

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.385
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Brown, Benjamin W. Grain Company Building
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	178 Sudbury Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Concord Center
<b>Local No:</b>	G9-630
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1896
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	No style
<b>Use(s):</b>	Speciality store
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.Z: Back of the Depot - Fairgrounds
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Asphalt Shingle; Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick; Concrete Unspecified



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://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

G9-630

CONCORD

Z

385



CONCORD

neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

178 Sudbury Road

Name B.W. Brown Grain Co.

Present Hardware store/lumber yard

Original grain, feed, and farm store

Construction 1896

Concord Chronicle

Form Utilitarian

Architect/Builder unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete (front)  
brick (rear)Wall/Trim wood clapboard and  
asphalt siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures two  
storage sheds, two open sheds,  
late-19th C. house/office.

Major Alterations (with dates) late 20th

C: door, some window replacement

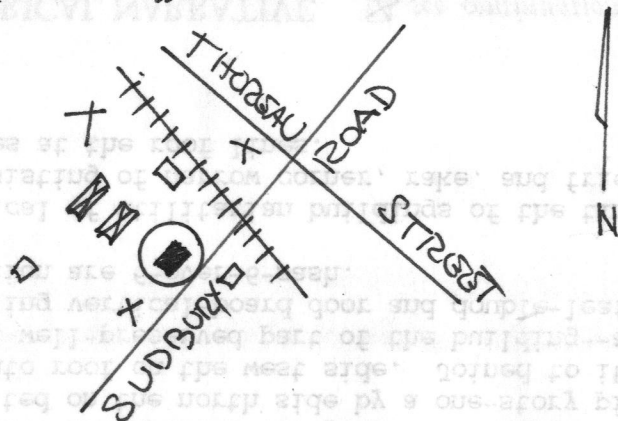
in store; exter. chimney, SE  
corner

Condition fair/good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A  
2.5 acresAcreage Close to street, just west of  
railroad in late-19th-20th C. commercial  
area. Surrounding lumber yard has  
modern and renovated 19th-C. buildings  
in arrangement similar to original  
yard.

## 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. Commission

Organization March, 1991

Date (month/day/year)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

This building is significant as one of Concord Center's few remaining wood-frame commercial structures from the 1890's. In spite of some alterations in fenestration, its form and general appearance have changed little over the years. It is a three-part structure. The largest section is a pitch-roofed 2-story store building next to the street, which faces its gable-end facade north toward the railroad tracks. The store is abutted on the north side by a one-story pitch-roofed windowless section with a long leanto roof on the west side. Joined to its north side and facing to the west is the most well-preserved part of the building--a 2-story gable-end storage barn with central, rolling vertical-board door and double-leaf hay door above. All windows in this rear section are 6-over-6-sash.

Typical of utilitarian buildings of the time, the detail here is extremely simple, consisting of narrow corner, rake, and frieze boards, flat window surrounds, and unboxed eaves at the roof lines.

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.*

Along with the house at 46 Love Lane, #178 Sudbury Road is the only survivor of a cluster of commercial and small industrial buildings that were built in the area west of the tracks at Sudbury and Thoreau Street in the second half of the nineteenth century. The coming of the railroads spawned coal, wood, and/or grain dealerships and other businesses that depended on freight shipments in nearly every town they passed through. At most of the complexes, and Concord's was no exception, sidings and loading platforms were built adjacent to the buildings so that freight could be unloaded directly from the trains to the buildings. Grain elevators and coal hoppers were also part of the scene, and Concord had both at the turn of the century.

This building was built in 1896 by Benjamin W. Brown [cf. #238 Elm Street], who had run a flour, feed, and hay business out of a smaller building here since at least 1887. It was part of a large lumber, coal, and grain yard that stretched between the tracks and Love Lane, as the lumber yard does today, from Sudbury Road to Belknap Street. In 1887 the complex included Brown's feed and hay business, F.J. Hastings' grain elevator, a blacksmith's and wheelwright's shop, a stable and wagon shed, and three buildings of J.B. Wood's lumber and coal business. By 1892 a paint shop had joined them, and by 1893 J.B. Wood had built a coal elevator across Sudbury Road, adjacent to the tracks. (Cont)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps and atlases: 1906; Sanborns: 1897, 1903, 1909, 1918, 1927.

Town Directories.

Concord Chronicle. Pp.75, 85, 119.

Concord in the Days of Strawberries and Streetcars. P. 156.

☐ 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

BW Brown Co.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In 1896 Benjamin Brown constructed this building. The large 2 1/2-story section was a store for hay, grain, and farm implements, with storage on the top floors. The center section was used for general storage, and the barn for feed and hay storage. The railroad siding that had formerly stopped at Wood's coal shed to the west was extended across the eastern facade of the new building, ending at Sudbury Road. At the turn of the century Brown (by 1906) had taken over the Concord Grain Elevator at the western end of the yard, as well.

Benjamin Brown retained the feed and grain business until at least 1918. After J.B. Wood's death, however, J.B. Wood & Son, along with much of the land he had owned, was acquired first by the team of Lowden & Wilson, and eventually by Richard Wilson. Wilson was a Canadian immigrant who came to Concord, along with many of his compatriots, arriving about 1895. He appears to have first worked as a carpenter with Andrew Lowden (see Form #s,) building houses, many of them occupied by fellow Nova Scotians, in the "Herringville" neighborhood just south of the intersection of Thoreau Street and Sudbury Road. They formed the company of Lowden & Wilson, with a carpentry shop adjacent to the tracks at the head of Willow Street. Andrew Lowden apparently died or left Concord by about 1910, Richard Wilson was joined by his brother Al, and the entire carpentry and lumber yard operation became Wilson Lumber Co. They eventually acquired Benjamin Brown's business as well, and Wilson Lumber Co. continues at #178 today.

