



AREA B FORM NO. 125

ACTON

Address 1 Wood Lane  
 Historic Name Second Evangelical Church

Usage  
 Present single family residential  
 Original single family residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1875  
 Source Phalen  
 Style Second Empire  
 Architect unknown  
 Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard  
 Attachments barn with narrow carriage  
 Features doors and new entrance door

Major Alterations (with dates) 1-story  
rear ell and deck

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

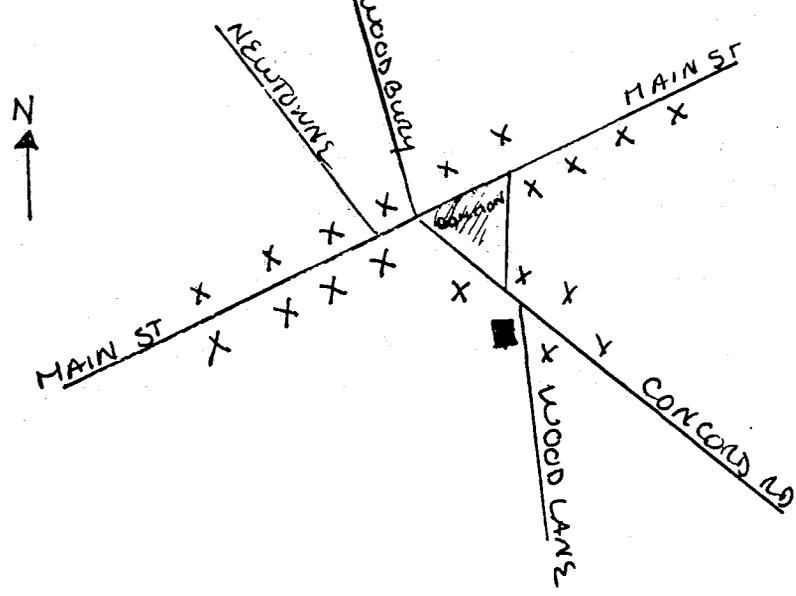
Setting On Wood Lane at intersection with  
Concord Rd. - opposite church and next to  
fire station - 19th century residential  
village and well established landscape

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Acton Historical Commission

Date March 1990

Assessor's Map # F-3A-58



UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER IN 1983  
ACTON CENTRE HISTORIC DISTRICT

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Acton Centre, once known as Acton Village, developed as the civic and institutional center of the large sprawling town which has several 19th century village centers. Acton Centre took on its suburban institutional form around an elongated Common from 1806 when the Second Meeting House was built and several local citizens bought surrounding farms and laid out house lots and built an hotel and some commercial buildings around the Common. The only industrial site was a shoe factory (no longer extant) opposite the Common. Most Acton industrial properties were located in South and West Acton due to the water power and location of the railroad in 1844 both of which bypassed Acton Centre. Subsequent development included the Evangelical Church, the Town Hall replacing the Second Meeting House, and finally the Library as well as many mid-19th century Greek Revival houses for artisans and professionals. Acton Centre is the approximate geographic center of Acton and appropriately remains the civic center.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Atlases / Birdseye / Maps: 1875, 1889, 1892.  
Fletcher, Acton In History, 1890.  
Phalen, History of the Town of Acton, 1954.  
National Register Nomination, MHC, 1983.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ACTON	Form No: B-125
Property Name: 1 Wood Lane	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 1 WOOD LANE

The Second Evangelical Church is the only example of Second Empire architecture in Acton Centre. Built at a time when the style was popular in new construction in South Acton and West Acton, the 3-story, mansard roof, dwelling rests on a granite foundation and retains its clapboard sheathing and wood shingled roof. A 1-story side ell projects to the south and appears to be 3 stories on the south side with a raised basement and a raised roof line at the rear of the ell. The raking cornice of the mansard roof is supported by decorative brackets.

The 3-bay, side-hall entrance main facade has a projecting polygonal bay of 2/2 and 1/1 sash with recessed molded panels and side shutters, an Italianate style door hood with heavily carved brackets with drop finials, a door with 2 roundheaded lights of etched glass and three 2/2 sashed second story windows with wood louvered shutters. Architectural trim includes the narrow cornerboards, a raking molded cornice, paired cornice brackets with finials, and a decorated slight pedimented dormer on the mansard roof. The main facade of the side ell has a center entrance with early 20th century panelled door flanked by 2/2 sash with shutters. There is a make-shift flat-roof porch supported by square posts. A small square multi-light greenhouse window projects from the gable end of the ell which also has a multi-light basement door and an 8/8 window.

On the north side the house has two bays up and two down with projecting molded lintels. The two dormers have 2/2 sash and the molded lintel with a slight central pediment that is found on the main facade as well.

The barn has been converted to living space and has paired vertical board shed doors and a modern entrance door in the left corner. There are no returns in the gable end. A trellis connects the barn and house.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT - 1 WOOD LANE (continued)

Concord Road, although established by the mid-18th century was not readily used or settled on until the early 1800s. Nagog Hill Road to Concord Road was the north south route passing the Woodlawn Cemetery. At the village center Wood Lane was constructed in 1806 as a more direct route to the Union Turnpike (Route 2). Wood Lane is now a dead end street.

Moses Taylor (1822- ) built the Second Evangelical Church Parsonage in 1875. A prominent citizen who farmed and built houses, Taylor was a member of the parish and served on the Parish Committee for over 40 years. The Rev. Franklin P. Wood lived here while pastor of the Evangelical Church from 1872 to 1884. Following the Rev. Wood was the Rev. H.H.Osgood from 1884 to 1886 and the Rev. George M. Stearns from 1887 to 1891. The dwelling's location opposite the Church was convenient as a parsonage.

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