

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.AR
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Keefe Farm Area
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Nine Acre Corner
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Agricultural; Residential District
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	



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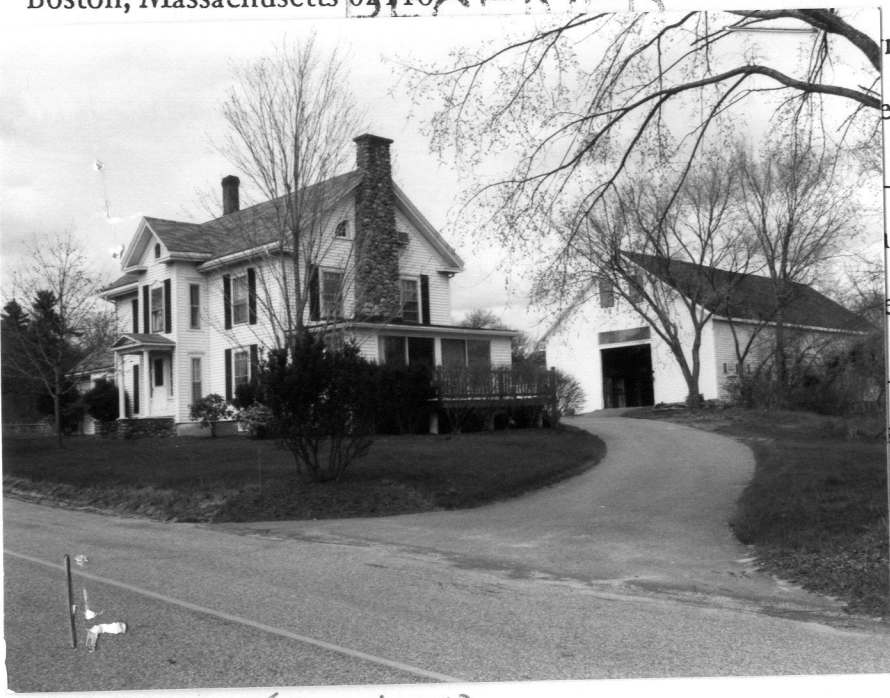
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 23, 2020 at 11:15 AM

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

E12, F11, F12	MAYNARD	AR	765-767
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CONCORD

\_\_\_\_\_n \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_e (neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_  
Nine Acre Corner

\_\_\_\_\_e of Area \_\_\_\_\_  
Keefe Farm area

\_\_\_\_\_ent Use \_\_\_\_\_  
residential/  
agricultural

\_\_\_\_\_struction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_  
ca. 1870's-  
early 20th C.

\_\_\_\_\_all Condition \_\_\_\_\_  
fair

\_\_\_\_\_r Intrusions and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_  
modern houses and condo.s in vicinity

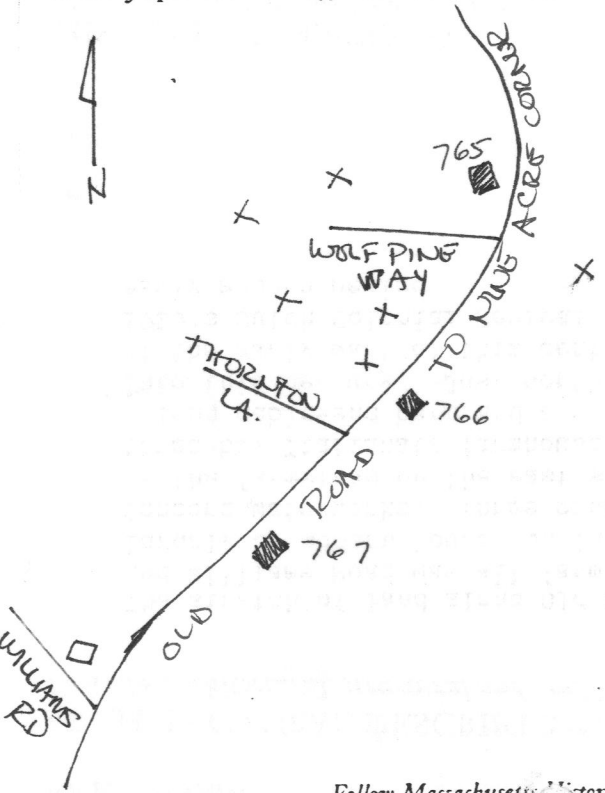
Sketch Map (637) (CON. 767)  
677 Old Rd to Nine Acre Corner  
Draw a map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.

Acreage \_\_\_\_\_ ca. 5.5 acres

Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_ A. Forbes

Organization \_\_\_\_\_ for Concord Histor. Comm.

Date (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_ July, 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 stretch of land along Old Road to Nine Acre Corner between the Concord Country Club and Williams Road was all farmland in the nineteenth century. Today it is taken up largely by modern houses on large lots and some woods and meadows belonging to the Concord Waterworks. Three properties, however, link it to its past. The most important is the farmstead on the east side just north of Williams Road at #637, where a tall three-bay Italianate farmhouse of ca. 1870 and an assortment of outbuildings, including a long gable-end barn and a stave watertank are clues to its function as a farm well into this century. Just north of the farmhouse, at #597, is a little stucco bungalow of the early part of this century, and further to the north on the west side a ca. 1920's Dutch Colonial Revival house brings the area forward into the latter part of the early modern period.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE  *see continuation sheet*

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

Most of this area was working farmland until well into the early part of this century. The farm centered at #637 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner belonged to two generations of the Keefe (O'Keefe) family. John Keefe was apparently the first owner; he later acquired the Miles house at 429 Williams Road, and was succeeded here by 1889 Harry Keefe, who owned the farm through the early part of this century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES  *see continuation sheet*

- Concord Chronicle.
- Maps and atlases: 1875, 1889, 1906.
- Town directories.
- Keyes/Tolman.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Keefe Farm Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

AR 765-767

DATA SHEET

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	description	date	condition
765 F11-3081-1	458 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner	Dutch Colonial Revival 2-story gambrel-roofed house with hip-roofed rear wing. Shingle.	ca. 1920's	fair
766 E12-3636	597 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner	Craftsman Bungalow Stucco; rubble foundation. Gable-end bungalow with shed-roofed extension on east side. Shallow-pitched roof; 6/1 windows.	ca. 1920	good
767 E12-3634-2	637 (677) Old Road to Nine Acre Corner	Italianate Synthetic siding; brick and rubble foundation. Tall 2 1/2-story 3-bay house with projecting facade pavilion. Early 20th-century entry hood.	ca. 1870	fair

AREA AR  
AL- NINE ACRE CORNER  
SECTION- ~~A~~ A  
USGS- MAYNARD

765 - 458 OLD NINE ACRE CORNER RD

766 - 597 OLD NINE ACRE CORNER RD

767 - 637 OLD NINE ACRE CORNER RD





458 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner  
(CON. 765)



597 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner  
(CON. 766)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

CON. AR

Community	Property
Concord	Keefe Farm area
Area(s)	Form No.
AR	765-767; 998, 999; 9000-9002

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
 Massachusetts Archives Building  
 220 Morrissey Boulevard  
 Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Additional information by Anne Forbes, December, 2000:

DESCRIPTION, cont.

The Keefe (referred to as O'Keefe after 1900)/Jones farmhouse and all its outbuildings were demolished in the late 1990s. The center of the former farmstead site has been divided out as a two-acre houselot, and the rest of the former 5.5-acre farmstead parcel has been incorporated into the 43.37-acre town-owned **Mattison Field** conservation and passive recreation area.

Although the main O'Keefe/Jones buildings have been demolished, including the house at 677 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner (MHC #767), the **farm landscape** (#998) is still one of the more picturesque in Concord, all the more significant because it continues in agricultural use by local farmers who lease portions of the property. Most of the area consists of low rolling hills of former pasture land presently planted to grasses; some of the lower land is leased for cornfields. A new split-rail fence and an older metal wire fence border an old wagon path leading to the back fields and pastures. North of the fence, beginning several feet in from the road, is a long vegetable plot of about a third of an acre. Just south of the mid-portion of the vegetable field is the square concrete hatch of the large **underground storage room** (#9000) of 1950, its date scratched in the top.

Concealed by underbrush to the east of the vegetable field is the deep brick-lined **well** (#9001) which marks the position of the windmill (demolished) that was once a signature structure of this large dairy farm. Behind it, facing a hollow to the east, is an underground concrete **root cellar** (#9002), approximately twenty feet square. All that remains of the above-ground structures that mark the property's early-twentieth-century agricultural function is the elevated cylindrical wooden stave **water tank** (#999) standing on high ground just behind the field. Built apparently in the 1930s to store water for the livestock, it stands about forty feet high on four steel legs, its central pipe concealed by a square wooden housing. The conical wood-shingle roof is severely deteriorated, but its center iron finial remains.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

**John O'Keefe** (originally referred to in town documents as John Keefe), a twenty-five-year-old Irish-born farm laborer on the nearby John Williams farm, purchased eight acres here in 1860, and proceeded to build a house and barn. Over the years he acquired other adjacent parcels of land, including the old Miles/Williams farm at 429 Williams Road, and built up a dairy herd from two cows in 1865 to 21 cows and a bull in 1895. He was succeeded here by his son, **David Harry O'Keefe**. A third family member, **George A. O'Keefe** (b. 1869-70) was also apparently associated with the property. Together, the O'Keefe family is representative of the significant number of Irish immigrants who, usually after a period of working as agricultural laborers or domestics, managed to purchase their own farms in Concord.

In 1908, under (David) Harry O'Keefe's ownership, in addition to the house and barn, the farmstead included two sheds, an icehouse, and two silos. (Cont.)

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CON. AR

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

Keefe Farm area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
AR

Form No.  
765-767; 998, 999;  
9000-9002

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

In 1916, Harry O'Keefe sold the farm to the owner who developed it into one of the major dairy farms of the southwest part of Concord during the early modern period, **Frederick R. Jones**. Even through the depression years Mr. Jones maintained a herd of thirty-five cows. He expanded or replaced the existing house, and added several more outbuildings to the farmstead, including a large cow barn and a garage, and built the bungalow next door at 597 Old Road to Nine Acre Corner (MHC #766), which was occupied by his farm manager, or "dairyman," **John A. Fraser**, and his wife, Charlotte. The Frasers represented a later significant immigrant group in Concord--Canadians, primarily from Nova Scotia, who came to town in the late-nineteenth and the early years of the twentieth centuries.

In 1938, when Frederick Jones was forty-two, his household included Edith B. Jones (age 66--apparently his mother), and two Canadian farmhands. In 1939 the main farm was listed as 53 acres, with 37 more adjoining it to the east, and 95 acres across the street along Williams Road. The farmstead had been expanded to include three silos, a tool house, manure pit, henhouse, another shed, and a gasoline pump. The wooden stave **water tank** was probably standing by that time, as well. It was part of an elaborate water system that included a windmill that pumped water from a 500-foot-deep **well** through a piping system that relayed water to a second water tank inside the cowbarn. In 1950, Mr. Jones built the large underground concrete-block **storage room** that connected to the barn cellar.

Although he eventually sold off pieces of the property, Fred Jones operated the dairy farm, which he called "Old Acres Farm and Dairy," until 1963, when it was bought by the **Mattison** family, then owners of the cattle farm, Ayrshire Farm, to the west. (See Form #283: 321 Williams Road). They grazed their livestock on the hilltop pasture on the east part of the property, and grew corn and hay on most of the rest of the land.

When the Mattison family offered the farm for sale in 1997, Concord Town Meeting voted to authorize \$1,410,000 to acquire 43 acres of it for conservation, agricultural, and passive recreation land. The 1998 purchase, which totaled \$3,190,000, as well as the arrangement for the oversight and management of the land, was the result of a partnership formed by the Concord Land Conservation Trust, the Trust for Public Land, and the non-profit Friends of Mattison Field. Private contributions and matching donations raised \$1,340,000 to defray the Town's cost. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts contributed \$400,000 through its Agricultural Preservation Restriction program. The Mattison Field management plan calls for maintaining the property as a combination of active agricultural use and passive recreation. The Mattisons retained the old O'Keefe/Jones house lot, and removed the house and outbuildings in 1998.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES, cont.

- Forbes, A. Interview with lessee, Tony Scimone. 9/27/00
- Mattison Field Conservation Land Management Plan. 1/21/98; revised 5/8/98.
- Town of Concord. Assessor's records: real estate valuations, 1900-1955.
- \_\_\_\_\_ . Town Reports.



CON. AR

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

Keefe Farm area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s)  
AR

Form No.  
765-767; 998, 999;  
9000-9002

AREA DATA SHEET (revised 12/00)

MHC#	Parcel #	Street Address	Historic Name/description	Date	Style/type
765	F11-3081-1	458 Old Rd. to Nine Acre Corner		ca. 1920s	Dutch Col. Revival
766	E12-3635	597 Old Rd. to Nine Acre Corner		ca. 1925	Craftsman Bungalow
<u>O'Keefe/Jones Farm:</u>					
998	E12-3634-1	Old Rd. to Nine Acre Corner	agricultural landscape/ Mattison Field	19th-20th C.	landscape
999			stave water tank	ca. 1930s	utilitarian
9000			underground storage room	1950	utilitarian
9001			brick well	ca. 1930s	utilitarian
9002			root cellar	early 20th C.	utilitarian

# 998  
999

View SE, w. vegetable  
field + water tank



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

Concord

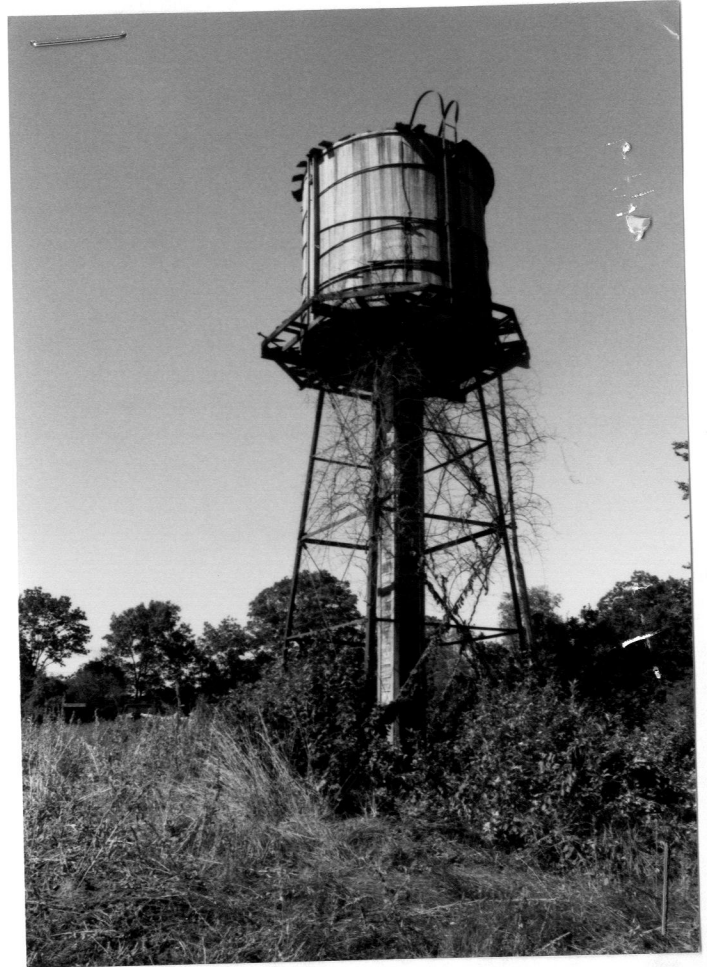
Keefe Farm area

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Area(s)  
AR

Form No.  
765-767; 998, 999;  
9000-9002

# 999: watertank



# 998: landscape, looking east

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Area(s)  
AR

Form No.  
765-767; 998, 999;  
9000-9002

