

# D R A F T

## Overview

At the time Concord was incorporated by the Great and General Court (1636), the primary highways were the 1638 road from Watertown to Concord (now Route 117) and the “Bay Road” from Cambridge to Concord (now Route 2A) as well as the 1648 road to Sudbury (now Route 126) past Walden Pond. Other intersecting roads included Road to Lancaster and Old Marlborough Road, named for their termini. Other early paths or “drift ways” existed to “Fairhaven”, “Mr. Flint’s Farm” (in Lincoln), and “the Nine Acres” (Nine Acre Corner). Pathways were laid out by landowners, sometimes along paths of indigenous peoples, and the Town later named the roads as it took responsibility for their maintenance.

Today’s Old Road to Nine Acre Corner appears unnamed on the 1830 map by John Hales connecting Union Turnpike (laid out in 1802 - now Elm Street) with the Road to Stow in the South (Route 117). It is labeled Sudbury Road on the 1906 Gleason map and connects to Corner Road (now Sudbury Road) near Seven Star Lane.

It passed the Wood and Hosmer properties (near today’s Wood Street), turning south to the Charles Miles property (at the corner of today’s Williams Road), past the Parkman Tavern at the



corner of Powder Mill Road, and the Wheeler property and School at mile 3 (near today’s Verrill Farm). ORNAC was an important road connecting the center of the village to agricultural farms and forests as well as to prominent residences. As with Sudbury Road, ORNAC was officially named in 1889, laid out by the County Commissioners in 1926, and realigned and relocated in part in 1929 and 1934.

# DRAFT

Today's vistas along ORNAC are similar to those of the historic eras.



As the road turns south from Main Street and the buildings of town disperse, ORNAC crosses Route 2 at Emerson Hospital and passes forests, brooks, hills and meadow lands along its curving path before it emerges in the wide landscapes of farmland and pastoral fields of Nine Acre Corner and the marshes of Sudbury Meadows along the river.



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ORNAC passes the Town's Deaconess well and water treatment building adjacent to Jennie Dugan Brook and the monument to the 1903 Connors Well. It continues past Mattison Field Conservation Land where approximately 45 acres of Concord's agrarian past is preserved. The wooden stave water tower is a reminder of the profitable dairy farms at Mattison Farm and elsewhere in Concord.



As noted in the *Historic Resources Master Plan of Concord*, the approximately 100 acres of Nine Acre Corner, “from 17th c. Parkman Tavern on Powdermill Road to 637 ORNAC and the 18th C. farmhouses at 429 and 321 Williams Road” is “a rare remnant of Concord's farming landscape and heritage”.



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## References

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*"Plan of Concord" made by Ephraim Wood dated 1794-5*

*"A Map of Boston and Vicinity" made by John G. Hales dated 1820*

*"Town of Concord Plan" made by John G. Hales dated 1830*

*"Map of the Town of Concord: Middlesex County Mass.", surveyed by authority of the Town, Henry F. Walling, 1852*

*"Map of Concord, Mass.: showing localities mentioned by Thoreau in his journals", compiled by Herbert W. Gleason, 1906.*

Compiled by Elise Woodward, January 2022