

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.92
Historic Name:	Concord Depot
Common Name:	Fitchburg Depot
Address:	80-86 Thoreau St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-747
Year Constructed:	r 1880
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Queen Anne
Use(s):	Commercial Block; Rail Station
Significance:	Architecture; Art; Community Planning; Transportation
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle; Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard



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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

92

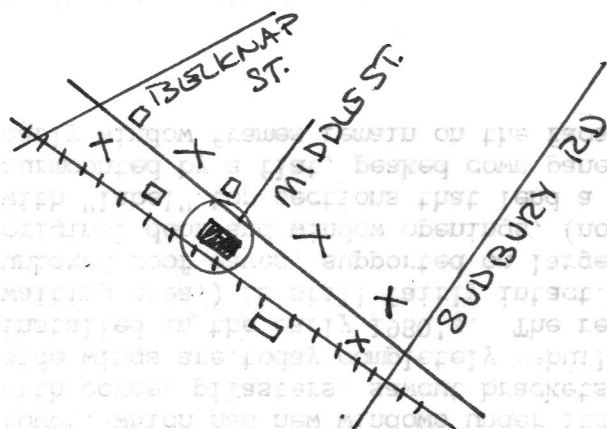
Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) Concord CenterAddress 80-86 Thoreau Street (w. side)Historic Name Concord DepotFitchburg Depot, ConcordPresent stores, restaurant, bankOriginal passenger depotDate of Construction late 19th centuryEvidence maps, visual evidenceStyle/Form Queen AnneArchitect/Builder unknown

Prior Material:

Foundation (not visible)Wall/Trim wood clapboard and
flushboardRoof slate and asphalt
shingleOutbuildings/Secondary Structures #68 (former baggage office) on same parcelMajor Alterations (with dates) 20th c.
side wings extended and rebuilt,
rear dormer rebuilt; facade fenestration changed to plate glass
Condition fairMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage less than one acre
 Setting In early- to late-twentieth
century business district; parking
lot to south, former express office
to north.

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.



A. Forbes

Recorded by for Concord Hist. CommissionOrganization March, 1991

Date (month/day/year) _____

BUILDING FORM

CON-92

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

In spite of some major alterations, (see page 1,) the Concord Depot retains much of its character as a typical late-nineteenth-century small-town railroad station. It is a large two-story building, the dominant feature of which is the high, steep hipped slate roof, its front plane punctuated by a square clock tower, its clock now gone. The tower, which has new windows under its hipped roof, is flushboard-sided, and adorned with corner pilasters, sawcut brackets, and a molded, boxed cornice. The building's side wings are today completely rebuilt, and the plate glass facade fenestration was installed in the early 1980's. The rear central section, however, (the primary outdoor waiting area,) is still fairly intact. Sheltered under the deep projection of the unboxed roof eaves, supported on large chamfered braces, this area retains all its original door and window openings, (now boarded-up.) Their surrounds are richly molded, with "label" top sections that lend a hint of Gothic to the building, and each is surmounted by a flat, peaked cown panel with applied foliate decoration. (Two similar early window frames remain on the facade, with new windows inserted.) (Cont.)

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.

Further research will be necessary to clarify the exact date of this building. The Fitchburg Railroad built a depot at this location shortly after it constructed the tracks through Concord in 1844, followed by other stations along the line at Walden Pond and West Concord. All the early depots appear to have been small, however, and eventually proved inadequate to handle the volume and diversity of passenger traffic that built up over the middle of the century. The Walden station was replaced in 1885 when the railroad developed a recreational facility at the pond, and West Concord got a new depot in 1893-4, [see Union Station, NR] to replace the one that was considered, among other things, inappropriate for "ladies".

This depot is either the replacement for or the rebuilding of one shown on the map of 1875, which had a roof that extended over the tracks themselves. It had been flanked by a long car house on its north side, and to the south, an engine house and turntable. (The car house was gone by 1889, and the turntable and engine house were demolished in 1898, supposedly to be replaced by a small park, which never materialized.) The main depot was substantially rebuilt in 1895, when a fire destroyed much of existing building.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: (1875, 1889, 1893); 1906; Sanborns 1903, 1909, 1918.
Humphrey, Thomas, and Clark, Norton. Boston's Commuter Rail, the First 150 Years.
Cambridge: Boston Street Railway Association, 1985.
Richardson. Concord Chronicle. P. 114.

☐ 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

CONCORDFitchburg Depot

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

92

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The flushboard rear walls are today covered with painted murals depicting a transition from country to city life. Sponsored by local businesses and coordinated by artists at the Emerson Umbrella on Stow Street, the paintings were executed in 1983 and 1985 by local citizens. One section was commissioned by the building's owners, the other was part of the 1985 350th anniversary celebration of the town of Concord.



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

80-86 THOREAU ST

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CON.92



1983 Photo (P. Stott) – MHC Reconnaissance Survey

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