

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.421
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Wheeler, Cyrus House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	392-396 Plainfield Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Nine Acre Corner
<b>Local No:</b>	E15-3423
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1816
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Federal
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.AT: Nine Acre Corner
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Stucco; Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut; Stone, Uncut



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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

Map E15,

Parcels 3423,

MAYNARD

3423-1, 3423-2

AT

421



CONCORD

SECT B

neighborhood or village)

Nine Acre Corner

392-396 Plainfield Road

Name Wheeler Homestead

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Construction 1816

Wheeler family records

Form Federal, with later additions

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite, with rubble

Wall/Trim wood clapboard and stucco

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures shed

Major Alterations (with dates) early 20th

C: late-19th-century veranda enclosed and stuccoed; late 20th C: windows replaced, entry bay added on N., new E. entry, new shutters; picture windows.

Condition fair

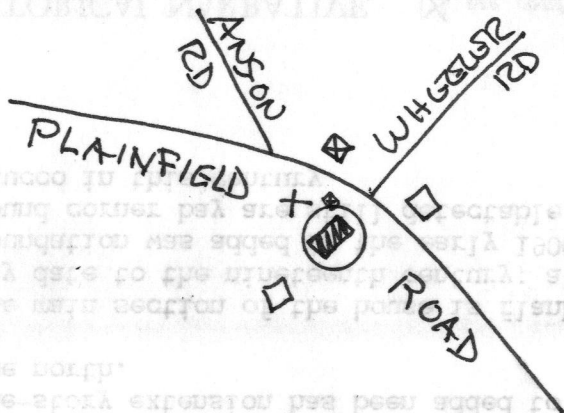
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting In rural area at intersection of Wheeler and Plainfield Roads, in cluster of 19th-20th-century houses and farm buildings. Fields and pastures to S.; barn opposite; stone retaining walls across front and E. side.

## 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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by research by Tillie Sweet for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1991

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.*

This house, which has been altered and expanded many times, is still architecturally significant for its Federal-period core, a 2-story, hip-roofed, five-bay house with a pair of large interior rear chimneys. The building still stands on its dressed granite foundation, and it retains its narrow corner boards and molded, boxed cornice, but it has lost nearly all its other detail to window replacement and synthetic siding. A one-story extension has been added to the rear, where a 2-story modern wing extends to the north.

The main section of the house is flanked by two large wings. A high two-story west wing may date to the nineteenth century; a long hip-roofed two-story east wing on a rubble foundation was added in the early 1900's. The lines of a ca. 1890's facade veranda with round corner bay are still detectable, although it has been enclosed and sided with stucco in this century.

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.*

The Nine Acre Corner Wheelers descended from George Wheeler, one of Concord's first settlers. This house was built on part of the extensive family farm by Cyrus Wheeler in 1816. In the second half of the nineteenth century it passed to his son, Gardner Wheeler, and thence to Gardner's son Anson, who established Nine Acre Corner's reputation as a market-gardening and greenhouse region. He was a pioneer in growing cucumbers under glass, and in fact is said to have been the first farmer in Middlesex county to build a greenhouse. By 1904 he had five large greenhouses, and eventually expanded to ten. His prize greenhouse crop was rhubarb, grown in a greenhouse with a top that could be removed so that a layer of snow could fall on the plants. He eventually expanded his greenhouse cultivation to tomatoes and mint as well. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Directories.

Interview with Marian Wheeler, 1990.

Russell and Marian Wheeler: family records.

Jarvis.

Concord Vital Records.

Concord Oral History Tapes: Amy and Floyd Verrill. 5/11/81.

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

☐ 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

CONCORDWheeler Homestead

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

AT 421

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Anson's sons, Alden and Raymond inherited the farm, which by the early 1900's was employing 25 hands. Alden Wheeler, a master of farm equipment, was one of the first farmers in town to irrigate his land. He constructed a system of pipes and pumps that brought water to the farm from White Pond.

By the middle of the twentieth century, a combination of increasing competition, rising taxes and low market prices forced the reduction of farmland all over Concord. Much of the Wheeler family farm was sold for house lots in 1963, and Anson, Alden, and Raymond Roads now stand where the fields used to be.