

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.45
Historic Name:	Davis, Josiah - Loring, David - Damon, Rebecca Hs.
Common Name:	Concord Academy Dormitory - Haines House
Address:	186 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-1706
Year Constructed:	1813
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Boarding House; Dormitory; Private School; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Education
Area(s):	CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard; Wood Flushboard Foundation: Granite



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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

G9-1706

CONCORD

DU

45

Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) SELT BConcord Center186 Main StreetHistoric Name Josiah Davis HouseLoring/Damon HousePresent school dormitoryOriginal dwellingDate of Construction 1813; remodeled
ca. 1838WheelerStyle Greek RevivalForm unknown

Architect/Builder

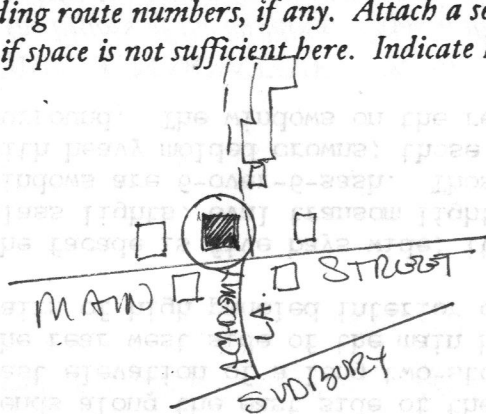
Exterior Material:

granite ashlarFoundation wood clapboard andWall/Trim flushboard
wood shingleRoof otherOutbuildings/Secondary Structures buildings on 17+ acre school campusMajor Alterations (with dates) late 19th- or
early 20th century: roof dormers,
roof dormers, spindle-balustraded
terrace on facade and east side.Condition excellentMoved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/AAcreage 17.5 acres

Setting In line of large Georgian,
Federal, and Greek Revival residences on
north side of Main St. School buildings
to rear; parking to east. Ironwork fence
with granite posts at front.

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 Anne Forbes;
research by Sally Dallas
for Concord Hist. Commission

Organization June, 1992

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 house, one of the most magnificent of the large houses on lower Main Street, is one of several that were built in the Federal period but radically updated during the ensuing Greek Revival decades. In this case, the building owes most of its appearance to a considerable remodeling of about 1838. It is a massive 2 1/2-story temple-front building, the pedimented gable of the attic story projecting forward over a tetrastyle colonnade of fluted Doric columns. A second Doric porch, a one-story version similar to those next door at #194 and across the street at #185, extends along the east side of the house to a second entry bay. A third adorns the east elevation of a long two-story rear wing. A round one-story bay projects from the rear west side of the main house, and a polygonal bay window from the east. Two pairs of high paneled interior chimneys rise from each side of the main roof.

The facade is five bays wide; its focal point is a wide double-leafed door with glass lights, oval transom light and molded surround with projecting lintel. The windows are 6-over-6-sash. Those at the first story facade have molded surrounds with heavy molded crowns; those on the second level and sides have an echinus-molded surround. The windows on the rear wing have flat, unadorned enframements.

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.

This house is historically significant at several periods in Concord's history. It was built in 1813 by storekeeper/entrepreneur Josiah Davis (1773-1847). At the same time he built a store beside the house (later removed to #50/52 Belknap Street,) at which he was to go into business for himself, having just withdrawn from a partnership with his brother on Lexington Road. During the time that the county court was in session, Mrs. Davis, who was noted for her hospitality, took in boarders here.

As a result of the debts of his store and some disastrous real estate speculation, Josiah Davis failed in business in 1837. Once one of the most wealthy men in Concord, he subsequently moved to Boston in 1839, where he kept a boarding house until his death. In 1838 the house was purchased by manufacturer David Loring. He had had a successful lead-pipe factory on Nashoba Brook at West Concord since 1819, and in the 1830's he had just expanded it to include the manufacture of sheet metal, and was heavily involved in the building of the Fitchburg Railroad, as well. He enlarged and altered the building to its present Greek Revival form, and moved Josiah Davis's store building to Belknap Street and converted it to a double-house. Mr. Loring was one of Concord's shrewd and enterprising businessmen, with a variety of interests and investments. From 1840 to 1844 he was a partner in the firm of R.N. Rice & Co., then owners of the green store at Monument Square. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: 1830, 1852, 1856, ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.
Sanborns. from 1903.

Keyes/Tolman.

Wheeler House File #M11.

Town directories and tax files.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle.

Social Circle Memoirs. (Cont.)

Garrelick, Rene. Clothier of the Assabet.

☒ 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

CONCORDDavis/Loring House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

45

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

He was one of the earliest and most active promoters of the Fitchburg Railroad, and handled most of their land transactions in Concord; for several years he was a director of the company. He lost much of his fortune, however, in an abortive attempt to set up his son, George, in wooden pail manufacturing and in a purchase with Sewall Belknap of Union Wharf in Boston.

In 1857 he and his family left Concord, and the house was purchased (in either 1856 or 1857,) by Rebecca Damon, widow of West Concord mill-owner Calvin Damon. She employed Benjamin Damon of Concord, N.H. to renovate the building, moved in in the fall of 1857, and lived here until her death in 1882. It was while she owned the building that the iron fence was built across the front of the property.

In 1888 the property was purchased from Mrs. Damon's heirs by Samuel Hoar (1845-1904), (son of Judge Ebenezer Rockwood Hoar of #194 Main Street,) who again renovated the house. His family continued to live here until 1922. After serving in the Civil War, like his father and grandfather before him, he became a lawyer, spent a term in the Mass. House of Representatives, and served his native town in many capacities, including water commissioner, selectman, and member of the Board of Health. He was the town's first Tree Warden, a Trustee of Town Donations for nineteen years, and president of the Library for ten. He was also president of the Middlesex Institution for Savings. Among his other offices as an attorney, he was general counsel of the Boston & Albany Railroad, and in 1896, trustee, vice-chairman, and general counsel of the Boston Terminal Company (overseers of the new South Station in Boston.)

After Samuel Hoar's death his widow and son, John, continued to occupy the house, which officially belonged to his estate for many years. In 1922, however, it became the first building of the new Concord Academy, in a quick sale when another purchase fell through. The purchase was arranged by Samuel Hoar's son, also Samuel, of #158 Main Street, who was a trustee of the fledgling school.

Concord Academy was founded in 1919 as a result of efforts by two Concord women, Anne Bixby Chamberlin (wife of Dr. Theodore Chamberlin,) and Mrs. Henry Smith, Jr. It began as an upper school for girls affiliated with Mrs. Dillingham's Montessori school, which had been located since 1916 in Josiah Davis' old store building at #50/52 Belknap Street. It operated for a few years in the D.A.R. house on Lexington Road, until its incorporation as Concord Academy in 1922, when it moved here to this building, and began to accept boarding as well as day students. Over the ensuing decades Concord Academy gradually acquired all the property on the north side of Main Street from the Wheelock/Shepherd Tavern at #122 to the George Sohler House at #228.

The school later named #186 Haines House, after Pamela Haines, a housemother and director of maintenance.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Fenn, Mary. Old Houses of Concord. 1974.
Fondiler and Robinson. "Vernacular Carpenters."
McFarland, Philip. A History of Concord Academy.

CON. 45

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community
CONCORD

Property Address
186 Main Street

Area(s)	Form No.
	45

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form



Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district
☒ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Anne McCarthy Forbes

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

This house meets the criteria for individual listing on the National Register and as part of a district of large well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. For its association with three prominent nineteenth-century citizens of Concord, developer/storekeeper Josiah Davis, early manufacturer David Loring, and Rebecca Damon, widow of mill-owner Calvin Damon, it meets Criterion A. As a well-preserved example of a high-style Greek Revival house, it meets Criterion C. It possesses integrity of design, ^{location} setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.