

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.26
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Black's Block
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	17-23 Walden St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	H9-836
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1882
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Commercial Block; Industrial Complex or District
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Brick Veneer; Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://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

H9-836

CONCORD

DU

26

RECEIVED

Town

CONCORD

SECT B

(neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

17-23 Walden Street

SS

Black's Block

ic Name

commercial

Present

commercial

Original

of Construction ca. 1882-3; converted  
ca. 1900

maps; Keyes

Form

utilitarian

ect/Builder

unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof (not visible)

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  
none

Major Alterations (with dates)

storefront replaced; some window re-  
placement. (See also p. 2)

Condition fair

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date ca. 1900

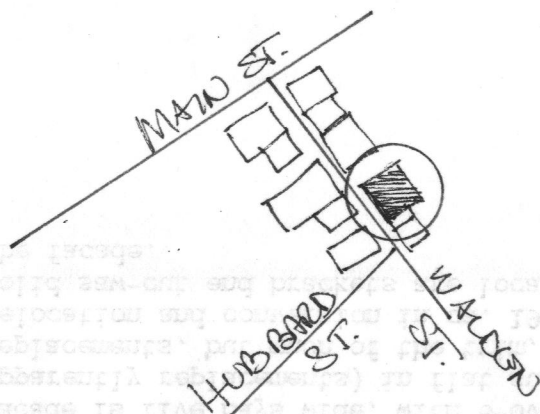
Acreage less than one acre

Setting

In commercial district,  
in line of 19th-early 20th-century  
store blocks of varying design.

## 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

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

This building is significant as the largest of the wood-frame utilitarian commercial structures on the first block of Walden Street. Having lost its third story, today it is a long, deep two-story building with a shallow-pitched shed roof. The second story facade is five bays wide, with 6-over-6- and 8-over-8-sash windows (the latter are apparently replacements) in flat surrounds. The first floor storefronts are replacements, but much of the trim, probably dating to the time of the building's relocation and conversion in ca. 1900, remains. Paired-bracketed cornices with large solid saw-cut end brackets are located at both the roof line and above the storefront on the facade.

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.*

This building has been confused with a pre-1850 building that stood just to its north before it was demolished to make way for #13/15 Walden Street. #17-23 is not the former Conant/Milldam company building, but rather one of the many relocated and converted commercial structures at Concord center. Both map evidence and Keyes/Tolman confirm that #17-23 was formerly part of the carriage/harness-making, wood-planing and blacksmithing complex built by Albert B. Black on the rear part of this lot after a fire destroyed his blacksmith shop in 1882. This was the old tan yard property that had formerly belonged to G. B. Davis (see #37-41 Main Street,) which included a long two-story gable-end house/shop at the street front. Black's new building was originally three stories, 30 x 50 feet long. After the rebuilding he renamed his business the Concord Wagon Works.

Mr. Black subsequently entered into a partnership as Black and Harrington, but in 1892 the carriage shop, by then operated by Mr. Harrington alone, closed, and its main building converted to tenements. Mr. Black retained ownership of the property, however, and in ca. 1900 he moved the building forward to the street, attaching the small one-story section at #25/27, and converted the combined structure to a five-store block called "Black's Block," with tenements upstairs. The third story was removed sometime between 1909 and 1927. Among the early occupants here were a fish market (probably the one that had formerly been located in the old Davis house,) a grocery, and a cobbler's shop.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Keyes/Tolman.  
Concord directories.  
Maps and atlases (at present location:) 1906; Sanborn maps from 1903.  
Street list, Main Street Historic District.  
Concord Chronicle.

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