

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.120
Historic Name:	Wheeler, Henry and Caleb House
Common Name:	
Address:	120 Sudbury Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-756
Year Constructed:	1816
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

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

This file was accessed on: Monday, July 30, 2018 at 10:05 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

RD - CONCORD
USGS - CONCORD
SECT - B

AREA

FORM NO.

/ 20

CONCORD

Address 120 Sudbury Road

Historic Name Henry and Caleb Wheeler

House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

DESCRIPTION

1828

Influence Keyes, Wheeler.

Style Federal/Greek Revival

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates)

att. garage--
mid-20th C. (See also p. 2.)

Condition good

Moved no Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting

On residential street of

18th-19th-C. houses.

UTM REFERENCE Parcel G9-756

USGS QUADRANGLE

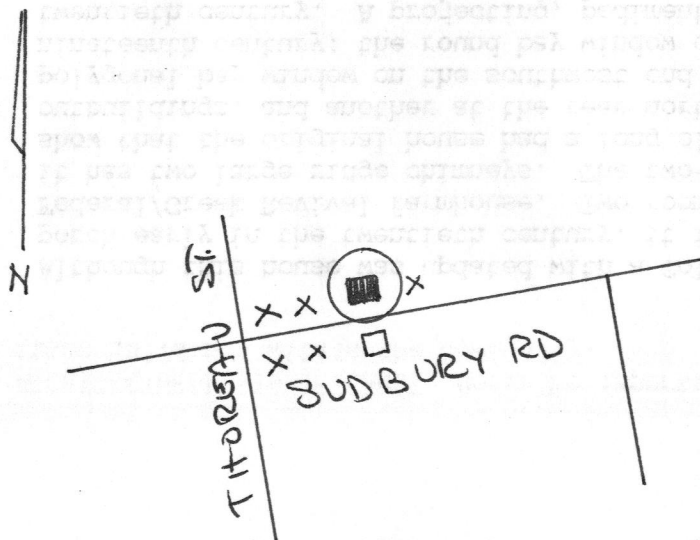
SCALE

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization Research by Toby Kramer
for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date July, 1990

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



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 this house was updated with a Colonial Revival side porch and balconied entry porch early in the twentieth century, it is still a fine example of a large transitional Federal/Greek Revival farmhouse. Two rooms deep, 2 1/2-stories, with a five-bay facade, it has two large ridge chimneys. The two-story rear wing was added by 1903; (records show that the original house had a long ell extending south west toward the farm outbuildings, and another at the rear northeast corner is shown by 1875.) A two-story polygonal bay window on the southwest end would probably have been added late in the nineteenth century; the round bay window on the northeast was added in the early twentieth century. A projecting, pedimented bay at second-story level in the center of the facade appears to have been in place by 1903. The house retains 6-over-6-sash windows with molded surrounds, and narrow, transitional Greek Revival trim of boxed, molded cornice and water table at the foundation line. (Cont.)

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

#120 Sudbury Road is significant for its connection with the large Sudbury Road Wheeler family. It was built in 1828 for Henry Adams Wheeler, son of Ephraim Wheeler, who owned the Wheeler homestead across the street, (see #99 Sudbury Road, NR;) possibly for his marriage to Dolly Kendall of Holden. Prior to the building of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844, the Wheeler family farm included the land to the west past today's Thoreau Street. The Railroad bought the depot grounds from the Wheeler family, after which other houselots in the area were also subdivided from the farm. The houses on the west side of Thoreau Street just south of Sudbury, for instance, are said to have been built of "Caleb Wheeler's orchard."

At least part of the house was rented out while Henry Wheeler owned it. In 1831 it was occupied by Henry Jarvis and Reuben Rice. Prior to the Civil War, Henry Wheeler, like many in Concord, was an avid abolitionist. One of his contributions to the cause was to lend his horse and "carryall" to his neighbor F.E. Bigelow, (see 19 Sudbury Road,) for the transport of fugitive slaves. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Wheeler House File.

Maps, plans and atlases: 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.

Interview with owner, 1990.

Keyes III/431.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: CONCORD	Form No: 120
Property Name: H. & C. Wheeler House	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The lack of a roof overhang at the gable-ends, the narrow corner boards, and a well-formed molding under the front cornice are all Federal period features, marking this as a transitional house. The doorway is also transitional. It is of wide, Greek Revival proportions, with half-length sidelights, but continues the use of earlier tapered pilasters with molded capitals extending into a frieze topped with a heavy, compound-molded lintel. The foundation is fieldstone and dressed granite.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The property was inherited by Henry and Dolly's son, Caleb Henry Wheeler, who became known as one of Concord's largest truck farmers in the second half of the nineteenth century, growing asparagus and strawberries, two of Concord's major crops at that time, as well as other fruits and vegetables. In his late teens Caleb served in New Orleans during the Civil War. He married Sarah Parks in 1879. He was active in town affairs, and was a selectman in 1890-91. After his death his son, Caleb J. Wheeler, carried on the farm, but married and moved to Virginia Road. Sarah Wheeler lived here until well into the twentieth century, however; she died in 1933, when the house was purchased by Dr. Howard Robinson.

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. 120



January 1967