

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.21
Historic Name:	Concord Power Station
Common Name:	
Address:	141 Keyes Rd
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G8-1682
Year Constructed:	1898
Architect(s):	Longfellow, Alexander W. Jr.
Architectural Style(s):	Colonial Revival
Use(s):	Other Governmental or Civic; Power House; Pumping Station
Significance:	Architecture; Community Planning; Engineering
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Brick; Granite; Wood; Stone, Cut 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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FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G8-1682

CONCORD

21

Town CONCORD

SE-4B

(neighborhood or village)

Concord center - PtAddress 141 Keyes RoadHistoric Name Concord Power StationPresent town engineering buildingOriginal electric power/sewage
pumping stationDate of Construction 1898-99Source Town reportsStyle/Form Federal RevivalArchitect/Builder A.W. Longfellow, Jr.

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed graniteWall/Trim brickRoof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

trailer

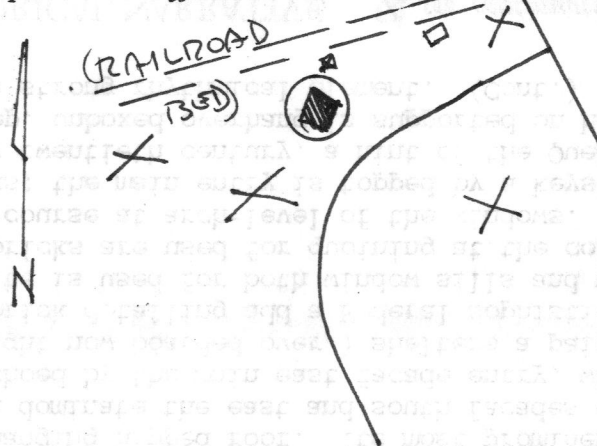
Major Alterations (with dates) boiler
house and chimney demolished--north side,
1930's. Overhead garage doors added--west
end. Slate roof, dormers and vents re-
moved ca. 1975.

Condition good/fairMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date _____Acreage less than one acre

Setting Beside railroad bed in complex of
modern concrete and brick municipal
buildings.

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. Forbes
research by Tedd Osgood
Organization for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) May, 1991

BUILDING FORM

CON-21

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

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

The Concord Power Station is significant as the first municipal building constructed by the town in this century, as an illustration of the work of A.W. Longfellow, Jr., and as an excellent example of small-scale brick Federal Revival municipal architecture. It is a one-story five- by three-bay structure with a rear wing, both under a large, overhanging hipped roof. Its most prominent feature is the large arched sash windows, which dominate the east and south facades of the main part of the building. Their shape is echoed by the main east facade entry, where a recessed, fanlighted entryway (its fanlight now boarded over,) shelters a pair of glass-and-panel doors. Both stone trim and brick detailing add a Federal sophistication and vocabulary to the building. Red granite is used for both window sills and water table course above the basement story, and bricks are used for quoining at the corners, arches over the windows, and in a wide band-course at arch-level of the windows. Basement window lintels are of splayed bricks; the main entry is topped by a keystone, splayed-brick arch. Typical of the early twentieth century, a hint of the Queen Anne is introduced at the roof line, where a deep, unboxed overhang is supported on huge brackets, and exposed, saw-cut rafter ends add a strong rhythmical element. (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.

The Concord Power Station is important regionally as an unusual example of a combined electric-generating plant and sewage pumping station. This hybrid type of facility was recommended by the 1897 joint report of the Committee on Electric Lighting and Sewerage, and approved by Town Meeting the following year. (The meeting at first approved the laying of underground electric wires. The vote was rescinded after the "taxpaying farmers" realized the extent of the additional expense, however, and at a later meeting it was voted to go to an overhead system which would share the line of poles with the telephone company.)

The building housed both the Concord Municipal Light Plant (the generating station built in 1898 by Stone & Webster,) and the pumping facilities for the new sewer system. The Light Plant was installed in 1899, and on Feb. 2, 1900, the town's street lights were turned on and the town began to provide electricity at \$.12/kwh.

The construction of the sewer went less smoothly, however. Rains slowed the work, the contractor quit, and both he and the town were sued by the creditors involved. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Interview with Harold Storrs, Dir. of Community Services, 4/23/91.
Maps and atlases: 1906.
Town Reports, 1897, 1898.
Richardson. Concord Chronicle.
Scudder, P. 350.
Concord Journal, article, 1990: "Just What is the Concord Municipal Light Plant?"

☒ 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

CONCORD

Concord Power
Station

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

21

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The rear wing, which consists mainly of a garage area, has a pair of early twentieth-century overhead garage doors and a vertical-board and paneled double-leaf door at the rear north side. Here broken arches of brick top both windows and doors. The western roof hip is broken by a wood-shingled gable stepped back from the rear west wall.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The sticky clay soil gave a second contractor great difficulty in constructing the 300,000 gallon storage well under the pumping station--a part of the project which never, apparently, worked as well as anticipated. The sewage pumping function continued from 1899 to 1955, however, when new pumps were installed in the small brick building to the east.

The coal-fired generating plant provided electricity for the town until 1930, when, unable to continue selling current at one of the lowest rates in the commonwealth, Town Meeting voted to begin buying power from the Edison Company, (later Boston Edison.) Voters balked at selling the power lines and equipment, however, and hence the Concord Municipal Light Plant continues as an independent utility today, one of 13 in the state, providing electricity to all but a few Concord homes and businesses.

At one time, the building also housed water pumps that were used to maintain pressure in the water distribution system.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community Property Address
CONCORD 141 Keyes Road

Area(s)	Form No.
	21

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Recommended:

☒ Individually ☐ District ☒ Contributing to a Potential Historic District

Criteria:

A B C D

☒ ☐ ☒ ☐

Anne McCarthy Forbes

Statement of Significance by _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Concord Power Station, the first municipal building constructed by the town in this century, qualifies for the National Register under Criterion C as an illustration of the work of A.W. Longfellow, Jr., and as an excellent example of small-scale brick Federal Revival municipal architecture. For its local and regional importance as an early and unusual example of a combined electric-generating plant and sewage pumping station, it also meets Criterion A.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

141 KEYES RD

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

CON.21



1983 Photo (P. Stott) – MHC Reconnaissance Survey

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