

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.479
Historic Name:	Damon Mill, The
Common Name:	Cold Storage, The
Address:	9 Pond Ln
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	128
Year Constructed:	1862
Architect(s):	Boyden, Elbridge
Architectural Style(s):	Italianate
Use(s):	Abandoned or Vacant; Textile Mill Cotton; Textile Mill Wool; Undetermined; Warehouse
Significance:	Architecture; Industry
Area(s):	CON.D: Westvale CON.DX: Damon Mill
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register Individual Property (05/25/1979)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Granite Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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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

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



MAIN STRUCTURE

In Area no.	Form no.
(D)	128 479

Concord

9 & 12 Pond Lane

DAMON MILL

ent use business tenants

ent owner Mill Square Partnership
Wm. Sullivan, Gen. Ptnr
Richard Damon, Ltd. Ptnr.

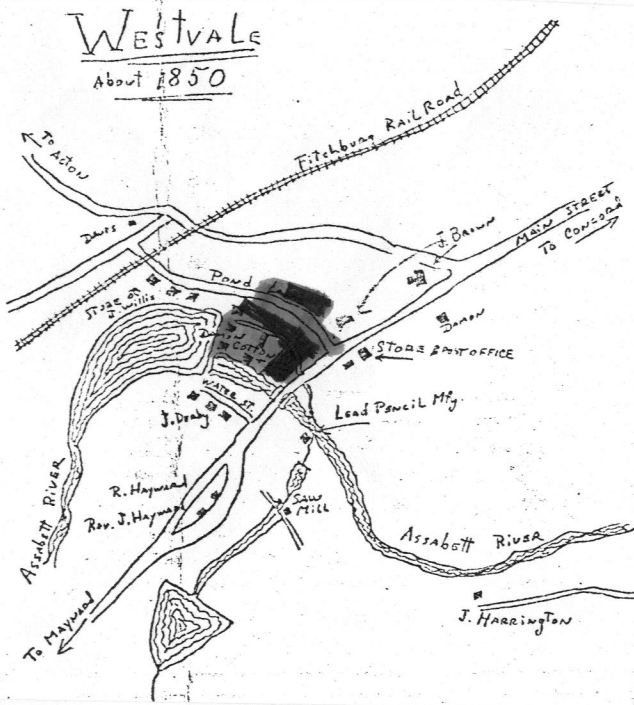
ription:

1864 w/ later additions

urce date stone

Italianate

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Mr. Elbridge Boyden
Worcester, Mass.

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) loading dock

Other features Assabet River dam and power canal.

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre _____ Over one acre 4.5

Approximate frontage 400' / Main St.
700' / Pond Lane

Approximate distance of building from street

0' - 20'

6. Recorded by Wilinsky and Benjamin

Organization Concord Historical Comm.

Date 10/77

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

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7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	✓	Industry	✓	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Community development	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Damondale Mill, situated on the Assabet River, was the heart of the "Westvale" or "Factory Village" industrial complex in West Concord for the second half of the nineteenth century and continued to be an important part of the commercial life of Concord into the middle of the twentieth century. The mill was constructed in 1864 by Edward Carver Damon and was designed by the well known Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden. Cotton and woolen cloth was produced in the mill owned in succession by Mr. Damon; Damon, Smith & Company, Damon & Almy, Damon Manufacturing Company, Strathmore Worsted and The American Woolen Company. In 1933 it was sold to Charles D. Fletcher and John Lord who started the Concord Cold Storage. The present brick mill as well as its wooden predecessor that dated back to 1714, has been a source of employment and a center of commerce for over three hundred years.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

See enclosed material



Warehouse Structure

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community

Property

CON-479

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Concord

9 & 12 Pond Lane
Damon Mill

Area(s)
D X

Form No.
479, 478

Additional information by Anne Forbes, November, 2000:

SEE NATIONAL REGISTER FORM, 1979:

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION, cont.

The original mill as designed by Elbridge Boyden was four stories; two more stories were subsequently added.

The smaller building at 12 Pond Lane (#478) was built as a warehouse for raw and finished products. It included office space for the mill in the oak-paneled interior of a small front wing. A large room above the office served as a library, and was used for church services. A bridge over Pond Lane once linked the upper floors of the two buildings.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

Early background information. The Damon Mill stands on or near the site of the seventeenth-century Concord Iron Works, a bog-iron operation established on a large tract of land formerly owned by Major Simon Willard. The founders of the Iron Works were a group of investors who had been closely involved with what has been considered the first significant industrial undertaking in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the Lynn Iron Works (known later as the Saugus Iron Works). One of them, Oliver Purchis, was still in charge of the works at Saugus when he directed the casting of machinery there for the Concord Iron Works. (He moved to Concord, where he died at the turn of the eighteenth century). "Zinder holes and plates", and probably other parts that went to make up the forge, were brought from Saugus to Concord, where they were installed by Joseph Jenks, II, son of the Iron Master at Saugus. Between 1658, when the company was incorporated "to erect one or more iron works in Concord," and its start-up in May of 1660, when it was given permission "to digg iron ore without molestation", the forge and buildings of the company were erected a short distance north or northwest of the present crossing of Route 62 over the Assabet River. Records of the time describe ponds, a dam, gate, and watercourses. Also listed in the original documents were gears, hammers, bellows, anvils, houses, sheds, buildings, scales and weights, etc. The main product of the Concord Iron Works was bar iron, an all-purpose material used "for the customary purposes of life," such as nails and hinges. The source was bog iron, extracted from the soil in and around the Iron Works site.

Over the first several years, most of the original shareholders in the iron works sold their shares to other investors, until by 1675 the whole company was owned equally by two people--Simon Linde, one of the wealthiest merchants in Boston, and Thomas Brattle, then Treasurer of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. The company continued in operation until at least 1683, when Thomas Brattle died, but it seems to have gone into a rapid decline after that. Simon Linde died in 1687, and the shares of both men were inherited by their sons-in-law. Thomas Brattle's half-interest in the company came into the hands of Peter Bulkeley of Concord and James Russell of Charlestown. Twelve years after Peter Bulkeley's death in 1688, Mr. Russell began gradually selling off the 668-acre Iron Works property and its associated thousand-acre Iron Work Farm, most of which was later incorporated into the town of Acton.

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 Damon Mill

Area(s)
 D

Form No.
 479, 478

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.

18th-century background. By 1715, the main industrial activity at this location was a grist mill run by Lot Conant, Jr. The mill was operated by his descendants through most of the rest of the eighteenth century. Roger Brown, a clothier from Framingham, came to Concord in the 1770s to establish a fulling mill on the Conant property, and built his residence at 1694 Main Street (see Form #479--NR).

Additional 19th-century history. (see also **National Register Nomination Form: the Damon Mill**)

In 1808, Roger Brown's son, John Brown (see Form #478: 1646 Main Street) formed a partnership with his 63-year-old cousin, Ephraim Hartwell, a factory owner in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and by the end of the next year was operating a cotton-spinning mill adjacent to the former Conant grist mill and his father's fulling mill. The building was, eventually, at least, one hundred by twenty-eight feet, and five stories high including the basement.

In 1813, in the favorable American manufacturing spawned by the War of 1812 and its associated embargo on British products, Brown & Hartwell took on Ephraim Hartwell's grandson, Ephraim Hartwell Bellows, as a third partner. Ephraim Hartwell died in 1816, and a year later, with business declining, John Brown sold a major portion of his interest in the company to Ephraim Bellows' father, Caleb. Caleb Bellows died in 1823, whereupon Ephraim Bellows purchased his interest, thus acquiring the major control of the mill. Although the Brown/Bellows partnership, first formed for spinning, and later expanded to include weaving cotton cloth, lasted for over a decade, tensions developed between the two men during the early 1820's. Finally, in 1824, John Brown sold out his remaining ownership in the mill to Bellows. Bellows' payment was not forthcoming, however, and, represented by the two leading lawyers in Concord, Samuel Hoar and John Keyes, Brown successfully sued him for the money. Unable to pay the \$4671, Bellows left Concord in 1826 for a job as Agent for the Ware Manufacturing Company. He apparently earned enough to pay his debt to Brown without selling the West Concord mill, however, for he soon returned to Concord, and sold a controlling interest in the business to two new Boston partners. Their company sold it again to James Derby of New Hampshire, who, after three unprofitable years, sold it in 1834-35 to Calvin Damon, the owner who went on to expand the business into the major industry of West Concord for the remainder of the nineteenth century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES, cont.

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