

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.11
Historic Name:	Milldam Company Building
Common Name:	
Address:	36 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Milldam; Concord Center
Local No:	H9-1697
Year Constructed:	1828
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal
Use(s):	Commercial Block
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood Clapboard



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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

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

H9-1697

CONCORD

DU

11

RECEIVED

SECT. B

Town

CONCORD

neighborhood or village)

Concord Center: the Milldam

36-40 Main Street

ic Name Milldam Co. Building

Present commercial

Original commercial

of Construction ca. 1828-29

Keyes/Tolman

Form Federal period

vernacular

ect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation (not visible)

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

wooden stairway on east side; some storefront alteration.

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

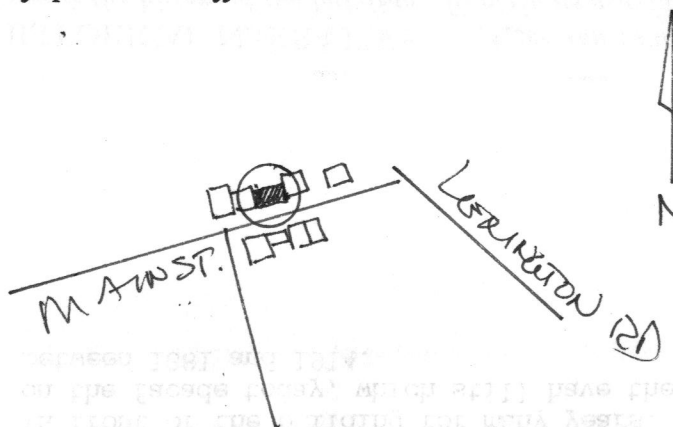
Acreage less than one acre

Setting In commercial district; first

in line of stores built ca. 1830-1940's.

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.



Anne Forbes

Recorded by

Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

CON. 11

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

Possibly the oldest building standing on the Milldam, #36-40 is a long, low 1-story gable-roofed building. Old photographs indicate that the storefronts may have taken on about the same configuration as the ones today by about 1880 or so, but the display windows were four-paned. As on many of the Milldam buildings in the latter part of the nineteenth century a shed roof extended over the sidewalk in front of the building for many years. The double through-cornice dormers seen on the facade today, which still have their 2-over-2-sash, were added sometime between 1881 and 1914.

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

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906. Sanborns from 1887.
Keyes/Tolman.
Concord directories.
Wheeler.
Concord Free Library photo file.
Concord Chronicle.
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

Milldam Co. Building

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

Area(s) Form

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

It is unclear whether this building or #42-44 next door is the earliest extant building on the Milldam. Both were built prior to 1830 by the Milldam Company itself. Through the middle of the nineteenth century there was a shoe shop located here, and in the middle space a watchmaker named Haynes. He sold his business to Asa Collier (see #79 Main Street,) and his store was taken over by Frank Pierce's shoe store, which occupied the building for over fifty years. The largest space here was the gunsmith shop of Alvan Pratt. His son-in-law D.H. Adams worked here with him, and is credited with inscribing the cannon of the artillery company.

After Pratt left, some time before 1885, the east end of the building was occupied by George Hopkins' harness repair shop. Early in this century he converted it to a variety store. A dressmaker occupied a small space at the west end during the 1880's and '90's. Her space was occupied by 1903 by Sing Wah's Chinese Laundry.

The owners of the building after the Milldam Company were Heywood & Pierce from at least 1875 through 1889.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

CON. 11
Property Address
36-40 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible ☒ Eligible only in a historic district
☒ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____

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

This building meets the criteria for listing on the National Register as part of a nineteenth-early-twentieth-century commercial district at Concord center. It is eligible under Criterion A as one of the few remaining structures here constructed by the Milldam Company, and as a small multi-store block that played a long role in the development of the town's commercial core. It is eligible under Criterion C as a rare survivor of late Federal period commercial architecture, and thus for its important contribution to the architectural character of the Milldam. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.