

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.353
Historic Name:	Willow Pond Kitchen
Common Name:	
Address:	751 Lexington Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Merriam's Corner
Local No:	J9-4226
Year Constructed:	1927
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Restaurant; Single Family Dwelling House; Tavern
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Transportation
Area(s):	CON.C: Minute Man National Historical Park CON.EC: Minute Man National Historical Park
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (10/15/1966); Nat'l Historic Landmark (10/15/1966); Nat'l Register District (11/29/2002)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



DEMOLISHED

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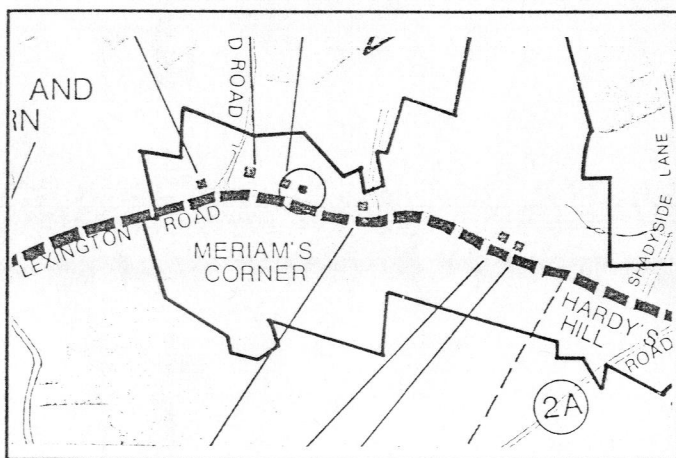
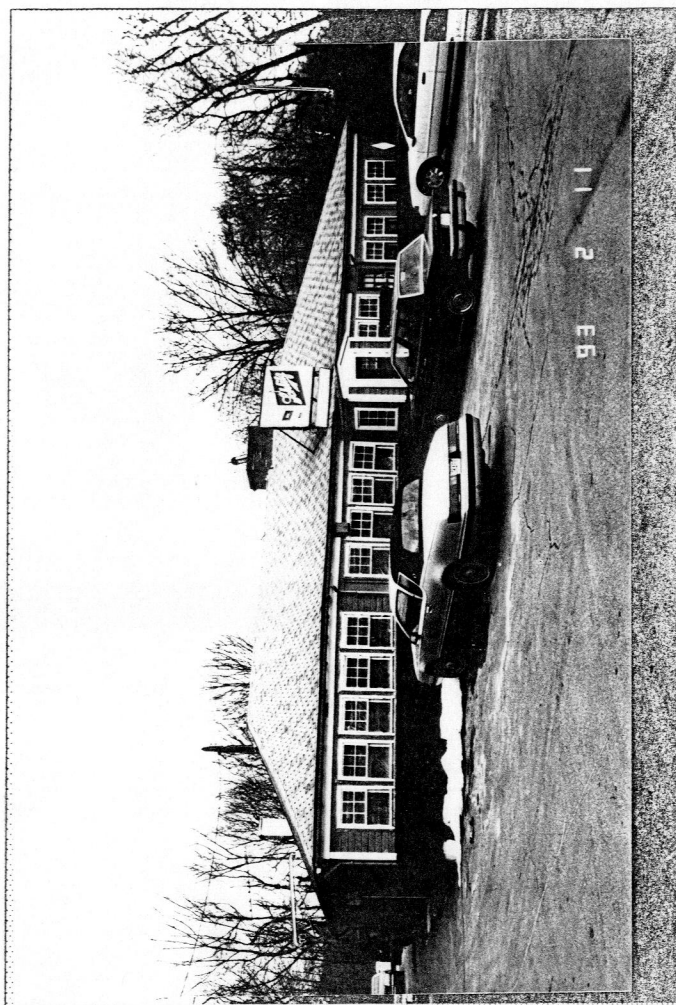
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 10:04 AM



NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE - NAR/CRM List of Classified Structures (LCS) Program



Recorded by: J. Glassman & P. Guthrie

Date (month/year): 2 / 93

Structure Number

4-104-A

Existing IDLCS# ?

PARK: MIMA State: MA

County: Middlesex

Structure Name(s): WILLOW POND KITCHEN

Address or Location: LEXINGTON ROAD

CONCORD, MASS.

NPS Legal Interest:

Term Exp. Date:

Construction Date:

Arch't./Eng'r./Designer:

Alterations (with dates):

Material(s): PTD. WD. SIDING, CONC. FOUND.,
ASPHALT SHINGLE ROOF.

Condition: ☒ GOOD ☐ FAIR ☐ POOR

Setting: COMMERCIAL LOT IN A LARGELY

RURAL SETTING

HISTORICAL DATA:

DESCRIPTION: A one story hipped roof restaurant. The entrance side has a rank of fifteen sash windows and a small pedimented portico clad in the same horizontal painted wood siding as the rest of the structure. Above the entrance portico is a small billboard. The hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The rear of the building has several extensions which house storage rooms and parts of the kitchen. The restaurant is surrounded on three sides with a paved parking area, and is set back over 100' from the road.

MANAGEMENT DATA:

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

J9-4226

CONCORD

C

353

CONCORD

in MMNHP
NR DIS/NHL

neighborhood or village)

1015/66

Merriam's Corner

PO - Merriam

751 Lexington Road

USGS CONCORD

Willow Pond Kitchen

Name

restaurant

501 K

present

restaurant

Original

1927

Construction

Minuteman Chronicle;
owners' records

utilitarian

form

unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

(not visible)

Foundation

beveled wood siding

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

none

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

none significant

Condition

good

Moved

☒

no

☐

yes

Date N/A

Acreage

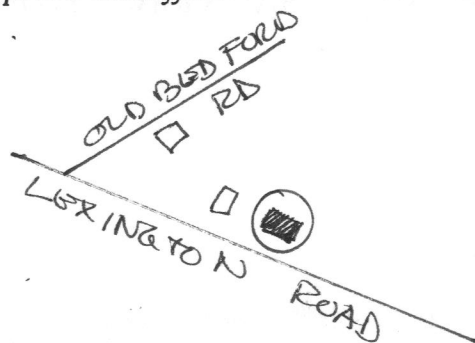
53, 330 sq. ft.

Setting

Opposite cultivated fields in
rural area. Field and modern houses to
east. Surrounded by asphalt parking lot.

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 Susan Alatalo

Organization

for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year)

June, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

A building unique in Concord, this low one-story, hip-roofed restaurant is representative of one type of roadside restaurant built to serve automobile travelers in the 1920's. The beveled "drop" siding is typical of the era, as is the long band of 6-over-1-sash windows across the facade. A massive interior brick chimney pierces the eastern end of the roof ridge.

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 it stands on the "Battle Road" of April 19, 1775, as a roadside gathering place the 1927 Willow Pond Kitchen has taken on its own significance as the town's earliest ^{rural} twentieth-century resource of the automobile era. It is nationally known as a Concord landmark of a character unique within this very historic town.

Like the Howard Johnson's Restaurant built a decade later at the opposite end of town on Route 2 and Elm Street, this restaurant is only one of two surviving examples in Concord of a restaurant/roadhouse catering to the automobile traveler at a time when roadside resources were few and far between. It began as a summer clam shack, which was converted by James McManus into an ice cream parlor. In about 1945-47, after being closed for a few years, the property was bought by Ross Ransom, who had run a bakery in Carlisle during World War II. He winterized the building, and moved a garage from the front of the building to the rear. He named it the Willow Pond Kitchen after a pond at the town boundary between Concord and Carlisle. Under Mr. Ransom it was a true roadhouse, functioning as both a restaurant and a barroom. His living quarters were in the east end of the building.

The property is now owned by the National Park Service as part of its 750+-acre Minuteman National Park. The interior was partially damaged by a fire in 1963.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Interview with family member, 5/13/92, by Susan Alatalo.
Sullivan, Mark. article in The Minuteman Chronicle, April 8, 1991.
Robinson, Gordon. Interview with Renee Garrelick, 2/92, for Concord Oral History Program.

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