

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.309
Historic Name:	Dane, Thomas House
Common Name:	
Address:	47 Lexington Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	62, H9-16
Year Constructed:	c 1650
Architect(s):	Dane, Thomas
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial; First Period
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House; Speciality store; Tavern
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DS: American Mile Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/06/1961); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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

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Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9-16

Concord

A 309

309

NR: DIS
LHD



Concord

(neighborhood or village)

Concord center

47 Lexington Road

Thomas Dane House

single-family dwelling

dwelling

ca 1650

deed research by Ruth Wheeler

First Period w. Georgian update

Architect/Builder Thomas Dane (attrib.)

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage

Major Alterations (with dates) several additions
dating to 18th-through 20th centuries (See
also page 2.)

Condition excellent

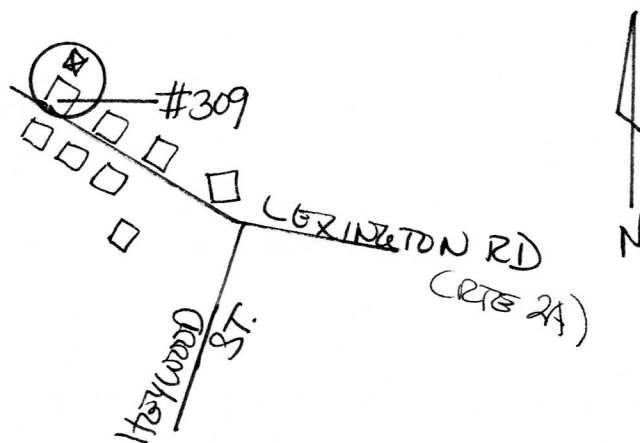
Moved [X] no [] yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Backed by Minuteman Ridge in area of
17th- late-19th-C. houses. Small front yard w.
cut-granite curbing at front, fieldstone wall at
west.

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 Anne Forbes, consultant;
research by Ann Young
Organization Concord Hist. Commission

Date 10/17/94

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.

This large building is one of the many houses on lower Lexington Road that was enlarged and updated several times during its long history. Nevertheless, it retains some of its First Period massing in the steeply-pitched roof and one-room-deep arrangement of its main section. It is a 2 1/2-story building, with a 1 1/2-story, one-bay "saltbox" east ell and a two-part northwest rear wing. The latter has a two-story, flat-roofed section that juts by one bay west from the rear corner of the house; behind it is a one-story, gable-roofed addition.

The house may have started out as a three-bay "half-house", and lengthened to the present six bays in the eighteenth century. The three windows at both stories on the east end of the facade, 6-over-9-sash at the second and 12-over-12-sash at the first, have the projecting frames and, at the first story, the heavy, molded crowns, that are characteristic of the decades from ca. 1740 through 1820. A window of similar construction remains at the second story on the southwest gable end. Other windows of the main block, including two 6-over-9-sash and two 8-over-12-sash at the west end of the facade, have flat surrounds trimmed with heavy moldings. (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.

Future detailed research may reveal that part of this house, not 77 Lexington Road, is the oldest building on the north side of lower Lexington Road. The first known deed for the property, dated 1657, is for "the house barn and land" that the Rev. Peter Bulkeley had bought from George Hayward in 1653. The six acres here, which were laid out from the "burial hill" east and running down to the mill pond on the other side of the road, were comprised of the two three-acre houselots that had been granted to Michael Wood and George Hayward in 1636, just after the founding of the town. By the time George Hayward moved to the west part of town after the "second division" of town lands in 1653, he had acquired both lots.

Bulkeley's 1657 sale, for "30 pounds in boards", was to carpenter Thomas Dane, who had come over from England on the "Susan and Ellen" with the Bulkeley family in 1635, and was to work out his passage by building both a house and mill for the Reverend in Concord. That house, where Peter Bulkeley is believed to have lived until his death in 1658, was located on the southwest side of today's Monument Square, adjacent to the Mill Brook. It is quite possible that Thomas Dane built this house as well, and had lived in it, renting from the Rev. Bulkeley, for some time before he bought it. (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns.

Concord Directories and Assessor's Records.

The Concord Enterprise. 8/7/1915.

Concord Library, Special Collections: Obituary File.

Concord Vital Records.

Jarvis. Houses & People in Concord. ca. 1884. (Cont.)

[X] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places*. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.* *NR-listed 1977.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

Thomas Dane House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)
A

Form No.s
309

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The main entry, which has a replacement 6-panel door, has a stylish, probably mid-eighteenth-century surround of fluted pilasters and an entablature with a dentilated pediment over a bolection molding.

The east ell of the house has a later 6-light glass-and-panel door and a large early 9-pane bow window. Both the window and door are sheltered by a shed-roofed, bracketed hood. A multi-paned, oriel polygonal bay window projects from the east end of the ell.

Other architectural trim here reflects the tastes and techniques of several different periods. The main roof has no projections at the gable-ends, and only a slight overhang at the front, with a bed-molding below it. The cornerboards are narrow, and a wide sill board appears across the facade only.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Thomas Dane died in 1675, and, though the original six acres were broken up, the house remained in the Dane family for at least two more generations. Thomas and Mildred Dane's son **Joseph Dane** inherited the house, with the "orchard and barn with lot thereto". Their daughter Mary Dane Pellet received the west part of the property, where her residence was already standing (see Form #305: 5/7 Lexington Rd.), and another daughter, Sarah Dane Heald, was willed part of the original six acres.

Of the children of Joseph and Elizabeth Dane, their daughter **Mary Dane Clark** and her husband, **William**, were the next owners of the house. The property passed out of the Dane family in 1724, when it was acquired by innkeeper **Jonathan Ball**. Born in 1691, he was one of several early-eighteenth-century tavern owners on lower Lexington Road. He ran a tavern here in the house for many years, during which he further subdivided the land on which it stood. Shortly after he bought the property, he sold off some of the land on the south side of the road, but retained at least a quarter-acre portion there for his garden. In 1730 he sold the piece on the north side of the road just east of the house to John Bateman, who built another tavern there. (See Form #310, 57 Lexington Rd.) Then, in the early 1750's, Jonathan and Hannah Ball's son, **John Ball**, built the house just west, at 37 Lexington Road, with its eastern half reserved for the occupation of his parents. The deed for the sale of that building in 1753 indicates that at that time #47 has both owned and occupied by John Ball and his family. John Ball, who married Sarah Grooks of Concord in 1746, was a silversmith (commonly called a "goldsmith" in the eighteenth century), and, after returning to Concord in 1752 after an apprenticeship in Boston, worked in a shop on the property. Four pieces of his work are in the possession of the Concord Museum.

In the second half of the eighteenth century, 47 Lexington Road may have been owned by Seth Ross (owner of the property to the east), and/or Isaiah Barrett. The next known owner was **Dr. Joseph Hunt**, who was here by at least 1793. Dr. Hunt (1749-1812) was the youngest son of Dea. Simon Hunt. A graduate of Harvard College, he studied medicine under Dr. John Cuming, and was both practicing medicine and teaching school in Concord in the 1780's. (According to one story, he had previously practiced in Dracut, but was forced to leave after he was caught grave-robbing for the purpose of dissection.) By the 1790's, he had largely given up his medical practice, and opened an apothecary's shop in the west front room of the house. (Cont.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Concord

Thomas Dane House

Area(s)
A

Form No.
309

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Dr. Hunt was an original member of the Social Circle, and served as its secretary. He was also a member of Concord's first School Committee in 1799, and secretary of the Massachusetts Medical Society for several years. From 1799 to 1803 his wife's young nephew, William Whiting, was also living in the house and working for as an apprentice in the apothecary shop. (See Form #42--169 Main Street). Dr. Hunt was survived here his widow, **Lucy (Whiting)**, who died in 1836 at the age of 90. In his later years the doctor was assisted by Betty (Betsy) Nutting, the daughter of the church sexton, and after his death in 1812 she carried on the apothecary shop until her own death in 1830.

In the late 1840's the house was bought by **Joel Walcott** (1820-1883). In 1848, after purchasing Lorenzo Eaton's furniture store (see Forms #205 and 206), he founded a grocery business on the Milldam, which for years occupied the building formerly on the site of #30/32 Main Street. His first partner was Mr. Eaton's former associate, Silas M. Holden, and the firm became Walcott & Holden. Mr. Walcott retired in 1877, but the store was to survive well into the twentieth century. In the 1870's the company itself owned both 29 and 37 Lexington Road.

Joel Walcott and his wife Martha (Hosmer--1818-1895) had several children, who, with their mother, jointly inherited the house. Among them were Henry (1846-1909), Charles (1848-1901), and George. **Henry Walcott**, who moved to 340 Main Street (Form #62) in about 1870, succeeded John Cheney as cashier of the National Bank and the Middlesex Institution for Savings, and was later involved in other enterprises in Concord and New York. **Charles Walcott** was a lawyer, with an office in Boston, but for many years lived here in the family home, and later at 37 Lexington Road, until moving to 235 Main Street (see Form #50) in about 1897. He is locally remembered today as a historian, and author of Concord in the Colonial Period, published in 1885. While still a youth he had been appointed town librarian (1865). He was later a Justice of the Peace, Superintendent of Schools (1872), chairman of the Board of Assessors (1876), a selectman (1883), and vice-president of the Middlesex Institution for Savings. At the state level, he served as commissioner of the Massachusetts Board of Arbitration for fourteen years. **George E. Walcott** continued his father's grocery business, largely in partnership with S. Herbert Holden, son of the other founder. He, too, was active in town affairs, as Town Treasurer, a water commissioner, and chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Some of the Walcott property was apparently dispersed after Martha Walcott's death in 1895. This house was purchased by **Augustus P. Chamberlaine**. He and his wife, Corinna, had come to Concord about 1870, living first on Main Street (at #310--see Form 58,) and later in a house they built on today's Lewis Road (see Form #264). A wealthy entrepreneur, philanthropist, and world traveler, Mr. Chamberlaine owned several rental houses in Concord, including 310 and 325 Main Street, and bought this house to rent out, as well. Its main tenants were a widow, Mrs. Martha G. Brown, and her six daughters, which included two sets of twins. Mrs. Brown died in 1902, and, when Mr. Chamberlaine moved to Vermont in 1906 after the death of his wife, he "gave away" his Concord houses. The recipients of 47 Lexington were the Brown sisters, Nettie, Helen, and Harriet (all stenographers), Maybell and Mildred, who both married in 1907, and Jessie, a Concord teacher. The ownership of the house ultimately fell to **Jessie**, who was still listed living here in the late 1920's. She apparently rented out parts of the house to other tenants, including antique-dealer Alfred Uhler. (Cont.)

CON. 309

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Concord

Thomas Dane House

Area(s)
A

Form No.s
309

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

In about 1935 the house was purchased by **Newell and Louise Garfield**, who lived here for almost fifty years. Newell Garfield, an industrial engineer and grandson of President James Garfield, had been a Major in World War I and received the French Croix de Guerre. He died in 1975, and she lived on here until 1983. For many years Mrs. Garfield ran a clothing store here in the house, called the Tweed Shop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord.

Richardson. Concord Chronicle.

Social Circle Memoirs, Vols. I and II.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord, Climate for Freedom.

"Concord House Files".

Our American Mile.



AREA A NR 17.13.72
 Concord CON. 309 309 ✓
 Lexington Rd (47)
 Thomas Dane House
 Gantub
 Original Use NEDIS-9/13/77 R. CONCORD
 LTD-316/61 USGS CONCORD
 Present Use Tweed shop
 Present Owner 1653
 1650-80, Style Colonial at least in evidence 178
 Date of Date CAS. p. 28 Am. Mile p. 30
 Architect
 Moved Altered additions
 SITE endangered by

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular / Low Material: cut stone
 NW side NE
 WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other
 STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 over door near Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular
 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 story wing E. Simple/Complex
 PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony 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: side of center, pediment, pilasters
 see photo { 619 2nd flr
 Windows: Spacing: Regular / Irregular Identical/Varied 12/12 1st flr E side; 8/12 W side 1st floor
 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 c. 70 feet frontage on street

Recorder

For

68-446
 Photo II-12

E 09.065.1.062

HD

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

* windows of similar style but varied in size + # of panes
 irregular spacing of windows suggests house added to -

bldg c. 40 x 15?
 including wing

6-4
 3-3

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)

Purely local history - always owned by prominent
Concordians -

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

03. p. 30

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: _____

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