

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.457
Historic Name:	Bluine Manufacturing Company
Common Name:	
Address:	20 Beharrell St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	239
Year Constructed:	1897
Architect(s):	Beharrell, Isaac R.
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Other Commercial; Other Manufacturing
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	CON.E: Concord Junction CON.CY: Commonwealth Avenue Streetscape III
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Asphalt Shingle; Wood



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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
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

10-W CONCORD
USGS MAINARD
SECT A

AREA

E

CY

CON. 457

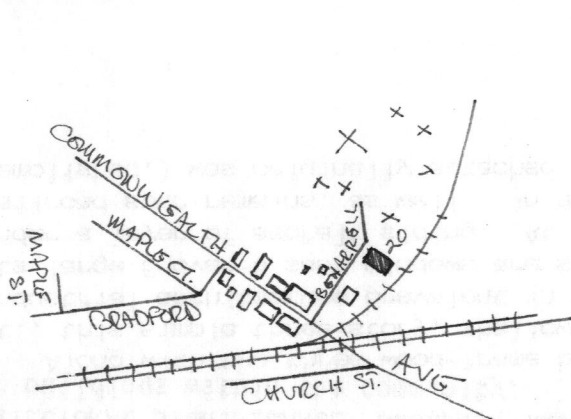
FORM NO.

239

457



Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north



West Concord

20 Beharrell St.

Address

Historic Name Blaine Manufacturing

Company

Present mixed commercial

Original manufacturing

DESCRIPTION

1897

Concord Enterprise, 1897

Style

utilitarian

Architect

I.R. Beharrell, (builder)

Exterior Wall Fabric

asphalt

Outbuildings

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

1-story attached structure;
(demolished)

Condition

fair

Moved

Date

Acreage

11,700 sq. ft.

Setting

On a railroad spur track, behind
commercial center of late 19th/early

20th-century wood-frame buildings

J. Stokey, A. Forbes

Recorded by

Concord Hist. Comm.

Organization

1986; June, 1988

Date

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Along with the three wood-frame buildings of the 1906 Allen Chair Co. on Bradford St., this simple three-story, shallow-roofed rectangular structure typifies the type of industrial architecture prevalent in West Concord at the turn of the century. Most of its large 6-over-6 sash windows are still intact, as is its clapboard siding, hidden now under a layer of asphalt siding. At the southern end, its loading dock along the railroad spur remains, as well. An earlier 1-story building, (a former hat factory, now demolished,) was originally attached to it on the east side.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

This building remains as a reminder of the many manufacturing and real estate enterprises of the Conant family, one of the prominent builders of West ^{Concord} ~~Mass.~~. The Bluine Co. moved to Concord from West Acton in 1893, where George Conant had built up a mail-order bluing business that was based on an unusual principle for the times: sheets of paper were saturated with a bluing solution that contained sugar as an adhesive agent. When dried, the sheets were cut into squares, and sold twelve squares to a 10-cent package. School boys formed the sales force, with prizes offered for the number of packages sold.

The company first occupied space in several other Concord Junction buildings, including the hat factory, and the upper floors of the Warner Block and the building then located next to it at 85-93 Commonwealth Av. It was probably at this earlier location that the volume of business became great enough to require a direct mail chute to the post office, which for a time was located at 85 Commonwealth. As a result of the Bluine business, the Concord Junction post office was elevated a grade in status, entitling it to uniformed letter carriers—unusual for a small village post office.

Other businesses that occupied space in the Bluine building around the turn of the century included the Wood Publishing Co., which distributed the Women's Home Journal, (1898,) and the Budd Shirtwaist Co., (1905.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Richardson, Laurence E. Concord Chronicle, 1865-1899 Concord: 1967.
 Pickard, Dorothy. Concord from its Settlement in 1635 to the Present Day. Unpublished manuscript, 1916.
The Concord Enterprise. 1890-1898.