

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.164
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Moore Farmhouse
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	345-355 Lexington Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	East Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	I9-4121-2
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1839
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Multiple Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Conservation
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.DS: American Mile Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/06/1961)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: 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](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

I9-4121-2

CONCORD

DS

164

CONCORD

Town

(neighborhood or village)

east Concord center

343-355 Lexington Road

345

Moore Farmhouse

Historic Name

multi-unit dwelling

Present

double-house

Original

1839; parts may be

Date of Construction

17th or 18th century

Wheeler

Style

Greek Revival

Form

unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

dressed granite

Foundation

wood clapboard;

flushboard

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates)

early 20th-century garage door, multi-light window on west wing. Entry surrounds altered on wings. (See also P. 2.)

Condition

good

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date N/A

Acreage

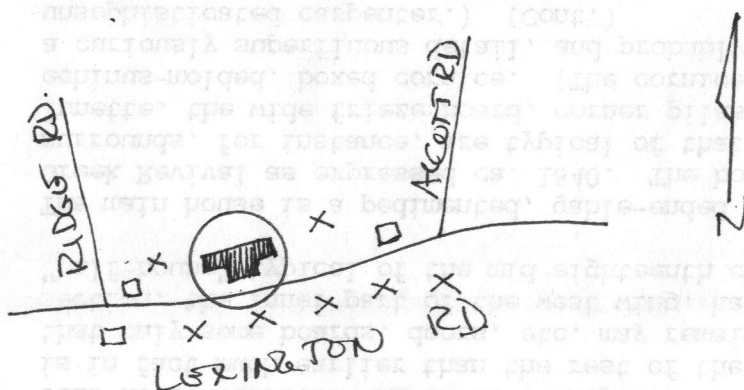
1.23 acres

Setting

Banked above road, in residential district of 17th-19th-century houses. Flanked by 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 A. Forbes  
research by Anne Hayden  
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

One of the largest buildings on this section of Lexington Road, this house was originally built as a double-house. Today it includes five dwelling units, all housed within a structure that probably grew gradually over the years to include not just the main 2 1/2-story house, but two long 2-story wings, one extending to each side from the rear house corners. An on-site inspection may help to determine whether part of one ell is in fact much earlier than the rest of the building. (Although Ruth Wheeler concludes that only some boards, doors, etc. may remain from a prior building, at least one section, the inner part of the west wing, has the proportions of a three-bay "half-house" typical of the mid-eighteenth century.)

The main house is a pedimented, gable-ended building that is the quintessence of the Greek Revival as expressed ca. 1840. The board-and-corner-block window and door surrounds, for instance, are typical of that era, as is the flush-boarded pediment with lunette, the wide frieze board, corner pilasters with recessed panels, and the echinus-molded, boxed cornice. (The cornice returns that appear above the pediment are a curiously superfluous detail, and probably indicate the hand of a local, relatively unsophisticated carpenter.) (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.*

Although the historical significance of this property for many years was tied mainly to a former house on the site belonging to the family of Samuel Prescott, who rode from Lexington with Paul Revere to bring the alarm to Concord on the night of the 18th-19th of April, 1775, it is likely that only a small portion of that building is included in the present house. It is generally accepted that the building here today was built in 1839, by Capt. Abel Moore, as a double-house for the families of him and his son, Capt. John B. Moore.

Abel Moore was born in Sudbury in 1777, and first went into business with Jesse Goodnow at Mill Village in South Sudbury. He moved to Stow in 1812, where he opened a store, and subsequently became deputy sheriff. He moved to Concord in 1814 to become deputy sheriff here; the next year he was appointed deputy jailer and moved to the county house on the square, where he remained for twenty-eight years. Shrewd and experienced in real estate, during that time he gradually acquired the various parts of this large farm, which extended from Cambridge Turnpike to the far side of today's Bedford Street. Dr. Benjamin Prescott, the last owner of the Prescott house, died in 1830, and Capt. Moore bought this part of the property from his heirs. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.  
Sanborns from 1927.  
Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.  
Jarvis, "Houses and People in Concord." 1882.  
Town Directories and tax lists. (Cont.)

☒ 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

Community

Property

CONCORDMoore Farmhouse

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

164

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The facade is four bays wide, and embellished by a fluted-Doric colonnade that encompasses three sides of the building. The particular double-house arrangement here harks back to a few others, such as the earlier Cyrus and Darius Hubbard house on Sudbury Road, which, as here, is divided longitudinally, with one entry on each long side, and has a pair of ridge chimneys that serve the fireplaces for each half of the house.

The main entries here, including one on the west wing, have 6-panel doors and sidelights. Most windows are 6-over-6-sash; those on the outer end of the east wing at second-story level are 3-over-3-sash "half windows." The pediment has a pair of 6-over-6-sash windows and a lunette under the roof peak.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In 1843 Capt. Moore retired here to his new house, where he died in 1848. He was one of the earliest of Concord's progressive farmers. After the mill pond was drained off and the wetlands along the upper brook reduced late in the 1820's (largely through his great influence as a partner in the Milldam Company,) Capt. Moore reclaimed the swampy exhausted land south of the road here by employing the labor of the prisoners in the jail. He was an original director in the Concord Bank, and active in organizing the Middlesex Institution for Savings as well.

After Abel Moore died his son, Capt. John B. Moore, who had lived in the house since his marriage to Sarah Hunt in 1840, took over the entire property. He followed in his father's footsteps as deputy sheriff, and even surpassed him in progressive farming. A highly-respected horticulturalist, he was a leader in trying new crops, and under his ownership the farm became one of the most famous in the state. He was well-known for his vast fields of asparagus, strawberries, corn, cauliflower, and even dandelions. He also had a large herd of cows, and a huge cow-barn with two silos stood directly across the road from the house until well into the twentieth century. In the 1880's he was president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Like his neighbor Ephraim Bull John B. Moore developed new varieties of flowers, grapes, and other fruits; among the best known were Moore's early grape and Moore's early corn. He was also one of the first in Concord to use greenhouses for both growing and cultivation. (Cont.)

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDMoore Farmhouse

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Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

164

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

By the mid-1880's John B. was managing the farm in conjunction with his son, John H. Moore, who came into its ownership after his father's death. He married Sarah Baker of Lincoln, who still owned a small parcel of land around the house through the 1930's. After John H. Moore's death at the turn of the century, however, most of the farm was sold. The purchaser was George Albree of Boston and Swampscott, who built his own residence just to the west at #299 Lexington Road. He operated the farm for several years, but in 1911-1914 subdivided the 65 remaining acres for development into eleven large lots. He envisioned a neighborhood of small farms here, where "the benefits of a large country estate (could) be secured and enjoyed by the holders of the small farming properties at moderate cost." The plan, borrowing from the Brook Farm ideal "without the Brook Farm communistic mode of living" was to reserve the "common centre" of the properties for horticulture and agriculture, while building only along the street front. A design was laid out by architects Derby and Robinson, with Arthur Shurtleff as landscape architect. Albree's intention was partly fulfilled, as some of the large properties in the triangle west of Hawthorne lane still attest. Many house lots of less than an acre have since been developed along the roads, however, and much of the portion north of Lexington Road eventually went to make up the early- to mid-twentieth-century neighborhood in the Ridge/Revolutionary/Authors Road area.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Wheeler, Ruth. "Our American Mile."

Wheeler House File #L16.

Sanborn, Frank. "Historic Farm to be Site of Colony of Congenial Folk." Newspaper article, 1911.

"Live in Concord." Boston Sunday Herald, April 5, 1914.

Metcalf, Nelson. "Conserving Concord's Traditions." Boston Transcript, April 4, 1914.  
Social Circle Memoirs.

CON. 164

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community

CONCORD

Property Address

345-355 Lexington  
Road

Area(s)	Form No.
	164

## 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 building meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register both as an outstanding example of a local interpretation of the Greek Revival style (C) and for its role in the development of the Lexington Road area through farmers Abel and John B. Moore (A and C.) It is also eligible as part of a National Register District of well-preserved eighteenth- and nineteenth-century residences on Lexington Road. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.

FORM B - STRUCTURE SURVEY  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Is this structure historically significant to:  
Town \_\_\_\_\_ Commonwealth \_\_\_\_\_ Nation \_\_\_\_\_

Structure has historical connection with the following themes: (See also reverse side)

Agriculture	Commerce/Industry
Architecture	Science/Invention
Art/Sculpture	Travel/Communication
Education	Military Affairs
Government	Religion/Philosophy
Literature	Indians
Music	Development of Town/City

2. Town Encord Area C HD CON-104 69 7 ✓  
Street Lexington Rd. 347  
Name Dr. Samuel Prescott House  
Moore-Fallon House  
Original Use Farmhouse  
Present Use private home  
Present Owner private  
Date 1840-1860s Style Grk Rev.  
Source of Date CHS Amer. Mss. p. 11  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_

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

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: cut stone

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

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

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency West side 2 story ridge Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony around building 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: side lights

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 4/4 delicately decorative lintels

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

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

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 15'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo VII-24  
68-575 E-09-065-1-0 69 HD

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)

*The young doctor who brought to Concord news that the British were coming lived there.*

*wide boards + beams from Prescott house incorporated - East 211 seems older than 1840*

*John Moore farm - one of most famous in state - leader in trying new crops - (strawberries, asparagus)*

*Originated + introduced new varieties of crops - Moore's Early Grape*

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

*Am. Mus. p. 11*

# BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

*Site of Prescott House*

Registry of Deeds