

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.399
Historic Name:	Concord Home School Boathouse
Common Name:	
Address:	496 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	Concord Center
Local No:	F9-3952-1
Year Constructed:	1891
Architect(s):	Peabody and Stearns
Architectural Style(s):	Queen Anne; Shingle Style
Use(s):	Boathouse
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Education; Recreation
Area(s):	CON.AG: Concord Home School CON.DU: Main Street Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/12/1962)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Board and Batten



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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

F9-3952-1

CONCORD

AG

399,688

CONCORD

Town

neighborhood or village)

Concord Center

496 Main Street

SS

Concord Home School Boathouse

ic Name South Bridge Boathouse

Present boathouse

Original boathouse

of Construction 1891-2

Concord School records

Form Queen Anne/Shingle

ect/Builder unknown (possibly Peabody & Stearns)

Exterior Material:

(not visible)

Foundation

board-and-batten; wood

Wall/Trim

shingle

Roof

asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

ca. 1920 garage/storage building to west at 502 Main St.

Major Alterations (with dates) Mid-20th C.:

window replaced by garage door on W. end; boat doors replaced on E. South windows added; exter. chimney on N. rear. Early 20th C. rear addn.

Condition

good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date N/A

Acreage

less than one acre

Setting

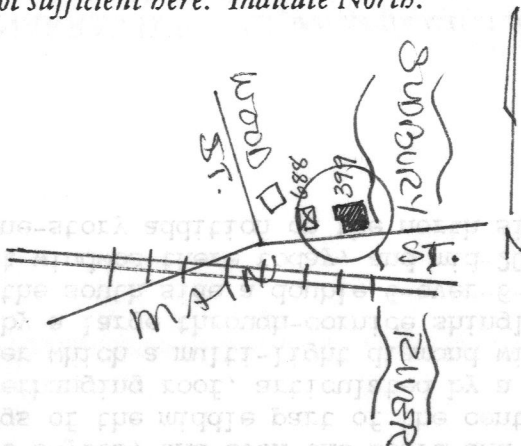
Down off main road on bank

of Sudbury River. Surrounded by as-

phalt. Docks extending to 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.



Anne Forbes

Recorded by

research by Helen Roach

Organization

for Concord Hist. Commission

Date (month/day/year) June, 1992

CON-399
BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

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

The only early boathouse remaining on the Sudbury River at Concord center, in spite of its uninterrupted utilitarian use, this little gem of a building retains most of its original features. The epitome of the small picturesque boathouse of the latter part of the nineteenth century, it is an eclectic building, combining elements of the Queen Anne and Shingle Styles, and even the board-and-batten siding more common to cottages and outbuildings of the middle part of the century. Its most distinguishing feature is the gabled, overhanging roof, articulated by a deeply-recessed shingled arch at either gable, under which a multi-light diamond window is located. The main slope of the roof is broken by a large through-cornice shingled dormer. Some alteration has taken place here: on the south side a double, 6-over-6-sash window was replaced by the three multi-light windows there today, and mid-20th-century doors have been inserted in both ends. A one-story addition on the north side was built some time between 1927 and 1949.

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 stylish little boathouse was one of several improvements added to James Garland's Concord Home School in 1892-93, a year after the school opened in the old Ephraim Wood farmhouse at 41 Wood Street on the west bank of the Sudbury River. The Boston firm of Peabody & Stearns designed much of the campus, but further research will be needed to determine whether they designed the boathouse as well. (See Area Form, "Concord Home School.") The school, called by 1897 the Concord School, closed in 1910 or 1911.

This is one of several boathouses that were built on this section of the Sudbury in the 1890's, when the craze for pleasure-boating on Concord's waterways was at its peak. Others were built by the residents of Elm and Wood Streets, (cf. e.g. C.A. Sawyer's boathouse of the same year for #77 Wood Street,) and possibly a few off Musketaguid Road on Nashawtuc Hill. All the early boathouses except this one, however, are now gone.

Over the course of the first half of this century the boathouse, with its convenient Main Street location, became the center of boating activity on the river, and today is one of the most treasured landmarks at the center of town. After the Concord School closed it was acquired by Arthur Hosmer, who was the first to turn the facility into a boat business. (Cont.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Concord Pamphlets #52, items 7-10: Concord Home School.

Maps, atlases: 1893, 1906; Sanborns from 1909.

Keyes/Tolman.

Town directories and tax files.

Richardson, Concord Chronicle.

Hall, Ann. "Historic Boathouse Graces the Concord." The Boston Globe, 5/10/92.

Article and interview with Shirley Rohan.

Kennedy family records.

- ☐ 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 Home School Boathouse

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Area(s) Form No.

AG 399

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

In the mid-1930's he sold the building to the chief of the Littleton police, who in turn sold it to **Earl and Annette York** in 1939. In 1946 it was acquired by **John and Elsie Kennedy**, who were the first New England distributors of Grumman Canoes, and rented canoes here, as well. In 1949 **George and Shirley Rohan** purchased the boathouse, and continue the boat-sales and canoe-rental business today.