

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.22
Historic Name:	Adams, James House - Emmott's Plumbing Shop
Common Name:	Keyes Emporium
Address:	6 Walden St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	H9-831
Year Constructed:	c 1892
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Commercial Block
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Synthetic Other; Wood; Wood Clapboard



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

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FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9-831

CONCORD

DU

22-810

1794

RECEIVED

NOV 17 1992

CONCORD

Town

SECT B

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

6-10 Walden Street/

12 Walden Street

Jas. Adams House;

c Name Emmott's Plumbing,

Keyes' Emporium

Present commercial

Original dwelling; store

f Construction ca. 1825 (rear);

ca. 1892 (front)

Tolman; Wheeler House File;

Main St. Historic Distr. List

Form Federal vernacular;

Queen Anne/utilitarian

ect/Builder unknown

or Material:

Foundation (not visible)

Wall/Trim synthetic siding and
wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

see page 2.

Condition fair

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date (#12: ca. 1893)

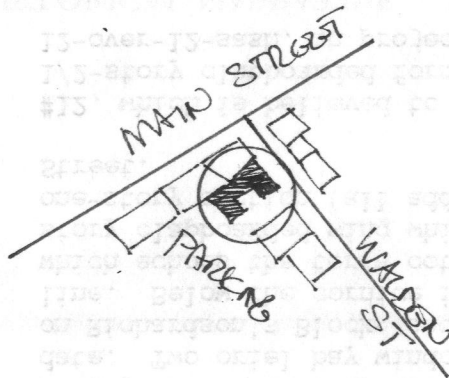
Acreage less than one acre

Setting In commercial district,

in line of 19th-early 20th-century
store blocks of varying design.Rear extends into parking lot,
behind stores to north on Main St.

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

Anne Forbes

Organization

for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year)

July, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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

Like several other commercial buildings at Concord center, this complex structure has undergone several changes, including the moving of one section. It consists of three parts. A two-story flat-roofed commercial block stands at the street front, abutting Friend's Block to the north. Although it has been significantly altered by the replacement of its storefront and the installation of synthetic siding, it retains several features that indicate its early 1890's construction date. Two oriel bay windows at the second story echo the one across the street on Richardson's Block, and heavy brackets adorn the roof corners at the cornice line. Below the cornice is a band course of what appears to be vertical boarding which echoes the terra cotta ornamentation of Friend's Block. A two-, then one-story clapboarded wing which extends to the rear connects with another short one-story section (all added ca. 1907,) to join the front part with #12 Walden Street.

#12, which is believed to date back to at least 1825, is a long narrow 2 1/2-story clapboarded former house with a steeply-pitched roof. Its windows are 12-over-12-sash, in projecting enframements.

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.

The front of this building is one of the area's several combined commercial/apartment structures built in the 1890's. The rear, #12 Walden Street, is the oldest structure on the west side of lower Walden Street; Although the east side of the first block of Walden was undergoing considerable commercial development by 1880, as late as 1890 the west side of the street was still occupied by four substantial residences. #12 was formerly the ca. 1825 ell of a pre-Revolutionary house. The lot itself was part of the house-lot and mill site of original settler **George Wheeler**. The first known owner of the old house was **John Barrett**, who sold it to **Daniel Bliss, Esq.**, son of the Rev. Daniel Bliss, in 1772. Probably Concord's most notorious Tory, in March of 1775 he slipped information to two British spies which is said to have led to the march on Concord on April 19.

Under threats to his safety Bliss left Concord hurriedly, never to return, and the Committee of Safety confiscated his property, including this lot with the old house. It was the only property in town so taken. The town used the house as a hospital on the day of the Concord Fight; after the war, in 1781, it was sold at auction. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Keyes/Tolman.
Concord directories.
Maps, atlases: 1906; Sanborns from 1897.
Concord Library photo file.
Shattuck.
Wheeler House File #W1.
Deed research by Bill Montague.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CONCORD6-10; 12 Walden Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

22

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The next owner of the property was Joshua Stone, a glazier who installed and repaired windows throughout the town. His son John Stone, who became known as an actor and playwright, was born here in 1800. Members of the Stone family also operated a blacksmith shop across the road between the corner and the millpond. It was apparently Joshua Stone who enlarge the house by adding the ell, the section that survives today.

By 1830 the property had been acquired by James Adams, who sold it in 1858 to Jonas Melvin, who at the time he was church sexton, highway surveyor, and town tax collector. According to Keyes, Melvin demolished the old part of the house, turned the ell 90 degrees and converted it to a two story dwelling. In 1868 the converted building was purchased by Elizabeth Hoar (1814-1878--cf. #158 Main Street,) who arranged for a family named Weir to occupy it. This was apparently a typical case of benevolent protection, of which there were many among Concord's more wealthy families. "Little Jimmy" Weir was a tailor; he lived here until he died, as did his wife, who was mentally ill. Miss Hoar had granted their two daughters, Jennie and Lizzie, the right to live in the house for their lifetimes. After Elizabeth Hoar's death the property was evidently inherited by her brother, Judge Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar (see #194 Main Street,) who appears to have honored his sister's wishes and allowed the Weir family to stay. In 1892 he sold the house, however, and the two Weir sisters moved to Stow Street, where Miss Lizzie kept a private school.

The purchaser of the property was plumber and tinsmith George J. Emmott. He moved the house back from the street to its present position, covered it with pressed metal cladding, and converted it into a tinshop. In its place he built the present #6-10, where he sold stoves, furnaces, and cookware in the north part, and rented out the south, rear, and second floor as apartments. The overly ambitious enterprise led to his financial failure, however, and by 1904 both buildings had been acquired by Jean J. Vanderveer and his wife, Mary, who moved here from New York. Mr. Vanderveer, too, was a plumber and heating contractor. He also sold hardware from the store. A severe fire damaged part of the structure, badly injuring a Vanderveer child, and the family left Concord after a few years.

In 1907 the Vanderveers sold the property to Prescott Keyes (see #276 Main Street), who may have formerly held a mortgage on the property. Mr. Keyes enlarged the building, joining the front section with the tin shop via the one- and two-story wing. He rented out two stores on the first floor of the front part, and an apartment on the second. For many years the apartment was occupied by Tax Assessor Erastus H. Smith, and both stores by John M. Keyes' "Emporium." By 1915 William A. S. Keyes had succeeded John M. at #6/8, and Martin Finnigan's "men's furnishings" store was located at #10. For many years in the first part of this century, #12 was occupied by the Minuteman Press.

Prescott Keyes owned the property until 1937, when it was acquired by Thomas Peterson, who since 1895 had been the proprietor of the Concord Clothing Company next door in Friend's Block. Today the combined building houses two stores, including Montague's, the present owner.



CON. 1794

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

CON. 22
Property Address
6-12 Walden Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	22

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 combined building meets the criteria for listing on the National Register as part of nineteenth- to early-twentieth-century commercial district at Concord center. It is eligible under Criterion A both for its role as part of the former early-nineteenth-century house of glazier Joshua Stone and merchant James Adams, and as a commercial-district shop and workshop of the 1890's. In spite of the relocation of the early section, the building possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.