Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No: CON.430

Historic Name: Concord Massachusetts Army National Guard Armory

Common Name:

Address: 91 Everett St

City/Town: Concord

Village/Neighborhood: Concord Center

Local No: 213
Year Constructed: 1915

Architect(s): Keating, J. P.; McLaughlin, John E.

Architectural Style(s): English Revival

Use(s): Armory; Other Governmental or Civic; Other Recreational;

Public School

Significance: Architecture; Community Planning; Military; Politics

Government; Recreation

Area(s): CON.AW: Everett Street Area

Designation(s):

Roof: Slate; Tar, Built-up

Building Materials(s): Wall: Brick; Cast Stone; Copper; Wood; Wood

Clapboard; Concrete, Reinforced Foundation: Concrete Unspecified



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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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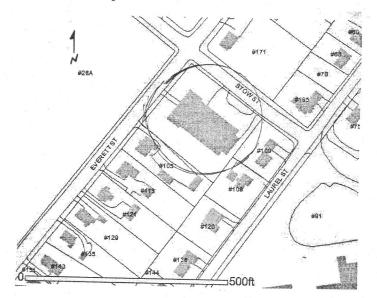
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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



Sketch Map



Recorded by Leslie Donovan

Bernard Zirnheld

Organization Tremont Preservation Services

Date November 2002

MAR 1 1 2003

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Concord S. HIST. COMM

Area(s) A Form Number 420

Concord, MA

Central Concord

ess 25 Everett Street

ric Name Concord Armory

Present MA Army National Guard Armory

Original Same

of Construction 1915

ce MA Army National Guard Museum

Style/Form Late Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder John McLaughlin, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation Concrete

Wall/Trim Red brick/Cast Stone trim

Roof Head house: tar and gravel; Drill hall: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations None

Condition Excellent

Moved x no yes Date

Acreage 1 acre

Setting Armory covers 15,600 sq. feet and is set back approximately 20' from Everett Street, across from Emerson Playground, in a residential neighborhood of single-family homes.

(AW)

430

BUILDING FORM

Concord Armory, 25 Everett Street, Concord MA

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION X see continuation sheet

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

The Concord armory is set back approximately 20 feet from Everett Street on a rectangular, one-acre lot at the intersection of Everett and Stow streets across from the Emerson Playground. The site is evenly graded with a slight berm sloping down from northeast to southwest along Stow and sloping down slightly from front to rear. The building is set back approximately 40 feet along Stow Street, where there is a broad U-shaped dirt drive. Otherwise, the site is generally planted with a lawn and is wooded at the rear. The perimeter of the lot along Everett and Stow streets is lined with maples, oak, and locust.

The armory is a red brick structure with cast stone trim set on a concrete foundation. All windows have brick lintels and the sills at the first and second stories are cast stone. The building, which is T-shaped in plan, consists of a two-story headhouse on a high basement at the front attached to a two-story drillshed at the rear. The headhouse has a flat roof rimmed by a parapet, the drillshed has a tall gable roof. A rectangular ell with a hipped roof (similar to an apse) projects from the rear facade of the drillshed to house a stage and delivery area. All windows are wood-framed with wood sash.

The principal (NW) facade of the headhouse facing Everett Street rises two stories on a high basement to a red brick parapet, which is defined by a cast stone cornice and coping. Simple ornament at the headhouse includes a sloping brick watertable, brick soldier course at the window lintels, a splayed segmental brick arch at the main entrance marked by a cast stone keystone, a cast stone Gibbs surround with a pointed arch and hood mold at the NE entry, and cast stone bands at the pilasters. The seven-bay facade consists of a central entrance pavilion flanked by symmetrical recessed bays. The facade is framed by stepped pilasters, which rise above the parapet. These are topped by a low cast stone pediment with cast stone trim appearing at the water table, second story, and parapet.

The entrance pavilion, framed by bold pilasters, projects slightly from the northwest facade. It rises to a stepped pediment that extends above the parapet. The tympanum is filled with brick set in diamond work with projecting burnt headers. The Massachusetts state seal executed in cast stone is centered in the tympanum. At the second story, a tri-part window containing 4/4 sash separated by brick mullions supporting a cast stone lintel is detailed with blank shields at the cornice line. A siren is mounted in the NE window.

A tall concrete stair with pipe rails flanked by concrete knee walls leads up to the main entrance at the first story. The opening, which contains paired flush doors, appears to have been blocked down at the sides. An original multi-light transom is set at the top of the entrance opening, which is flanked by Fiberglas outrigger flagpoles and industrial-issue fixtures.

Concord

Community Property Address 25 Everett Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission Massachusetts Archives Building 220 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

Architectural Description, continued

The remaining six bays on this elevation are identical. Each bay is recessed at the first and second stories between red brick pilasters. All window openings at the headhouse have flat brick arches. At the basement story in each bay, paired windows separated by a brick mullion containing four-light windows secured with steel grates rest on the concrete foundation. A red brick water table sits on the basement window lintels. Windows at the first and second stories contain six-over-six double hung sash. The top of each bay is articulated by three stepped rows of brick.

The southwest elevation of the headhouse is flanked by stepped pilasters identical to those framing the principal facade. It rises to a red brick stepped parapet. The wall area between the pilasters is organized symmetrically in two bays at the basement and first stories and four bays at the second. The W basement window is a paired 4/4 double hung sash with wood surround and mullion. It is set off-center towards the pilaster and secured with a steel grate. The E basement window is covered with plywood. A red brick water table runs the length of the southwest facade above the basement windows. Windows at the first and second stories are 6/6 double hung sash.

Similar to the SW elevation, the NE elevation is framed by identical brick pilasters, and it has the watertable and stepped parapet. However, this elevation is divided into three bays consisting of paired windows and a central door at the first story and three single windows at the second. The first story windows are 4/4, the windows at the second story are 6/6.

A concrete stair with a solid brick wall runs along this elevation to the central first story entrance. The entrance surround and coping of the stair are cast stone. Blank shields ornament the impost blocks of the entrance surround. The flush metal door is topped by a wood two-light transom. A gothic-style iron lantern hangs overhead.

A basement entrance in the first bay is approached by a concrete ramp with a concrete retaining wall topped by steel pipe rails. The entrance, set below the water table, has a flat arched opening and a flush door. A paired, 4/4 window set to the left of the door is secured by a steel grate. A portion of the window has been replaced with louvers.

The drillshed is attached to the rear (SE) elevation of the headhouse. The SE wall is unadorned except for the coping at the top of a straight parapet and the sloping brick water table, which turns the corner from both side elevations and terminates at the drillshed wall. Copper flashing protects the connection between the rear wall of the headhouse and the drillshed roof. A chimney projects from the headhouse at the northeast corner of the drillshed. Four openings on

Community Property Address

Concord 25 Everett Street

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Area(s)

Form No.

430

Architectural Description, continued

this elevation are symmetrically placed, two each, on either side of the drillshed: two louvered openings are set just below the roofline and two 4/4 windows are located at the first story.

Also built of red brick with cast stone trim, the drillshed is seven bays in length. The recent gray slate gable roof is edged with snow guards and surmounted by two painted metal ventilators. The typical bay on the NE and SW elevations are the same. Each recessed bay is articulated by brick pilasters and terminates with three rows of stepped brick. One row of stepped brick runs across the elevation below the eaves. Each bay has two 4-light windows covered with steel grates at the first story. At the second story of each bay, a segmental arched opening contains a segmentalarched, eight-over-eight double hung window flanked by 8-light sidelights. Occasional downspouts run down the center of the pilaster to drain the gutters at the eaves of the roof.

At the SW elevation, instead of windows, flush steel double doors are located at the second story in bays 1 and 7. At the first bay, a steel fire escape rises southeast to northwest to the door which has been set into the preexisting arched windows and cut into the wall below the cast stone sill. The remainder of the window arch has been in-filled with wooden clapboard painted brown. At the seventh bay, a re-enforced concrete ramp rises northwest to southeast to an original door opening. The frame of the original door shows the transom and sidelights, which have been filled with metal panels. The first story windows of the sixth bay, which are intersected by the ramp, have been filled with brick

Differences in the NE elevation include a one-story, shed-roofed, brick-enclosed entrance located between bays 6 and 7. Facing south east, the flush wood veneer door has three singlelight windows. A steel fire escape wraps around this entry and rises southeast-northwest to the second story of bay 7. This meets a steel mesh platform to access a double set of flush steel doors set into an original brick door surround. The transom has been covered with wooden clapboard and the sidelights are filled with metal panels.

At the rear (SE) elevation of the drillshed, sheet-metal returns are continued from the gutters that wrap around from the southwest and northeast elevations. A flush metal (non-original) door in the SE elevation leads to a metal catwalk that crosses the NE elevation of the rear ell and turns, with steps leading to grade.

Community Concord

Property Address 25 Everett Street

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Form No.

Architectural Description, continued

A lower, two-story hip-roofed ell projects from the SE elevation. A 4/4 second-story window is set into the ell's SW and NE elevations. A steel garage overhead door is set in an opening with a brick segmental arch at the first story of the NE elevation.

The rear (SE) elevation of the ell is symmetrically organized into three bays. Two 6/6 windows are set at the center of the first story and covered with steel security grates. At the second story, two four-over-four windows are set toward either corner of the elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE X 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 Concord Armory at 25 Everett Street was built in 1915 to replace an older structure on Walden Street. It was dedicated on November 17, 1915. A plaque commemorating Governor David I. Walsh and the members of the Armory Commission is still visible in the foyer. The lot was purchased from Mary Everett in 1914, when Everett Street was extended to Thoreau Street and its western block opened to development.

The Concord armory was designed by Boston architect James E. McLaughlin and built by general contractor J. P. Keating. James E. McLaughlin was born in Nova Scotia to Irish parents. He is listed as a draughtsman in the Boston City Directories since 1893. In the 1910s, when he practiced independently as an architect, his works were made available to a national audiecnce through *The American Architect*. Focused on the Boston area, McLaughlin's built work includes: Fenway Park (1912), the Benedict Fenwick School in Dorchester (1912), the Saltonstall School in Salem (1916), and the Boston Trade School (1917). Other commissions include the Commonwealth Armory (1916, demolished 2002), South Terminal Station in Boston (1918, now demolished), and his own home in Brookline (now Brighton, 1914). When McLaughlin died at age 92 in 1966, his funeral was held in the home where he had lived for 52 years.

¹ Cox, George Howland. Letter to Brigadier General Charles H. Cole, Chairman Armory Commission, 4 September 1915, Collection Army National Guard Museum, Worcester, MA

² Forbes, Anne McCarthy. Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources, Concord, Massachusetts. Concord, MA: The Concord Historical Commission, August 1994, vol. I, p. 371.

Concord

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Area(s)

Form No.

Historical Narrative, continued

The architecture of the Concord Armory reflects a decided renunciation of medieval references typical of late nineteenth-century military structures. This is the result of changing conceptions of an armory's role in the civilian life of a community. Thus, we find a stage and gymnasium incorporated in the design of the Concord drillshed. The club room in the basement still attests to the social aspect of armory life while the rifle range and weapons storage area underscore its primary role in ensuring military preparedness. The Concord armory was built one year after McLaughlin's Clinton Armory and almost exactly replicates its design and program.

McLaughlin employed nearly identical ornamental schemes in both the Concord and Clinton armories. Much of their decorative vocabulary can also be identified in Fenway Park and the Fenwick School. The Concord armory can be classified as Late Gothic Revival. In an attempt to diminish the overt military nature of the building, the size of the headhouse has been reduced, the drillshed hidden from view, and references to medieval fortresses reduced to ornamental accents. Stepped pilasters, increased fenestration, and ornamental stonework lighten the facade and reduce the mural emphasis typical of earlier armory structures.

The Concord Armory belongs to a tradition of American military organization that stretches back to 1620. Early British colonists at Plymouth organized defense of their settlement based on the European precedent of a citizen militia. The famous "minutemen" of the War of Independence are the direct descendants of this volunteer system. Citizen battalions mustered to reinforce the Continental Army led to creation of two categories of militia after independence. The Militia Act of 1792 called for a small core of enlisted regulars supplemented by a ready reserve of volunteers trained by states in peacetime. This system would remain in place for 111 years, with volunteer militia playing key roles in the War of 1812, Mexican War, and the Civil War. As labor unrest erupted across the United States in the 1880s and 1890s, state militias were increasingly employed to intervene between strikers and capital. It was during this period that states re-organized their militia under the name of the "National Guard." Locally-based companies of national guardsmen would finally be brought under the full control of the United States Armed Forces by a 1933 Act of Congress.

The Everett Street Armory is closely associated with Concord's military life from World War I on. Photographs in the collection of the Concord Free Public Library document troop musters on Emerson Playground with the armory in the background. A Massachusetts National Guard Unit conducts weekend drills at the site to this day.

Concord

Community Property Address 25 Everett Street

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Form No. 430

Historical Narrative, continued

In keeping with the newly conceived civilian role of an armory, 25 Everett Street played host to a variety of community activities. The April 19th Ball, an annual event commemorating the Battle at Concord Bridge, regularly took place in the drill hall. The April 19th Ball of 1925 was attended by United States Vice President Charles Dawes in recognition of the nation's sesquicentennial.³ The height of the festivities marking Concord's tercentennial in 1935 was a ball that welcomed over 500 people. 4 Cab Calloway's Orchestra of Harlem's Cotton Club provided the entertainment (raising the eyebrows of the Boston papers as an unlikely choice for a seemingly staid New England village) and over 180 couples participated in the grand march.⁵ Similar social events associated with Emerson Hospital have also taken place at the Everett Street site.⁶

Other community events included movie nights through the early decades of the Twentieth Century. High School graduations were also held in the armory's drillshed. During construction of the Alcott School, classes were held in the armory until the new school was completed. The armory currently hosts a celebrated antique show each month, which is televised as part of the popular series "Antique Road Show." 10

 $^{^3}$ Garrelick, Renée. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars. Concord, MA: Concord Historical Commission, 1985, p. 175.

⁴ Garrelick, p. 177.

⁵ ibid., p. 177.

⁶ Personal Communication, Joyce Whitman, Special Collections Librarian, Concord Free Public Library, November 2002.

⁷ Garrelick, p. 125.

⁸ Chapin, Sarah. *Images of America: Concord, Massachusetts*. Dover, NH: Arcadia, 1997, p. 94.

⁹ Whitman Joyce, personal communication, November 2002.

¹⁰Whitman, Joyce.

Concord Property Address
25 Everett Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission Massachusetts Archives Building 220 Morrissey Boulevard Boston, MA 02125

Area(s)

Form No.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

see continuation sheet

- Chapin, Sarah. Images of America: Concord, Massachusetts. Dover, NH: Arcadia, 1997.
- Cox, George Howland, Letter to Brigadier General Charles H. Cole, Chairman, State Armory Commission. 4 September 1915, Collection Army National Guard Museum, Worcester, MA.
- Forbes, Anne McCarthy, Survey of Historical and Architectural Resources, Concord

 Massachusetts. Concord MA: The Concord Historical Commission, August, 1995, 5 vols.
- Garrelick, Renée. Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars. Concord, MA: The Concord Historical Commission, 1985.
- McLaughlin, John E. Specifications for the Armory Building, Concord MA. 1914. Collection Army National Guard Museum, Worcester, MA.
- PAL, Massachusetts Army National Guard Integrated Cultural Resource Management Plan, 2002.
- White, Harriet, "MHC B Form, 91 Everett Street, Concord MA," MA Historical Commission Form AW-430, August 1978.

Maps

Town of Concord, GIS, November 2002.

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







CON. 430

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
Concord 25 Everett Street

Area(s) Form No.

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:	
X_ Individually eligible Eligible only in a	a historic district
Contributing to a potential historic district	Potential historic district
Criteria: $X A B X C D$	
Criteria Considerations: A B C	D E F G
	eslie Donovan
The criteria that are checked in	the above sections must be justified here.

The Concord Amory is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C as an intact, architect-designed armory that is characteristic of Massachusetts' Armories dating from the WWI era. Built in 1915 to replace an earlier armory on Walden Street, the Concord Armory has been closely associated with Concord's military and community life since it opened. The proximity to the Emerson Playground, which is in a residential area near the town center with a public gymnasium also facing the playground, was not only conducive to large training events and troop musters, it also suggests the significant and symbolic role the armory played in the community.

Designed by Boston architect James E. McLaughlin, the Concord Armory represents one of three known WWI-era armories designed by McLaughlin that include the Clinton Armory (1914) and the Commonwealth Armory (1916, demolished 2002). The Concord Amory remains intact and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It reflects the typical characteristics of early-twentieth-century armories including the T-shaped plan with a headhouse at the front and a tall, gable-roofed drill shed at the rear. All three armories date prior to April 1917 when the United States declared war on Germany and are indicative of the state's efforts toward military preparedness.

As a group, the Massachusetts Army National Guard Armories represent part of the Commonwealth's continuous history of volunteer militia and later its National Guard that have been critical to defense in domestic and international conflicts and military operations. While the Concord Armory is individually eligible at the local level, it is also eligible as part of a thematic nomination of Massachusetts Army National Guard Armories.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth Massachusetts Historical Commission



April 9, 2003

Ms. Susan T. Goodfellow MA Air National Guard Environmental and Readiness Center Building 1204, West Inner Road Camp Edwards, MA 02542-5003

RE: National Register Evaluations: Concord Armory, Clinton Armory, Framingham Armory Complex (4 Buildings)

Dear Ms. Goodfellow:

Staff at the Massachusetts Historical Commission have reviewed the information you submitted concerning the properties referenced above. Staff at the MHC evaluated the properties and have the following comments.

Regarding both the Concord Armory and the Clinton Armory, the MHC concurs that the properties meet the criteria of eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C on the local and most likely state level for their associations with the development of the military and the role of military preparedness in community life, and are well-preserved examples of their style and type.

Regarding the Framingham Armory Complex, the MHC is of the opinion that the structures on the property constitute a National Register-eligible district reflecting the changing approach to local and regional defense over more than half a century. The Armory building itself was erected in 1959 and would contribute to a district at the complex either as part of an extended period of significance through the Cold War period (to be determined by the National Park Service) or once it reaches fifty years of age.

These comments are offered to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800) and M. G. L. Chapter 9, Section 26-27C, as amended by Chapter 254 of the Acts of 1988 (950 CMR 71.00). Please do not hesitate to contact Debra Lavoie at this office should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc:

Clinton Historical Commission Concord Historical Commission Framingham Historical Commission

> 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125 (617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128 www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc

Original yellow form Copies: Inventory fo Town file(v Macris	rm					
NR direct	tor	Com	munity: Concord			
	MI	HC OPINION: ELIC	GIBILITY FOR NA	TIONAL REGI	ISTER	
Date Received:	Date Due:	Date Re	eviewed: 4/2/03			
Type:	_X_Individual	_Distri	ct (Attach map indicate	ating boundaries))	
Name:	Concord Armory	Invento	ory Form: 430			
Address: 91,	25 Everett Street					
Requested by:	Massachusetts Army	National Guard				
Action:	Honor	_ITC	Grant	<u>X</u> R&C	Other:	
Agency:		Staff in char	ge of Review: Deb L	avoie		
INDIVIDUAL	PROPERTIES		DISTRICTS			
X Eligible Eligible, also Eligible only Ineligible More informa	in district		Eligible Ineligible More inform	nation needed		
CRITERIA:		<u>X</u> A	_B	<u>X</u>	C	
LEVEL:		X Local	probably Sta	te N	Vational	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by Betsy Friedberg

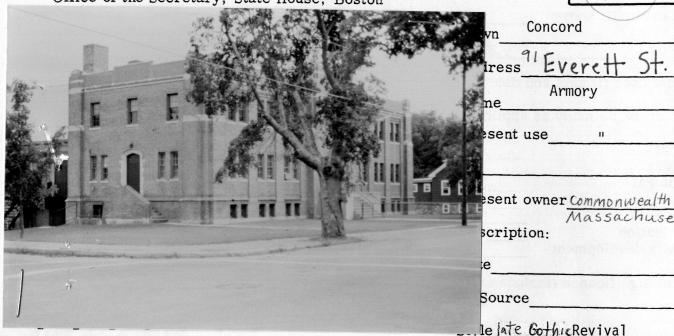
The Concord Armory is a well-preserved late Gothic Revival-style structure, designed by James McLaughlin and erected of brick in 1915. It replaced another facility that had stood on Walden Street. McLaughlin was also the architect of the Clinton Armory and Commonwealth Armory (demolished), as well as Fenway Park, the Benedict Fenwick School in Dorchester, and other public facilities. The design for the Concord Armory and its near-twin, the Clinton Armory, reflects the renunciation of the medieval vocabulary used in earlier armories (and now limited to ornamentation), and its plan reflects the armory's growing role in civilian life. The building consists essentially of two parts: a headhouse, set perpendicular to and partially obscuring a large drillshed. The drillshed contains a stage and gym as well as a mustering place, while there is also a meeting room in the basement; a rifle range and weapons storage are also relegated to the lower level. Used as a military gathering site in both world wars, the armory has also been the center for numerous community activities. The building appears to be unaltered. For its associations with the development of the military and the role of military preparedness in community life, and as a well-preserved example of its style and type, the Concord Armory fulfils Criteria A and C on the local, and most likely the state, level.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Pl. CONCORD SECT-B

CON. 430 In Area no. Form no. AW



sent use " esent owner commonwealth of Massachusetts scription:

le late Gothic Revival

Moved

Concord

Armory

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.

		Friends of Pe	erf. Arts
Mal		Walds	en Rol
Vibray O	Emerson	Bulkeley School	Everet
udbury R	Your		(n)
78	Youth Ctr.	Stow Huntgym	Armory

Altered	Date
with parapet. Centi	ral entrance with
raised basement. I	Main block has flat roof
Other features 2-	story, T-plan building o
Outbuildings (descr	ribe)
Exterior wall fabri	c red brick
Architect Dack	al, Copp + untienue

5. Lot size: One acre or less X Over one acre Approximate frontage 100'

Date

Approximate distance of building from street 15'

3.	Recorded by_	Harriet White
	Organization_	MAPC
	Date	8/29/78



Omiginal usa			
Original use			
Subsequent uses (if any) and d	ates		
8. Themes (check as many as ap	plicable)		
Aboriginal	Conservation	Recreation	Later of
Agricultural	Education	Religion	- W
Architectural	Exploration/	Science/	
The Arts	settlement	invention	
Commerce	Industry	Social/	
Communication	Military	humanitarian	
	Political	Transportation	

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Concord	Form No:
Property Name: Armory	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Other features:

segmental transom and keystone.
Windows are 6/6 with flat brick arches.
Rear block has gable roof, and segmental arched fanlight-type windows of divided sash.

2 subsidiary raised side entrances. Granite foundation.