

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.259
Historic Name:	Keefe - Macone Farm
Common Name:	
Address:	299 Strawberry Hill Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	E5-1984-7
Year Constructed:	c 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Agricultural; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 1:21: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

CON.259

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street

RECEIVED

E5-1984-7

MAYNARD

259



CONCORD

Neighborhood or village)

299 Strawberry Hill Road

Name Keefe/Macone Farm

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction ca. 1876

Keyes

Italianate vernacular

Form unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

converted barn; carriage shed/garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

paired 1/1 windows on wing.
(See p. 2.)

Condition good

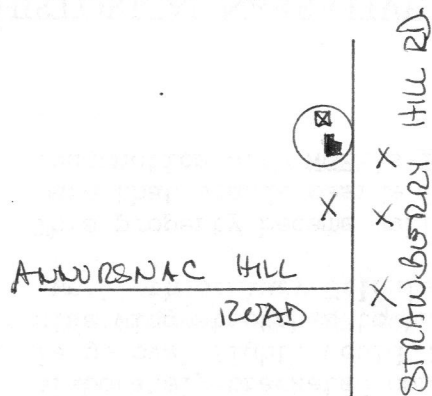
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage approx. two acres

Setting On winding rural road with
woods and fields, some modern 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 Forbes
research by Tryntje Hawks
Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) July, 1990; revised 1992

CON 259

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

This building is significant as one of the most well-preserved houses of its type in the northwest part of Concord. It is a typical 2 1/2-story "gable-end" side-hall-plan farmhouse of the 1870's, with a profusion of vernacular Italianate detail. The windows are generally 2-over-2-sash; a polygonal bay window projects from the first story of the facade. Paired brackets adorn the cornice lines, and a heavy, elaborately-bracketed canopy shelters the main entry. (The door itself, with a large oval light, would date to the early part of this century.) A long two-story side wing stretches to the north; its facade porch is of the plain, twentieth-century Colonial Revival type.

This property became well-known in 1989 not for the house, but for the gable-end barn that stands beside it, which was reconstructed and converted to a dwelling in conjunction with WGBH's This Old House television series.

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.

Although considerable deed research has been done on this property, further information is needed on its early history. The house, which was built about 1876 by Irish farmer John Thomas Keefe (O'Keefe,) replaces an early one that belonged early in the nineteenth century to Cyrus Temple, who in 1832 had a farm of 34 acres here. By 1840 he had increased his land to 50 acres, and was operating a cider mill on the property. In 1861 the farm, reduced to 41, then 38 acres, was sold out of the family. It appears to have been owned by more than one member of the Keefe family, but according to Keyes and Tolman, it was John Thomas Keefe who replaced the old house with the present one.

In 1892 the farm, still with 38 acres, was bought by Alessandro and Maria Macone, who had immigrated to Concord from Gaeta, Italy, a small town near Naples. They, like others, had come to escape the extreme economic hardships that prevailed in Italy from the 1890's through 1900. Many of Concord's Italian immigrants were farmers. Most settled on farms in the east quarter, where they worked first as laborers before buying their own farms. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1889, 1906.

Keyes/Tolman.

Town directories and tax files.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle.

Garrellick and Bailey, Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars.

Interview with owner by Tryntje Hawks, 1990.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

CON. 259

Community: CONCORD	Form No: 259
Property Name: 299 Strawberry Hill Road	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The Macones were unusual, however, both for settling at the northwest edge of town, and for purchasing a farm shortly after their arrival. Here they raised traditional Italian produce for the Boston market, including zucchini, finocchi, basil, and Italian beans. According to their son, John, in late summer the smell of the basil was so strong that "families from Boston, visiting their sons and husbands at the Concord Reformatory, would get the scent and follow it to thier farm, asking to buy some for their cooking." (Cf. Strawberries and Streetcars.) The farm remained in the Macone family until the late 1970's.