

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.397
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Richardson, Charles - Kussin, William House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	27 River St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	F9-706
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1880
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Kussin, William
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival; Italianate
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.AE: River Street Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Slate Wall: 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

CON-397

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

F9-706

CONCORD

AE

397



Town

CONCORD

sect 3

neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

27 River Street

Owner Name Chas. and Lucy Richardson/  
William Kussin House

Present dwelling

Original dwelling

Date of Construction ca. 1880

Maps; visual evidence

Form Italianate, altered to Col.  
Revival

Architect/Builder unknown; Wm. Kussin  
(1930 renovations)

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) major renovations--1930 (see p. 2), Rear porch enclosed, entry porch added--1950's.

Condition good

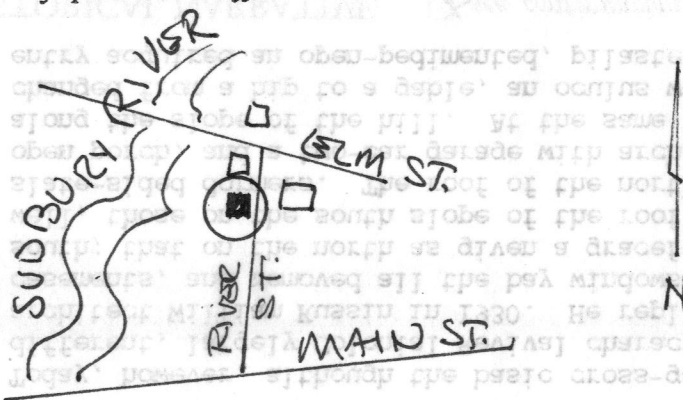
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting On narrow lot on short street of late-19th and early-20th-century houses. Opposite church; Sudbury River to rear. Stone-wall-lined terrace at front.

## 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 A. Forbes  
research by Liz Bolton

Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) May, 1991

## BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

#27 River Street began as one of the many 2 1/2-story Victorian houses built in this section of Concord center from the late 1870's to late '80's. Typically, it was a tall cross-gabled structure on a brick foundation, with a slate roof, 2-over-2-sash windows and a profusion of polygonal bays. In the early twentieth century it acquired a polygonal porch at the northeast entry and several shed-roofed dormers.

Today, however, although the basic cross-gabled plan remains, it has an entirely different, largely Colonial Revival character, thanks to extensive renovations by architect William Kussin in 1930. He replaced all the windows with multi-paned casements, and removed all the bay windows except the one-story bays on the north and south; that on the north as given a graceful pagoda roof. All dormers were removed, as well, those on the south slope of the roof were replaced by three pitch-roofed, slate-sided dormers. The roof of the north cross-gabled wing was extended south over an open porch, and a two-car garage with arched double-leaf doors constructed below it, along the slope of the hill. At the same time, the rear roof of the main house was changed from a hip to a gable, an oculus was added under the north gable, and the main entry acquired an open-pedimented, pilastered surround. (Cont.)

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 house was built on one of the lots laid out east of the Sudbury River in the Elm Street area by William F. Hurd in the 1860's and '70's. Hurd constructed houses on some of the lots for rental or resale; others were sold for building lots. The lot for this house was one of the latter, and was bought by Lucy G. Reynolds (daughter of the Rev. Grindall Reynolds,) in 1879 for \$400. She was a teacher at the North primary school, and married Charles Stone Richardson of Philadelphia the next year, and the house was built at about that time. Charles Richardson worked in Boston in "the fruit business" (according to Keyes). He served his town as a member of the Board of Assessors, and died in 1927.

Lucy Richardson died the same year, and the house was purchased by William and Louisa Pratt Kussin. Mrs. Kussin was born Louisa Alcott Pratt, grand-daughter of Anna Alcott Pratt ("Meg" of Louisa Alcott's Little Women); Mr. Kussin was an architect who built or renovated many buildings in Concord, especially during the late 1920's and '30's. His work includes several notable conversions, such as the Lars Peterson Farm buildings on Monument Street to become the first structures of the Fenn School, and a Walden Street barn that became the Scout house (see Forms #8w and /42-) (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☒ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: 1889, 1893, 1906.  
Town Directories.  
Mass. Registry of Deeds. (Cont.)

☒ 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

Richardson/Kussin  
House

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s)    Form No.  
\_\_\_\_\_

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Other changes included the reduction of the gable-end roof overhang, (entailing the removal of king-post gable trusses,) the removal of a rear chimney, and the rebuilding of the rear brick foundation to create a triple-arched colonnade facing the river. A multi-light/paneled door was added on the south side, and the main door--a six-panel with transom above, undoubtedly also dates to 1930.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, Cont.

He also designed the Valley Head Sanitorium in Carlisle, the West Concord Firehouse, and in 1946 designed twenty small Cape Cod cottages that were built at various locations for World War II veterans. (Most, possibly all, were built with metal casement windows similar to those here.)

It was the Kussins who made the extensive renovations to #27 in 1930, and its transformation from an Italianate house to a Colonial Revival is an eloquent statement of William Kussin's architectural philosophy and a testimony to his skills.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, Cont.

Interview with owner 4/1/91, and William Kussin, Jr.  
Plans and photos, 1930.  
Keyes.

Concord Free Library: Concord Photo Files.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Obituary File, V. II.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community  
CONCORD

Property Address  
27 River St.

Area(s) FormNo.

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## National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☐ Individually ☒ District ☒ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A B C D

☒ ☐ ☒ ☐

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by \_\_\_\_\_

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

For its association with both the late nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century residential development of Concord center, and as a representation of the work of prolific local architect William Kussin, who rebuilt the house in 1930 after making this his own home, #27 River Street meets Criteria A and C as part of a National Register district encompassing a town center of 17th- through early 20th-century buildings.