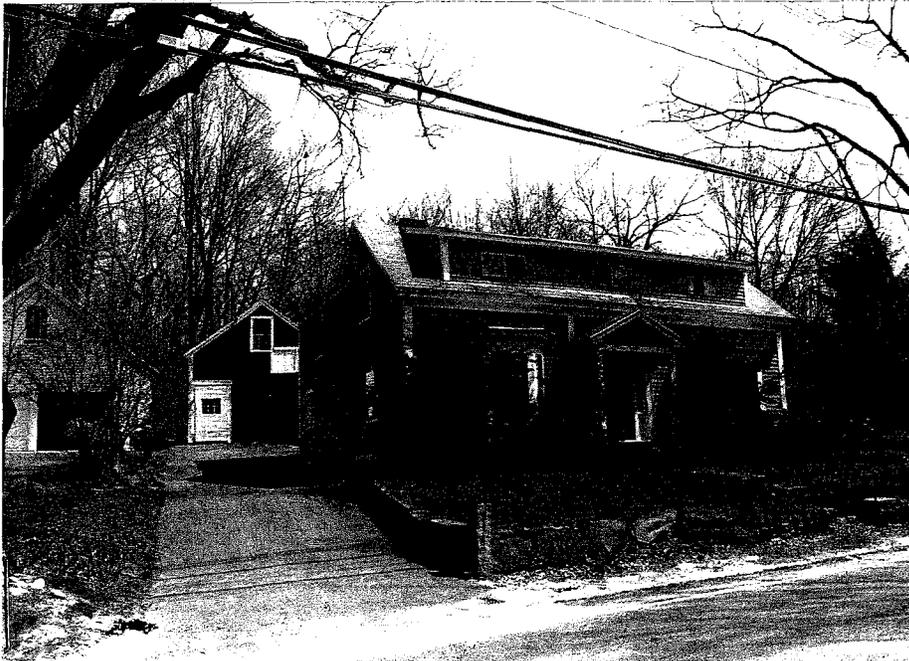
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 80 BOYLSTON STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

F

FORM NO.

426



Owner ACTON

Address 101 Main Street

Historic Name Charles G. Brooks

Edward F. Richardson (late 19th c.)

Use: Present single family residential

Original single family residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1843-1846

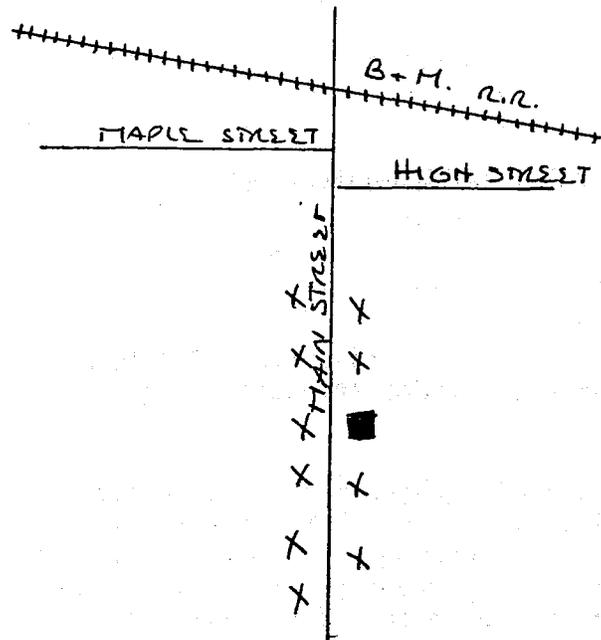
Source "Mill Corner", Nylander notes

Style Cape Cod cottage with Italianate updating

Architect unknown

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

Assessor's Map # H-2A-76



Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard

Outbuildings gable front shingled barn

w. hinged door, hay door and 6/6 window

Major Alterations (with dates) long

dormer, second story of rear ell mid 20thc

Condition good

Moved no **Date** n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting East side of heavily travelled

route, among mid 19th c. dwellings, set

back from road on east side and close to

road on west side of Main St.

UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Acton Historical Commission

Date May 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The property is eligible for National Register nomination as part of the School-River-Main Mill and Commercial Historic District for Criteria:

A - its association with the development of the railroad community from the 1840s with thriving mills and retail businesses on School, River and Main, as well as the owners and workers housing.

C - its representation of the Greek Revival and Italianate architecture most popular in developing the community of South Acton.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

South Acton, once part of the 1000-acre farm granted to Concord's Major Simon Willard, was sold to Ephraim and Samuel Jones and Jonathan Knight in 1701. The first fulling mill was established and throughout the 18th and 19th century there were active mill privileges on Fort Pond Brook and at Mill Corner where Main Street (once known as Maynard Road) and High, Maple and School Streets intersect. South Acton was the first village center, preceding Acton Centre, which became the institutional center. With the advent of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 came the major growth of South Acton as an industrial village.

Main Street, now a numbered state route, is a major thoroughfare on a north-south axis. Once known as Maynard Road, Main Street has always been the major transportation route to Maynard and the location of buildings clustered at Mill Corner for the Faulkner Mills and by the mid 1800s, the railroad. South of Mill Corner are dwellings of the mid to late 19th century and farther south on Main Street approaching the Maynard town line are 20th century bungalows, Dutch Colonials, and 4-Squares. The dwellings on the west side of Main Street are built into a small hill which slopes off to Mill Pond behind the dwellings.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas/Birdseye/Map: 1856, 1870, 1875, 1886, 1889, 1892.
Acton Historical Society, Jenks Library Files.
Nylander and Forbes, "Mill Corner", 1989.
Nylander, Robert, research notes, 1980s.
Phalen, History of Town of Acton, 1954.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

ACTON

Form No:

F-426

Property Name:

101 Main Street

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 101 MAIN STREET

A regionally popular building form throughout the 18th century to the 1820s and 1830s, this 1 1/2 story, 3-bay, gable roof house, built in 1843-1846, is a late example and the only one on this part of Main Street. There are a few 1840s Cape Cod cottages on School Street. Built on a granite foundation the house has wood clapboard siding. Late 19th century alterations include the projecting polygonal bays flanking the center entrance. The 20th century changes are a large 2-story rear ell, a 1-story rear ell, the full length dormer, and the Colonial Revival entrance porch. There are twin chimneys located behind the ridge and barely visible from the main facade.

The gable roof dwelling has a glass and wood panelled center door and multi-light storm door flanked by half sidelights which are underlined by recessed wood panels set in a plain surround. The pedimented open porch has vertical board siding in the open pediment with small returns and is supported by plain square columns. New wood steps and a deck lead to the entrance. The flanking 1-story projecting polygonal bays have 2/2 sash in the front and 1/1 sash on the sides. Each bay has a wide entablature with a projecting cornice molding. A shallow nearly full length shed roof dormer stretches across the roof slope on the main facade. There are three small sliding windows with single lights on each slider. The corner boards are flat as is the narrow fascia board. In the gable ends the overhang is substantial with a molded cornice and narrow returns.

The 2-story rear ell, visible from the north side was a 1-story rear ell from the 19th century. Fenestration of the rear ell includes a 6/6 first story window and a 2/2 second story window which is not in line with the first story window. The main block has one first and one second story 2/2 window in the gable end. On the south side there are two first story windows and one in the gable peak. The gable end trim displays a closed boxed cornice, wide returns, and narrow cornerposts. At the rear there is a 1-story enclosed solarium with five single light casement windows and a shed roof with large exposed rafter ends.

The barn is worth noting for its articulation of the mid 19th century development of the property. One of several remaining barns on this part of Main Street, this shingled barn is a gablefront structure, with a 6-light hinged barn door on the left side abutting the corner post, a 6/6 window in the gable peak, and a off center hay door under which there was probably a large sliding barn door.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Built in 1843-1846 for Charles G. Brooks this house is one of several mid 1840s dwellings on Main Street and nearby Maple Street. The development of these properties accentuates the advent of the railroad in 1844 and the subsequent expansion of industrial and commercial activities including Faulkner Mills and James Tuttle's retail businesses later known as Tuttle's, Jones, and Wetherbee. According to the 1856 map the house belonged to A. Fletcher, possibly Aaron Fletcher (1801-1881) and wife Lucinda or one of their sons, Aaron Swift Fletcher (1830-1913) who later lived at 76 Maple Street. By 1870 this was the home of Edward F. Richardson (1833-1917) who owned 99 Main Street and built 95 Main Street in the mid 1870s. Richardson lived in this house and rented the others.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom