

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.70
Historic Name:	Bond, Sarah House and Store - Kent, Samuel D. Hs
Common Name:	
Address:	401 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	G9-719
Year Constructed:	r 1775
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Federal; Georgian
Use(s):	Boarding House; General Retail Store; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
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 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

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 11:25 AM

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

G9-719

CONCORD

DU

70

Town CONCORDPlace (neighborhood or village) Concord Center

401 Main Street

Historic Name Bond House/store;
S.D. Kent House
dwelling

Present store; double-house;
boarding house

Original late 18th century
(pre-1775)

of Construction Wheeler

Form Federal/Greek Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation dressed granite

Wall/Trim wood clapboard

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (with dates) some

door and window updating--later 19th
century; modern screened porch along
west side.

Condition good

Moved ☐ no ☒ yes Date 1871

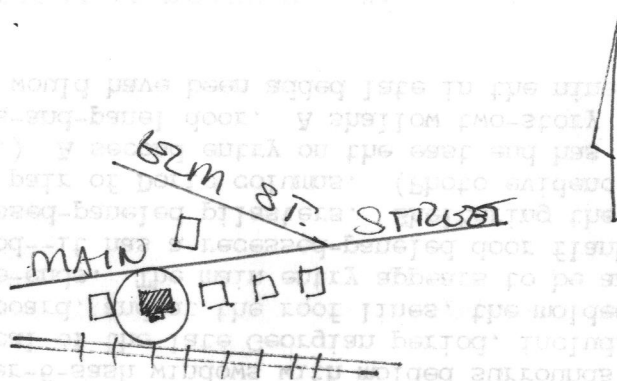
Acreage less than one acre

Setting In residential district of

19th- and early-20th-century houses at
town center. On small lot, with high
vertical-board fence on east.

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;

Organization research by Helen Roach
for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

401 is the oldest house on this section of Main Street. In spite of having been moved and converted part of it from a store to a dwelling, it is still a well-preserved example of a late-eighteenth-century building type. Like many of its era it is a massive house, 2 1/2-stories high and two rooms deep, with a pair of interior rear chimneys and a rear wing. It has a symmetrical five bay facade, with 6-over-6-sash windows with molded surrounds. Most of the architectural trim is typical of the late Georgian period, including the narrow cornerboards and sillboard, and at the roof lines, the molded, boxed cornice without overhang at the gable-ends. The main entry appears to be an update of the early Greek Revival period--it has a recessed-paneled door flanked by 2/3-length sidelights and recessed-paneled pilasters. Sheltering the door is a Greek Revival porch supported on a pair of Doric columns. (Photo evidence shows the entry porch was added after 1871.) A second entry on the east end has a heavily-molded surround and a 6-panel, glass-and-panel door. A shallow two-story polygonal bay window, also on the east end, would have been added late in the nineteenth century.

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.

Investigation into the date of this house was done by Ruth Wheeler at least two different times, in the 1930's, and in preparation for her book, Concord, Climate for Freedom, published in 1967. In 1937 she speculated that the building was the ca. 1812 successor of "Madam Bond's" store, an earlier building which had stood on the grounds of the old Bigelow Tavern on lower Main Street in 1775, when on April 19 it was searched for hidden military stores by the British. Evidently later research led her to conclude that in fact the eighteenth-century building had not been torn down, for in Climate for Freedom she states that this house was indeed the earlier store building, run by Sarah Hubbard Bond, widow of Abijah Bond, Jr., after her husband's death.

The building was moved to the present location by Alonzo Tower, who evidently bought it from Reuben N. Rice in 1871, who was then building his large residence (now gone) just west of the South Burying Ground on the old Bigelow Tavern property. Mr. Tower, who came to Concord by 1866 from Stow, opened a tailoring business with Frank Tuttle on the Milldam at #36-40 Main Street, and later became a milk- and grain-dealer. He kept #401 as a double house, and lived here for a while on one side, with his brother-in-law Samuel Kent on the other. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Maps, atlases: present location: ca. 1871, 1875, 1889, 1893, 1906.
Sanborns from 1903.
Keyes/Tolman.
Wheeler House File #M18.
Concord Chronicle.
Concord Free Library Photo File: pre-1871 photo of house at former location.

☒ 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

CONCORDBond House/Store;
Samuel Kent House

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

70

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

By 1875 Samuel D. Kent had become the owner. He had a bookbinding business on the Milldam. He died around 1910, and his widow, who had run a boarding house here for many years, lived here through the early part of this century. Among the boarders was Horatio Richardson, owner of Richardson's pharmacy, before he built his house at #277 Main Street.

The Kents' grown son, Charles, evidently lived here as well; he and his family occupied one half of the house as early as the 1890's. Charles Kent was a partner in Towle & Kent's grocery store at #42/44 Main Street, later going into business for himself across the street. His son, Sam Kent, was editor of the Concord Journal for many years. From about 1930 to 1961 this house was the property of Rex and Janet Morgan.

CON-70

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Community Property Address
CONCORD 401 Main Street

Area(s)	FormNo.
	70

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 listing on the National Register as part of a district of well-preserved buildings of the late eighteenth- to nineteenth-centuries at Concord center. As the eighteenth-century store and house of "Madam Bond," which was searched by the British on April 19, 1775, it meets Criterion A. As a well-preserved example of a Georgian vernacular house, updated in the Greek Revival period, it also meets Criterion C. In spite of having been moved, it possesses integrity of design, setting, materials, and workmanship, feeling and association.