

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.271
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Wood, Amos House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	631 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	F9-3973
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1763
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Georgian; Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.AJ: Main Street Area II
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	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](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

F9-3973

CONCORD

271

Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) SECT - B  
PL 2Address 631 Main StreetHistoric Name Amos Wood HousePresent dwellingOriginal dwellingYear of Construction 1763

(parts may be older)

Source Wheeler House FileForm Georgian/ItalianateStyle vernacularArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed graniteWall/Trim wood clapboardRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

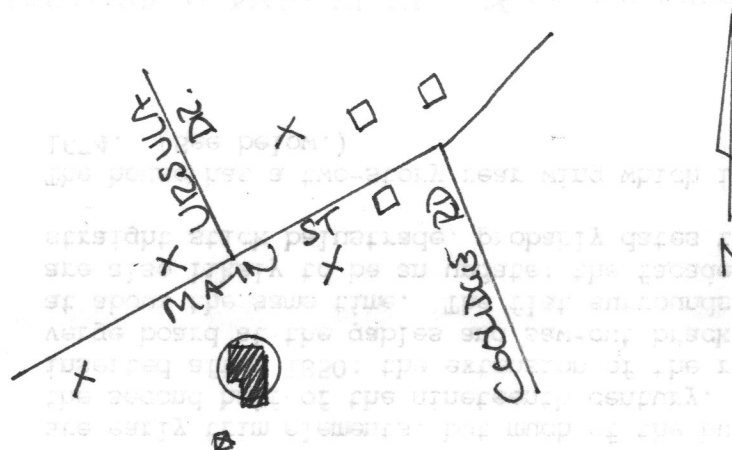
2-car garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

ca. 1890's facade porch addedCondition goodMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 1.9 acresSetting Set back from road on large lot;  
opposite modern houses. In area of  
mixed 18th- to 20th-century houses.

## 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 Liz Bolton  
for Concord Hist. CommissionOrganization May, 1991

Date (month/day/year)

BUILDING FORM

CON. 271

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 a typical example of the stylistic evolution that many eighteenth century houses underwent over the years. Begun in 1763, it has the symmetrical five bay facade and the 2 1/2-story, two-room deep form of most large country farmhouses built west of Boston at that time. The narrow corner boarding and molding under the front roof edge are early trim elements, but much of the building's architectural detail was updated in the second half of the nineteenth century. The 2-over-2-sash windows would have been inserted after 1850; the extension of the roof to overhang the gable ends, and the flat verge board at the gables and saw-cut brackets at the roof corners may have been added at about the same time. The flat surrounds at the windows and at the 6-panel main door are also likely to be an update; the facade-width veranda, with turned posts and a straight stick balustrade, probably dates to the 1890's.

The house has a two-story rear wing which is said to contain one room that predates 1674. (See below.)

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 main part of #631 Main, like many eighteenth century houses, was built as a "marriage house". The occasion of its construction was the marriage of Amos Wood (1737-1806) of Concord and Dorothy Dakin of Sudbury in 1763. It illustrates the pattern of land distribution typified by many of the early colonial families such as the Woods and Barretts (cf. e.g. 448 and 612 Barrett's Mill Road,) in which fathers with large land holdings were able to divide their acreages into farms for their sons or dowries for their daughters. The tradition was so strong, in fact, that by the 1720's an impending land shortage led to intense real estate speculation, as the later colonial landowners scrambled to acquire acreage for their children. The farm of which this property was a part appears to have come down from the holdings of one of Concord's original English settlers, William Wood (1582-1671) or his son Michael (d. 1674), both of whom received considerable divisions of land in the South Quarter and lived near the town center. It is possible, in fact, that a room in the rear wing may remain from a house that Michael Wood lived in for a time, after moving here from his house lot on the church green. Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1906.  
Town Directories.  
Interview with owner 5/6/91: (Cont.)

☒ 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

CONCORDAmos Wood House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

271

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Amos Wood was William's great-great-grandson, and he and his older brother Ephraim received adjoining farms from their father, Ephraim (1702-1789.) Both farmhouses, in fact, are said to have been framed on the same day in the fall of 1763. [See # 41 Wood Street.]

The occupants of both houses were to play a significant role on the first day of the Revolution, April 19, 1775, when the British swarmed over Concord looking for hidden military stores. Amos was a sergeant in the Minuteman company, and his house was searched by the British. Dorothy Wood is said to have protected a locked roomful of military supplies in the house by evoking a British officer's gallantry. When he asked if any women were inside the room, she gave him a look of concern that prompted him to forbid his soldiers from entering the room. The British search party remained in the house until they heard the firing at the North Bridge, when they recrossed the river, taking up the planks of the South Bridge to render it impassable.

After Amos's death the house was occupied by his cousin or nephew **Elijah Wood**, a shoemaker, who lived here for a few years until he bought #41 Wood Street. The property was inherited by **Amos Wood, Jr.**, who built flat boats that carried wood on the Middlesex Canal to Charlestown. He eventually moved to Boston, and the farm was sold to **Samuel Dennis**.

Little is known about the Dennis family, who is shown here on maps through 1856. Samuel's daughter Cynthia married **John Dennie** of Boston in 1850, but removed to San Francisco by 1851, where John is listed as a trader. Their grandchildren, however, (children of their son Frederick Dennie,) were born in Concord during the 1870's and '80's, when Frederick is listed as a farmer here. It appears that it was Cynthia who inherited the land, as the maps of ca. 1871 and 1875 show her as the owner, and deeds indicate that it belonged to her heirs in 1887. By 1889, however, it belonged to **John F. McCallar** (ca. 1847-1920), a merchant in Boston and Waltham, and later a rubber manufacturer, who owned it until his death. The property was inherited by his widow **Mabel A. McCallar**. By 1928, it belonged to mason **Elia Stefanelli** and his wife Lore.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Shattuck, pp. 3, 109, 202.

Wheeler House File.

Fenn.

Gross, Robert. The Minutemen and Their World. New York: Hill & Wang, 1976.  
Pp. 78-79; 122.



Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
631 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	271

## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually   ☐ District   ☒ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A	B	C	D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

As the home of Sergeant Amos Wood, and one of the houses searched by the British on April 19, 1775, 631 Main Street was intimately involved with the Revolution, and qualifies for the National Register under Criterion A.