

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.400
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Wood, Ephraim Jr. House - Concord Home School
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	41 Wood St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	F9-3943
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1763
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Georgian
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Private School; Single Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Education
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.AG: Concord Home School CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Wood 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

CON-400

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F9-3943

CONCORD

AG

400

Town CONCORD

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord center41 Wood Street

ic Name Ephraim Wood, Jr. House;  
Concord Home School

Present dwellingOriginal dwelling

of Construction 1763; parts may  
date to ca. 1668

e Wheeler; Keyes;  
family records

Form vernacular Georgian

ect/Builder unknown

ior Material:

fieldstoneFoundation wood clapboardWall/Trim asphalt and wood shingleRoof two garages

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  
two garages

Major Alterations (with dates)

North wing and 1-story bay on south  
wing facade added. south end of S.  
wing raised to 2 stories ca. 1930's.

Condition excellent

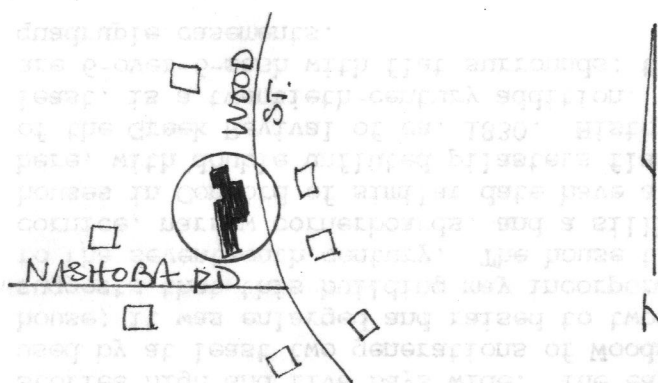
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage 47, 650 square feet

Setting At corner of Nashoba Road,  
facing east toward Sudbury River. On  
large open lot with granite ashlar  
retaining wall across front. In area  
of primarily late-19th- to early-  
twentieth-century houses.

## 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.



Recorded by A. Forbes  
research by Ann Young  
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.

In spite of some twentieth-century additions, the Ephraim Wood, Jr. house is still an excellent example of late Georgian vernacular farmhouse architecture. It is a building type that was found in great numbers in rural towns west of Boston in the years prior to the Revolution--the large, two-room-deep "double-pile" center-chimney house, 2 1/2-stories high and five bays wide. The earliest part of a very long two-story south wing, used by at least two generations of Woods as a shoe shop, may be almost as old as the house; it was enlarged and raised to two stories in about 1821. Local lore also suggests that this building may incorporate all or part of a much earlier house, dating to the seventeenth century. The house trim is simple and subdued, with a molded, boxed cornice, narrow cornerboards, and a sillboard at the foundation. Although several houses in Concord of similar date have a pedimented lobby entry or "porch", the example here, with double unfluted pilasters flanking a sidelighted door, is more characteristic of the Greek Revival of ca. 1830. Historic photos also indicate that its pediment, at least, is a twentieth-century addition. The windows on the main house and south wing are 6-over-6-sash with flat surrounds; those on the twentieth-century north wing are quadruple casements.

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.

This house is one of the most important of Concord's early farmhouses, and was significant in several periods in the town's history. The land on which it stands was part of the farm of original settler William Buss (1612-1698), and according to family tradition the building incorporates all or part of a late-seventeenth-century house that he may have erected about 1668, when he moved west from his house lot in town out "across the river." William Buss played several pivotal roles in the early development of the town. He owned and ran the mill on the Milldam for several years, and at the request of the Selectmen, kept an inn at his house on Main Street near the South Burying Ground. Referred to as a "chirurgeon," he also seems to have performed some of the tasks of a country doctor. In 1666 he was listed as "Lieutenant Buss," and as Sergeant of the militia he was responsible for military training in the young town. He remained an Ensign of the Concord foot company until the age of 73. At the time of the second division of Concord land in 1654, he was chosen as one of the four overseers of the South Quarter. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.  
 Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.  
 Jarvis, "Houses and People in Concord." 1882.  
 Wheeler House File #Wol.  
 Town Directories and tax lists.  
 Concord Free Library Photo File.  
 Interview with former owner, 1992. (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

CONCORDEphraim Wood, Jr. House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Other members of the Buss family also made their homes on this property, including William's sons Joseph (1649-1680,) and Peter (1680-1752.) Peter's daughter Mary married her neighbor Ephraim Wood, Sr. (1701-1789), and it was through her that the property entered the Wood family, who owned it until the latter part of the nineteenth century. Mary Buss Wood inherited the farm, apparently from her father, and gave it to her son Ephraim Wood, Jr. (1733-1814) when he married Mary Heald in 1758. Another son, Amos Wood, stayed on the Wood family farm just to the east, and according to an old family story, both brothers erected the frames of their new houses on the same day in the fall of 1763. (See 631 Main Street.)

Ephraim, Jr. was a farmer, shoemaker, and surveyor. Robert Gross calls him "the workhorse of the community," as he followed the precedent of his maternal great-grandfather in fulfilling many important functions in the town. He served as a selectman for 26 years, town clerk from 1771-1795, and with the exception of two years, was a member of the Committee of Correspondence until it disbanded in 1783. Prior to the Revolution he was one of the town's three delegates to the Provincial Congress, and in 1779 he represented Concord as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Boston.

In the weeks before April 19, 1775, when military stores were being sent inland to Concord for hiding, six of thirty-five barrels of powder and some bullets were hidden on Ephraim Wood's farm. According to a well-known story, on April 19 he was out tending to some of the stores and directing some of the efforts of the day when the British came to his house to take him prisoner. He had started for home, but when he saw British soldiers guarding the South Bridge, he started down the river, found a boat, and had just crossed as they came up on the other side. Instead of going home, he is said to have followed the British on their retreat toward Charlestown "with his gun in his hands." His neighbor on the farm to the north, the "Tory" Joseph Lee, later claimed it was he who had prevented the British from burning down the Wood house.

After the war, Ephraim Wood, Jr. became a Justice of the Peace, and was appointed special judge of the Court of Common Pleas in 1785, and Judge of the same court in 1797. He lived here in this house until he died; his second wife, Millicent (Estabrook) Barrett, survived him, and died in 1821.

Ephraim Wood, Jr. gave half of the farm to his son Nathan, "settling" him here where he, too, became a successful farmer, and willed him the other half. Nathan Wood, who Jarvis calls "one of the strong pillars" of Concord, was prominent in town affairs in his own right, serving as selectman from 1804-1810. He was also a noted tenor in the church choir. He pre-deceased his father, however, and his sons, Nathan and David Wood inherited the property. When both brothers moved to Middlebury Vermont, they sold the farm to their cousin Elijah Wood, son of their father's brother, Daniel Wood of Lowell Road. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDEphraim Wood, Jr. House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
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Area(s) Form No.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

**Elijah Wood** (1790-1861) was primarily a shoemaker. He had lived and set up a shoe shop at 631 Main Street for a few years before purchasing this property. In 1821 he raised and enlarged the existing south shoe-shop wing, putting in a row of windows which were a beacon for the neighborhood across the river, as he worked his apprentices every night until nine o'clock. He carried on a substantial custom boot and shoe business here until the 1840's, and made "sale shoes" for the southern and western markets. One of the major Concord employers of his time, he employed up to fourteen apprentices and journeymen. His business was evidently ended by competition from the larger shoe factories that sprang up in other Massachusetts towns in the 1830's and '40's. Like **Nathan Wood**, **Elijah** was also known for his interest in music and singing. At the age of eighteen he founded the choir of the First Parish Church, having "entire charge of it" from 1808 to 1826 when the church separated; he continued as choirmaster of the "old church" until 1851. He became a Deacon in 1841.

**Elijah** and his wife **Elizabeth Farmer Wood** had eight sons. Upon his death in 1861 the farm passed to the eldest, **Elijah Wood, Jr.** (1816-1882.) **Elijah, Jr.**, was primarily a farmer, and was known as one of the progressive farmers who tried out new methods and crops in the latter part of the nineteenth century. He also taught in the district schools during the winter terms. He started a shortlived lumber business in Vermont with four others from Concord. He inherited the family interest in music and singing schools, and was an outspoken advocate of the temperance cause. In 1880 he sold the property, but continued to live in part of the house until he purchased the house next door, formerly a part of the farm, a year before his death. (See #63 Wood Street.)

The purchaser of the farm was **Frank B. Moore** of Brooklyn, NY. He does not appear to have owned it for long, however, as by 1886 the next owner, farmer **James P. Thomas**, is listed as living here.

At the end of the nineteenth century, the property underwent a great change. In 1891 lawyer **James S. Garland**, a friend and Harvard classmate of Dr. Edward Emerson, bought the 75 remaining acres of the old farm for a new secondary school, the Concord Home School. (See Area Form, "Concord Home School.") It opened that year in the old farmhouse. Later that year a building campaign was begun, and a large building, (later divided to become the houses at 27 and 41 Nashoba Road,) was erected southwest of the house for classrooms, dining hall, and dormitory rooms. From 1891-1897 Mr. Garland appears to have been the actual owner of the school. He served as headmaster for about thirty boys, and lived here at #41. In 1897 the property ownership changed to the Concord School Company, and in 1899 the school was incorporated under a new name, the Concord School. **James Garland** retired in 1900, but he and his family continued to live here at #41 until the school closed in about 1910, after which he moved to Minneapolis. He died there in 1913. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDEphraim Wood Jr. House

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Area(s) Form No.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In about 1905 the school sold off or invested in about 40 acres of land west of the main campus for development into a neighborhood of large house lots called Nashoba Park--see Area Form.) After the school closed, the campus itself, including what is now the lower section of Nashoba Road, was purchased by developer Richard Wilson and others for an expansion of Nashoba Park. Several house lots were laid out here at the lower end of the road, and the farmstead at #41 was reduced to its present size.

The next known owners of the house were Frederick and Susan Holder, who bought the property some time after 1917. Mr. Holder died a few years later, and in 1926 Mrs. Holder sold the house to Col. Robert E. Goodwin and his wife. Col. Goodwin (see #27 River Street,) had commanded the Yankee Division's 101st Field Artillery in the First World War. He was a founder of the Boston law firm of Goodwin, Proctor, and Hoar, which, before Samuel Hoar joined in 1917, was Goodwin, Proctor & Ballantine. He also served as a town selectman in the late 1920's. The Goodwins added the north wing for a library, and lived here until Mrs. Goodwin's health failed and they moved to Boston. In 1948 the house was bought by the Morgan Smith family.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Concord Obituary File, II, p. 35a.  
Wheeler. Concord, Climate for Freedom.  
Social Circle Memoirs, II, III, IV.  
Teele, ed. The Meeting House on the Green.  
Gross. The Minutemen and their World.  
Concord Vital Records.  
Walcott. Concord in the Colonial Period.  
Shattuck. History of the Town of Concord.  
Concord Pamphlets #52, Items 8-10.

CON. 400

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
41 Wood Street

Area(s)	Form No.

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible    ☐ Eligible only in a historic district  
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district    ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:    ☒ A    ☐ B    ☒ C    ☐ D

Criteria Considerations:    ☐ A    ☐ B    ☐ C    ☐ D    ☐ E    ☐ F    ☐ G

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This building meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register for its association with prominent eighteenth-early nineteenth-century farmer, town officer and Revolutionary leader Ephraim Wood, Jr. (Criterion A.) As a well-preserved example of a "double-pile" farmhouse of the 1760's, updated by the addition of an early nineteenth-century workshop, it also meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



OWN Arise D CON-400 28 ✓  
Street Wood St  
Name Ephraim Wood House  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
Date 1700's Style \_\_\_\_\_  
Source of Date CAS  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_

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 N + S side 2 story Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony entry porch Recessed \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: entry porch side lights, pediment

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied new

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured corner boards

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 20'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo VIII-6 68-587 68-588 7E09.065.1.028

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



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

Fireplace

Stairway

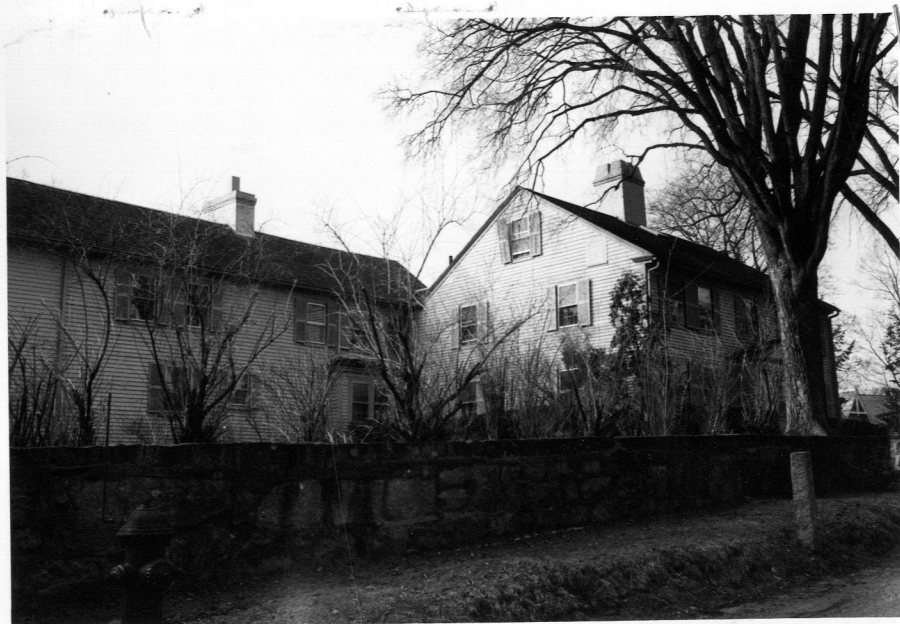
Other

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

*Searched by British at south bridge.*

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

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds