

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.284
Historic Name:	Miles, Capt. Charles House
Common Name:	
Address:	429 Williams Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	South Quarter
Local No:	E12-3090-1
Year Constructed:	c 1737
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Georgian
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Wood Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Stone, Uncut



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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

CON-284

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

E12-3090-1

MAYNARD

284

CONCORD

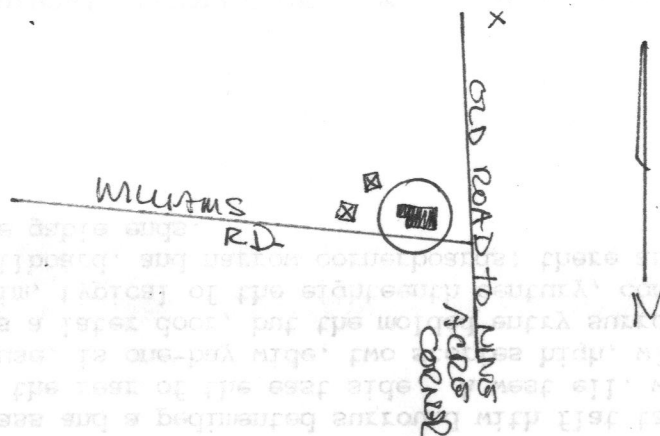
Sent B



Neighborhood or village) South Quarter
429 Williams Road
Capt. Charles Miles House
me dwelling
nt dwelling
nal ca. 1737
struction Wheeler
Georgian vernacular
unknown
uilder

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.



Exterior Material:

fieldstone

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

wood shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

2-car garage; chicken coop; shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

some

twentieth-century window and door replacement.

Condition

excellent

Moved

☒ no

☐ yes

Date

N/A

Acreage

1.36 acres

Setting

In rural farm area at corner of Old Road to 9 Acre Corner. Fields opposite and across 9 Acre Corner Rd. Lilac hedge around corner; fieldstone retaining wall across front and east side of house.

Recorded by

Anne Forbes;
research by Ann & Dick Ferraro
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

CON. 284

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 house is one of the best examples of Concord's many outlying farmhouses of the eighteenth century. The main part of the house was built about 1737. As seen today it is a large 2 1/2-story "double-pile" center-chimney structure, with 9-over-6-sash windows in its five-bay facade. The main entry has a 6-panel door with bull's-eye glass and a pedimented surround with flat tapered pilasters. A second entry appears at the rear of the east side. A west ell, which may be earlier than the rest of the house, is one-bay wide, two stories high, with a massive interior end chimney. It has a later door, but the molded entry surround may be of early date. The house trim, typical of the eighteenth century, consists of a molded, boxed cornice, sillboard, and narrow cornerboards; there are no roof overhang or cornice returns on the gable ends.

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.

429 Williams Road is best known as the home of one of Concord's most important Revolutionary soldiers, **Capt. Charles Miles**. (1727-1790). If, as estimated by Ruth Wheeler, the house was built in 1737, however, it was undoubtedly built by his father, **Dea. Samuel Miles**, (1681-1758). A descendant of John Miles, one of Concord's original settlers who received a large grant of land in 1653, Samuel Miles is known to have lived here at the corner of a branch of the Marlborough Road that was in existence by 1656. (First called "the cartway to Fairhaven," at the turn of the twentieth century it became known as Williams Avenue, and later Williams Road.) Samuel Miles married Sarah Foster in 1705/6, and at about that time may have built a small house here, possibly the ell of this building. Samuel and Sarah had several children, one of whom was Charles, another Ezekiel, who lived just west at today's #321 Williams Road. In 1745 Samuel, his son Ezekiel, and eighteen other dissenters left the parish church, (where Samuel had been a deacon since about 1734,) to form the West Congregation (see Black Horse Tavern, 45 Hubbard Street.) He became one of the two deacons of the new church, which disbanded shortly before he died. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1906.
Wheeler House File #Wil.
Wheeler. Climate for Freedom.
Gross. The Minutemen and Their World.
Shattuck.
Scudder.
Fenn.
Walcott. Concord in the Colonial Period.
C.R. Jones. Former inventory form for 429 Williams Road.

☒ 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

CONCORDCapt. Charles Miles House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

284

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Capt. Charles Miles apparently acquired the 100-acre farm here, which ran north from the intersection of the two roads, after his father's death. In 1771 he was appointed a Lieutenant in the local militia, and in 1775, under the authorization of the Provincial Congress, he was chosen by his compatriots as the commander of one of Concord's two companies of Minutemen. Capt. David Brown commanded the unit from the north part of town; most of Capt. Miles' men were his own neighbors from the South Quarter. Both companies saw action at the North Bridge on April 19, 1775. Capt. Miles was wounded in the pursuit of the retreating British toward Lexington and at first reported killed. When asked how he felt about participating in the events of that day, he replied "As solemn as if I was going to church." Later, in August of 1776 he was in charge of Concord's largest expedition of the war, leading a contingent of over ninety men, sixty-one from Concord, 250 miles to Ticonderaga.

The next owner of the farm was evidently Capt. Miles' son, also Capt. Charles Miles, (1757-1827.) After that the line of ownership is less clear. The house appears under the name of Charles Miles on maps from 1830 through 1856, implying that a third, and possibly a fourth, Charles Miles were owners through the middle of the nineteenth century. Henry Thoreau knew the Charles Miles of his time, and often talked with him about a swamp on the property which had a number of rare plants in it.

A mortgage on the property was foreclosed by Ebenezer Conant, and the house was sold by Miles heirs some time before 1875 to Hannah C. and Mary Harriet Biddell. The latter was an actress in New York, and the Biddells evidently planned to use the house for a summer residence. In the meantime they let it out to a former soldier named Collier, possibly Isaac Collier.

A major discrepancy occurs at this point in the documentary record. Although Wheeler says that the house was sold at auction in 1858, the map of 1875 still shows the owner of the property as "H. Biddell." In any case, one of the better stories in Concord's real estate history concerns a subsequent transaction. Sam Staples, the town auctioneer, had charge of selling the house at auction. The only bidder was the former mortgage-holder, Ebenezer Conant, who offered \$250. John Keefe was hoeing potatoes in a nearby field when Staples called to him and asked "Wouldn't you give \$500 for this house?" "I would that," answered Keefe. "Sold!" said Staples, and the Keefe family owned the property until 1918. After that the property was sold to Mrs. Harold Newport of Acton, who sold it to Edgar Witton. It was subsequently purchased by Mrs. Waldron MacDonald.



CON. 284

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
429 Williams Road

Area(s)	FormNo.
	284

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 for its association with the prominent Miles family of Nine Acre Corner, especially Capt. Charles Miles, commander of one of Concord's two companies of Minutemen during the Revolution (Criterion A.) It also meets Criterion C as a well-preserved center-chimney farmhouse of the 1730's. It possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



1/67



April, 1956

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
<u>Architecture</u>	Science/Invention
Art/Sculpture	Travel/Communication
Education	Military Affairs
Government	Religion/Philosophy
Literature	Indians
Music	Development of Town/City

2. Town Concord
Street 429 Williams (mailbox) CoR. WILLIAMS RD. + OLD RD TO 9 ACRE CoR.
Name CAPT. CHARLES MILES HOUSE
Original Use RESIDENCE
Present Use RESIDENCE
Present Owner MR. + MRS. W.S. MACDONALD
Date mid 18th C. Style 18th C. COLONIAL
Source of Date Wheeler
Architect Unknown

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered

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

4. DESCRIPTION

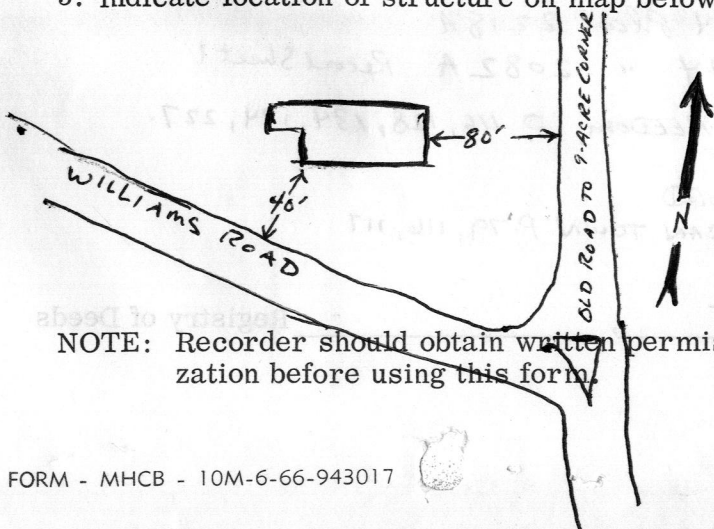
FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: Stone faced with Concrete
WALL COVER: Wood Clapboards Brick Stone Other
STORIES: 1 2 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center 1 in ER End Cluster Elaborate Irregular
ATTACHMENTS: Wings El Shed Dependency Seems integral Simple/Complex
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony 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:
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied a few altered in back of house
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured

OUTBUILDINGS

LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 40'
Property has feet frontage on street



Recorder C. B. Jones
For Concord Antiquarian Society
Photo Attached

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 3 down stairs, 2 up in main house; 1 up and 1 down in El

Stairway Railings replaced. still located in front of chimney

Other Window frame + sash are replacements but are correct & openings are same size. old frames replaced with modern ones containing sash weights.

Stone + Brick arched chimney base - magnificent

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

CAPT. MILES FOUGHT AT BRIDGE in 1775

Alterations c. 1930 for MRS. E.A. WINTON

Htg, ELECT., OPENINGS

Present owners have prints of these changes.

John Miles Sarah (Grant 1653)

Deacon Samuel Miles - m. - Sarah Foster
b. 1681 1765

Capt. Charles m. 1756 Zeriah How
b. 1727

Capt. Charles m. 1786 Lucy
b. 1757

House next mortgage, sold

Capt. Miles wounded

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

Examination 1968 revealed a house with many early features intact. The El, with its second cooking fireplace suggests double occupancy at some time in the 18th c. Roof appears to be all of one period. - many similarities to Parkman Tavern, Powder Mill + Sudbury Roads.

BIBLIOGRAPHY Walcott: Concord 2nd Col. Period. p. 82

CC Docket #1859 12 Jan 1934 Plan 2218A

" " 762 29 Jan 1924 " 2082A Record Sheet 1

WHEELER: CONCORD CLIMATE FOR FREEDOM, p. 116, 128, 134, 174, 227.
Illus. p. 173

SHATTUCK MAP OF CONCORD

SCUDDER: CONCORD AMERICAN TOWN p. 79, 116, 117

Original Owner: uncertain

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____ Registry of Deeds