

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.AP
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Abbott Estate - Holderness
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Other Residential
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	



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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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Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G11

CONCORD

AP

759-761



CONCORD

hood or village)

Abbott Estate  
"Holderness"

residential

Dates or Period ca. 1902

Condition good

Additions and Alterations early modern  
garage

675 Sudbury Road (CON. 761)

## 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.



Acreage 6.43 acres

Recorded by A. Forbes  
research by Karen Silver  
for Concord Histor. Comm.

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

## AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.*

The complex of buildings remaining on the former Abbott property on the east side of Sudbury Road south of Route 2 is a unique example in Concord of one type of turn-of-the-century country estate. Here a rambling stucco eclectic/English Revival "country cottage" faces southeast over formal gardens toward the Sudbury River, with a cluster of shingled outbuildings just to its north, all sheltered from the road by a high fieldstone wall. The house is of picturesque, complex massing, with a series of high gambrel roofs and tall brick and stucco chimneys. Its central section is dominated by a pair of large gambrel through-cornice dormers over the facade, and on the upper roof, three shingled gabled dormers. Some other sections of the house are shingled as well, particularly on the upper stories. The windows are a variety of multi-light casements, some with colored glass, some diamond-paned. The architectural trim here is relatively simple, and includes several Craftsman-inspired details, such as exposed rafter-ends and simple moldings and braces. In keeping with the English Revival theme, the entry doors feature vertical-board construction, large decorative hinges, and in a door on the north end, a small nine-light window. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this area relates to the historical development of the community.*

The Abbott estate, one of several large country estates built by the Sudbury River in the Fairhaven Hill area at the turn of the century, has its origin in its connection with the Adams family, who had acquired much of the former farmland in the vicinity in the 1890's. (See area form "Fairhaven Hill.") Mary Adams Abbott (d. 1933) was the daughter of Charles Francis Adams II of Lincoln. She married attorney Grafton St. Lo Abbott (1856-1915) in 1890, and they lived first on Main Street, then on Simon Willard Road. In 1902 the Abbotts purchased from farmer Patrick Hagerty a small five-room farmhouse that stood here on Sudbury Road, along with most or all of his farm. That house is said to still exist inside the present structure of #675, which was completed in that year. According to Tolman, other buildings on the farm were remodeled by the Abbotts, as well, and may be part of those standing today. One, now an attached cottage at #665 Sudbury Road, was apparently the carriage house, and another was an indoor squash court. Calling their estate "Holderness," the Abbotts continued to operate the property as a working farm, and the house at #557 was the cottage of the farm foreman, Tom Hayes, and his family. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1906.  
Town Directories and tax lists.  
Interviews with owner and Abbott descendant, 1992.  
Keyes/Tolman.  
Obituary File.

- ☐ Recommended as a National Register District. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

CON. AP

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Abbott Estate

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.  
AP 759-761

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

There are seven outbuildings here, arranged as shown on the sketch map. All are shingled, gable-roofed buildings, with concrete foundations and simple trim. The largest structure is a four-part connected building. Following counter-clockwise from the northeast it consists of a small barn, a long three-bay garage with "saltbox" roof, a low cross-gabled section (now an apartment at #657 Sudbury Road,) and a cottage with low sidewings (#665 Sudbury Road.) The latter part has the most elaborate decoration, consisting of a front projecting gable on braces, with stickwork on the gable-end. The latter section is connected via an archway to a four-car garage; northeast of it is a long, low shed, which completes the last side of a roughly square courtyard enclosure. Connected to the south wall of the four-car garage via another arch is a high two-story building which was built as an indoor squash court. Southeast of the courtyard complex are two other buildings--a greenhouse and a ca. 1930's garage.

1000 feet to the north of the main complex, at #557 Sudbury Road, is an additional building, an eclectic shingled three-bay house with a high overhanging gambrel roof, its front corners supported on square brick posts. Its center entry is located in a shingled vestibule with a high barrel-vaulted roof and flushboarded pediment.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The Abbotts had two children, Mary Ogden (1894-1981), and John Adams (b. 1902.) Mr. Abbott died in 1915, and the family stayed on in the house until 1919, when the property was sold and mother and daughter took a seven-year trip around the world. (Upon their return, Mrs. Abbott bought the former French house at #344 Sudbury Road.)

The owner of the property, at least by 1929, was cement manufacturer Albert Y. Gowan, who put in the cement swimming pool on the property, apparently the first in town. (He also owned #368/374 Sudbury Road.)

DATA SHEET

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	description	date	condition
759 G11-3993	557 Sudbury Road	- gambrel-roofed Colonial Revival cottage ca. 1902 Wood shingle; parged foundation. Windows replaced; modern sunroom/addition on wouth.		fair
760 G11-3992-2	657, 665 Sudbury Road	- utilitarian/vernac. outbuilding/cottage ca. 1902 complex with central courtyard. Wood shingle; concrete foundations.		good
761 G11-3992-2	675 Sudbury Road	- English Revival gambrel-roofed house Stucco.	1902	good

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON.AP

AREA AP

AP ☒  
USGS- CONCORD

SECTION - B

759 - 557 SUDBURY RD

760 - 657 - 665 SUDBURY RD

761 - 675 SUDBURY RD





557 Sudbury Road: (CON. 759)



675 Sudbury Road: Barn and garage



657/665 Sudbury Road (CON. 760)

CON. AP

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
675 Sudbury Road

Area(s)	FormNo.
AP	759-761

## 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.*

The Abbott Estate qualifies for individual listing on the National Register as a well-preserved, unique example in Concord of the picturesque turn-of-the-century English Revival "cottage," (Criterion C.) It is also eligible under Criterion A for its connection with the Abbott family, particularly Mary Adams Abbott of the Fairhaven Hill Adams family, and her husband attorney Grafton St. Lo Abbott. The house possesses integrity of design, location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.