

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.12
Historic Name:	Davis - Richardson Block
Common Name:	
Address:	37 Main St 1-5 Walden St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Milldam; Concord Center
Local No:	H9-833
Year Constructed:	c 1845
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Commercial Block; Market or Grocery Store; Post Office
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Politics Government
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Wood Shingle Wall: Brick; Wood; 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

H9-833

CONCORD

DU

12

CONCORD

Town

neighborhood or village)

Concord Center: the Milldam

37-41 Main Street / 1-5

Walden Street

ic Name Davis Block;
Richardson's Block

Present stores, offices

Original commercial

f Construction ca. 1845; enlarged
ca. 1895

Keyes/Tolman

Form Utilitarian

ect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation (not visible)

Wall/Trim clapboard

Roof wood shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates)

window and door replacement

Condition good

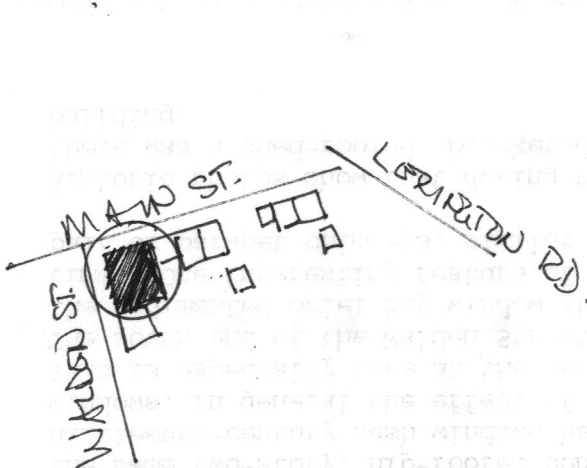
Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting In commercial district,
in line of stores of ca. 1830-mid-
20th-century date, at corner of
Main and Walden Streets.

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

BUILDING FORM

CON. 12

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

One of the focal points of Concord Center, this building, like the one across Walden Street, has two facades, one facing north toward Main Street, the other west toward Walden. Most of the building was built in about 1845, apparently in the same two-story, hip-roofed configuration seen today. Although the nineteenth-century sash windows have been replaced by modern multi-paned display windows, in general the effect of the building is fairly true to the original. This is especially true at the second story, where 6-over-6-sash windows remain. The south end of the Walden Street side was raised and altered in about 1895, and the pedimented oriel bay window at the second story was probably added at that time. One interesting feature of the building is the eastern brick end with a pair of parapet chimneys, similar to the end walls at #s 23-29 Main Street.

Historic photos show that during the time that Buttrick & Pratt's store was here there was a shed-roofed, bracketed porch along the Main Street facade of the building.

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 constructed 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.

Maps, atlases: 1852, 1856, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1887.

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

CONCORDDavis Block/
Richardson's Block

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

12

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

This building was built in about 1845 by Charles B. Davis. He owned several pieces of real estate during the middle of the nineteenth century, and kept a general store here for a number of years. He was postmaster for a while, and during his tenure the post office was located here, as well. When he died in the mid-1860's, it was acquired by Humphrey H. Buttrick. He ran a grocery store here with Lewis Pratt called Buttrick & Pratt, which failed in about 1880. The store was taken over by Edward G. Reynolds after that, and later by Charles and Henry Richardson. In the east end were a fish market, and before that C. Bowers' shoe store.

In 1883 the building was bought by apothecary Horatio S. Richardson. (See #277 Main Street.) He opened a drug store here which lasted until the middle of this century. He renovated the building, and by 1885 Houghton's Meat Market was occupying the east end where a fish market had been, the fish market was relocated to a one-story ell at the south end on Walden Street, and Jerome Gleason's barber's and a tailor's shop were operating over the drug store. In the 1890's Mr. Richardson enlarged the building, raising the south end to two stories, and expanding his drug store into the former fish market space. By the early part of this century the meat market was run by N.A. Davis, who was here for many years. In 1915 Dr. Charles Spencer had an office in the newer upstairs space on Walden Street.

By the early 1930's the property had been acquired by Horatio Richardson's former clerk, John G. Watson, who owned it for many years, retaining the name Richardson's Pharmacy. (See #53 Middle Street.)

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community

CONCORD

CON. 12
Property Address

37-41 Main Street

~~1-5 Walden Street~~

Area(s)	Form No.
	12

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 the earliest and most significant store blocks on the Milldam, and for its long unbroken function as a pharmacy, which lasted from 1883 until the middle of this century. It is eligible under Criterion C for its contribution to the architectural character of the Milldam. It possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.