

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.6
Historic Name:	Concord Fire House #1
Common Name:	
Address:	9 Independence Ct
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Milldam; Concord Center
Local No:	H9-836
Year Constructed:	c 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival; No style
Use(s):	Commercial Block; Fire House; Warehouse
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Politics Government
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Concrete Unspecified



The Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has converted this paper record to digital format as part of ongoing projects to scan records of the Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth and National Register of Historic Places nominations for Massachusetts. Efforts are ongoing and not all inventory or National Register records related to this resource may be available in digital format at this time.

The MACRIS database and scanned files are highly dynamic; new information is added daily and both database records and related scanned files may be updated as new information is incorporated into MHC files. Users should note that there may be a considerable lag time between the receipt of new or updated records by MHC and the appearance of related information in MACRIS. Users should also note that not all source materials for the MACRIS database are made available as scanned images. Users may consult the records, files and maps available in MHC's public research area at its offices at the State Archives Building, 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, open M-F, 9-5.

Users of this digital material acknowledge that they have read and understood the MACRIS Information and Disclaimer (<http://mhc-macris.net/macrisdisclaimer.htm>)

Data available via the MACRIS web interface, and associated scanned files are for information purposes only. THE ACT OF CHECKING THIS DATABASE AND ASSOCIATED SCANNED FILES DOES NOT SUBSTITUTE FOR COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LOCAL, STATE OR FEDERAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS. IF YOU ARE REPRESENTING A DEVELOPER AND/OR A PROPOSED PROJECT THAT WILL REQUIRE A PERMIT, LICENSE OR FUNDING FROM ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY YOU MUST SUBMIT A PROJECT NOTIFICATION FORM TO MHC FOR MHC'S REVIEW AND COMMENT. You can obtain a copy of a PNF through the MHC web site (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc) under the subject heading "MHC Forms."

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

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 23, 2020 at 1:13: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Rowleson Street

H9-836

CONCORD

DU

6

CONCORD

Town

Place (neighborhood or village)

Concord Center: the Milldam

9-11 Independence Court

Address

Engine House #1

Historic Name

Uses: Present

store, offices

Original

Fire house

Date of Construction

ca. 1850

Source

Street list, Main Street

Historic District

Style/Form

astylistic (fore-
merly Grk. Revival)

Architect/Builder

unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation

brick/concrete

Wall/Trim

clapboard

Roof

asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

new clapboards, trim

Condition

fair

Moved

☒

no

☐

yes

Date N/A

Acreage

less than one acre

Setting

In commercial district,

in parking lot behind line of

stores

Recorded by

Anne Forbes

Organization

for Concord Hist. Commission

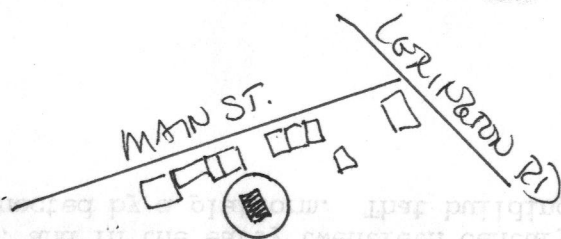
Date (month/day/year)

June, 1992

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.



inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate North.



BUILDING FORM

CON. 6

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

There is much new material in this building, and the old wide entry for the fire company's hand engine has been replaced by a narrow glass-and-panel door, but it still retains the typical lines and proportions of a mid-nineteenth-century two-story, gable-roofed engine house. The windows are 6-over-6-sash, and the architectural is simple and astylistic, with narrow cornerboards and an unboxed cornice at the roofline.

Late in the nineteenth century a brick building was built just to west of this one, and in the early twentieth century the facades of the two buildings were connected by a platform. That building was torn down some time after 1927.

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 first block of Main Street, today still called "the Milldam," occupies the earliest true commercial center of Concord, where by the eighteenth century a bustling trade was carried on. Near the old mill on the Mill Brook that had begun grinding grain in 1639-40, artisans' shops, offices, and stores actually stood on the mill dam itself. In 1828 the Milldam Company was incorporated by a group of local entrepreneurs including Daniel Shattuck, Cyrus Stow, Ephraim Merriam, Abel Moore, John Keyes, and Nehemiah Ball. With a capital stock of \$20,000 they bought up the property on both sides of the dam, drained the pond, (which had developed great waste-disposal problems,) built a wide gravel road where the dam had stood, and sold lots for business buildings on both sides of the street. In the process, most of the former buildings were torn down; a few were moved to other locations. The Milldam Company built some buildings here itself; others were put up by individual owners, and several here today are later replacements. This first block of Main was called "Exchange Street" in the latter part of the nineteenth century. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Keyes/Tolman.

Concord directories.

Wheeler.

Concord Free Library photo file.

Maps, atlases: 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1887.

Strawberries and Streetcars.

Main Street Historic District List.

☐ 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

CONCORD

Engine House #1

Massachusetts Historical Commission
No.
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form

6

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

This building stands on filled land where the mill pond used to be before the Milldam Company drained it and developed the new commercial area at the foot of Main Street. It was built in the early 1850's as the first fire house at the center, Engine House #1. Part of the brook still flowed underneath the building, and was used for a water supply. Typical of most small-town firehouses of the day, the fire engine was kept on the first floor, and the second story was a hall for the fire company. This fire company was called the Independence Hose Company; hence the name "Independence Court" for this open land behind the Milldam stores.

The building was discontinued by the town early in this century, and was purchased by Alexander Urquhart, who had his bakery at #15-17 Main Street. He evidently used it for storage. The brick building that was once attached to it was first a painter's shop, then a billiard parlor, a grocery, and for many years an upholsterer's shop.