

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.156
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Fox, Eliphalet - Fox, Nathaniel and John House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	455 Cambridge Tpk
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	East Quarter
<b>Local No:</b>	I10-4093-1
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1711
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial; First Period
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; 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)

This file was accessed on: Thursday, October 22, 2020 at 11:35 AM

CON. 156

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

110-4093-1

CONCORD

156

Town CONCORD

(neighborhood or village) SECT - C

old "East Quarter"

Address 455 Cambridge Turnpike

Historic Name Eliphalet Fox House

Present Nathaniel/John Fox House dwelling

Original dwelling

Period of Construction pre-1711,

with later 18th C. update  
see Will of Eliphalet Fox

Form First Period frame,

Georgian exterior

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone with brick

added on facade

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures small

modern gable-end barn

Major Alterations (with dates) dates unde-

termined: 2-S. wing NW end w. 1-S.

extension on front; 1-S. rear addn.

Condition good/fair

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

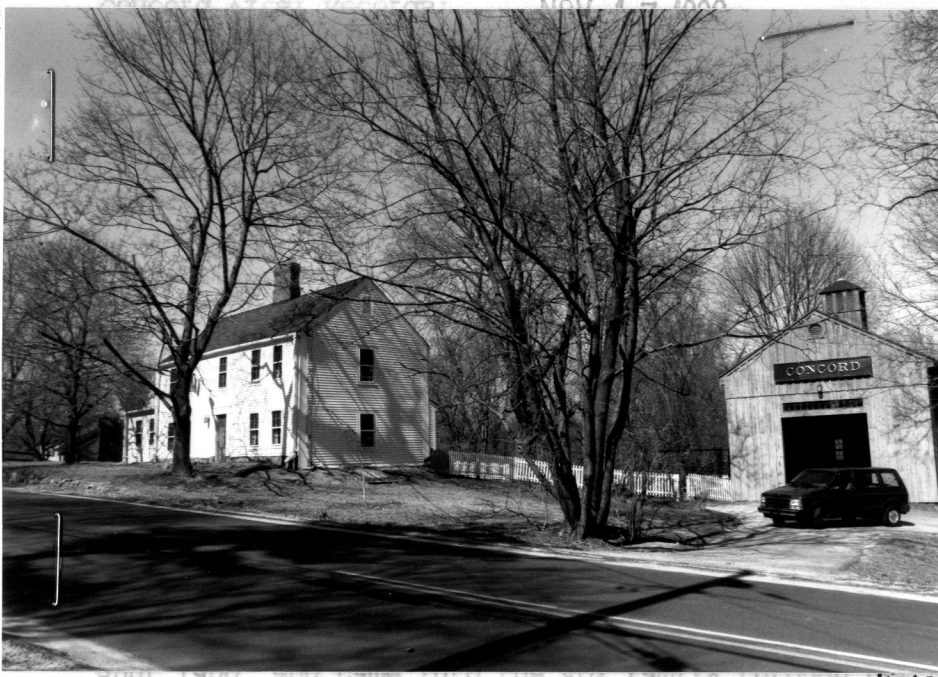
Acreage 1.5 acres

Setting On hill crest opposite Sandy

Pond Road in area of modern and 19th-

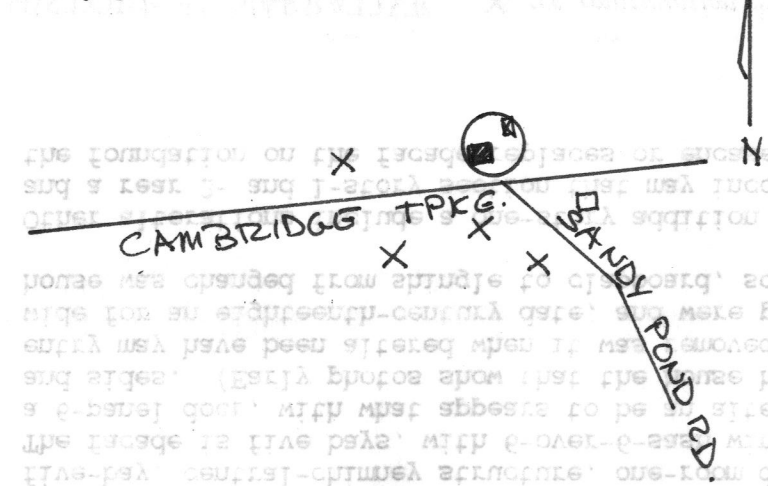
century houses. Woods to east; stone

retaining wall across front.



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 Bunny Black

Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1991

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

Although this is a smaller house, 455 Cambridge Turnpike, like its neighbor to the west at #383, is a typical example of an early- to mid-eighteenth-century farmhouse. Like 383, it may also include parts of an even earlier building. It is a 2 1/2-story, five-bay, central-chimney structure, one-room deep, with a two-story northeast wing. The facade is five bays, with 6-over-6-sash windows with plain surrounds. The entry is a 6-panel door, with what appears to be an altered surround of very broad board at top and sides. (Early photos show that the house had an entry vestibule or "porch." The entry may have been altered when it was removed.) The cornerboards, also, are somewhat wide for an eighteenth-century date, and were probably added when the siding of the house was changed from shingle to clapboard, some time in the middle of this century.

Other alterations include a one-story addition inserted in the angle of house and wing, and a rear 2- and 1-story section that may incorporate an early leanto. Brickwork above the foundation on the facade replaces or encases the front sill. (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.*

This house, its earliest section probably built shortly before 1711, stands on a portion of the large farm of Thomas Fox, one of Concord's original settlers, who owned a considerable part of the East Quarter. His son, Eliphalet Fox (d. 1711,) a Selectman in 1689, married Mary Wheeler in 1665, and later Mary Stone Hunt. The latter's first husband had been Isaac Hunt, and it is possible that this land may have originally been Hunt land, and came into the Fox family through her. In fact, while Eliphalet gave the portion of the family farm straddling Old Bedford Road to the sons of his first wife, [see Forms # ,] he gave this section to the sons of his second, John (b. 1682) and Nathaniel Fox. In his will of 1711 he also gave them an eight-acre meadow "below Nathaniel Fox's house," presumably referring to this building. In 1724, the description of the route of the newly-laid-out "way to Flint's Bridge" (today's Hawthorne Lane and Cambridge Turnpike) says it ran past Mr. Cumings and "up the hill to John Fox's fence", implying that the house belonged to John Fox by that year. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1906.

Town Directories.

Observations of C.R. Jones, March, 1968.

Wheeler House File.

Concord, Climate for Freedom.

Keyes/Tolman.

Concord Vital Records.

Scudder.

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

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)    Form No.  
  
                    156

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Interior observations in 1968 noted features that are characteristic of a transitional First/Second-Period building, consistent with a date of 1724 for much of the house, although some of them may be an alteration at about that time of an earlier house. Flared posts appear on the second story; a first-story summer beam is uncased. Other transitional interior features include vertical and horizontal feather-edged sheathing in various locations, and inset fireplaces in the west chamber and first-floor parlor. The latter also has early field paneling, including four vertical panels over the fireplace, and a 2-panel closet door.

The roof is framed without ridgepole; the chimney has been rebuilt above the roof line. There is evidence of a former early leanto that was later enlarged and reroofed.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Most members of the Fox family relocated to New Hampshire before the Revolution, and the history of the house later in the eighteenth century is somewhat hazy. It appears to have been owned for a time by an Adams. In ca. 1808-10 it was purchased by Hezekiah Cheney, who married Hepzibah Hunt Mulliken (widow of clockmaker Joseph Mulliken) in that year. Cheney had been the contractor for the 1803 building of the Cambridge Turnpike, coming to Concord from Heath, Mass. with some men under contract to build the Concord portion of the road. He was a former schoolmaster, and was referred to as "Master" Cheney.

After his death, his son John M. Cheney sold the farm to James Wright, (some time between 1830 and 1852.) His widow is shown here in 1871 and 1875, and it appears to have been he who sold it to farmer William Brennan, probably late in the 1870's. He apparently sold it to another "Irishman" called by Keyes "a fresh emigrant," in 1883. The latter apparently sold the farm to Michael Brennan in 1889. In 1911 Michael Brennan's heirs sold the property to Frederick W. Leyland. It was also owned early in this century by a family named Carroll. By 1935 it belonged to Theodore G. Heyliger, a lawyer, who had a son, one of the first in Concord to fly a plane, who used to land in the meadow by the house. According to Wheeler, that son was later killed in the Korean War. She may actually have been referring to George Heyliger, who served with the Marines in World War II, and was killed at Guadalcanal. The Navy destroyer escort, the "George Heyliger," was named for him.



MA  
Off

1. I



2. Town Concord  
Street 455 Cambridge Turnpike junction  
Name Fox House Sandy Point  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Owner private  
Date 1711 Style \_\_\_\_\_  
Source of Date will of Elephat Fox  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_

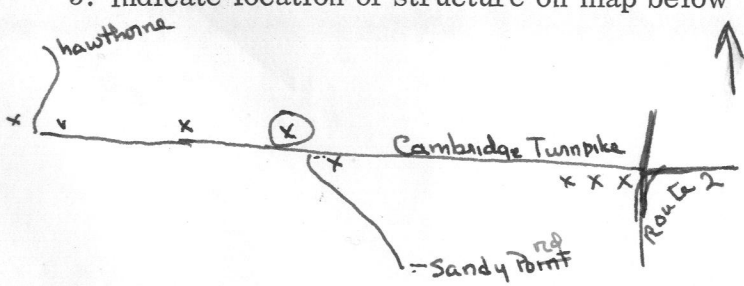
3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_  
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: \_\_\_\_\_  
WALL COVER: Wood shingles Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_  
STORIES: 1 2 / 3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
ATTACHMENTS: Wings W side Ell Shed Dependency near Simple/Complex  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony entrance 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: later on entrance porch  
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_  
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

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

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 10'  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street



Recorder \_\_\_\_\_  
For \_\_\_\_\_  
Photo IV 18  
68-489  

E.09.	D65.1.	019
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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)

70x - Stone - Mulliken - (died 1812)

wife then married Hunt

Hezekiah Cheney

built for sons of Elephaz 70x, John + Nathaniel -

later owned by Hezekiah Cheney who built Cambridge

Concord Turnpike in 1803 - He married the widow of

Joseph Mulliken, clockmaker -

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

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number Page

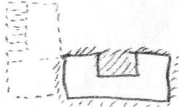
Registry of Deeds



NOTES ON THE FOX HOUSE  
North side of Cambridge Turnpike at end of Sandy Pond Rd.

Four room plan (2 up, 2 down) with central chimney.  
Additions to left (West) and in leanto at rear.

Foundation of stone with later brickwork above ground level.



Chimney rests on a large solid stone base; Rebuilt above roofline; Fireplace in East Chamber covered by later wall; Fireplace in West Chamber sealed but apparently intact. Fireplace in Hall (East Room) has had a smaller modern one inserted; oven sealed but probably intact beneath; Fireplace in Best Room (West Room) probably made smaller at the time paneling was introduced. Mantle tree in Hall fireplace extends through the brickwork and is visible in closet under stairs.

Stairway retains two early posts and a bit of handrail on second floor; the rest has been altered and the lower landing removed and steps replaced.

Roof is framed without ridgepole. (We could not gain access to examine the roof framing further) Second floor posts flared. Evidence in attic over leanto suggests that there was a very early leanto later enlarged and reroofed to the present form. Summer beam in Hall is not case, all other members are.

Other early features include an inset fireplace in West Chamber and feather-edged vertical sheathing of the partition in that room. This is now plastered on the side in the room. (The thicker wall of the East Chamber may contain the early partition) Best Room has early fielded paneling; two panel closet door to left of f.p., four vertical panels over the f.p. Fireplace, like that above, is inset. Cyma recta molding fits under the beam above. Originally the paneling seped out and continued to right of f.p., but this has been removed to accomodate the straight run of a later staircase. The original door may be one now used for the second floor bathroom. Entry has vertical feather-edged sheathing on outside wall. Hall has lost its door and partition but some vertical feather-edged boards remain under the staircase. Horizontal feather-edged boards over the fireplace. Thick walls of this room may contain more of these boards.

All first story floors have been rebuilt including framing. Attic boards have been brought down and placed in Hall. Later brickwork replaces or encases sill at front. This work extends into the Best Room, forming a narrow ledge now covered by boards. Shingles have been placed over exterior clapboards.

3/68

Written by C.R. Jones  
Director of Museum  
C.R.S.