

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.BE
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Lexington Road Area II
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	East Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	
<b>Use(s):</b>	Residential District
<b>Significance:</b>	Agriculture; Architecture; Community Planning
<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

H9-28

CONCORD

BE

1054, 1055



CONCORD

Neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_  
east Concord Center

245/249 Lexington Road  
255 Lexington Road

Area \_\_\_\_\_  
Use \_\_\_\_\_ residential

Construction Dates or Period \_\_\_\_\_ ca. 1716-early  
20th century

Condition \_\_\_\_\_ good

Structures and Alterations \_\_\_\_\_ 3-car  
garage to northwest

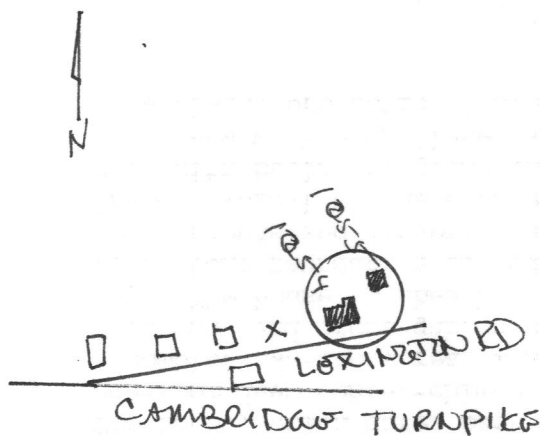
Acreage \_\_\_\_\_ less than one acre

Recorded by \_\_\_\_\_ A. Forbes  
research by Ann and Dick Ferraro  
for Concord Histor. Comm.

Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (month/day/year) \_\_\_\_\_ June, 1992

255 Lexington Road (CON. 1055)

Sketch Map \_\_\_\_\_ 245/249 Lexington Road  
(CON. 1054)  
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.



## AREA FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

The two buildings on this property are architecturally significant not just for their venerable age, but also as rare survivors of a house/shop arrangement that was once prevalent along the section of Lexington Road east of Cambridge Turnpike. (See #s 555 and 561 Lexington Road for a much later house and shop.)

The house, which dates back to ca. 1716, is a First Period 2 1/2-story, one-room-deep center-chimney structure with an asymmetrical four-bay facade. It has a complex two-story rear wing which is positioned parallel to the main house on the west end, and cross-gabled on the east, where it overlaps the front section by one bay. The house is sheathed with wood clapboards and shingles (on the west end;) its fieldstone foundation is today faced with brick. The windows are 12-over-12-sash replacements and 6-over-6-sash; those on the main house retain projecting, molded frames typical of the eighteenth century. The main entry has a replacement 6-panel door with bulls-eye glass in the top two panels, and a surround of recessed-paneled pilasters with high fluted and flared capitals in the entablature, which is topped by a plain, projecting lintel. (Cont.)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

Much confusion exists among the available documents as to the early ownership of this property. According to Keyes, Tolman, and Ruth Wheeler, the house was built about 1716 by farmer and shoemaker Benjamin Barron on the original house lot of William Baker and his son, Thomas. (According to Jarvis, however, Benjamin Barron lived in the "old Dutch House" which was demolished before 1885.) It is likely that the former three are correct, however. Benjamin Barron, who died in 1754, is known as the owner of Concord's best-known slave, John Jack, who bought his freedom from his master by 1761, two decades before slavery was abolished in Massachusetts. He was immortalized after his death in 1773 by one of the most famous epitaphs in America. Written by Daniel Bliss, Jr., it was a strong anti-slavery statement that was taken up again during the abolitionist movement of the nineteenth century. Benjamin Barron was survived here by his widow Elizabeth, and by their daughter Susanna Barron who sold the house in 1762, the westerly half to Thomas Thompson and the easterly half to "the widow Knowlton." (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1927.

Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.

Jarvis, "Houses and People in Concord." 1882.

Wheeler, Ruth. "Our American Mile."

Owners' records.

Wheeler House File #L15.

Town Directories and tax lists. (Cont.)

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



## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDBarron House  
and Potter Bake shop  
Area(s) Form No.

BE 1054JESS

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

A second entry in a vestibule on the west end has a nineteenth-century 6-panel door with applied moldings. The architectural trim includes narrow corner boards and an unmolded, boxed cornice.

In the yard just east of the house is one of Concord's most unusual utilitarian buildings, now a residence at #255. It is a tall narrow building of 2 1/2-stories, facing gable-end to the street. The first story is brick, the rest is clapboarded. Much of the building was probably altered during its conversion to a tea room early in this century, but it retains its general utilitarian form and character. The architectural trim consists of plain, narrow cornerboards and a molded, boxed cornice. The facade is a non-symmetrical three-bay arrangement, with a 20th-century replacement door at both first and second-story levels. To the east of the main entry is a multi-light-sash display window; other windows are small 6-over-6-sash.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In 1767 the westerly half was bought by Peter Holden and the easterly half by Thomas Munroe, who may have built and started the bake shop. He subsequently sold his part to Henry Price. According to some sources, Susanna Barron occupied part of the house until her death in 1784.

By some time early in the nineteenth century the property was acquired by Ephraim Potter III (1784-1826.) He had a bakery in the building at #255 beside the house. His widow married Richard Messer, a woodworker from Boston, and continued to live here. Their son George Messer is shown as the owner by 1875, and apparently owned the house, at least, until his death in 1909. (The map of 1875 shows the bake shop as the property of J.B. Moore.) During George Messer's time half the house was rented to a Miss Sawyer, a dressmaker. George Messer was a manufacturer in Boston, and left money to the town for a memorial to Capt. John Buttrick, which is located at the Corner of Liberty Street at the spot where Capt. Buttrick rallied the minutemen prior to the "Concord Fight" of 1775.

The entire property subsequently came under the ownership of George Albree of 299 Lexington Road, and was occupied for a time by the foreman of his farm (the former Moore Farm.) In 1916 the tenants were the Misses Grace and Roma Newman, who opened the Green Arbor Tea Room, the first in Concord to cater to the automobile trade, in the former bake shop. After they died in the early 1920's, the property was briefly owned by a Miss Davidson, and then sold to James Baker of Lincoln. In 1939 it was bought by Winifred L. (Mrs. Harry P.) Sturdy of Harvard, and Mrs. Adams Tolman (formerly of #261 Lexington Road) lived here during her last years. The next owner was a Miss Wilson, who rented the shop to the Misses Edna and Louise Stimson.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Tolman. "John Jack the Slave and Daniel Bliss the Tory." 1901-2.  
Concord Vital Records.

CON. BE

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Barron House  
and Potter Bake shop  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

BE 1054, 1055

AREA DATA SHEET

(Asterisk indicates property is covered on an individual form)

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	name, description
1054 H9-28	245/249 Lexington Road	- Barron/Potter/Messer House, ca. 1716. --2 1/2-story First Period house with later additions. Alterations: some sash and door replacement; 19th-century east porch replaced by 1-story sunroom; oriel bay window on east side of rear wing.
1055	255 Lexington Road	- ca. 1767 or early 19th-C. Bake Shop; early 20th C. Green Arbor Tea Room --narrow 2 1/2-story utilitarian, gable-end building. Alterations: exterior chimneys on east and west; window and door replacement, probably rearrangement.

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. BE

AREA 1 BE  
PL - EAST CONCORD  
USGS - CONCORD  
SECTION - B

1054 - 245-249 LEXINGTON RD (ALSO DS-LHD 3/6/61)

1055 - 255 LEXINGTON RD (ALSO DS-LHD 3/6/61)

COW. BE

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
245-255 Lexington  
Road

Area(s)	Form No.
BE	1054, 1055

## 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.*

For its association with both the Barron family and the slave John Jack, this property meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register. It is also eligible as part of a National Register District of well-preserved eighteenth- and nineteenth-century residences on Lexington Road. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



FORM B - STRUCTURE SURVEY  
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Is this structure historically significant to:  
Town      Commonwealth      Nation

Structure has historical connection with the  
following themes: (See also reverse side)

Agriculture	Commerce/Industry
Architecture	Science/Invention
Art/Sculpture	Travel/Communication
Education	Military Affairs
Government	Religion/Philosophy
Literature	Indians
Music	Development of Town/City

2. Town Record  
Street 53 Lexington 249  
Name Benj. Barron House  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Owner private  
Date c. 1716 Style \_\_\_\_\_  
1770 47. (bakery)  
Source of Date Am. Mide p. 12  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_

3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_

IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by \_\_\_\_\_

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: brick

WALL COVER: Wood clapboarding Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_

STORIES: 1 2/3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings 2 ell Shed Dependency 2 story shingled (W) Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony E side Recessed \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_

FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament

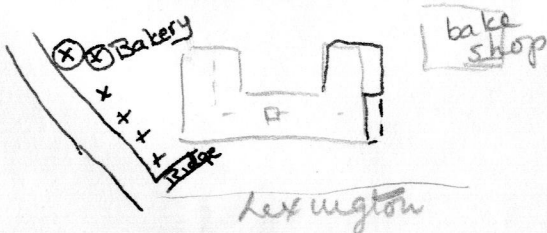
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: \_\_\_\_\_

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured \_\_\_\_\_

OUTBUILDINGS Bake Shop - early LANDSCAPING \_\_\_\_\_

5. Indicate location of structure on map below



6. Footage of structure from street 10  
? Property has 80 feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo 68-471 IA-18A III-AN (bakery) 909 065-1.068

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)



FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

local history

Ephraim Potter carried on bakery here 1787-1830

last of family left Town money for memorial to John Buttrick

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

American July p. 12

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds



245/249 Lexington Road (CON. 1054)



Bakery next to 245/249 Lexington Road  
(CON. 1055)