

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.54
Historic Name:	Reynolds, Grindall - Keyes, Prescott House
Common Name:	
Address:	276 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-1712-1
Year Constructed:	1859
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Granite; Stone, Cut



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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

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-1712-1
1712-2

CONCORD

DU

54

Town CONCORD SECT BPlace (neighborhood or village) Concord Center POAddress 276 Main StreetHistoric Name Grindall Reynolds House
Prescott Keyes HouseType: Present dwellingOriginal dwellingYear of Construction 1859Style KeyesForm Italianate vernacularStyle/Form unknownArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite
and brickWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

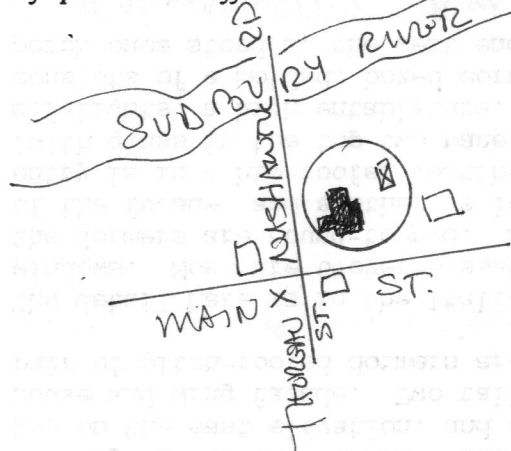
1-story cottage, on separate parcel at
266 Main; modern gazebo; shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

no significant alterations. Baystconservatory added after 1894.Condition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acreSetting At corner of Nashawtuc Rd.,
on large lot backing up to river. In
area of large mid- to late-19th
century houses.

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 ForbesOrganization for Concord Hist. CommissionDate (month/day/year) June, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

#276 Main Street is one of the few true Italianate houses on Main Street at Concord center. Built in 1859, when the style would have been quite new in Concord, it is a 2 1/2-story "upright-and-wing" building type, with the main side-hall entry in the two-bay, gable-end facade. The house has a two-story rear wing, a one-story entry bay on the east elevation, and a glassed-in conservatory in the angle of the main house and wing facade. Two tall paneled chimneys rise from the roof ridges, and a pair of pitch-roofed dormers are located on the east slope of the main roof.

The detail here is in the Italianate vernacular vein. Most notable are the windows. Most are 6-over-6-sash with molded surrounds; those in the main gable and the dormers are round-topped. A one-story bay window projects from the first story of the facade, and another is located on the west end of the side wing. The main entry is in a hip-roofed vestibule (probably a later addition), where a 6-panel door (with glass in the top two panels), is surrounded by a transom and 2-3-length sidelights, a high entablature, and short corner pilasters. Other detailing consists of a molded, boxed cornice and narrow cornerboards. Maps show that an open porch once stood at the west end of the wing. (Cont.)

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 as the residence of Dr. Grindall Reynolds (1822-1894,) who came here from a ten-year pastorate in Jamaica Plain to become minister of the First Parish in Concord in 1858. His twenty-three-year ministry here spanned the last turbulent abolitionist years, the Civil War era and its following reconstruction, and carried his congregation into the prosperous and rapidly-changing period of the 1880's. One of the most influential men in Concord, he was a prolific writer and speaker, and served his town as well as his church. He was chairman of the School Committee, president of the Library and the Lyceum, and vice-president of the Antiquarian Society. Among his historical works is his history of Concord for Drake's 1880 History of Middlesex County, a considerable undertaking, since no town history had been compiled since Lemuel Shattuck's History of Concord in 1835.

In 1881 Dr. Reynolds retired from his pastorate and became secretary (the executive head) of the American Unitarian Association, which office he held, along with that of minister-emeritus of the Concord church, until his death in 1894. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1909.
Keyes/Tolman.

Town directories and tax files.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle.

Greeley, Dana. Know These Concordians. 1975.

Social Circle Memoirs, III, 240; VI, 37-48.

Teale, ed. The Meeting House on the Green. 1985.

Research of Mrs. Marshall Newton, 1780.

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

CON-54

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDGrindall Reynolds House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

54

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Just northeast of the house is a rough-L-plan clapboarded 1-story cottage (266 Main Street.) Maps show that it was standing at the turn of the century, and was apparently used originally as an outbuilding, and later as a garage.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

After Dr. Reynolds died, the property was purchased by his son-in-law, Judge Prescott Keyes, in 1895, who lived here until his death in 1943. He had married Alice Reynolds in 1881, and by the time he acquired the house he had also become one of Concord's leading citizens. Prescott Keyes (b. 1858) was the youngest child of Judge John Shepard Keyes. Best known as a powerful judge of the District Court, he was also active in many capacities in the state, county, and his native town, where he served as Town Moderator for many years.

After their 1881 Mr. and Mrs. Keyes lived first in the cottage across the street at #267 Main. From 1883 to 1889 he had a law partnership with the Hon. John F. Brown in Boston. In 1893 he became a trustee of the Middlesex Institution for Savings, and in 1894 a director and vice-president of the Concord National Bank; he was president from 1901 to 1938. He was Special Justice of the District Court of Central Middlesex from 1894-1910, and was active in forming the Middlesex Bar Association in 1899. From 1910 to 1930 he succeeded his father as Justice of the District Court of Central Middlesex. In 1912 he became president of the Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Company, from which he retired in 1939.

Among the many town offices he held were Tax Assessor, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and School Committee, member of the first Municipal Light Board in 1898, (which established the town lighting system), and trustee of the Concord Free Library from 1909 to 1943. In the latter capacity he was largely responsible for the 1930 construction of the Loring Fowler Library in West Concord, and for the remodeling and enlargement of the main library in 1933. He also served in many capacities in the management of the First Parish Church.

Alice Reynolds Keyes died in 1927. Less than three months later Prescott Keyes married his private secretary, Mrs. Grace Cahoon Boutwell, who died in 1936.

Later in this century the house again served as the manse for the First Parish Church, when Dr. Dana Maclean Greeley, minister from 1970 to ^{ca. 1985} resided here.

CON-54

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
276 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	54

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☒ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

This house meets the criteria for both individual listing on the National Register as part of a district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For its association with one Concord's most influential ministers, the Rev. Grindall Reynolds, as well as the home of his son-in-law, prominent judge Prescott Keyes, it meets Criterion A. As the only true Italianate vernacular building on lower Main Street, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, ^{location} and workmanship, feeling and association.

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON-54

