

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.438
Historic Name:	Adams - Chandler - Melvin House
Common Name:	
Address:	1710 Lowell Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Bateman's Pond; North Quarter
Local No:	F2-1535
Year Constructed:	r 1700
Architect(s):	Hartwell, Ebenezer
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.CJ: Bateman's Pond Area II
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Stone, Uncut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 10:40 AM

CON-438

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F2-1535

BILLERICA

CJ

438

RECEIVED

Town CONCORD *Sect A*

Place (neighborhood or village) North Quarter

1710 Lowell Road

Historic Name Adams/Chandler/Melvin House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Period of Construction early 18th century;
may be late-17th century
Bartkus; visual assessment

Form First Period

Architect/Builder Hartwell(?)

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) some
modern details and additions: entry
doors, vestibule, garage wing on NE
rear.

Condition good

Moved no yes Date N/A

Acreage 44,227 sq. ft.

Setting Faces south toward drive to modern
house behind, side to street. Area
of late-20th C. houses on large lots
subdivided from this farm.



Sketch Map

Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



A. Forbes

Recorded by research by Anne Hayden
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1992

Date (month/day/year) _____

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

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

This house is significant, not just as the oldest house on the upper section of Lowell Road, but for the remarkable preservation of its early form. It is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay "saltbox" house, one room deep with a rear leanto. Family records indicate that at least part of the building may have been built about 1679 by a carpenter named Hartwell; other sources indicate a date in the 1720's. In any case, it is the only survivor of the three early houses in the vicinity that once belonged to the Hartwell family. The house has the overhanging boxed front cornice typical of the first quarter of the eighteenth century. Like most houses of its age, this building underwent several other remodelings over the years. There are two chimneys on what would have been the rear wall of the main house; they replaced a central chimney, probably in about 1800. The windows, 2-over-2-sash with flat surrounds, would date to some time after 1850. A one-story shed-roofed entry bay on the west end of the house is of uncertain date.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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

There is a strong tradition that the earliest part of this house is one of four commissioned in 1678/79 and built by a carpenter named Hartwell, probably Ebenezer Hartwell. (A date of 1678 or 1679 has been found on an interior chimney surface, although the present chimneys appear to be replacements for a former central chimney) Ruth Wheeler points out that this idea conflicts with later maps and documents that state that the frame for this house was one of three erected in one day in 1723-4 by the Hartwell family. Further research and an interior inspection would be necessary before the puzzle can be resolved.

Another discrepancy exists as to the building's first owner. According to one theory, it is possible that its first inhabitant was early settler James Adams, who came from Carlisle, Cumberland County, England. It is known that it was owned before 1750 by Joseph Adams, and it has been assumed that this was James's son or grandson, Joseph Adams (b. 1702). More recent research, however, suggests that the house was indeed built in 1723-4, by Ebenezer Hartwell II, (across the street from the 1695 house of his father [now gone],) and that Ebenezer Hartwell III sold it to Joseph Adams when he moved to Groton in 1730. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1906.
Lapham, Donald. Carlisle, Composite Community. 1975.
Bartkus, Paul. "The House at 1710 Lowell Road." 1982.
Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's. (Cont.)

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Adams/Melvin House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
CJ 438

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

This Joseph Adams would have been the one born in 1702 in Ipswich, died 1790 in Concord. He was a cooper, and married first Priscilla Warner of Ipswich, and later Dorothy Merriam. While under his ownership the first attempts to separate the north part of Concord as part of an independent town took place, and the first meeting of the new district of Carlisle was held in this house in May of 1754. (The property was not ultimately included in the district, however.) Joseph and Dorothy's youngest daughter, Lydia, married Joseph C. Chandler (1748-1813), who was later to become the 22nd deacon of the First Parish, (1791), and a Selectman from 1787 to 1796. Lydia, who had apparently inherited the bulk of the property, died in 1829, and the ownership passed to Joseph and Lydia's daughter Sally and her husband John Melvin. After John and Sally Melvin's deaths in 1863 and 1864, the property came under the ownership of their son, Amos Melvin (1821-1872.)

His widow, Jane, remained here with her three children and other family members, including Joseph C. Melvin, "a travelling book agent," and three unmarried sisters-in-law until the early part of this century. After Jane Melvin's death in 1905, the old farm was inherited by her sons, Howard and John Melvin, who in 1920 sold the property to Mrs. Randi Johnson. Two years later she sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Otto Boreesen. In 1930 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bartkus. The house is still in the Bartkus family, but the surrounding land has been subdivided over the years for new house construction, including the recent the "Bartkus Farm" subdivision.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

- Town Directories and tax lists.
- Wheeler House File #Lo 13.
- Jarvis.
- Shattuck.
- Vital Records of Concord and Ipswich.

CON. 438 **148**



wn Concord
et Lowell Rd
me old m2luin House
iginal Use _____
esent Use _____
esent Owner private
ite e1692 Style _____
ource of Date Mrs Wheeler
rchitect _____

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered _____
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by _____

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cut stone
WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____
STORIES: 1 2/3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 1 story wings each side Simple/Complex
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony _____ Recessed _____
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard lean to
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____
FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: porch bracket style
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS _____ LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 15'
Property has _____ feet frontage on street



Recorder _____
For 68-535
Photo VI-22
68-53621
9-09-065-11 **148**
108

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

2/3 **148**
3-4

FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

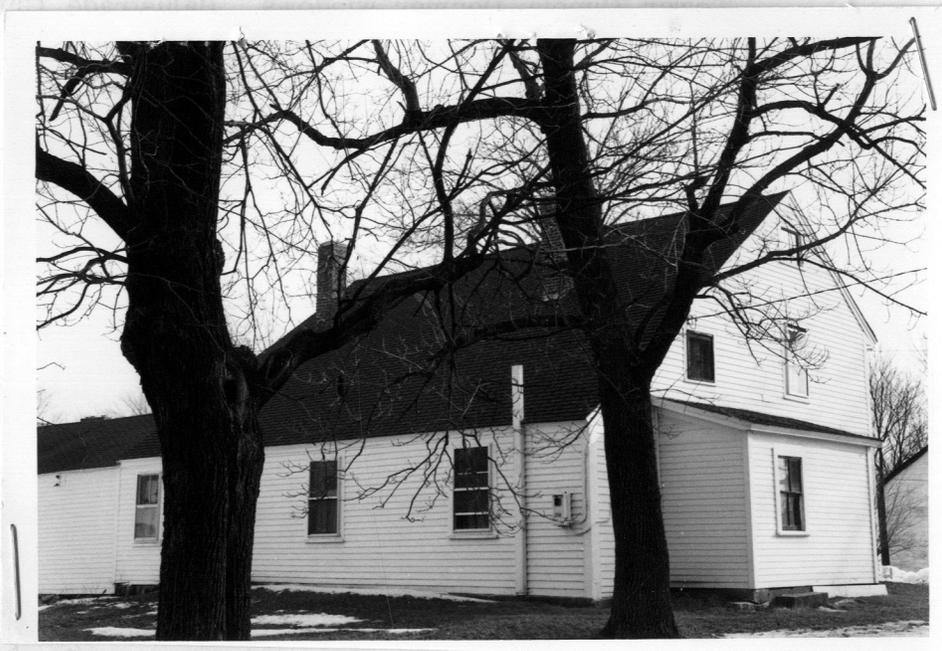
GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

inherited by Deacon Chandler
here took place the meetings which were responsible for
the establishment of Carlisle

built by James Adams c. 1692 son Joseph b. 1702
wife Mary. Daughter married Deacon Chandler.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner: _____
Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds