

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.372
Historic Name:	Norwegian and Danish Methodist Episcopal Church
Common Name:	
Address:	5-9 Thoreau Ct
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G10-357
Year Constructed:	1893
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival; Italianate; No style
Use(s):	Church; Multiple Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Ethnic Heritage; Religion
Area(s):	CON.X: Herringville
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: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 1:32: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

Pl. CONCORD
USGS - CONCORD

CON. 372

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

SELT - B

AREA

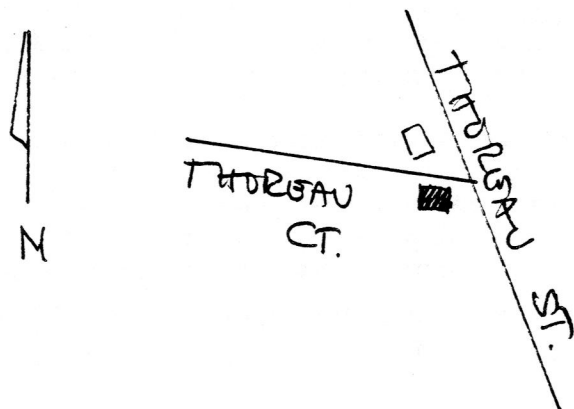
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FORM NO.

372



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



CONCORD

5/7/9 Thoreau Court

Norwegian and Danish

Methodist Episcopal Church

Present dwelling

Original church

DIPTION

1893

Richardson

vernacular

Greco/Italianate
unknown

ARCHITECT

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates)

garage and other additions; new door,
picturewindow on facade

Condition altered

Moved no Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting On corner of main

street, in neighborhood of late-19th
century houses.

UTM REFERENCE Parcel G10-357, 357-2, 357-3

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization Research by Ted Shidler
for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date July, 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Although greatly altered, this building still gives has the general form of a small wood-frame church. The windows are unadorned 6-over-6-sash, the architectural trim consists of a deep boxed, molded cornice, with no overhang at the gable ends. The main entry today is by way of a pedimented vestibule in the north side, where a pair of through-cornice dormers pierce the roof. The foundation is fieldstone.

Maps indicate that the building was originally one story, had a hipped roof, and that the entry was by way of a bell tower in the northeast corner. It was remodeled into a multi-unit dwelling in the late 1930's.

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

The Norwegian and Danish Methodist Episcopal Church was first organized in 1887 as a mission church to serve the growing population of Scandinavians who had been arriving in Concord since about 1880. At first it held services two evenings a month in the Trinitarian Church, but built this building in 1893.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Swedish and Norwegian immigrants formed a significant ethnic minority in Concord. The largest number from one area came from the poverty-stricken region around Loiten, Norway. As a rule, single men at first found work as farm laborers, young women as cooks and maids. Few family units came, although siblings often came together. This may have been the case with Peter and Jens P. Andersen, (see 42/44 Elsinore Street.) Both brothers worked at first on the railroad, but in 1896 Jens Andersen is listed as the first pastor of this church. Peter the church's treasurer in 1892, and thus must have been highly instrumental in the construction of this building. Both Andersens appear to have left Concord by 1906.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Richardson.
Garrellick and Bailey.
Town directories.
Maps and atlases: 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1909.
Interviews with local residents, 1990.