

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.90
Historic Name:	Railroad Express Office
Common Name:	
Address:	68 Thoreau St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-747
Year Constructed:	c 1907
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Queen Anne
Use(s):	Bakery; Business Office; Other Rail Related
Significance:	Architecture; Transportation
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Ceramic Tile; Wood; Wood Shingle Foundation: Brick



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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

G9-747

CONCORD

90

Town CONCORD(neighborhood or village) Concord CenterAddress 68 Thoreau StreetHistoric Name Railroad express officePresent bakeryOriginal baggage/express officeDate of Construction ca. 1907Evidence maps, visual evidenceForm Queen AnneArchitect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

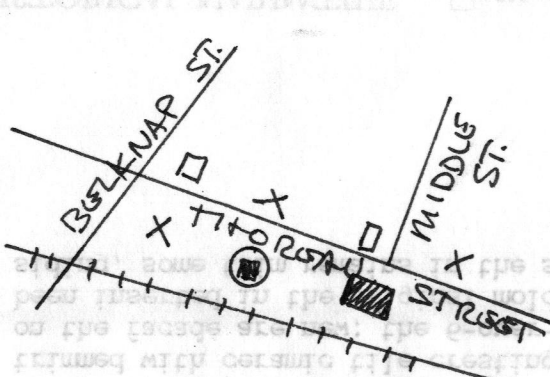
Foundation brickWall/Trim wood shingleRoof slateOutbuildings/Secondary Structures main
depot to south, on same parcel.Major Alterations (with dates) late 20th~~cent:~~ new facade fenestration,~~hip-roofed entry porch.~~Condition fairMoved ☐ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acre

Setting

In early- to late-twentieth
century business district; railroad
to west, parking in front, flanked
by 1890's RR depot and modern
store.

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. ForbesOrganization for Concord Hist. CommissionDate (month/day/year) March, 1991

BUILDING FORM

CON. 90

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

Like the Concord Depot just to the south, and the freight house across the tracks, in spite of its alterations #68 Thoreau Street is significant as a representative of a vanishing building type. In this case, it is the small, free-standing express or baggage office that routinely accompanied railroad depots in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is a one-story rectangular building with a steeply hipped slate roof that echoes the form of the depot roof. As at the depot, the slate is trimmed with ceramic tile cresting. The modern door and porch, and the picture window on the facade are new; the 6-over-1-sash windows on the sides and rear appear to have been inserted in the original molded window openings. In spite of the new shingled siding, some trim remains in the sill board and narrow corner boards.

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.

As with the main Fitchburg Depot, further research will be necessary to clarify the circumstances under which this little building was constructed. It appears to have been built some time after the Depot, which is shown standing alone on the railroad property east of the tracks as late as 1906. A baggage or railroad express office was an integral part of most railroad stations by the end of the nineteenth century. It was often housed in part of the main depot building, but at the major stations along a railroad, (and Concord center was certainly one of the main ones on the Fitchburg line), it was frequently a separate building, with room enough to store a considerable amount of baggage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: Sanborns 1918.

Humphrey, Thomas, and Clark, Norton. Boston's Commuter Rail, the First 150 Years.

Cambridge: Boston Street Railway Association, 1985.

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