

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.175
Historic Name:	Mason, Dea. Sampson - McHugh, Terrence House
Common Name:	Merriam, John House
Address:	645 Lexington Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Merriam's Corner
Local No:	I9-4183
Year Constructed:	r 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Archaeology, Historic; Architecture; Ethnic Heritage; Social History
Area(s):	CON.A: Concord Monument Sq-Lexington Road Historic Dist. CON.DS: American Mile Historic District CON.EC: Minute Man National Historical Park
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/06/1961); Nat'l Historic Landmark (10/15/1966); Nat'l Register District (10/15/1966); Nat'l Register District (09/13/1977); Nat'l Register District (11/29/2002)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

CON. 175

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

19-4183

CONCORD

DS

175

Town CONCORD

(neighborhood or village)

Merriam's Corner

645 Lexington Road

Dea. Sampson Mason House

Historic Name

dwelling

Present

dwelling

Original

mid-19th century

Date of Construction

1862-3

Keyes/Tolman; visual

Assessment Assessor's Records

Greek Revival

Form

unknown

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

dressed granite

Foundation

wood clapboard

Wall/Trim

asphalt shingle

Roof

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

3-bay

vertical-board wagon shed

Major Alterations (with dates)

no significant alterations

Condition

good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage

2.5 acres

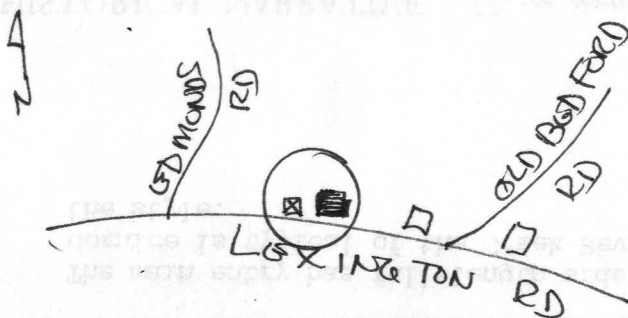
Setting

In residential district of 17th- to 19th-century houses near Merriam's Corner. Some modern houses interspersed. Stone retaining wall across front and at rear.



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.



Recorded by A. Forbes
research by Anne Hayden
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization

June, 1992

Date (month/day/year)

BUILDING FORM

CON. 175

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

#645 Lexington Road is a classic Greek Revival house-type, somewhat more typical of the 1830's-'40's than the late 1860's, when both Keyes and Grinnall Reynolds say it was built. It is a tall 2 1/2-story, five-by-two-bay house with a pair of rear interior chimneys and a wide, recessed center entry. A two-story rear wing projects north from the northwest corner. As in nearly all Greek Revival houses, the windows are 6-over-6-sash; these have flat, unadorned surrounds, and louvered blinds. A pedimented dormer over the west side of the rear wing has a pair of 4-over-4-sash windows.

The main entry has full-length sidelights, and a flat pediment-board. The molded, boxed cornice is typical of the Greek Revival, but the cornerboards are somewhat narrow for the style.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This property, like several others along Lexington Road, shows a transition of ownership from a series of old "yankee" families to an enterprising Irish family in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The property on which the house stands was originally part of the farmstead belonging to several generations of the Taylor family (see #663 Lexington Road, NR.) The Taylor property extended beyond the ridge and as far west as "Grapevine Cottage" (491 Lexington Road.) It was all acquired by John Merriam in 1778, and portions divided out over the next several generations. This property, with an earlier house on it, was acquired by Ebenezer Stow, then by 1780 by his son, Nathan, who in that year married Abigail, daughter of Nathan Merriam. The foundation and cellar remain from the old house, where there still exists a section of paving laid by Nathan and Abigail's son, Cyrus, when he was sixteen years old. After Nathan and Abigail died in 1810, the property fell to Cyrus and his brother Nathan, who moved to Walden Street and sold the old house, with a few acres, to sea-captain Andrew Arfridson in 1820.

In 1832 **Sampson Mason** (ca. 1806-1878), Andrew Arfridson's son-in-law, and later town librarian, bought the property. He apparently lived in the old house for many years, finally tearing it down and building the present house on the old foundation. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: (1830,) 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1906. 1898 Highway Map.
Keyes/Tolman "Houses in Concord." 1885; rev. 1915 and 1920's.
Town Directories.
Wheeler. "Our American Mile."
Wheeler, Ruth. Wheeler House file L28.
Jarvis. (Cont.)

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

CON. 175

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD

Sampson Mason House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

175

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In 1880, after Dea. Mason's death, the house and accompanying land were purchased by farmer Terence McHugh⁽¹⁸⁴¹⁻¹⁹³⁰⁾. Several members of the McHugh family apparently came to Concord from Ireland. Terence and his wife Mary Dee McHugh had eleven children, and the farmhouse became known for its hospitality, often serving as a "halfway house" for new Irish immigrants who boarded here until they could find work and lodging elsewhere. The McHugh family developed a specialty in what were to become the two major crops in Concord for decades--strawberries and asparagus. (Most of their fields were located on twenty acres of land on Old Bedford Road, now owned by the town.) The house remained in the McHugh family until recent years.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Richardson. Concord Chronicle.
Garrellick and Bailey. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars.
Concord Oral History tapes: Terence and John McHugh, 1977.
Social Circle Memoirs: Cyrus Stow.
Assessor's Records.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

CON. 175
Property Address
645 Lexington
Road

Area(s)	FormNo.
	175

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.

This house meets Criterion C for individual listing on the National Register as one of the most well-preserved examples of Greek Revival architecture in Concord. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.



Ques Minute Man Park 73%
Concord CON. 175
et Lexington 645
ne Abraham Taylor
Original Use Farmhouse
Sent Use
Sent Owner private (NPS area)
e 1840 Style Greek Rev
rce of Date and p. 6. 9m Mile
hitect

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: cut stone

WALL COVER: Wood clapboarding Brick Stone Other

STORIES: 1 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 ^{all} 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular

ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency 2 story rear, dormer Simple/Complex

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony Recessed

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

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

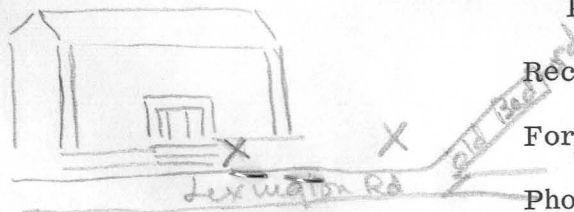
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: wide pseudo pediment
recessed, side + transom

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured cornerboards

OUTBUILDINGS LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below 6. Footage of structure from street 15'
Property has feet frontage on street



Recorder

For

Photo 68-490 68-580 E-09-065-1-0 73

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)

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY



Original Owner:

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds