

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.176
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Tibbets, William House - Thoreau Farm
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	215-217 Virginia Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	East Quarter
<b>Local No:</b>	J7-4282
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1878
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival; Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Asbestos Shingle; Wood Foundation: Brick



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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)

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## FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

J7-4282

CONCORD

176

CONCORD

Town

(neighborhood or village)  
East Quarter

215 (217) Virginia Road

SS William Tibbets House/  
 Eric Name Thoreau Farm

dwelling  
 Present dwelling

Original dwelling  
 of Construction ca. 1878

Keyes  
 Greco-Italianate vernacular

Form unknown  
 Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

brick

Foundation asbestos shingle  
 Wall/Trim asphalt shingle

Roof asphalt shingle  
 Outbuildings/Secondary Structures modern

cow barn in deteriorated condition

Major Alterations (with dates)

Late 20th C.: windows and doors  
 replaced; modern canopy and posts at  
 main entry, garage wing added.

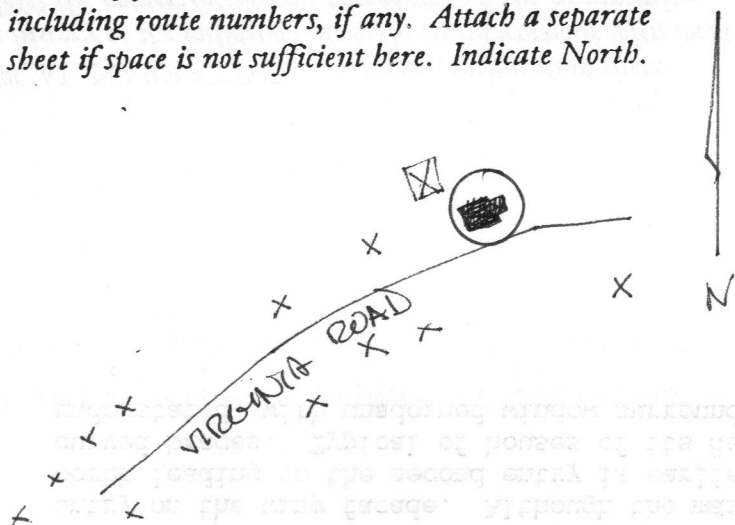
Condition fair  
 Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage 1.5 acres  
 Setting In former farming area,

surrounded by meadows and young woods,  
 with modern houses scattered throughout.  
 Stone wall and curved drive 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

Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

## LOADING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

#215 (217) Virginia Road, in contrast to the old center-chimney house that previously occupied the site, is typical of the 1870's. It is a 2 1/2-story, three-bay, "upright-and-wing" building, with a sidehall entry in the facade gable end, and a second entry on the wing facade. Although the main entry has a modern canopy and posts, a porch leading to the second entry is earlier, and retains its late-nineteenth-century curved braces. Typical of houses of its date and type in Concord, the detail here is understated, with unadorned window surrounds and an unboxed cornice.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ see continuation sheet

Discuss the 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.

This house was built by farmer William Tibbetts, who purchased the old John Wheeler farm in 1870. (For a history of the property prior to 1870, including the time when the Thoreau family lived here, see #341 Virginia Road.) Mr. Tibbetts apparently sold the property to F.P. Parks, who is shown on the 1875 map as owning both this property and the adjoining farm at #550 Old Bedford Road. In 1878 he moved the old John Wheeler farmhouse, (the building where Henry David Thoreau was born,) several rods east to 341 Virginia Road. According to Ruth Wheeler, Tibbetts bought back the property at #215 shortly thereafter, and built this house on the site of the old farmhouse.

William Tibbetts lived here for many years, but does not appear to have owned the house for very long. By 1886 the owner was Henry C. Wheeler, who farmed the land, and later bred dogs on the property. In that year Mr. Tibbetts, then listed as a "driver," is shown as a boarder with the Wheeler family. In 1916 the farm and house were purchased by Caleb and Ruth Wheeler, who lived here for many years. Caleb was a farmer, and Ruth Wheeler was one of Concord's most prominent local historians. She wrote Concord, Climate for Freedom in 1967, many historical articles, and her "File of Houses in Concord" is one of the most comprehensive sources of information about Concord buildings. In an article written in 1944 she describes the many old apple trees on Virginia Road, then still a country road, and the great variety of wildflowers in the nearby woods.

BIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1889, 1906.

Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.

Jarvis, "Houses and People in Concord." 1882.

Town Directories and tax lists.

Interview with owner, 4/92.

Donner, Jean "Virginia Road farm site of Thoreau's birth." Concord Journal, 11/30/89.

Wheeler, Ruth. "Thoreau Farm." Thoreau Society Bulletin #42, Winter, 1953.

Wheeler House File #V1.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.





CON. 176 150

m Concord  
et Virginia Rd.  
ne Harlan Birthplace  
ginal Use \_\_\_\_\_  
sent Use \_\_\_\_\_  
sent Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
e ? \_\_\_\_\_ Style \_\_\_\_\_  
rce of Date \_\_\_\_\_  
hitect \_\_\_\_\_  
ved Altered \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: \_\_\_\_\_

WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency \_\_\_\_\_ Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony side porch 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: later enhance 1st story pedimented portico

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboard 2) 2

OUTBUILDINGS \_\_\_\_\_ LANDSCAPING \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 35'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo 68-504 11 68-500 897

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

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)

See Timothy Wheeler house  
in 1937 house belonged to Algeo - went back in that family to 1852  
Prior to that to Joseph Merriam who married Lucy Wheeler, daughter of Abner  
possibly dates back to 1692 - Timothy Wheeler

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

8/18/11. the newspaper

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds

Original yellow form: Eligibility file  
Copies: Inventory form  
Town file(w/corresp.)  
Macris  
NR director \_\_\_\_\_

Community: CON

**MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER**

Date Received: 3/27/01                      Date Due: 4/27/01                      Date Reviewed: 4/4/01

Type:              x   Individual                        x   District (s)(Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Multiple Areas (see below for list)                      Inventory Form: See Below

Address: Old Bedford Rd / Bedford Street / Virginia Road

Requested by: TD

Action:                             Honor                             ITC                             Grant                        x   R & C                             Other:

Agency:                      Staff in charge of Review: SW

**INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES**

- x   Eligible
- Eligible, also in district
- Eligible only in district
- Ineligible
- More information needed

**DISTRICTS**

- Eligible
- Ineligible
- x   More information needed

CRITERIA:                        x   A                             B                        x   C                             D

LEVEL:                        x   Local                        x   State                             National

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**AREAS:**

- Old Bedford Road Area (CON.BM)
- Old Bedford Road Area II (CON.BN)
- Bedford Street Area II (CON.BO)
- Lower Old Bedford – Virginia Roads Area (CON.BL)
- William Tibbets – Thoreau Farm (CON.176)

**INDIVIDUAL:**

- Enos Fox House (CON.182)
- Samuel Fox House (CON.181)
- Benoni & Thomas Fox House (CON.180)
- Waldo Flint House (CON.179)

The entire area radiates from the intersection of Old Bedford Road and Bedford Street and part of Virginia Road (see map). The area is illustrative of the area's transition from an early agricultural to small farming area to an early 20<sup>th</sup> century streetcar suburb residential neighborhood. A majority of the land was once associated with the Fox family. The properties predominately read as historic structures in form though some have replacement windows or a form of synthetic siding.

The Old Bedford Road Area, the northernmost area, consists of three houses at 643, 654 and 667 Old Bedford Road all dating from the 1870's to the 1920's. Modern houses are located adjacent to these historic structures and to the north and south on Old Bedford Road. There is also a modern subdivision to the west (see map).

The Old Bedford Road Area II lies just to the south the Old Bedford Road Area. The area includes five properties 515,527,537,547,595 Old Bedford Road all located on the west side of the street, all constructed between 1870 and 1931. The historic properties are comprised of Greek Revivals and bungalows.



On the east side of Old Bedford Road at number 550 is the Enos Fox House. A Georgian farmhouse constructed in 1770 with a two story rear ell (may be a one story ell with an added second story dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century). The building is a five bay, two and a half story late Georgian structure with a central chimney, with a projecting central bay. The building is wood clapboard sided with 6 over 9 wood windows. The property is one of several in the area built by the Fox family, one of the earliest families in Concord. The house was used by subsequent families who farmed the area fields. Fun fact - during the Revolutionary War, when Harvard College was moved to Concord, a professor was housed here.

Just to the south of the Old Bedford Road Area II are several individually inventoried properties including:

- The Samuel Fox House at 505 Old Bedford Road: It is believed that the house may retain some heavy timber framing dating to 1702 but it predominately dates to the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century with a vernacular Georgian feel. The building has a salt box addition to the rear, is a five bay symmetrically arranged façade with a projecting one story central bay, and retains 6/6 wood sash and the majority of its architectural details. It has a clapboard façade with shingled sides. There was a former carriage house that was attached to the house, but destroyed in the 1938 hurricane. The site includes a 1930's garage, shed, greenhouse complex, and roadside stand.
- Benoni and Thomas Fox House at 474-472 Old Bedford Road, diagonally opposite the Samuel Fox House: The side of the house faces the street and there is a large condo addition added to the house. This structure began as a typical 18<sup>th</sup> century five bay 2 and a half story structure with a central chimney. The building is wood clapboard sided with late 19<sup>th</sup> century 2/2 wood sash with plain trim. The house at one time had a Victorian wrap around porch (as seen in earlier inventory form) that was removed and replaced with a central projecting bay in the 1990's.
- Waldo Flint House at 430 Old Bedford Road: Located at the corner of Bedford Street in a deep lot with mature trees with remnants of an orchard to the south. The c. 1890 2 and a half story dwelling with 2/2 wood windows is a vernacular Queen Anne style house with wood clapboard and shingles. A large clapboarded barn and carriage house sits adjacent to the house and is a very well preserved example in the town of Concord with a small cupola, central dormer with hay door, 6/6 wood sash, and vertical board central door.

Bedford Street II lies southwest of Old Bedford Road Area II after the intersection of Old Bedford Road and Bedford Street. The area consists of 9 properties on the north side of Bedford Street and one on the south side surrounded by modern residential properties. Mid 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century structures of various styles and several of the properties also have outbuildings.

The Lower Bedford – Virginia Road Area lies southeast of the intersection of Old Bedford Road and Bedford Street. The area consists of 7 residential properties dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The southernmost portion of the area is within the Minuteman National Historic Park which includes the property at 55 Old Bedford Road (which is also in the American Mile LHD) and the agricultural land to the east of Old Bedford Road.

William Tibbets – Thoreau Farm, on the north side of Virginia Road, one of three inventoried sites outside the previous area is just west of the Deacon Wheeler- Thoreau Birthplace, which is individually eligible for listing in the National Register, and the Wheeler-Merriam House, which is individually listed in the National Register. Constructed c. 1878, the Greco-Italianate 2 and a half story three bay with a projecting wing house is sided in asbestos shingle. The associations with Thoreau extend only to the farm land associated with the site, the Thoreau farmhouse was demolished and this property built in the same location. The property was sold to the Wheeler family next door and farmed with the adjoining land.

#### DETERMINATION:

The Enos Fox House, Samuel Fox House and Waldo Flint House w/ barn and carriage house all retain integrity of setting, location, design, workmanship, feeling, association and materials and are eligible under Criteria A and C.

The Benino and Thomas Fox House is not eligible for listing because it lacks architectural integrity due to alterations over time, including a new side addition and removal of the Victorian porch.

More information is needed to determine eligibility for the areas in order to assess the number if intrusions (if any) between the houses in the areas and the areas themselves.