

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.330
Historic Name:	Middlesex County Officer and Jailer House
Common Name:	Saint Bernard's Roman Catholic Church Rectory
Address:	70 Monument Sq
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	H9-1692
Year Constructed:	c 1739
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Altered beyond recognition; Georgian; Second Empire
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Rectory; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Law; Politics Government; Religion
Area(s):	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DV: North Bridge - Monument Square Historic District CON.EG: Saint Bernard Roman Catholic Church Complex
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/05/1973); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick Veneer; Glass; Sandstone; Wood; Stone, Cut 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

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

H9-1692

Concord

A

330; 959

NR: DIS; LHD

Town Concord

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Concord centerAddress 70 Monument SquareHistoric Name County House/St. Bernard's
RectoryUses: Present dwellingOriginal dwelling and tavernDate of Construction third quarter 18th C.;
part may be early-18th C.Source WheelerStyle/Form Second EmpireArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

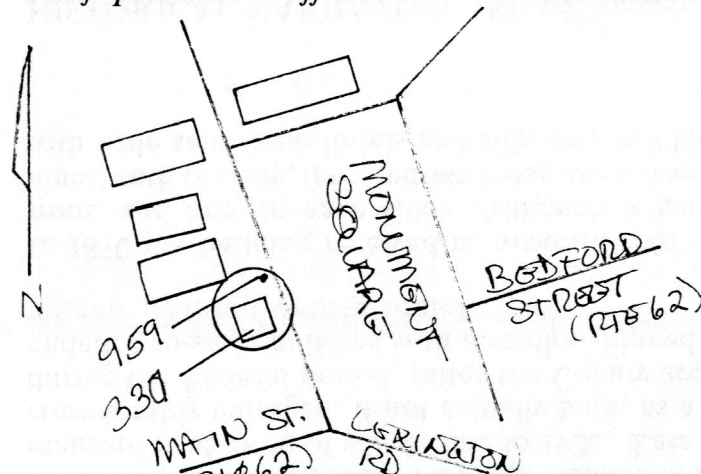
Foundation concreteWall/Trim brick veneerRoof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

none (shares property with Monument Hall)Major Alterations (with dates) enlarged 18th C.roofline changed ca. 1872; windows, siding
changed--1926. Rear, side addn.--mid-20th C.Condition fairMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 1.25 acresSetting S. side Monument Sq., close to street;granite mounting block in front of sidewalk;park to east; large meeting hall to 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 Barbara Forman

Organization Concord Hist. CommissionDate 12/96

RECEIVED

FEB 03 1997

MASS. HIST. COMM.

CON.330

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.

If, as Ruth Wheeler surmises, this building began as a small wooden house of the early eighteenth century, it would not be recognizable as such today. It has undergone at least three radical transformations over the course of the last two-and-a-half centuries. It is presently a large, square, 2 1/2-story mansard-roofed building, cloaked in mottled beige brick veneer and a bright green slate mansard roof, both of which date to 1926. Late in the eighteenth century, the building was at least considerably enlarged, if not actually built, as a two-family house with a gambrel roof. Sometime during the Federal period, (after the County acquired it in 1789), it was transformed into a brick-ended, two-story building with a shallow-hipped roof and tall end chimneys similar to several built around 1800 in Concord center.

In 1870 the building received its mansard roof, which today has three pedimented dormers on the front, and one on each side. Although it had 2-over-2-sash windows in the latter part of the nineteenth century, the windows today are 6-over-6-sash on the front, and 4-over-4-sash on the sides, with wide sandstone lintels and sills, and molded wood jambs. (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.

Although there is much uncertainty about the origin of this building, there is no disagreement about its importance, both as the residence of county officers and jailers from ca. 1789 through 1866, and as the Rectory of St. Bernard's Church since 1867.

Historian Ruth Wheeler, who examined deeds and local documents pertaining to this property, concluded in 1969 that at least one room in the northeast front corner of the building remains from a house that was standing prior to the large gambrel-roofed double-house seen here in the Doolittle print and Ralph Earle painting that depict this side of Monument Square as it looked in 1775. In her opinion, it was probably a small house built by **William Keen (Keayne)** in the early part of the eighteenth century on part of the land that had been deeded to the town by Timothy Wheeler in 1687. (See Form #964--site of Middlesex Hotel.) The house was apparently sold in 1739. The next date it is mentioned is 1772, when **Dr. Timothy Minot, Jr.** sold it to **Ebenezer Hartshorn**, referring to it in the deed as "the old James Minot House". It is not known which James Minot that refers to, however, as Capt. James Minot died in 1735, and his son, Col James Minot II, lived in the easternmost Colonial Inn house all his married life (cf. Form #298). (Capt. James' grandson, James Minot, did later live in this house, but he was not born until 1788). In any case, various members of the Minot family, including Dr. Timothy Minot, Jr., apparently lived in the building, and it was probably one of them who enlarged it into a double-house prior to 1775. (Cont.)

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

Maps and Atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1906. Sanborns from 1887 through 1927.

Concord Free Library, Special Collections: photo file.

Garrelick, Renee, with William Bailey. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars. 1985.

Bailey, Beyer, and Manion. "A History of St. Bernard's Parish." 1986.

Richardson. Concord Chronicle.

Wheeler House File. (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

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

Concord

County House/St.
 Bernard's Rectory
 Form No.
 337; 959

Area(s)
 A

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Doolittle, Amos. A View of the Town of Concord. Plate II.

Earle, Ralph. A View of the town of Concord (on April 19, 1775). 1775-76.

Jarvis.

Keyes.

Scudder.

Shattuck.

Walcott.

Social Circle Memoirs: John Keyes, Samuel Staples, Capt. Abel Moore, John Richardson.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord, Climate for Freedom. 1967.



Town House Monument (Con. 959)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

	Community	Property
Massachusetts Historical Commission	Concord	County House/St.
Massachusetts Archives Building		Bernard's Rectory
220 Morrissey Boulevard	Area(s)	Form No.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125	A	337; 959

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The center entry is through an enclosed, pedimented vestibule, which was also probably part of the 1926 renovations. The outer door has twelve colored glass lights over a single wood panel. The surround includes stained glass sidelights and a transom which reads "St. Bernard's Rectory" in colored glass letters. The architectural trim of the building includes a wood, molded cornice, and corner quoins that reflect former wood quoining that was there prior to the 1926 re-siding. A mid-twentieth-century addition projects to the rear and south side of the building.

North of the building, in front of the sidewalk, is a rough brown granite monument erected in 1885. Generally rectangular, with a slightly peaked top, it has a bronze plaque on the side facing the square. The plaque reads: "Near this spot stood the first Town House used for town meetings and the county courts, 1721-1794."

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

By 1780 it was acquired by **John Richardson**, a store-keeper and hotel owner, who was was running a tavern here by that year. The County had by then either acquired the old Peter Bulkeley House just south, or built a new one in its place, and were using it as a residence for county officers in Concord. In 1789 they exchanged that building for this one. John Richardson opened the Middlesex Hotel in the former county building, at the same time giving the County one acre of land behind both lots for the building of a new jail. In exchange, he was appointed jailer, and continued to live here in the half of the house that was used as a jailer's residence.

During the long ensuing period of County ownership, the other half of the house was let out to tenants. Among the first ones, in 1805 and 1806, were William Munroe and his new wife, Patty (Stone). Their first child, William Munroe, Jr., was born in the house. (They later moved to 222 Barrett's Mill Road and 19 Church Green--see Forms #449 and 324).

Before the end of the War of 1812, in his capacity as County Sheriff from 1808 to his death in 1813, the building was the home of Gen. William Hildreth and his wife, Ann (Shepard), who had several daughters who were considered the "belles" of Concord of that time. The jailer from 1815 to 1843 was Capt. Abel Moore, who apparently lived here for most of that time. He was succeeded by Samuel Staples, jailer from 1843 to 1867, when the County removed the courts from Concord, conveyed all its former property to the town, and the jail was discontinued.

1867 was also the year that St. Bernard's Parish was detached from St. Mary's, Waltham. After the courts moved, the town auctioned off the former county-owned property. The County House was purchased by the Boston Archdiocese in 1868 for a Rectory for St. Bernard's Church across the Square (see Form #303). It also functioned as a Parish House until Monument Hall was built in 1906-1907. Renovations to the building, which included the mansard roof and a bracketed canopy at the front door, were completed in 1870, and by the end of the year St. Bernard's had its first resident priest, Father John Delahunty.