

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.408
Historic Name:	Wheeler, Abiel Heywood House
Common Name:	
Address:	387 Sudbury Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Hubbardville
Local No:	G10-386
Year Constructed:	c 1829
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Archaeology, Historic; Architecture
Area(s):	CON.AL: Hubbardville CON.DZ: Hubbardville Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (04/10/2018)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard 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

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FORM B - BUILDING

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125

Assessor's number

G10-386

USGS Quad

CONCORD

Area(s)

AL

Form Number

408

CON. 408

Town

Sterling *Concord*

Neighborhood or village)

Hubbardville

387 Sudbury Road

Name Abiel Wheeler House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction ca. 1829-1832

Wheeler

Form Federa/Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown



Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

20th C. garage

Major Alterations (with dates) 2-story

extension at southeast rear ell

Condition excellent

Moved [x]no [] yes Date N/A

Acreage 53,871 square feet

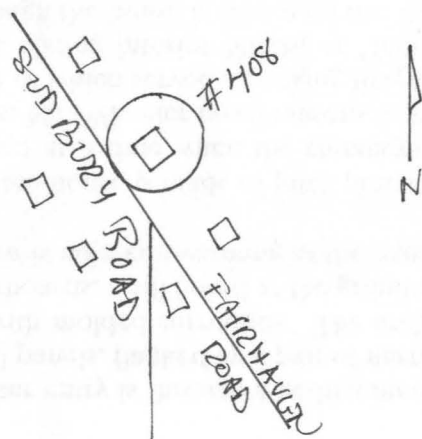
Setting Opposite intersection of Sudbury & Fair-

haven Rds, in area of mixed modern & 18th-19th-

C. houses. Large storage sheds on fields to rear.

Sketch Map

Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Forbes/research by

Cathy Parmelee, Richard Wheeler

Organization for Concord Historical Commission

Date April, 2001

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION [] *see continuation sheet*

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

387 Sudbury Road is a well-preserved example of Concord's many transitional Federal/Greek Revival houses. A typical side-gabled housetype, it is 2 1/2 stories, five bays wide, with a long two-story rear wing and a pair of large rear chimneys.

The main center entry is through a pedimented "porch" or vestibule, with a 6-panel door with vertical and horizontal panels, flanked by a pair of narrow pilasters. The windows, typical of their time, are 6-over-6-sash, with molded surrounds. The architectural trim is mainly in the late Federal vein, with narrow cornerboards, a sill board at the granite foundation, and a prominent molding below the front cornice. There is no roof overhang at the gable ends.

The frame of the house is made of pitch pine cut on the Wheeler family wood lot. While the building was constructed at a time when the chimneys of many dwellings were being built to accommodate cooking stoves, Mr. Wheeler hired masons from Acton to build it with two larger, more old-fashioned chimneys, one of which served a cooking fireplace with a bake oven beside it. Another old-fashioned touch was the sliding interior blinds, or "Indian shutters"--a lingering characteristic of the Federal period. Although the house is shown on the 1830 Hales Map of Concord, family records indicate that it was not completed until 1832.

In the third quarter of the nineteenth century, around the time of George Wheeler's marriage to Alice Rattray, an addition was made to the south side of the house. The corner porch there has openwork posts with decorative braces.

The garage, which was built when the old barn was torn down, dates to the 1920s or '30s. The barn foundation is still extant.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [x] *see continuation sheet*

Explain 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.

There are two traditional stories about the origins of this house. According to one, it is one of Hubbardville's early "marriage" houses, built for Abiel Heywood Wheeler (b. 1807), son of Ephraim Wheeler, Jr., when he married Harriet Lincoln of Ashby in 1829. If this is the case, like the Hubbard houses at #s 342, 3352, and 358/374 Sudbury Road, it would illustrate a common eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century pattern of a father giving a farm to, and often building a house for, a son at the time of his marriage. A conflicting story illustrates another recurring nineteenth-century theme--the disagreement over the consumption of liquor. According to this alternate version, Abiel and Harriet lived first with his parents at 99 Sudbury Road (see Form # 118), but moved here sometime after 1834 because Harriet, an active member of the local temperance movement, did not approve of the elder Wheelers' drinking habits. (The fact that a house owned by "A. Wheeler" appears at this location on the 1830 Hales map, however, indicates that its construction had at least been begun by that time).

Abiel Wheeler was one of the first members of the Trinitarian Church. He served as Superintendent of the Sabbath School for the years 1829-1831, 1837-1838, and 1845-1846. He was elected Deacon in 1834, and served until January 7, 1848, when he resigned from church membership. Harriet Lincoln Wheeler (1807-1894) was not only an ardent temperance advocate, but was active in other types of reform, including the anti-slavery movement. Three of Abiel and Harriet's sons served in the Civil War: Henry Lincoln, Charles Parkman, and George Francis, who became head of the local GAR chapter

[x] Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, a completed National Register Criteria Statement form is attached.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Concord

387 Sudbury Road
Abiel Wheeler House

Area(s)
AL

Form No.
408

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

after the war. Their daughter, artist and educator Mary Colman Wheeler, founded the Mary C. Wheeler School in Providence, Rhode Island.

Like his wife, Abiel Wheeler lived to an advanced age. In his later years the farm was managed largely by his son **George Francis Wheeler**. Upon Abiel's death at the end of the century it passed to George, who had owned and occupied the house next door at 25/27 Fairhaven Road for many years.

During his lifetime George Wheeler bought much of the Hubbard and Potter land in the Hubbardville area, eventually owning one of the largest farms in Concord. He was one of the largest local producers of strawberries and asparagus--two specialty crops for which Concord became widely known after the Civil War. In 1878, the three top asparagus growers in Concord were all Hubbardville neighbors on this part of Sudbury Road--George Wheeler, Charles Hubbard, and Judge Henry French.

George Wheeler and his wife Alice (Rattray) had six children. One of them, daughter Blanche Emily, became a collector of oriental art, some of which she donated to the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Son Alan was head of the history department at St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island.

Their son, **Wilfrid Wheeler** (b. 1876), who took over the management of the farm for his father, was the next owner of the farm. He was also a florist and landscape gardener, and became the first Commissioner of Agriculture for Massachusetts. He moved to Cape Cod in 1919 to manage the Coonamesset Ranch Corporation, reputedly the largest agricultural property in the northeast at the time. At his farm at Ashumet in Hatchville, which he purchased in 1924, he went on to perform world-renowned work in the development of the American holly, for which he received the Burrage Cup from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1955.

Wilfrid Wheeler's son, **Wilfrid Wheeler, Jr.**, managed the family farm after his father left Concord. He moved to Cambridge in the 1930s, and the farm was sold to the **Arena** family. The house, which was rented out to tenants after 1930, however, remains in the Wheeler family today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES

Interview with owner, 3/91.

Comments by owner, 3/20/95, 4/19/2001.

Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1846, 1875, 1889, 1906.

Concord Assessor's records.

Concord Directories.

Keyes.

Newspaper article, 12/10/53.

Obituary, Harriet Lincoln Wheeler.

Shattuck.

Wheeler, Christopher B. Architectural plans and elevations, 1977.

Wheeler, Wilfrid. The story of the Abiel H. Wheeler House in Concord, Mass. n.d.

Wheeler House File.

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. 408



FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

G10-386

CONCORD

AL

406

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

CONCORD

Town

SECT B

(neighborhood or village)

Hubbardville

387 Sudbury Road

Address

Abiel Wheeler House

Historic Name

dwelling

Present

dwelling

Original

ca. 1829-1835

Period of Construction

Wheeler

Style

Federal/Greek Revival

Form

unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

granite

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

garage

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

2-story

extension at southeast rear.

Condition

Excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes

Date

N/A

Acreage

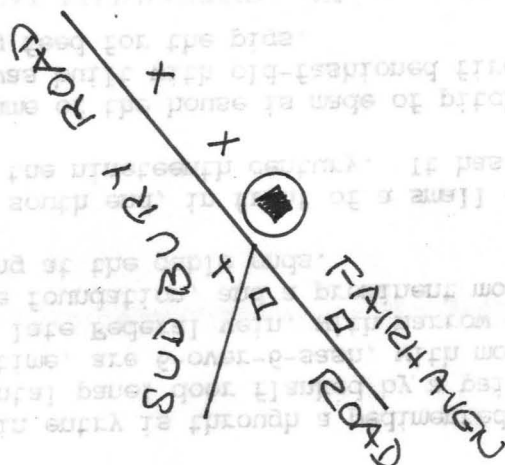
53,871 square feet

Setting

Opposite intersection of Sudbury and Fairhaven Roads in area of mixed modern and 18th-19th century wood-frame houses. Two large storage sheds at rear on fields extending to railroad.

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

Organization

research by Cathy Parmelee
for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year)

May, 1991

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

#387 Sudbury Road, probably built in 1829, is a well-preserved example of Concord's many transitional Federal/Greek Revival houses. A typical house-type, it is 2 1/2-stories, five bays wide, with a long 2-story rear wing and a pair of large rear chimneys.

The main entry is through a pedimented "porch" or vestibule, with a 6-vertical/horizontal panel door flanked by a pair of narrow pilasters. The windows, typical of their time, are 6-over-6-sash, with molded surrounds. The architectural trim is mainly in the late Federal vein, with narrow cornerboards, sill board or "water table" at the granite foundation, and a prominent molding below the front cornice. There is no roof overhang at the gable ends.

On the south end, in front of a small ell is a corner porch which probably dates to the end of the nineteenth century. It has openwork posts with decorative braces.

The frame of the house is made of pitch pine cut on the Wheeler family wood lot, and the house was built with old-fashioned fireplaces, including a huge one in the ell for cooking feed for the pigs.

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.

There are two traditional stories about the origins of this house. According to one, it is one of Hubbardville's early "marriage" houses, built for Abiel Heywood Wheeler (b. 1807), son of Ephraim Wheeler, when he married Harriet Lincoln of Ashby in 1829. If this is the case, like the Hubbard houses at #s 342, 352, and 358/374, it would illustrate the predominant eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century pattern of a father giving a farm to, and often building a house for, a son at the time of his marriage. A conflicting story illustrates another recurring theme of the middle of the nineteenth century--the disagreement over the consumption of liquor. According to this alternate version, Abiel and Harriet lived first with his family at #99 Sudbury Road (see Form # ,) but moved here some time after 1834 because Harriet, an active member of the temperance party, did not approve of the elder Wheelers' drinking habits. (The fact that a house owned by "A. Wheeler" appears at this location on the 1830 Hales map, however, lends credence to the first of the two stories.) (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Interview with owner, 3/91.
 Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1906.
 Town Directories.
 Keyes.
 Shattuck.
 Wheeler House File.
 Town assessor's records.
 Newspaper article, 12/10/53.

☒ 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

CONCORD

Abiel Wheeler House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Abiel Wheeler lived to an advanced age. He was a Deacon of the Congregational church for some years before being expelled some time after 1837. In his later years the farm appears to have been owned jointly by him and his son **George F. Wheeler** for a time, and upon Abiel's death at the end of the century it passed to George, who had owned and occupied the house next door at #25/27 Fairhaven Road for many years.

During his lifetime George bought much of the Hubbard and Potter land in the Hubbardville area, eventually owning one of the largest farms in Concord. He was well-known for his many acres of asparagus.

The property was next owned by George's son **Wilfred Wheeler**, who apparently lived here with his family even while his father was alive. A prominent farmer himself, Wilfred was also a florist and a landscape gardener. He became State Commissioner of Agriculture early in this century. By 1930 he had moved to Cape Cod, and the house was occupied by Wilfred Wheeler, Jr. and his family.

Miss Mary Wheeler, founder of the Mary C. Wheeler School for girls in Providence, RI, was born here.

Part of the house was also rented out to tenants, among whom in 1930 were Reba Walcott Valentine and her family.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
387 Sudbury Road

Area(s)	FormNo.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually ☐ District ☒ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A B C D

☒ ☐ ☒ ☐

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

#387 Sudbury Road, a large, extremely well-preserved farmhouse of ca. 1829, like #12 Fairhaven across the street, is critical to the character of the Hubbardville area as an eighteenth- to early-twentieth-century secondary village in a rural, residential part of Concord, and thus meets Criterion C. of the National Register. It also qualifies under Criterion A as the farmhouse for one of Hubbardville's large farms, that of Abiel Wheeler, and thus played a critical role in the area's development as a rural secondary village in the nineteenth century.

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

CON. 408 Section 13
2. Town Concord
Street 387 Sudbury
Name Abiel Wheeler House
Original Use _____
Present Use _____
Present Owner Private
Date 1832 Style Federal
Source of Date Mrs Wheeler
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: cw stone
WALL COVER: Wood clapboard Brick Stone Other _____
STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End ^{wf} Cluster Elaborate Irregular
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency _____ Simple/Complex
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony side Recessed _____
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard 2 story lean to later addition
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork _____
FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: porch
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied 6/6
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS _____

LANDSCAPING _____

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 30'
Property has _____ feet frontage on street

Recorder _____

For _____

Photo II-17
68-451

E-09	065.1.013
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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)

Wheeler built for son Abiel Wheeler married 1826, house completed about 6 yrs later. Another typically local family history

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

Mr. Wheeler - CAS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number _____

