

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.114
Historic Name:	Devens, William H. House
Common Name:	
Address:	77 Sudbury Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-801
Year Constructed:	c 1870
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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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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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

PL. CONCORD
USGS. CONCORD
SECT B

CON. 114

AREA

FORM NO.

114



CONCORD

77 Sudbury Road

ic Name

W.H. Devens House

Present

dwelling

Original

dwelling

PTION

ca. 1870

e

Keyes.

Greek Revival

tect

unknown

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

Exterior Wall Fabric

clapboard

Outbuildings

garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

see p. 2 and 3

Condition

excellent

Moved

no

Date

N/A

Acreage

less than one acre

Setting

Corner of Devens St., in

residential neighborhood of

18th-19th-C. houses.

UTM REFERENCE

Parcel G9-801

USGS QUADRANGLE

Recorded by

A. Forbes

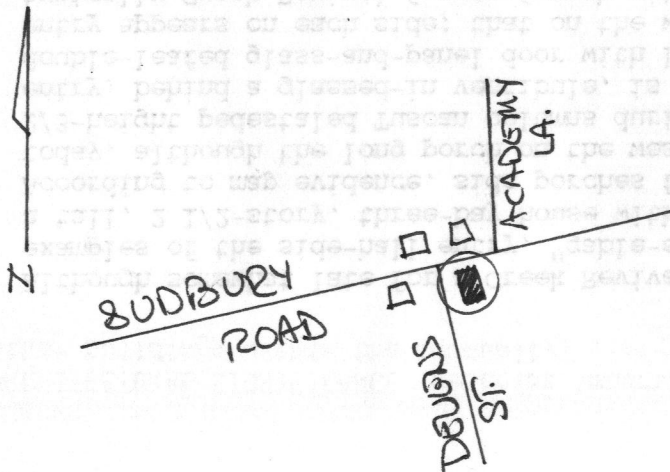
Organization

Research by Sherry Warner
for Concord Hist. Comm.

SCALE

Date

July, 1990



NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

For its association with the late nineteenth-century residential development of Concord center, and as a well-preserved example of the architecture of its time, this house meets Criteria A and C as part of a National Register district encompassing a town center of 17th- through early 20th-century buildings.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Although somewhat late for a Greek Revival house, #77 Sudbury Road is one of the best examples of the side-hall entry, "gable-end" form of that style in the vicinity. It is a tall, 2 1/2-story, three-bay house with a double cross-gabled wing across the rear. According to map evidence, side porches flanked the main house by 1875, as they do today, although the long porch on the west side appears to have been updated with 2/3-height pedestaled Tuscan columns during the Colonial Revival period. The main entry, behind a glassed-in vestibule, is more Italianate than Greek--it is a large double-leafed glass-and-panel door with large, shaped etched-glass lights. A second entry appears on each side; that on the west has a glass-and-panel door. Windows are typically Greek Revival 6-over-6-sash with molded caps. The trim, too, is largely typical of the style, with a boxed, molded cornice, and wide paneled corner pilasters with molded capitals. (Cont.)

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

This is the house referred to by Keyes as the "long, large house built since the war," (probably between 1870 and '75,) for William H. Devens, a "retired capitalist" who married Ann E. Barrett. Mr. Devens is said to have worked in some capacity for the railroad, and been a relative of Gen. Devens. He had had a position in the Boston Custom House, and was involved in local real estate, having several houses built, and, in 1881, the three-story commercial block, (the Union Block,) on the north side of Main, next to the Common. The Devens family lived at #77 at least during the 1870's. A son, Ellsworth, died in 1879 at the age of seventeen, and Louisa May Alcott dedicated her story, Jack and Jill, (1880) to him. Mr. Devens also owned the property to the rear, extending to today's Hubbard Street, and thus appears to have been an investor in the "Hubbard Estate Improvement", the 1872 subdivision of 26 acres of the former Ebenezer Hubbard farm. Devens Street was cut through in 1880-81.

The next owner was a Dr. Putnam of Brooklyn, New York, until some time in the early 1880's, when the property was bought by George Tuttle, a provisions dealer in Boston. (The 1886 directory also lists Samuel H. Tuttle, a telephone operator, as living on Sudbury road.) (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Interviews with Marcia Moss, (Conc. Library), Jayne Gordon, (Orchard House,) and Eric Smith, 1990.
Keyes III/427.
Maps, plans and atlases: 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.
Richardson.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

CONCORD

Form No:

114

Property Name: W.H. Devens House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

A 1-story rectangular bay at the northeast facade corner on a rubble foundation postdates 1909, as does the pedimented entry porch on the facade. The foundation is dressed granite on the front part of the house, brick at the rear.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Maps show that by 1889 the house belonged to Mrs. Betsy Crowell, and by 1896 to Raphael Hoyle, President of the Boston Harness Co. in West Concord. (Cf. Area form: "Harness Shop Hill.") Hoyle was also on the Board of Selectment from 1899 to 1902. The Hoyle family lived here until at least 1925. The property was subsequently bought by Wallace Conant, a manufacturer of agricultural machinery.