

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	CON.477
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Brown, Col. Roger House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Conant, Lot - Damon, Edward C. House
<b>Address:</b>	1694 Main St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Concord
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West Concord
<b>Local No:</b>	129
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	c 1775
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Georgian
<b>Use(s):</b>	Single Family Dwelling House; Hotel or Inn
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce
<b>Area(s):</b>	CON.D: Westvale
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Nat'l Register Individual Property (01/27/1983)
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Roof: Wood Shake Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Granite; Stone, Uncut



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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)

This file was accessed on: Friday, October 30, 2020 at 12:11 PM

## FORM B – BUILDING

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

### Photograph



### Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Geoffrey Melhuish

**Organization:** ttl-architects

**Date (month / year):** July 2013

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

2368

Concord

D

CON.477

**Town/City:** Concord

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

**Address:** 1694 Main St.

**Historic Name:** Lot Conant-Colonel Roger Brown House

**Uses:** Present: Commercial

Original: Single-family Residential

**Date of Construction:** Early eighteenth century/ca.1775

**Source:** Architectural Style and Details/National Register

**Style/Form:** Georgian

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite/Parged

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboards

Roof: Wood Shakes

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

A one-and-one-half story wood frame outbuilding is located to the west of the residence - 1981.

**Major Alterations (with dates):**

Rear roof dormers - 1985

Rear Ell - not visible from right the street.

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** .34 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

1694 MAIN STREET

## MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D

CON.477

☒ 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.*

1694 Main Street (CON.477) is a two-story, five-bay wood-frame center chimney Georgian style residence. The symmetrical facade, the center chimney stack, the second floor windows immediately below the cornice and the projecting entry enclosure are all expressive of the Georgian style. The center chimney stack and the enclosed entry are typically found on First Period and early 18th century examples of the Georgian style such as the ca. 1653 Scothford-Wheeler House, 99 Sudbury Road (CON.118), the 1725 Peter Bulkely/Reuben Brown House, 77 Lexington Road (CON.312) and the ca. 1711 Benjamin Abbott House, 9 Andover Street, Andover Ma (ANV.17). After 1750, most Georgian properties had paired chimneys. The five-by-three bay residence faces south and is set back approximately fifteen feet from the edge of the road. The building adopts a t-shaped plan and terminates in a side gable roof sheathed with wood shakes. The wide center brick chimney pierces the ridge of the principal block but is slightly offset to the front of the ridgepole. The brick chimney has been painted. The residence is clad with painted wood clapboards. Access to the residence is provided by a centrally located entrance on the south facade. The opening is set within an enclosed projecting entry porch which is capped by a pedimented gable roof. The door to the porch is set within a simple wood surround with a wood pilaster to each side. A single 6/6 double-hung wood sash window set within a simple wood surround is located on each side of the entry porch. Two, 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows are located to each side of the entry. The sash which feature thin muntins, a later Federal period detail, are set within a projecting wood surround capped by a molded entablature, a Georgian detail. Louvered wood shutters are located to each side. Window openings are stacked above the first floor openings. A secondary entrance is located at the northeast corner of the residence. A two-story ell projects from the north elevation. The ell terminates in a gable roof sheathed with wood shakes. A one-and-one-half story wood frame outbuilding is located to the west of the residence. The current building was constructed in 1981.<sup>1</sup> The building is capped by a hipped roof with clerestory. Both the hipped roof and clerestory sheathed with asphalt. The building is partially set into the embankment. 1694 Main Street is a well-preserved two-story Georgian style residence constructed in Concord during the mid to late eighteenth century.

### 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.*

Although the National Register form for The Colonel Roger Brown House at 1694 Main Street (CON.477) states that the building was constructed in its present form ca. 1775 by clothier Col. Roger Brown (1749-1840)<sup>2</sup> after moving to Concord from Framingham in the 1770s, architectural details of the building (see Architectural Description, above) suggest that the building was likely constructed during the early eighteenth century under the direction of Lot Conant (1679-1767) who moved to Concord in the early eighteenth century from Beverly.<sup>3</sup>

Concord in the 17<sup>th</sup> century was primarily a rural agricultural town with a small population scattered throughout the town with some small scale industrial development along its waterways. During the earliest European settlement the production of iron for bog ore was developed in the west side of town along the Assabet River. This area of iron and milling activities continued to slowly develop into the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. By the late 17th century, *the natural bog iron had been exhausted, so the land where*

<sup>1</sup> Concord Building Inspection and Zoning Enforcement Division Records.

<sup>2</sup> Colonel Roger Brown served with troops from Framingham at the Battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. In 1806, Roger Brown sold the triangular piece of land just east of this house to his son, John, for a house lot (See Form #472 - 1646 Main Street).

<sup>3</sup> There are conflicting dates to when Lot moved to Concord, MA. References have been made that he was in the area as early as 1698; Conant family history places Lot in West Concord ca. 1716.

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

CONCORD

1694 MAIN STREET

**MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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CON.477

*The Iron Works had been sold to a farmer from Beverly, Lot Conant. He built a substantial house over one already existing there, which is still standing today, known as the 1775 house.*<sup>4</sup>

Lot Conant was born in Beverly, MA in 1679. He was the son of John Conant (1652-1724) and Bethiah Mansfield (1658-1720).<sup>5</sup> He married his first wife, Martha Cleaves May 16, 1698. The couple had had nine children; Robert (b. 1699), Andrew (b. 1702), William (b. 1710), Dinah (b. 1710), Ezra (b. 1712), John (b.1713), Elizabeth (b. 1715), Martha (b. 1716) and Bethia (b. 1720). The first were born in Beverly while Martha and Bethia were born in Concord. Lot's wife, Martha died in 1724. Shortly after, Lot married his second wife, Susanah Clark and they had two children, Ezra (b. 1730) and Sarah (b. 1732). Both of which were born in Concord. Shortly after moving to the area, Lot was running a grist mill which remained in the Conant family for nearly a century.<sup>6</sup>

Lot died in Concord on 20 September 1767. Roger Brown, son of William Brown and Elizabeth Conant *owned the Conant House and a portion of the Mill property (perhaps his mother's inheritance)* by the mid-1770s.<sup>7</sup> In the early 19th century, John Brown (b. 1783), son of Roger Brown inherited the property.<sup>8</sup>

Lot's grandsons, Lot and Ezra, on the 15th of June, 1808, sold the Mill property to Ephraim Hartwell, of New Ipswich, N.H, and John Brown (1646-1652 Main Street CON.472), who entered into partnership, under the name of Hartwell and Brown, for the purpose of establishing a cotton factory.<sup>9</sup> They established a wood-frame cotton mill on the site of the present Damon Mill. In 1831, Hartwell's nephew, Ephraim Hartwell Bellows sold the mill to Elisha Parks and Thomas Lord, who sold it in 1833 to James Derby of Exeter, N.H., who sold it to Calvin Carver Damon in 1834. Edward Carver Damon (1836-1901), son of Calvin and Rebecca Poor Farnum took over management of the mill business upon his father's death in 1854.

Historic maps indicate that the residence was one of many owned by Edward C. Damon during the late nineteenth century. Deed research indicates that the Damon Family maintained ownership of the property into the twentieth century. The property is currently owned by the Concord Land Company LLC (2002-present)<sup>10</sup> and has been used as a bed and breakfast.

The Colonel Roger Brown House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. While the National Register Nomination Form indicates a date of 1775 as "carpenters constructing or rebuilding the structure to its present configuration took arms at the Concord Bridge on April 18 of that year," the form also suggests that the interior plan as well as the "the longitudinal, side-by-side chimney flue arrangement; and the design of the entry porch" indicate an early to mid 18th century construction date." The form goes on to suggest that the building may have originally been one room deep and enlarged to its present appearance. Interior investigations are warranted to determine if elements or construction methods from an earlier construction period can be documented as well as document changes that have occurred since the National Register Form was written.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

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- Ancestry.com. <http://www.ancestry.com>. Accessed May 7- May 17, 2013.
- Beers, FW. Middlesex County. New York: JB Beers & Co, 1875. [online at <http://www.historicmapworks.com>]

<sup>4</sup> Maria H. Wheeler. The Concord Iron Works. *The Concord Magazine*. March-April-May, 2002. An electronic periodical appearing on The Concord, MA Homepage, made possible by Hometown Websmith, Concord, Mass. <http://www.concordma.com/magazine/maraprmay02/ironworks.html>

<sup>5</sup> William Richard Cutter. *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation*, Volume 1. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1915 [Google Books Online]

<sup>6</sup> John Shepard Keyes. *A Brief History of Concord*. Originally Published as part of D. Hamilton Hurd's *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1890. p.599 [Archive.org <http://archive.org/stream/historyofmiddles02hurd#page/598/mode/2up>]

<sup>7</sup> Virginia Adams with William H. Sullivan. National Register of Historic Places Inventory Form for the Col. Roger Brown House. 1982. [Concord Free Public Library]

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> John Shepard Keyes, P. 599

<sup>10</sup> Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Book 48842 Page 500.



# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

1694 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

D

CON.477

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES continued

- Concord Building Inspection and Zoning Enforcement Division Records. [Town of Concord]
- Cutter, William Richard. *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of Commonwealths and the Founding of a Nation*, Volume 1. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1915 [Google Books Online]
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- Keyes, John Shepard. *A Brief History of Concord*. Originally Published as part of D. Hamilton Hurd's *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of many of its Pioneers and Prominent Men*. Philadelphia: J.W. Lewis & Co., 1890. [Archive.org <http://archive.org/stream/historyofmiddles02hurd#page/598/mode/2up>]
- Middlesex South Registry of Deeds. <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/rod/rodmidsth/midsthidx.htm>. Accessed May 7- May 17, 2013.
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- \_\_\_\_\_. Middlesex County. Boston: Geo. H Walker & Co, 1889. [online at <http://www.historicmapworks.com>]
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- \_\_\_\_\_. *Middlesex County*. Boston: Geo. H Walker & Co, 1906. [online at <http://www.historicmapworks.com>]
- Street Directories: 1886, 1892, 1896, 1901, 1905/06, 1909/10, 1913, 1917, 1921, 1925, 1929, 1934, 1937, 1941, 1947, and 1950. [State Library of Massachusetts and online at <http://www.ancestry.com>.]
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Survey of historical and architectural resources, Concord Massachusetts*. Concord, Mass: Concord Historical Commission, 2002. [Concord Free Public Library]
- Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of the Town of Concord*. Boston: Henry Francis Walling, 1852. [Boston Public Library ]
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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD 1694 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

D	CON.477
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# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

CONCORD

1694 MAIN STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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CON.477

*[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 Colonel Roger Brown House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The residence possesses a high degree of integrity of design, setting and workmanship. The property is distinguished architecturally and is significant for its associations with the Conant and Brown families as well as the Damon Mill, West Concord's most significant early industry. 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, the store, workers housing along Water Street and Main Street as well as several Damon family homes in the neighborhood.

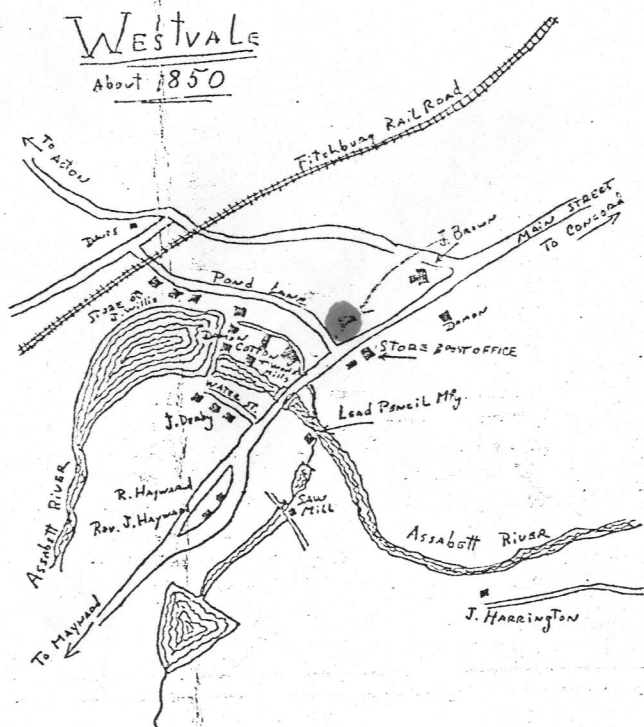


FORM B - BUILDING

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



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. \_\_\_\_\_

In Area no. D

Form no. 129477

Town Concord

Address 1694 Main St.

Present use 1-Fam. Residence

Present owner Ms. Gail Reitzel

3. Description:

Date 1708 - Rebuilt in 1775

Source owner

Style First period and Georgian

Architect not known

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings (describe) recent attached garage

Other features also has detached block studio building fronting on Pond Lane across from mill building.

Altered \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre X Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 100' / Main St.  
80' / Pond Lane

Approximate distance of building from street

40'

6. Recorded by Wilinsky and Benjamin

Organization Concord Historical Comm.

Date 10/77

(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/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	X	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Community development	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____

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

*This is the oldest house in West Concord.*

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



Area D CON-477  
118  
477  
2. Town Concord (West)  
Street 1694 Main St at Damon Moe  
Name "1775" House  
Original Use \_\_\_\_\_  
Present Use Residence  
Present Owner Kalin S  
Date 1713-1775 Style \_\_\_\_\_  
Source of Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Architect \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC \_\_\_\_\_ Development of Town/City \_\_\_\_\_  
3. CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered \_\_\_\_\_  
IMPORTANCE of site to area: Great Little None SITE endangered by Development

#### 4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: field stone  
WALL COVER: Wood graduated clapboard Brick Stone Other \_\_\_\_\_  
STORIES: 1 2/3 4 CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Cluster Elaborate Irregular  
ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency \_\_\_\_\_ Simple/Complex  
PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico Balcony \_\_\_\_\_ Recessed \_\_\_\_\_  
ROOF: Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard  
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork \_\_\_\_\_  
FACADE: Gable End: Front/Side Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Simple/Complex Ornament  
Entrance: Front/Side Centered Double Features: \_\_\_\_\_  
Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied \_\_\_\_\_  
Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Obscured Beaded corner boards

#### OUTBUILDINGS

#### LANDSCAPING

5. Indicate location of structure on map below

6. Footage of structure from street 25  
Property has \_\_\_\_\_ feet frontage on street

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

Photo Polaroid E 09 065-1.118

NOTE: Recorder should obtain written permission from Commission or sponsoring organization before using this form. (See Reverse Side)



FOR USE WITH IMPORTANT STRUCTURES (Indicate any interior features of note)

Fireplace

Stairway

Other

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

*Slipped building on this Apr. 19, 1775*

REFERENCE (Where was this information obtained? What book, records, etc.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Original Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Deed Information: Book Number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Registry of Deeds

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Community

Property

Concord

1694 Main Street  
Roger Brown HouseArea(s)  
DForm No.  
477

Additional information by Anne Forbes, November, 2000:

SEE NATIONAL REGISTER FORM, 1983

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE, cont.**

Roger Brown was a "clothier" who had run a fulling mill in Framingham. He came to Concord in the 1770s to establish a similar mill here on the Assabet, where the Conant family had been operating a grist mill since the early eighteenth century. He had married the daughter of William Dawes, and had served with troops from Framingham at the Concord Fight on April 19, 1775.

In 1806 Roger Brown sold the triangular piece of land just east of this house to his son, John, for a house lot. (See Form #472--1646 Main Street).

**BIBLIOGRAPHY/REFERENCES, cont.**

Comments by former owner, 10/94.

MHC B-form #472: 1646 Main Street.

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OCT 01 2001

MASS. HIST. COMM