

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.475
Historic Name:	Wright, J. D. General Store and Post Office
Common Name:	Damon Grocery Store - Collins Market
Address:	1679-1681 Main St
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	131
Year Constructed:	c 1850
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Dance Hall; General Retail Store; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Commercial; Post Office; Single Family Dwelling House; Market or Grocery Store
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Communications; Politics Government; Recreation
Area(s):	CON.D: Westvale
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	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

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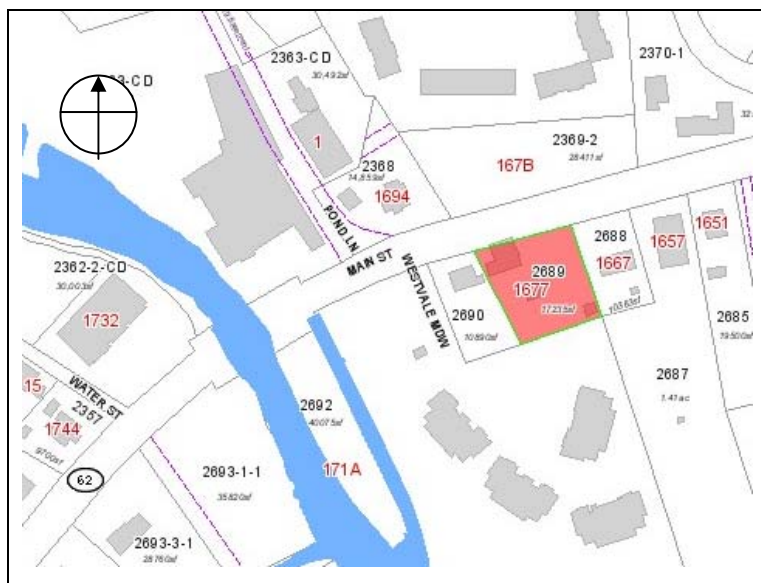
FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry

Organization: ttl-architects

Date (month / year): July 2013

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

2689

Maynard

D

CON.475

Town/City: Concord

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
West Concord

Address: 1679-1681 Main Street

Historic Name: J.D. Wright General Store and Post Office

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Residential

Original: Store/Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1850

Source: Architectural Style and Historic Maps

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Granite/Concrete

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

One-story commercial building located southeast of the residence.

Major Alterations (with dates):

Six pane display windows (?)

Flush boards and brick veneer (?)

Building files indicate that 2 doors and windows were replaced in 1990.

Rear porches and exterior stair - late twentieth century

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 0.40 Acres

Setting: Located in a residential area in the historic village of Westvale, near the Damon Mill.

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2013

MASS. HIST. COMM.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

1679-1681 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

CON.475

☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

The J.D. Wright General Store and Post Office at 1679-1681 Main Street (CON.475) is a one-and-one-half story, three-by-three bay, wood-frame Greek Revival building that has been converted into a multi-family residence. The building adopts an L-shaped plan on a granite foundation. The building faces north and is set back approximately fifteen feet from the street on a gently sloping lot. The building terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A wide cornice, a typical Greek Revival detail, is located along the side elevations and cornice returns highlight the facade. A slender interior brick chimney pierces the south end of the roof ridge. The building is clad with painted wood clapboards. Wide board pilasters further define each elevation. Access is provided by a centrally located entry which is recessed on the north elevation. Access is provided by a single replacement door. The opening is flanked by 1/1 double-hung replacement windows on the walls flanking the recessed door. The recessed opening is highlighted by a simple wood surround. A replacement 1/1 windows is located to each side of the recessed opening; two openings are located above on the second floor and one in the gable. A one-story, one-bay wing is located on the west elevation. A secondary entrance is located on the east elevation.

A one-story, three bay outbuilding is located southeast of the residence. The building is constructed on a poured concrete foundation. The building terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The walls are clad with wood clapboards. A centrally located entry on the north elevation provides access to the building. The opening is flanked by storefront windows set within simple wood surrounds. 1679-1681 Main Street maintains the form and details of a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival commercial building which supported the employees of the Damon Mill and the residents of Westvale.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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.

MACRIS identifies the construction date of 1679-1681 Main Street as 1820 and the survey form for the Westvale area indicates a construction date of 1860. A store and post office first appears in the area on a map of Westvale from "about 1850." The front gable form and the Greek Revival style of the property indicates that the building was constructed during the mid-nineteenth century. In the late 19th century the building was a multiple family dwelling, post office, store. Circa 1875 the building served as the post office and general store of JD Wright.¹ The store was operated ca.1889 by John Ingham.² In 1892 Ralph H. Damon was the post master in Westvale, although it is unclear if the Post Office was in this store at that time. Ralph H. Damon was part of the Damon Manufacturing Co, manufacturing woolen goods, and the son of Edward C. Damon and his wife Anne. He lived in a house on Main Street in Westvale.³ After 1899 the store housed a branch of the Adams and Bridges grocery stores, which also operated a store at 30 Commonwealth Avenue.⁴ The store was very successful selling to Damon Mill employees and local residents of Westvale. It appears from deed research that the store was owned by the Damon family until 1945 when it was sold to Edward J. Collins.⁵ Mr. and Mrs. Collins continued to operate a successful store under the name Collins Market.⁶

¹ Beers, FW. Middlesex County. New York: JB Beers & Co, 1875.

² _____. Middlesex County. Boston: Geo. H Walker & Co, 1889.

³ From US Census Records: Anne E Damon was wife of Edward C Damon, Ralph H was their son (age 18 in 1880). In 1910 Ralph and his family lived on Main Street, next to his mother Anne (His father Edward died 1900-1910).

⁴ Joanne Loynd Vault A45, Loynd Unit 1, Box 1 Folder 4 Adams & Bridges. Concord Public Library.

⁵ "store lot" shown on a plan of "Land in Concord Surveyed for the Estate of Anne E Damon by Horace F Tuttle, surveyor. Oct 15 1945 recorded Book 6918, Plan 96 and Book 9163 page 265.

⁶ Nancy Dee and Charles W. Dee. "311 Years of Industrial History: Concord's Westvale Commercial Area was Pioneered in 1658," in Hear Ye (Acton, MA: Jason H. Korell., 1969), np. [Concord Public Library]

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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In 1966, Raymond W. Beatty purchased the property from the Collins'.⁷ *Mr. Beatty operated a bottled gas company for approximately 10 years until Mr. Charles Dee purchased this building in 1967.*⁸ Charles Dee leased the space first to a dance studio and next an antique shop. Additional owners include: Robert Sheehan (1969-1971);⁹ William Alexander (1971-1998);¹⁰ and Hedy Alexander (1998-present).¹¹

Tax assessor records indicate that the one-story building to the southeast of the store was constructed in 1950. The building does not appear on early twentieth century maps of the area; however the poured concrete foundation indicates that the building was constructed or located to that location during the twentieth century. The building is currently used as commercial space for J&B Upholstery.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Concord Building Inspection and Zoning Enforcement Division Records. [Town of Concord]

Dee, Nancy and Charles W. Dee. "311 Years of Industrial History: Concord's *Westvale* Commercial Area was Pioneered in 1658," in *Hear Ye* (Acton, MA: Jason H. Korell., 1969), np. [Concord Public Library]

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Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of the Town of Concord*. Boston: Henry Francis Walling, 1852. [Boston Public Library]

⁷ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 11126 Page 299.

⁸ Nancy Dee and Charles W. Dee. 1969, np. [Concord Public Library]

⁹ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 11979 Page 676.

¹⁰ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 28371 Page 37.

¹¹ Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 28371 Page 37.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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1679-1681 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

CON.475

[Delete this page if no Criteria Statement is prepared]

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

Statement of Significance by Geoffrey Melhuish

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The J.D. Wright General Store and Post Office at 1679-1681 Main Street maintains the form and details of a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival commercial building which supported the employees of the Damon Mill as well as residents of Westvale. The store/residence possesses a high degree of integrity of design, setting and workmanship. The property meets criterion A and C at the local level and would be a contributing property in a potential Damon Mill Historic District. The potential historic district would include the Damon Mill, workers housing along Water Street and Main Street as well as several Damon family homes in the neighborhood.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

PO W CONCORD
USGS - MYNARD
SECT A

In Area no. <u>D</u>	Form no. <u>CON. 475</u> <u>137</u> <u>475</u>
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Town Concord

Address 1679/81
1631 Main St.

Present use 2- Apartments and store

Present owner Mr. William Alexander

Description:

Date early 1800's

Source owner

Style Greek Revival

Architect not known

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) garage

Other features built as general store
and Post Office.

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 130' / Main St.

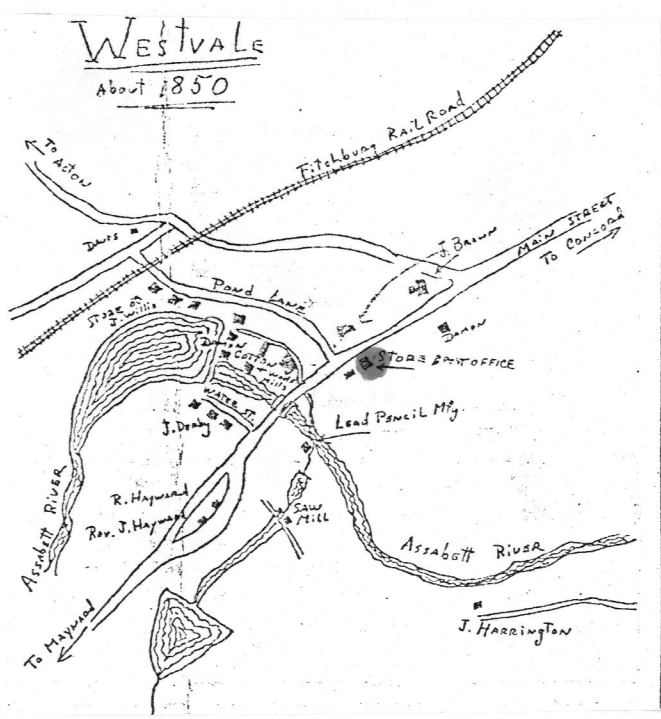
Approximate distance of building from street
0'

6. Recorded by Wilinsky and Benjamin

Organization Concord Historical Comm.

Date _____

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE USGS Quadrant _____ MHC Photo no. _____
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(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Commerce	✓	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Communication	_____	Political	X	Transportation	_____
Community development	_____				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This house has served as a post office and as a store since early in the 1800's. The upper part of the house has also been a residence.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.) See enclosed material