

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.299
Historic Name:	Madam Keyes - Keyes, John Shepard House
Common Name:	Jones, Elnathan Jr. House Wing - The Country Store
Address:	15 Monument St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	H8-1296
Year Constructed:	c 1780
Architect(s):	Benjamin, Cyrus; Wetherbee, E. C.
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival; Italianate
Use(s):	General Retail Store; Hotel or Inn; Lawyer Office; Single Family Dwelling House; Speciality store
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Law; Social History
Area(s):	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DV: North Bridge - Monument Square Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/05/1973); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, MA 02125

H8-1296

Concord

ADV

299

NR: DIS; LHD

35773



Town

Concord

neighborhood or village) _____

Concord center

15 Monument Street

Name "Madam Keyes" House

Present store

Original store, office; then dwelling

of Construction ca. 1780

Wheeler

form Greek Revival/Italianate

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite block and fieldstone

Wall/Trim wood clapboard and flushboard

Roof slate and asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none

Major Alterations (with dates) enlarged and

converted to a house, 1850; storefront added,

porches enclosed--mid-20th C. (see pp. 2-3)

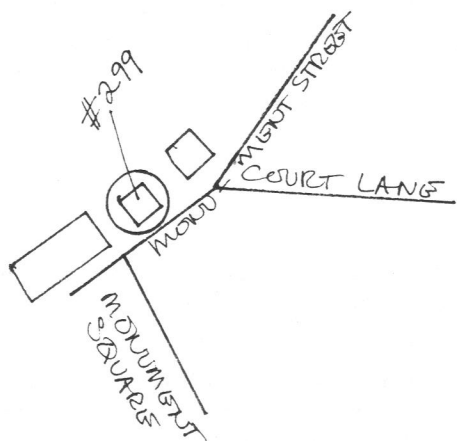
Condition good

Moved [] no [X] yes Date ca. 1800 and 1850

Acreage less than one acre

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.



N

Recorded by Anne Forbes, consultant RECEIVED

Setting At foot of Monument St., facing Court

Organization Concord Hist. Commission FEB 03 1997

Lane. Parking lot at rear; bricked front

Date 11/96

yard. Large wood signpost at front.

MASS. HIST. COMM

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [X] *see continuation sheet*

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

Because of its expansion and updating in 1850, this building, which dates to the latter part of the eighteenth century, is actually more representative of the transitional Greek Revival/Italianate fashion of the mid-nineteenth century. It is a 2 1/2-story T-plan building: the wider rear side-gabled section is the older part; the whole front gable-end section, originally one-room and one-bay wide, was added when the house was moved in 1850. Today the front facade is three bays wide; when built it had what is said to have been Concord's first bay window at the first story, and double, round-headed windows at the second and attic stories. Two one-story sections, one on either side of the front projection, were formerly open porches, each leading back to an entry in the older part of the house. Today they are enclosed, and their roofs extend across the front of the building to create a full-width modern facade porch on square, chamfered posts.

The rear sections of the building are clad in clapboards; the facade is flush-boarded. Most of the windows are 6-over-6-sash; those on the front part have plain surrounds; those on the sides of the rear section have projecting, molded crowns with shallow paired brackets. A molded hood surmounts the single round-headed window in the front gable, and another at the rear. A 20th-century multi-light oriel window on either side of the front section rests on large sawcut brackets. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [X] *see continuation sheet*

Explain 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.

This house is the only extant reminder of the buildings that stood on the northeast side of Monument Square between Bedford Street and Court Lane before the "courthouse fire" of 1849. That fire destroyed the old county courthouse and the former Mulliken/Keyes House, the home of Mrs. Ann (Shepard) Keyes, widow of Judge John Keyes, which had stood just north of the courthouse. (See Form #301). This building, however, which stood at the southwest corner of Bedford Street and the Square, where the Town House is today, survived the fire. It belonged at that time to the Keyes' son, attorney John Shepard Keyes, who had his law office in the building. He apparently inherited it from his father, (a State Representative and Senator, lawyer, County Sheriff and Treasurer, one of the most powerful influences in Middlesex County), whose office had been in it from 1837 until his death in 1844..

The county rebuilt the courthouse after the fire, but did not renew Concord's longtime right to hold Town Meetings in the building, thus making it necessary for the town to build its own town hall. J.S. Keyes sold the law office and its lot to the town, for \$1200. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES [X] *see continuation sheet*

Maps and Atlases: 1834, 1856 (Monument Sq. location); 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns.

Concord Directories.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."

Social Circle Memoirs: John Keyes; John Shepard Keyes.

Wheeler House File #Mo5.

[X] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places*. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.* *within NR district boundaries.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, MA 02125

Community	Property
Concord	"Madam Keyes" House
Area (s)	Form No.
A	299

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

A pair of modern 16-light display windows is now positioned on the facade. The door of the center entry is a mid-20th-century 6-light- over two-panel type. A pair of chimneys rises from behind the rear roof ridge--that on the south end is paneled. The house has plain, unboxed eaves, an unadorned cornice and rake boards, and a wide water table at the bottom of the wall.

According to J.S. Keyes, this house had not only the first bay window in Concord, but also the first slate roof and dumb waiter. The 1850 construction work was done by carpenter E.C. Wetherbee, and most of the masonry work by Cyrus Benjamin. The plastering was finished by the masons (plasterers) who were building the new courthouse across the street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The town, needing to clear the lot for the Town House, (see Form #302), then sold the house back to Mr. Keyes at auction, who moved it diagonally across to its present location (the former garden of the old Keyes house) and fitted it up as a new home for his mother and his own family in 1850.

The building had been moved once before, from Main Street. It had been built in about 1780 by Elnathan Jones, Jr., as a wing on his new house at 140 Main Street. He kept a store in this section, which was relocated to the later Town House site sometime after his death in 1793. (See Form #37). It continued at its new location as a store for many years, under a succession of proprietors that included John Thoreau, father of Henry David Thoreau. In the years Mr. Thoreau ran the store he lived upstairs with his family; Henry Thoreau later referred to the building as "the place where my old Trader kept." Another proprietor was Capt. Daniel Smith, who sold drugs, glasses of rum, and ended up in the State Prison for making counterfeit money. Luke Robbins also manufactured harnesses here. The building, or at least the apartment in the building, was occupied by mason Cyrus Pierce in the 1840's before he built his stone house at 23 Lexington Road. (See Form 306).

John S. Keyes, his young family, and his widowed mother moved into the house at its Monument Street location in the spring of 1851. Here Mr. Keyes and his wife, Martha (Prescott), raised three daughters and a son, and J.S. rose to a position of local, regional, and national prominence. He had entered the legal profession in 1844, and was elected Sheriff of Middlesex County in 1853. During his six-year tenure as sheriff he induced the County Commissioners to build a new jail in Lowell (1857), and was in charge of the encampment of the entire state militia at the musterfield in West Concord in 1859. Just before the Civil War he was appointed U.S. Marshal, a post which he held until 1866. Among his duties were the protection of President Lincoln at his inauguration, and representing Massachusetts at what he called "the supreme moment of the war", the 1863 dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg at which Lincoln spoke "those few immortal sentences": his Gettysburg Address. In the winters of 1863-64 and 1865-66, J.S. Keyes and his wife stayed in furnished rooms in Chester Square in Boston. During the first winter they rented this house to his brother, George Keyes, and the family of George's father-in-law, Simon Brown (see Form #231--49 Liberty Street). In the winter of 1865-66 the elder Mrs. Keyes lived here alone.

Among J.S. Keyes' accomplishments for the town during his period of residence in this house, the one of which he was most proud was the laying out of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in 1855, during his eight years as Superintendent of Public Grounds. He also served as Chairman of the School Committee. (Cont).

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission
 Massachusetts Archives Building
 220 Morrissey Boulevard
 Boston, MA 02125

Community

Property

Concord

"Madam Keyes" House

Area (s)

Form No.

A

299

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

The younger Keyeses lived here until 1866, when Mr. Keyes "retired", and they moved to the former Elisha Jones farm on Monument Street (see Form #343--NR). The elder Mrs. Keyes, who owned the building, lived here until she died in 1882 at the age of 90. Upon her death the property was inherited by her grandchildren, **George and John Maynard Keyes**, sons of John S.'s brother, Joseph, and his widow, Helen. In 1886, John Maynard Keyes built the house at 21/23 Monument Street (see Form) on the north end of the property, and moved there with his new wife, Laura (Smith). 15 Monument was rented out for many years to William Buttrick, and, after his death, to his widow until her death in 1913. Mr. Buttrick, Concord post-master during the administration of Grover Cleveland, had been one of Concord's first policeman in 1875. (See Form 147--128 Walden Street).

After Mrs. Buttrick's death, the occupants from at least 1917 to 1937 were Herbert S. Townsend, a "retired businessman", and his wife, Blanche. Directories list two other Townsend family members, apparently their sons, living here in various years--Paul D. Townsend in 1917, and James Townsend, janitor of the Middlesex School from 1921 through 1937.

In 1924 J.M. Keyes and his wife, who had developed what is now the Colonial Inn into a hotel, sold all the property at the northwest end of the square--the inn and #s 15 and 21/23 Monument Street--to the inn manager, **Thomas L. Sanborn**, who expanded the hotel's operations into all five buildings. He apparently allowed the Townsends to remain as residents in this building. (See Form #298).

In the mid-twentieth century, while still under inn ownership, the first floor of the building was rented out as "the Country Store."