

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.235
Historic Name:	Clark, John Brooks House
Common Name:	
Address:	393 Estabrook Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	North Quarter
Local No:	G5-1442
Year Constructed:	c 1830
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Agricultural; Secondary Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Synthetic Other; Wood Foundation: Brick



DEMOLISHED

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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

G5-1442

CONCORD

235

Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) old "North Quarter"

393 Estabrook Road

Name John Brooks Clark HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingConstruction ca. 1830

maps; visual assessment

Form Federal vernacularBuilder unknown

Material:

Foundation brick (partly)Wall/Trim synthetic sidingRoof asphalt shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures brick cottage, barn, wagon shed.

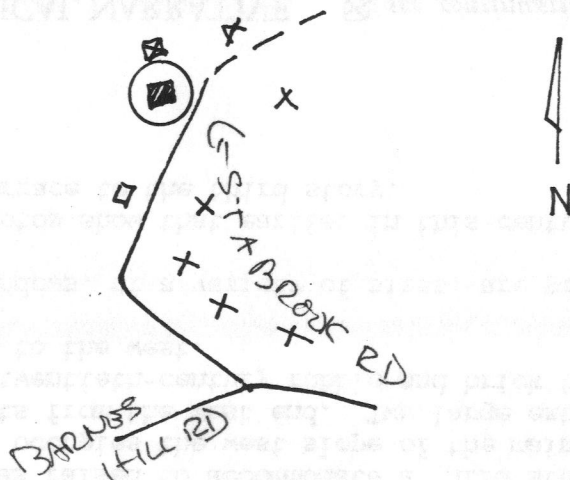
Major Alterations (with dates) all sec-
tions enlarged; some parts raised;
exterior chimneys, rubble terrace
added. Modern entries. (See p. 2)

Condition fairMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 5.51 acres

Setting In open pasture land off
rural road. Post and rail fences
throughout.

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. ForbesOrganization research by Corina FavoritoDate (month/day/year) June, 1991

BUILDING FORM

CON.235

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

#393 Estabrook Road is a complex house of many periods. It has changed so much over the years, however, it is difficult to tell which parts came first. It is a rough L-plan, pitch-roofed house of two and three stories. The wide, shallow-pitched roof of the west wing was raised to accommodate a third story before the middle of this century. A large dormer occupies the west slope of the main roof, and a 2-story polygonal bay window projects from the west end. Two large exterior chimneys dominate the west wing, and an early-twentieth-century rubble and brick terrace stretches from the eastern section around to the west.

The windows, of a variety of sizes, are primarily 2-over-2-sash, with some 1-over-1's.

Old photos show that earlier in this century a two-story porch rose from the east end of the terrace to the third story.

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 both Wheeler and Keyes place the date of this house at about 1820, as it does not appear on the 1830 Hales map it may actually have been built about a decade later. Its first owner was farmer John Brooks Clark, son of Benjamin Clark, 2nd of #299 Estabrook Road

It was under J. Brooks Clark's ownership that Henry Thoreau's hut was moved here from the shore of Walden Pond. A Clark son, James, who greatly admired Thoreau, moved it here in 1849 with the help of his brother, Daniel, whose diary chronicles the event. Apparently it was placed in a field northeast of the house, and James lived in it for a while before his death in 1854. It eventually fell down, and some of the boards may have been reused in the barn.

Like many members of the Clark family, J. Brooks Clark lived to an advanced age, and died in 1865 at the age of 90. The farm was owned briefly by auctioneer Lewis Flint, who may actually have lived here for a year or so, and then sold it to Daniel Sullivan in 1867. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and atlases: 1852, 1856, ca. 1871; 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.

Town Directories.

Wheeler, Ruth. Concord: Climate for Freedom. 1967.

_____ "House File."

Keyes/Tolman.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle.

Griswold, William. "After Walden, a Biography of Thoreau's Hut." Ca. 1954.

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

CONCORDJ. Brooks Clark House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

235

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Although his name still appears here on the 1889 map, Daniel Sullivan owned the property until about 1883, when it was purchased for a country vacation home by the Rev. J. Frederick Dutton of South Boston. By 1893, he had taken an apartment at Concord center, and it was sold to Charles B. Dodge, a partner in real estate with Sumner Draper in Boston. He subsequently moved to Seattle, leaving his wife here, and the property was sold by 1905 to James H. Christie. Mr. Christie, a dry goods salesman who managed the Boston Specialty Store on Main Street, sold the farm in 1914 to Raymond Emerson, son of Dr. Edward Emerson. He and his family lived here through most of this century.

Estabrook Road is one of the few early roads in Concord that today is much shorter than it was in the mid-eighteenth century. At that time it was the Carlisle Road, running two miles north from its origin through the farmland of the North Quarter to the border of the newly-formed town of Carlisle. Stone walls along its entire length still mark its route, but today it has returned to meadow and woodland north of #393, where the publicly-owned Estabrook Woods begins.

