

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.1797
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Warren, George A. House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	61 Lexington Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	H9-18-1
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1884
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Boathouse; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Industry
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DS: American Mile Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/06/1961); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Vinyl Siding; Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



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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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 9:32: AM

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9-18-1

Concord

A

1797

NR: DIS; LHD

Concord

Neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Concord center \_\_\_\_\_

61 Lexington Road \_\_\_\_\_

Name Warren HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingConstruction 1884

Keyes \_\_\_\_\_

Form gable-end Victorian cottageArchitect/Builder George Warren (?)

## Exterior Material:

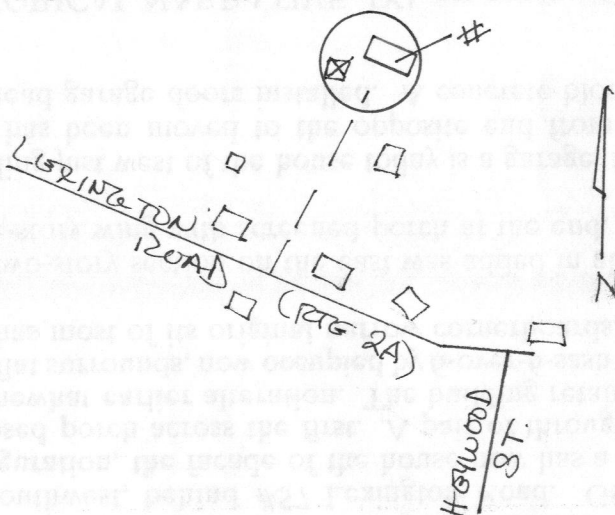
Foundation concreteWall/Trim wood clapboard and vinyl sidingRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

2-car garage (former canoe-building shop)Major Alterations (with dates) east sectionadded 1957, west addition 1962. Dormersadded--20th century.Condition fairMoved [ ] no [X] yes Date 1957Acreage 1.78 acresSetting Sits back from road at end of drive, in  
gap in ridge. Cape-Cod house to SE, garage toSW. Stone & gravel landscaped area in front.

## 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 Donoghue

Organization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 10/31/94



CON. 1797

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [ ] *see continuation sheet*

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

The middle section of this building is the small 1 1/2-story, gable-end cottage which originally stood to the southwest, behind #57 Lexington Road. Greatly altered from its original three-bay, gable-end configuration, the facade of the house now has a modern bay window at the second story, and a wide enclosed porch across the first. A pair of through-cornice, shed-roofed dormers on the west side are a somewhat earlier alteration. The building retains what appear to be a few original window openings with flat surrounds, now occupied by 6-over-6-sash windows instead of the original 2-over-2's. The house also has most of its original narrow cornerboards, and its unboxed roof cornice with echinus molding.

The two-story section on the east was added in about 1957 when the house was moved; the west part, a one-story wing with screened porch at the end, was added in 1962.

Standing just west of the house today is a garage, formerly George Warren's canoe-building shop. The door has been moved to the opposite end from of its original position, the windows changed, and overhead garage doors installed. A concrete block found near the shop is marked with "GAW 1913".

### 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.*

61 Lexington Road is significant as the home of one of the last and most individual of the many artisans who lived and worked on the north side of lower Lexington Road in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It was built behind the house at 57 Lexington Road in 1884 by **George A. Warren**, (1840-1935), who lived there with his wife **Harriet A. (Hoar) Warren** until 1923. The 2.5 acres it stood on was a small piece, with a barn on it, that George Warren had bought from his mother-in-law, Julia Warren.

The land on which the house now stands had been part of the property at 69 Lexington Road until the 1950's, when it was bought by the owner of 57 Lexington Road, and the house moved there in order to enlarge the garden of #57. (See Form #310).

Before her marriage, Mrs. Warren had lived with her mother and stepfather, Julia and George Clark, in the house at 69 Lexington Road. At about the time of the Civil War, she married George Warren, and they apparently took up housekeeping there. (See Form #311). George Warren, formerly of Waltham, was one of the most adventurous young men to take up residence in Concord. Before the war he had gone west, and spent some time as a professional buffalo hunter. According to Keyes, writing in ca. 1885, he was a "confirmed fisherman and hunter", and "when not doing either of these, gardens on the back of the hill." It is also likely that it was he, as much as his mother-in-law, who ran the gravel-pit business on the property that was responsible for cutting nearly all the way through the ridge that had sheltered Concord's original settlers for their first winter. In 1891 alone, he sold 2000 two-horse loads from the ridge as fill for Woodward Hudson's new house on Main Street. (See Form #52.) (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: Maps and Atlases: 1889, 1893, 1906.

Concord Assessor's Records, Directories, and Lists of Poll Taxpayers.

Concord Free Library: Special Collections--Obituary File: "George Warren", 1935.

Concord Vital Records.

Ann Donoghue: interviews with owner, 4/19 and 4/22/94. (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

CON. 1797

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Concord

Warren House

Area(s)  
AForm No.  
311

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

That same year, George Warren began the vocation he was to follow for the rest of his life--the building of canoes. The first one he built for himself--16 feet long 34 inches wide, and 10 1/2 inches deep, weighing 65 pounds. An exacting craftsman, outspoken in his work as well as in his life, Mr. Warren placed at least one inscription under the canvas of one of his canoes, saying that by the time the canoe needs to be redone, Concord will be a suburb of Boston, and the Concord River will be a sewer.

In 1923, toward the end of their lives, the Warrens moved back to Mrs. Warren's family home at 69 Lexington Road. Harriet (Hattie) Warren died in 1932 at the age of 87, and George Warren died at in 1935 at the age of 95, the oldest resident in Concord. To each of his nephews he left one dollar and a fishing pole. His will stipulated that he should have no casket or funeral service, but be wrapped in his Indian blanket and buried in Sleepy Hollow beside his wife.

In 1923 the Warrens sold the property to **Harry and Helen Patterson**. They apparently rented it out, as occupants in the late 1920's were John and Dora Murphy (1928), and, by 1929, **Joseph and Catherine Barr**. Joseph Barr, a chauffeur, had an affidavit showing that "certain property" was "devised and bequeathed" to him, provided that he carry out George Warren's wishes about his burial. This evidently referred to at least part of the Warren property, as he later built the small house directly behind #69, now numbered 63 Lexington Road. In the middle of this century, #61 was owned by **Graydon Smith**, who also owned 57 Lexington Road.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Historic photograph of 61 Lexington Rd. Date unknown.  
Hosmer, Herbert B. "Tales of the Old Trapper". 1963.  
Keyes/Tolman. "Houses in Concord."  
Richardson, Laurence. Concord Chronicle.  
"The Roving Reporter", Boston Sunday Herald, 4/27/1935.  
Wheeler, Ruth. Deed research.