

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.1535
Historic Name:	Fowler, Loring Nixon Double House
Common Name:	Murray, Walter B. - Ahearn, Francis J. Double House
Address:	37-39 Derby St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	c 1890
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	No style
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	CON.F: Derby Addition CON.DF: Derby Streetscape
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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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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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

37-39 DERBY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

F, DF CON.1535

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

37-39 Derby Street (CON. 1535) is a two-story, two-family worker housing, double house similar to 25-27 Derby Street, which faces southwest on the east side of Derby Street. The two-story block with gable roof and paired one-story bay window is also seen on 11-13 Derby Street and 25-27 Derby Street. The building adopts a rectangular plan on a granite foundation. The four-by-two bay building is set back approximately fifteen feet from the street on a level lot. The building terminates in a side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The ridge is punctuated by two interior brick chimneys. The exterior walls of the residence are clad with wood shingles. The principal elevation features two entry doors centrally located on the facade. A one-story bay window is located to each side of the two entries. Above the openings and each bay window is a continuous hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Slender wood posts support the roof at each entry. Windows of the residence are all vinyl replacements. A pair of one-story, one-bay ells project from the northeast elevation. Each ell terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt. A one-story, two-car garage is located northeast of the residence. The garage is capped by a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Although modified by vinyl replacement windows, 37-39 Derby Street maintains the form of worker housing commonly constructed in West Concord and other towns in Massachusetts to house workers near factories and other industrial properties during the mid-late nineteenth century.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

In 1874 the "Derby Addition" was laid out to the south of Concord Junction on approximately 35 acres of land owned by Benjamin Derby. Benjamin Derby's farmstead was originally located northeast of Main Street until the late 1960s.¹ It appears that Benjamin Derby *"anticipated the demand for housing heralded by the 1874 act of the Massachusetts legislature that authorized the building of a new State Prison, just north of Concord Junction."*²

Derby Street and the easternmost area of Central Street were the earliest areas heavily developed in the "Derby Addition". The area contains single family and double houses built between 1890 and 1910 as speculative housing by Reformatory Officers and local residents for resale and rental to employees of the Reformatory, nearby factories including the Boston Harness Company, the 1906 Allen Chair Company or the Fitchburg Railroad.

L.N. Fowler owned the north half in 1906 and the south half was owned by H.A. Fowler. The Fowler family owned other double and single family dwellings on this street in 1906 including 11-13 Derby Street (CON.1528), 17-19 Derby Street (CON.1530), 25-27 Derby Street (CON.1532), and 45 Derby Street (CON.1537).

Loring Nixon Fowler (1855-1921) owned a general store on Commonwealth, Waite & Fowler Grocers, for many years. He also operated at one time a furniture store in Concord Junction, was a justice of the peace, a real estate developer, and president of MD Jones Foundry Co. He lived variously in Nashoba Park (ca. 1900), at 16 Derby Street (1903-1905), and Crescent Road (ca. 1921). In the first decade of the 20th century his daughter Avis boarded with Mrs. Harriet A. Fowler (b.1825) at 26 Derby Street. More research is needed to determine if Harriet is Loring's mother.

¹ Anne Forbes, Massachusetts Historical Commission. The "Derby Addition" (CON.F) Concord Massachusetts. Concord, Mass: Concord Historical Commission, 1988. [CFPL]

² Ibid

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

37-39 DERBY STREET

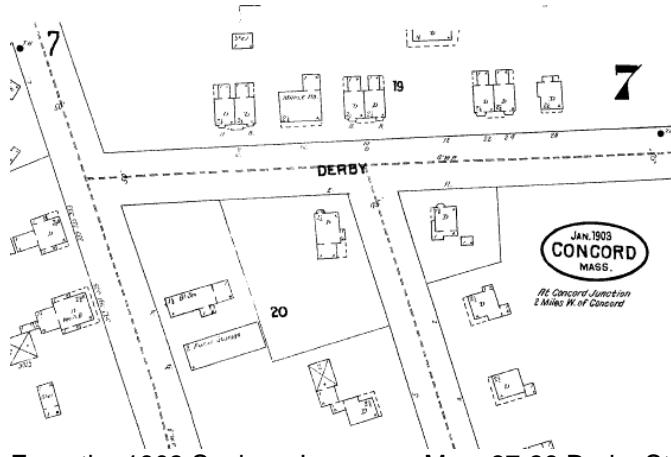
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

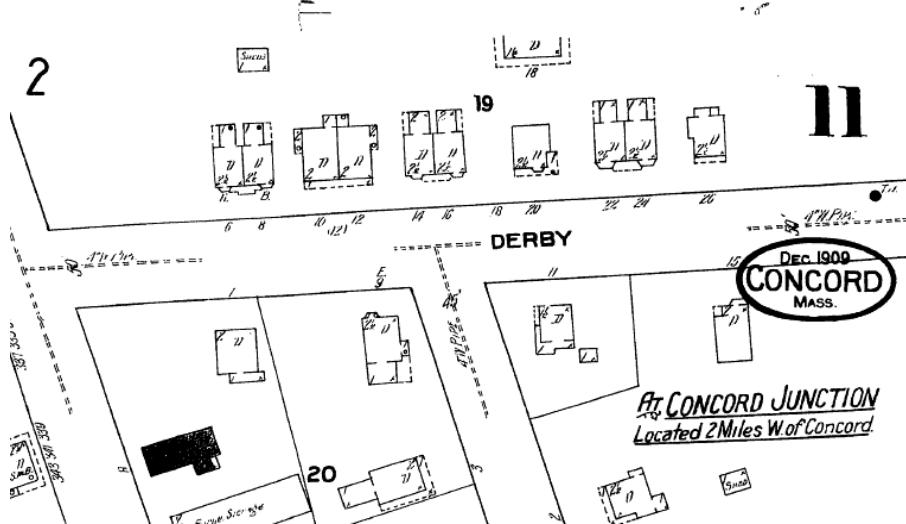
F, DF	CON.1535
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Loring's daughter donated the Loring N Fowler Memorial Library on Main in West Concord in 1928. It was designed by architect Harry Little.

During the early to mid twentieth century, the property was owned and occupied by Walter B. Murray (b 1889) and his wife Mary (b 1886). Walter was employed by the steam railroad maintaining signals. The Murray's rented the other half of the property in 1930 to Francis J. Ahearn and his wife, Isabella. Francis was employed by the steam railroad as well. In 1959, the property was purchased from the Murray's by John L. Shaughnessy.³ The Shaughnessy family maintained the property until 1989. In 2002, the property was divided into two condominiums under the ownership of Martin and Margaret Schumacher.⁴ 37 Derby Street is currently owned by Lee Steppacher⁵ and 39 Derby Street is currently owned by Roger C. Feinstein.⁶



From the 1903 Sanborn Insurance Map, 37-39 Derby Street was numbered 22-24 Derby Street



From the 1909 Sanborn Insurance Map, 37-39 Derby Street was numbered 22-24 Derby Street

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Ancestry.com. <http://www.ancestry.com>. Accessed May 7- May 17, 2013.

Concord Building Inspection and Zoning Enforcement Division Records. [Town of Concord]

³ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 9492 Page 145.

⁴ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 22091 Page 513.

⁵ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 34982 Page 253.

⁶ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 34957 Page 350.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

37-39 DERBY STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

F, DF CON.1535

Forbes, Anne. Massachusetts Historical Commission. The "Derby Addition" (CON.F) *Concord Massachusetts*. Concord, Mass: Concord Historical Commission, 1988. [CFPL]

Forbes, Anne McCarthy. *West Concord: Survey of historical and architectural resources, Concord Massachusetts*. Concord, Mass: Concord Historical Commission, 1989. [Concord Free Public Library]

Middlesex South Registry of Deeds. <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/rod/rodmidsth/midsthidx.htm>. Accessed May 7- May 17, 2013.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. August 1887; September 1892; May 1897 January 1903; December 1909; August 1918; May 1927; May 1927-August 1947. [State Library of Massachusetts]

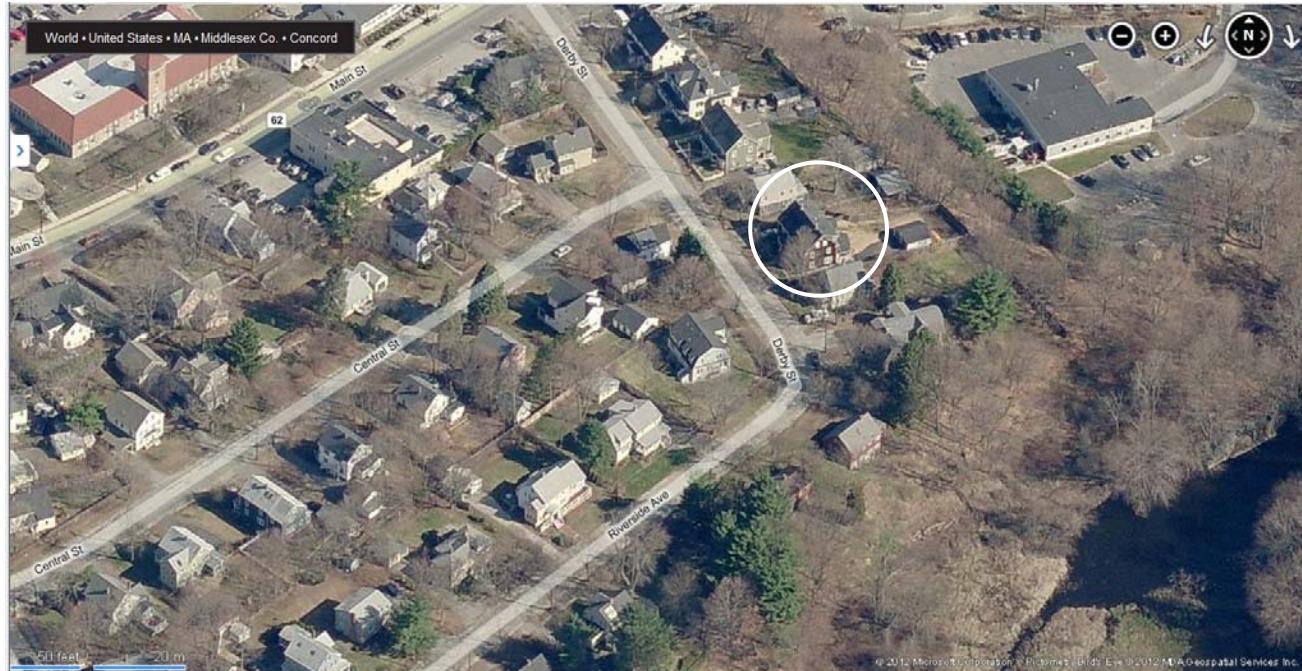
_____. Middlesex County. Boston: Geo. H Walker & Co, 1889. [online at <http://www.historicmapworks.com>]

_____. Concord Junction, Massachusetts. George E Norris, 1893. [online at <http://www.historicmapworks.com>]

_____. *Middlesex County*. Boston: Geo. H Walker & Co, 1906. [online at <http://www.historicmapworks.com>]

Street Directories: 1886, 1892, 1896, 1901, 1905/06, 1909/10, 1913, 1917, 1921, 1925, 1929, 1934, 1937, 1941, 1947, and 1950. [State Library of Massachusetts and online at <http://www.ancestry.com>.]

_____. Survey of historical and architectural resources, Concord Massachusetts. Concord, Mass: Concord Historical Commission, 2002. [Concord Free Public Library]



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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

F, DF	CON.1535
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[Delete this page if no Criteria Statement is prepared]

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

Statement of Significance by Geoffrey Melhuish

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

Although modified by vinyl replacement windows, 37-39 Derby Street maintains the form and fenestration of a two-family double-house rental residence constructed in West Concord during the late nineteenth century. Worker housing, double-houses were commonly constructed in West Concord and other towns in Massachusetts near factories and other industrial properties during the mid-late nineteenth century and very early twentieth-century. The residence possesses a high degree of integrity of design, setting and workmanship. The property meets criterion A and C at the local level and would be a contributing property in a potential Historic District. Many of the homes along Derby Street and Central Street maintain a high degree of architectural integrity. Most of the buildings were constructed during the second half of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century and are historically significant for their association with the industrial and residential growth of Concord Junction in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. Exact boundaries of a potential National Register District within this area remain to be determined; however the boundaries of a potential district might include the area defined by Main Street to the north, Derby Street to the east, Riverside Avenue and Pleasant Street to the south, West Street to the west and the section of Central Street within.