

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.471
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Damon, Calvin and Edward House
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	1641-1645 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West Concord
<b>Local No:</b>	232
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	r 1835
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Greek Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.D: Westvale
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Concrete Unspecified; 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](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

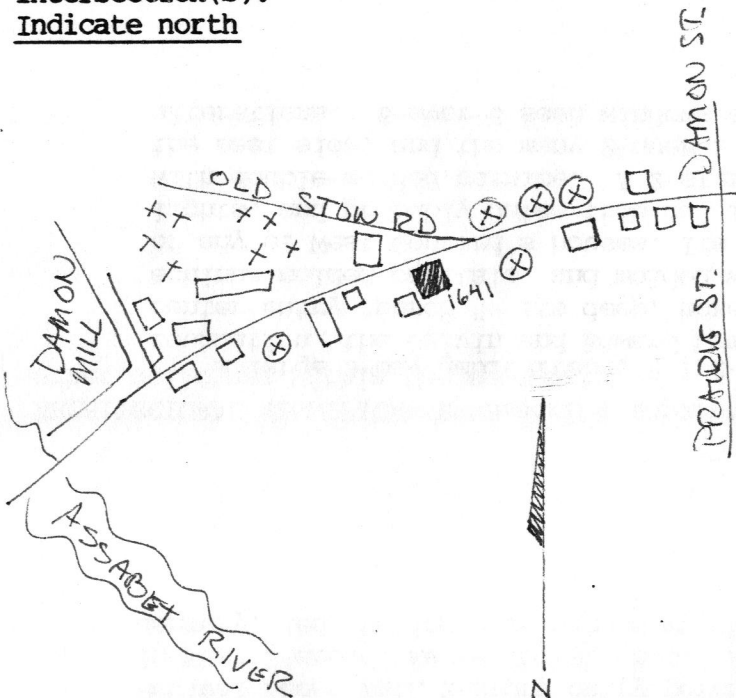
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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north



UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

USGS QUADRANGLE \_\_\_\_\_

SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. W. Concors  
USGS - May  
SELT A

CON. 471

AREA

FORM NO.

D	232
	471

Town West Concord

Address 1641 Main St.

Historic Name Calvin and Edward C. Damon House

Use: Present 2-family residential  
Original Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date Ca. 1830's

Source Hammond, Charles. Factory Village, Concord, MA, 1654-1862.  
Style Greek Revival

Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Exterior Wall Fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings 3-car garage

Major Alterations (with dates) Rear section added; 2/2's and bay window added - ca. 1865.

Condition good

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage 94,165 sq. ft.

Setting Main street with primarily early to late 19th-century, wood frame houses.

Recorded by A. Forbes

Organization for Concord Hist. Comm.

Date 2/15/88

# NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

#1641 Main St. retains integrity as an outstanding example of a temple-front Greek Revival house with 2-story entry porch, and as the most high-style Greek Revival building in West Concord, meets Criterion C. As the home of the two men who, for most of the 19th century, led the industry around which Westvale was built, it also meets Criterion A.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

A large 3-bay gable-front, 2 1/2-story Greek Revival house with dressed-granite foundation, the Calvin and Edward Damon House has a fully-pedimented facade and a 2-story center-entry "porch." Its deep, boxed cornice, corner pilasters topped with echinus-molded capitals, and molded window caps make it the most assertively Greek Revival of any of West Concord's houses. Its paneled center entry door has two round-headed lights, and probably dates from ca. 1865. A second entry on the west side has a vestibule with double-molded cornice. A 2-story rear addition, a 1-story, octagonal bay window on the east side, and the many 2-over-2 sash windows also date from the ca. 1865 alterations. 6-over-6 sash windows at the attic level are probably original.

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

#1641 was the home of two men, father and son, who were the most important forces in the development of Westvale. In 1839, the house and surrounding farm were bought from Rufus Holden by Calvin Damon, then an entrepreneur from Framingham who had acquired the Westvale cotton mill property five years earlier.

The mill, under James Derby, and the team of John Brown, Ephraim Hartwell, and Ephraim Bellows before him, had been fitted out for spinning since 1808. Calvin Damon, calling upon his experience at the Framingham Saxon Mills, made extensive changes, and converted it to a factory for weaving cotton cloth, and later wool flannels. (See "The Damon Mill," NR). He is credited with the invention of "domet" flannel, a fabric of cotton warp with wool filling that gradually came to replace linsey-woolsey in undergarments.

After Calvin's death in 1854, both the mill and the house fell to his son, Edward. Edward enlarged and updated both the house and mill, and managed the business, at times in combination with other parties, (including his son Ralph, from 1880 on,) until its demise in the late 1890's.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Smith, Henry. Memoirs: Edward Carver Damon. Concord, 1902.  
 Hammond, Charles. Factory Village, Concord, MA, 1654-1862. Unpublished master's thesis. 1974.  
 Interview with Renee Garrelick, 3/88.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

CON. 471

Community:  W. CONCORD	Form No:  D. 237 471
Property Name: 1641 Main St.	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Both Calvin and Edward Damon were two of the major forces in shaping West Concord—not just as employers and community activists, but also through their extensive building of "tenements" for their workers. By the 1890's, the Damon family business owned over 40 "tenements," including groups of houses on Conzant St., on "the Grove Lot" east of the mill on Main St., several boarding houses, and many double and single houses.

Edward Damon held many town and organizational offices. He was a member of the School Committee, the Library Committee, and the Board of Selectmen, a trustee of the Middlesex Institution for Savings, and a director, and later president, of the Concord National Bank. As one of the first town Water Commissioners, he oversaw the establishment of a new town water supply at Sandy, (Flint's,) Pond.



