

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.BG
Historic Name:	Alcott - Independence Roads Area
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	East Concord Center
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Residential District
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning
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

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 23, 2020 at 11:38 AM

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

I-9

CONCORD

BG

1060 1062



CONCORD

Neighborhood or village) _____

East of Concord center _____

Area _____ 92 Alcott, 276 and
285 Independence RoadsUse _____
residential

Construction Dates or Period _____ ca. 1901

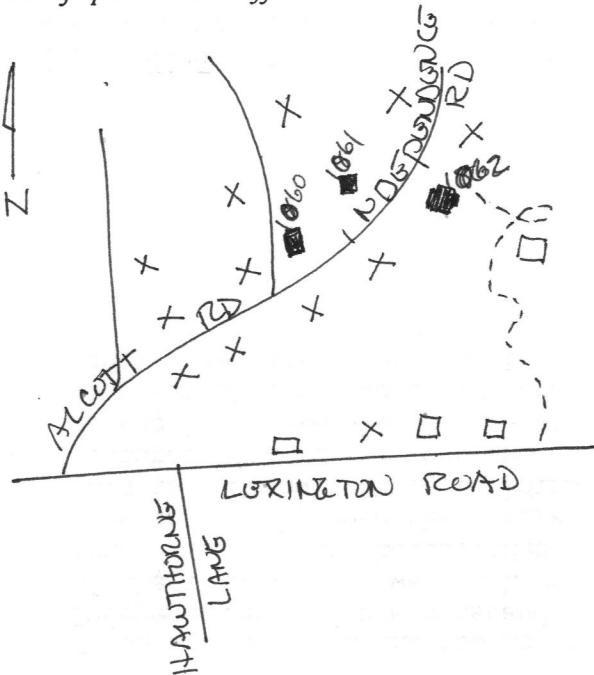
Condition _____
goodIntrusions and Alterations _____
surrounded by modern houses

Acreage _____ ca. 3.5 acres

Recorded by _____ A. Forbes
research by Tedd Osgood
Organization _____ for Concord Histor. Comm.

Date (month/day/year) _____ June, 1992

285 Independence Road
Sketch Map (CON. 1062)
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.

Three houses along the top of the ridge at #s 92 Alcott Road and #s 276 and 285 Independence Road are outstanding examples of domestic architecture built in Concord of the turn of the twentieth century. #285 is a large two-story Federal Revival house with a flat, balustraded roof and tapered corner pilasters. #276, said to have originally been the carriage house for #285, is totally different in style. This is a Shingle-Style building dominated by a high cross-gambrel roof that features both multi-light and diamond-paned casement windows. #92 Alcott Road is an excellent example of the late Shingle Style with Colonial Revival detailing. It is an eight-bay, two-story house with a hipped roof, massive interior end chimneys, and a wide facade porch on Tuscan half-columns.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

These three buildings are significant as the first cluster of houses built along the ridge north of Lexington Road. Until the end of the nineteenth century, a long line of houses had stretched along the base of the hill close to the road, but the ridge itself remained largely a combination of woods and pasture land. At the end of the nineteenth century a large amount of land in the vicinity was purchased from Mrs. Daniel Lothrop, owner of the Wayside, by members of the Coburn family and by artist Charles H. Pepper, who in 1889 had married Frances Coburn of Skowhegan, Maine. The Peppers built #525 Lexington Road for their own residence in 1901-02, and #285 Independence Road was built next to it by Frances' sister Julia Coburn, also an artist, for herself and her mother. Both houses shared a common drive winding up the ridge from Lexington Road.

Mrs. Coburn was the widow of S.W. Coburn of Skowhegan, whose brother, Abner Coburn, had been governor of Maine during the Civil War.. She and her daughter named their new estate "Ridgewold." The house standing today at #276 Independence Road was built as the carriage house for Ridgewold, and later converted to a dwelling.
(Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps and atlases: 1906.
Town assessor's records.
Town directories.
Interviews with owners; owners' records, 4/92.
Jarvis.
Joslin.
Obituary files.

☐ 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

Alcott & Independence
Roads

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
BG 1060-1062

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Julia Coburn (b. 1847 in Skowhegan,) lived here until her death in 1927. The house was subsequently purchased by Lemuel Watkins, a silver replater, who owned it until the early 1970's.

Although it is not shown on the 1902 map, #92 Alcott Road was evidently built in about 1902 by artist and writer Will (Willius) Bradley (1868-1962.) He was commissioned by the Ladies Home Journal around the turn of the century to write a series of articles on the interior design of houses. When he built his home in Concord, he incorporated in it a number of the features he had discovered in the course of doing research for the articles. Bradley is commonly considered to have been one of America's best and most innovative graphic designers and illustrators. His early work was strongly influenced by William Morris, James Whistler, and Aubrey Beardsley. He was well known in his time for works in the "chap-book" style, and evidently published some of his work himself under "the Sign of the Vine," named for the fact that his home adjoined Ephraim Bull's "Grapevine Cottage."

All these properties were originally considered as having Lexington Road addresses, and were reached by a long drive going up the hill to #525 Lexington. It is not known exactly when the lower part of Alcott Road was constructed, but the first sections of both it and Independence Road were accepted by the town in 1938, the extensions in 1941 and 1942. The whole Alcott/Independence area was further filled in with houses in the late 1930's and 1940's by the prolific building company, Air Conditioned Homes, Inc., under H. Whittmore Brown and John Muttly.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORDAlcott & Independence
Roads

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.
BG 1060-1062

MHC #/ Parcel #	Address	AREA DATA SHEET description	date	condition
1060 I9-4153	92 Alcott Road -	Shingle Style Wood shingle; rubble foundation. Later attached garage.	ca. 1902	good
1061 I9-4154	276 Independence Road -	Shingle Style Wood shingle; rubble foundation. Converted from carriage house.	ca. 1901	good
1062 I9-4127	285 Independence Road -	Federal Revival Clapboard; parged foundation. Several 20th-century additions.	ca. 1901	fair/good

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. BG

AREA BG
PL-~~2~~ EAST CONCORD
SECTION- C
USGS- CONCORD

1060 - 92 ALCOTT RD

1061 - 276 INDEPENDENCE RD

1062 - 285 INDEPENDENCE RD



92 Alcott Road (CON. 1060)



276 Independence Road (CON. 1061)