

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.10
<b>Historic Name:</b>	First National Store
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	33 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Milldam; Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	H9-834
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1933
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Market or Grocery Store; Speciality store
<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>	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Wood 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

H9-834

CONCORD

D.V.

10

CONCORD

Town

neighborhood or village)

Concord Center: the Milldam

33 Main Street

First National Store

ic Name

Present commercial

Original commercial

of Construction ca. 1932-33

Maps; visual assessment

Form Federal Revival

ect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim brick

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates)  
storefront replaced

Condition fair

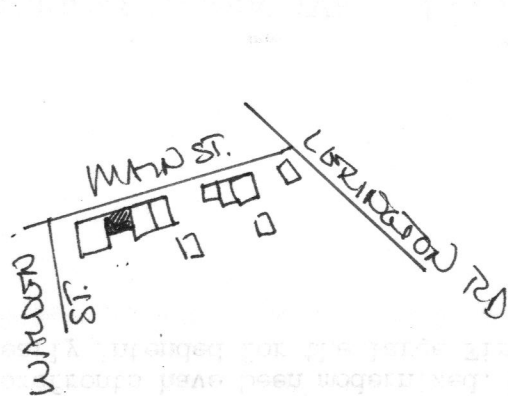
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A  
less than one acre

Acreage

Setting In commercial district,  
in line of stores of ca. 1830-mid-  
20th-century date.

## 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) June, 1992

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

This building, built in the early 1930's, is an intriguing twentieth-century attempt to harmonize with the brick-ended double block just to the east. It is a lower, one-story structure, and its west brick end has one integral chimney instead of two, but in general the effort was successful. The wood trim is minimal, consisting of a narrow dentilated cornice at the roof line. The storefronts have been modernized, but the wide expanse of brick wall above them, clearly intended for the large First National sign, remains.

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.  
Strawberries and Streetcars.

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

First National Stores

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

Area(s) Form

10

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In 1932 the First National Stores grocery chain bought the old building that stood here. It had housed the bookstore and post office of Albert Stacy, later acquired by H.L. Whitcomb, and after that Joseph Murray's grocery store (later Towle & Kent,) and S.D. Kent's book bindery. First National (the forerunner of the Finast supermarket chain,) apparently demolished the building to replace it with the present structure. Today it houses the Mary Curtis shop, which has been here for many years.