

Original yellow form: Eligibility file ____
Copies: Inventory form ____
Town file(w/corresp.) ____
Macris ____
NR director ____

Community: Acton

MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received: 15 September 2008 Date Due: Date Reviewed: 1 October 2008

Type: __ Individual District (Attach map indicating boundaries)

Name: Forbes-Morrison Farm Inventory Form: ACT.O

Address: 116 Concord Street

Requested by: Acton Historical Commission

Action: __Honor __ITC __Grant __R & C __Other:

Agency: Staff in charge of Review:

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Eligible
 Eligible, also in district
 Eligible only in district
 Ineligible
 More information needed

DISTRICTS

Eligible
 Ineligible
 More information needed

CRITERIA: A __B C __D

LEVEL: Local __State __National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Peter Stott_____

The Forbes-Morrison Farm is a 49-acre publicly owned former farmstead at the corner of Concord Street and Great Road in Acton. Although the site has landscape features from the 18th and 19th centuries, its surviving structures date to the 1930s when Edward Forbes constructed the 2½-story farmhouse and outbuildings, following the establishment of the Concord Ice Company by his brother John Forbes on the adjoining Ice House Pond, part of the proposed nomination. Ice had been harvested from the pond since at least the 1850s when this portion of Nashoba Brook was dammed, although the concrete foundations of the most recent icehouse are thought to date to the 1920s when the Concord Ice Company was established. From 1954 to 1989 the property was used as a horse farm by John C. Morrison. The property was acquired by the Town of Acton in 1997.

The Forbes-Morrison Farm is a mid-19-century farm landscape, with a 20th-century farm complex established during the Great Depression by Edward Forbes and later owned by John Morrison after 1954. The property includes the original 1932-1933 farm house and barn with 18th-century stone walls bounding the pasture and woodland that comprise the grazing land of the 17th-century Capt. Thomas Wheeler Grant of 1669. The Ice House Pond contains the relict structures of a 20th-century ice house, built in 1929-32 by the Concord Ice Company, and a 19th-century causeway over Nashoba Brook behind the John Robbins House at 144 Great Road [NR, 2003; ACT.41]. The ice pond was created sometime after 1830 and before 1856 for commercial ice harvesting that continued until ca.1955. The Forbes-Morrison Farm comprises one of the last intact surviving farmsteads in Acton with original buildings dating to the 20th-century. It is recommended for National Register consideration at the local level under Criteria A for its association with the early history of Acton and Concord, and Criteria C for its historic agricultural landscape, intact since the 17th century, and the well-preserved Depression-period farmstead of house, barn and out buildings.

