

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.373
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Burke - Brennan House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	19 Thoreau Ct
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G10-358
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1750
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.X: Herringville
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

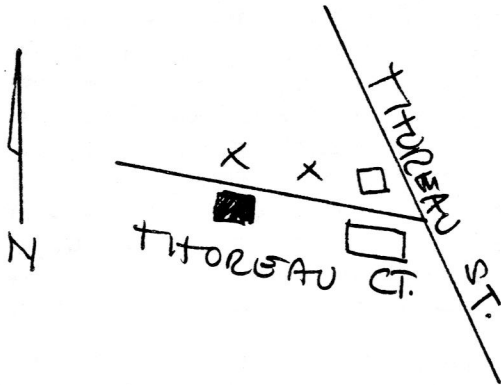
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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116



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



UTM REFERENCE Parcel G10-358  
USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_  
SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

PI - CONCORD  
USGS - CONCORD  
SECT 8

AREA

X

FORM NO.

373

CONCORD

19 Thoreau Court

SS

Historic Name

Present

dwelling

Original

dwelling

DESCRIPTION

mid-18th century

Owner

owner; Keyes

Second Period

Architect

unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric

clapboard

Outbuildings

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

none

Condition

good

Moved

yes

Date

ca. 1895

Acreage

less than one acre

Setting

On small lot on

dead-end street of late-19th and

early-20th-century houses.

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 this house was enlarged, presumably with the addition of at least one of its three rear wings, when moved to this location ca. 1895, it is still an authentic mid-18th-century 2 1/2-story, asymmetrical four-bay house. It is difficult to tell today how much is left of the building's original fabric. A 6-over-9-sash window at the second story facade is likely to date to the eighteenth or early nineteenth century, as are at least the surrounds of the other 6-over-6-sash windows--those on the facade have projecting frames with molded, slanting lintels. The cornice is boxed and molded on the facade, with a well-formed molding below. The main entry is framed in the same way as the windows, but it displays a turn-of-the-century glass-and-panel door. A second entry on the west end has a two-light glass-and-panel door of a slightly earlier type. (A porch is shown on this side in 1909.) The foundation, reflecting the 1890's date of the moving of the house, is brick.

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

According to Keyes, this house is the east part of a building owned by Michael Burke at the First Parish Church green on Lexington Road. In ca. 1895 it was sold to William Brennan and moved to this location, formerly part of the orchard of Caleb Wheeler's farm. (See 120 Sudbury Road.)

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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

CON. 373

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

19 Thoreau Court

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

Area(s)  
X

Form No.  
373

Additional information by Anne Forbes, November, 2000:

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

According to a descendant of William Brennan who still owns the building, the enlargement of the house with the addition of four rooms to the east of the original took place in about 1899.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

This house has been repeatedly, and erroneously, called part of the old "Yellow Block," one of three large tenements that were cleared from the Church Green area of Lexington Road during road widening and slum clearance efforts in that area in the second half of the 1890s. According to sources of the period, the Yellow Block was actually torn down in 1895, and this building, owned in the 1890s by a Mrs. Brennan, was actually part of another housing block called variously the "long tenement," "long block", or "Pratt Block." The earliest part of the block apparently dated to the eighteenth century. Two sections of the building were separated out and moved a short distance south to become the houses at 48 and 54 Lexington Road, and this part, which had been either the center section or the north end, was moved to Thoreau Court. (See Forms #322 and 323 for a full explanation)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES, cont.

Maps and Atlases: Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns.  
Concord Directories and Lists of Poll Taxpayers.  
Concord Town Report: 1896.  
Jarvis, Edward. "Houses and People in Concord". 1882-83.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Traditions and Reminiscences.  
Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."  
Richardson, Laurence. Concord Chronicle.  
Wheeler, Ruth. Concord: Climate for Freedom.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "House Files".

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