

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.K
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Bedford Street Area
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	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>	Architecture; Commerce; 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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CON-K

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter

Form Numbers in Area

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H-8, H-9

CONCORD

K

486-488

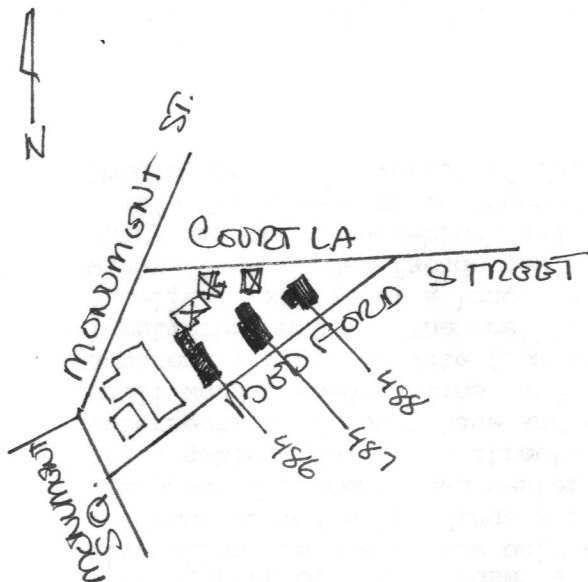
RECEIVED

Town CONCORD

Neighborhood or village) \_\_\_\_\_

Area Bedford Street:  
29-37Use funeral businessConstruction Dates or Period ca. 1840's-1910Condition good/fairAdditions and Alterations noneAcreage ca. 7/8 acresRecorded by A. Forbes  
research by Susan Alatalo  
for Concord Histor. Comm.Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

Sketch Map 29 Bedford (CON. 486)  
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.



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

This cluster of small houses and outbuildings, though it has undergone some alteration, is one of the only areas in Concord where closely-spaced houses and artisans shops/outbuildings still exist in the type of arrangement that has all but disappeared in most town centers. Two houses, #27/29 and 33 Bedford Street, face their gable ends to the street, while the third, #37, faces east toward the intersection of Court Lane and Bedford Street. Along Court Lane is a jumble of small wooden sheds, barns, and other outbuildings, some of them moved here, which apparently range in date from at least the mid-nineteenth to the early twentieth-century. The most intact of the three houses is #33 Bedford Street, an excellent example of a long, narrow Greek Revival gable-end house with 2-story rear wing, flushboarded facade pediment and recessed, sidelighted side-hall entry. The entry has the corner-block and paneled-pilastered surround characteristic of the 1840's Greek Revival in Concord. The first floor facade windows, also, have the long proportions typical of that time. (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 three houses and outbuildings here at the triangle of Bedford Street and Court Lane have a complex history. Their variety of use and occupancy, however, is typical of many of Concord's smaller early buildings, which were changed and adapted over the years. Two of the buildings were among the first to occupy the first block of Bedford Street when it was put through in the mid-1840's. #33 was built by E.C. Wetherbee, a carpenter, who probably constructed the house himself, and apparently had a carpentry shop on the premises. A later nineteenth-century owner, (by 1885,) was George H. Conant, then tax collector for the town. Early in this century it was the home of Harry E. Tuttle, proprietor of Tuttle's Livery Stable on Walden Street. #37 may be a late-eighteenth century house. It was apparently moved from the east side of lower Monument Street, where it had belonged to clockmaker Joseph Mulliken, son of the clockmaker of Lexington. At its new site, Col. Daniel Shattuck owned it as a rental house. One of its first tenants in the 1840's was Mrs. Almira C. Barlow, mother of Gen. Barlow, who was later to distinguish himself in the Civil War. The house was altered somewhat around 1850, and occupied for many years by Henry L. Shattuck. After the Civil War it was acquired by Edward Hall. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Keyes/Tolman.

Maps and atlases: 1852, 1856 (#s 33 and 37,); ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.

Town directories and assessor's records.

Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars.

Concord Oral History Tapes.

Interview with Charles Dee, 1992.

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

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD27-37 Bedford Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

In contrast, #27/29 is an excellent example of a diminutive Italianate vernacular cottage, with unboxed eaves, a rectangular bay window on the gable-end, a through-cornice dormer, and 2-over-2-sash windows. Its entry is through a glass-and-panel door in a side vestibule with two round-topped glass lights; the door is sheltered by a porch on square, chamfered posts with curved, saw-cut braces. A rear wing, and a line of attached sheds and barns extends behind the house.

#37 Bedford Street, a five-bay, "story-and-a-half" cottage, is the most altered house. Although it apparently dates to the late eighteenth century, its appearance today is a combination of the Greek Revival, Italianate, and early-twentieth-century vernacular. Its facade lobby entrance has a 4-paneled door with applied moldings, divided sidelights, and a molded and paneled surround that appear to be Greek Revival in origin. The rear ell has Italianate vernacular posts, bracketing, and 2-over-2-sash windows and a bracketed polygonal bay window; a bay window at the south end of the house with round-topped windows would also have been added in the Italianate period. The front roof dormers and wide siding (now covered with vinyl or aluminum,) add an early-twentieth-century character to the building.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Hall was a retired blacksmith, who planted a flower garden on the grounds that was the admiration of the village.

It is not certain who built #27/29. It was acquired, at least, by the town undertaker, Willard T. Farrar, around the time of the Civil War. Ever since that time this area has been associated with the funeral business. Farrar expanded parts of the business into the outbuildings here, which were moved to the site from other locations. The town hearse was moved from the First Parish horse sheds to the north central schoolhouse across Court Lane after the school was closed at the end of the nineteenth century. The horses that pulled the hearse were kept in sheds behind the Town House, and a coffinmaker had a shop in one of the buildings here, as well.

Joseph Dee, Jr. (1868-1946), who first followed his father as a gravedigger, began working for Willard Farrar as a young man. He later joined Farrar as part owner of the funeral business, and is listed in directories as an undertaker by 1896. After Farrar's death in 1910, he became full owner of the business, which has been carried on by successive generations of Dees until the present day. By 1915 he had acquired the house at #37 Bedford Street, and eventually #33 became part of the funeral business, as well.

## MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON.K

AREA K  
PL. CONCORD  
USGS - CONCORD  
SECTION-B

486 - 27-29 BEDFORD ST (ALSO DV-LHD 3/5/73)

487 - 33 BEDFORD ST (ALSO DV - LHD 3/5/73)

488 - 37 BEDFORD ST





33 Bedford (CON. 487)



Intersection of Bedford Street and  
Court Lane



29, 33, 37 Bedford (CON. 486, CON. 487, CON. 488)