

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.AU
Historic Name:	Woodis - Isaac Lee - Wright Farm
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture; Industry
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	



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

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FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter

Form Numbers in Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G15

CONCORD

AU

428
429-429, 931
784

CONCORD

Town _____

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

East of Nine Acre Corner

Name of Area _____
Woodis/Isaac Lee Farm
Wright Farm

Present Use _____
residential

Construction Dates or Period _____
18th-C.-1925

Overall Condition _____
good

Major Intrusions and Alterations _____
modern houses to west and east

Acreage _____
approx. 75 acres

Recorded by _____
A. Forbes
research by Tillie Sweet
for Concord Hist. Comm.

Organization _____

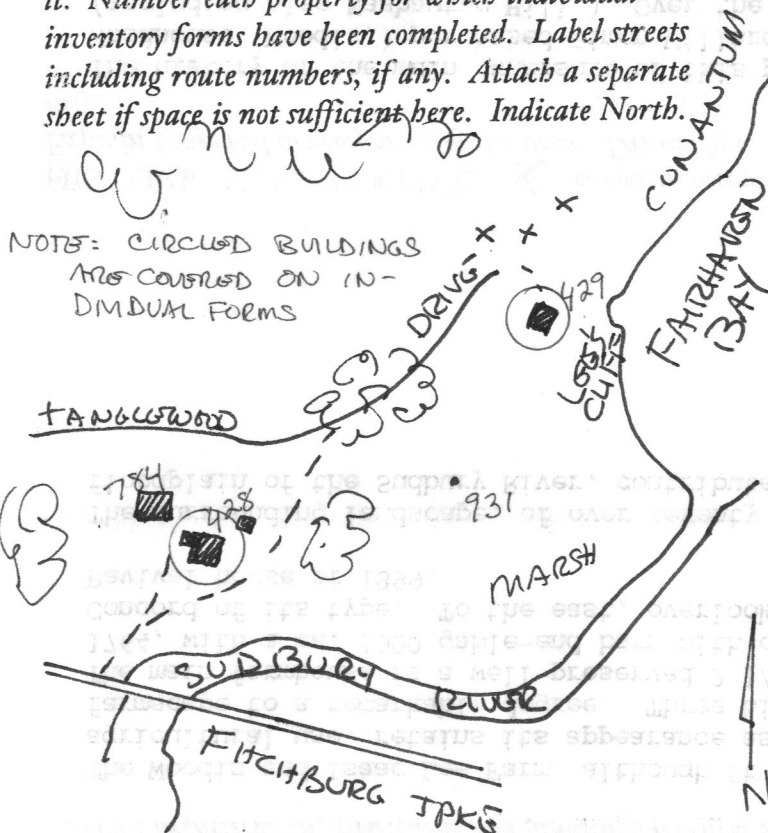
Date (month/day/year) _____
June, 1991



509 Garfield Road: Barn
(CON. 784)

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.



NOTE: CIRCLED BUILDINGS
ARE COVERED ON IN-
DIVIDUAL FORMS

AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

The Woodis and Isaac Lee Farm, although it is now in residential rather than agricultural use, retains its appearance as an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century farmscape to a remarkable degree. Three historically significant buildings stand here. The main farmhouse is a well-preserved 2 1/2-story, double-ridge-chimney, 5-bay house of 1764, with a ca. 1900 gable-end barn with clerestory monitor roof, the only building in Concord of its type. To the east, overlooking the Sudbury River, is a large Colonial Revival house of 1899.

The surrounding landscape, of over seventy acres of rolling meadows, woods, and floodplain of the Sudbury River, contributes greatly to the area's historic aspect.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

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

The history of the main ownership of this property goes back to ca. 1660-61, when Henry Woodhouse (Woodis,) purchased Simon Willard's former vast farm "between the two rivers" (including also Nashawtuc Hill.) Over the generations the farm was divided for various sons and daughters, some of whom purchased more acreage to increase their land. The section of the farm here adjoining the Sudbury River and the Fitchburg Turnpike fell to Henry Woodhouse's descendant Woodis Lee, Jr., who built the main farmhouse at 509 Garfield Road in 1764. (See Form # .) The farm was inherited by Woodis' son Isaac Lee, who, according to Wheeler, was born here shortly after the house was built.

The ownership of the farm passed through several generations of the family. Isaac and Lucy Lee's son Isaac Stearns Lee, (b. 1801) who married Sarah Clark of Boston in 1848, became owner after his father's death in 1835. Their daughter married her father's apprentice, George H. Wright, who owned it until the end of the century. So identified had the farm become with the Lee family, however, that the names of such natural and man-made sites as Lee's Cliff and Lee's Bridge retained their names until well into this century. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889. Gleason 1906.
 Wheeler House File.
 Wheeler.
 Shattuck.
 Walcott, Concord in the Colonial Period.
 Hudson, Alfred. History of Middlesex County.
 Brooks, Paul. The People of Concord.
 Reynolds, Grindell. A Collection of Historical and Other Papers. 1895.

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

CONCORD

W. & I. Lee

Farm Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

AU 428, 429, 931,
784

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Isaac Stearns Lee's farm was one of Henry Thoreau's favorite spots, where he came in all seasons to view the landscape from Conantum and Lee's Cliff, just east of the farmstead.

In 1899 the farm was acquired by the Misses **Elizabeth and Emma Williams**, who built the large Colonial Revival house on the bluff at Conantum overlooking Fairhaven Bay. (See Form # , 900 Tanglewood Drive.) By 1925 the entire property had been purchased by **Richard Fessenden**, who, probably following the practice of the Misses Williams, lived in the 1899 house and rented the old farmhouse to a foreman and farm workers. The Fessenden family owned the property through the middle of this century.

On property to the southeast recently divided off from the farm is "Mine Hill," the site of one of the small mining operations undertaken by investors in Concord in the seventeenth century. Called a copper mine, it really yielded pyrite ore, and like the ironworks at West Concord, was quite likely unprofitable. It was managed as early as 1697 by Augustus Lehtenegger.

AREA DATA SHEET

MHC/map # Map/parcel #	Address	Historic Name	Approximate date
784/428 G15-3449-5	509 Garfield Road - Woodis Lee, Jr. Farmhouse		1764
784 G15-3449-5	509 Garfield Road - Williams Horse Barn		ca. 1900
429 G15-3449-6-1	900 Tanglewood Drive - the Misses Williams House		1899
931 G15-3449-5	Lee/Wright Farm landscape		
3449-6-1			
3449-6-2			
3449-6-3			
3449-6-5			

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. AU

AREA AU
PL. ~~B~~
USGS- CONCORD
SECTION - B

784 - 509 GARFIELD RD (BARN)

931 - TANGLEWOOD DR



509 Garfield Road