

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CON.DA
Historic Name:	Allen Chair Factory Area
Common Name:	
Address:	
City/Town:	Concord
Village/Neighborhood:	West Concord
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Furniture Factory; Workers Housing
Significance:	Architecture; Industry
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	



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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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CON.DA

FORM G - STREETSCAPE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
ESDA	244

West Concord

Town _____
Street Name _____ Bradford St.
Addresses (inclusive) _____ 23, 33, 43, (S. side)

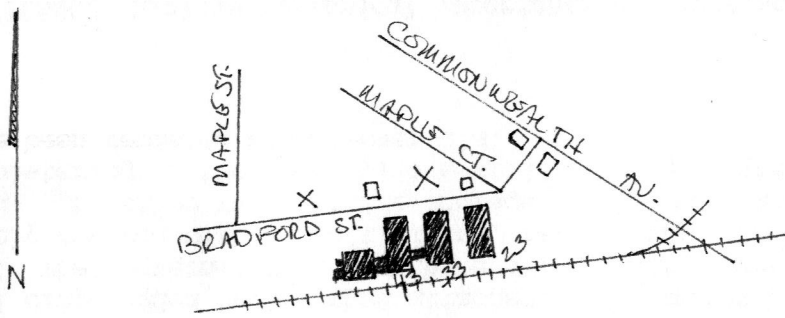
DESCRIPTION
General Date or Period _____ 1906
Predominant Architectural Styles _____
Utilitarian
Major Intrusions _____ none

Alterations Loading dock demolished.
~~two inter building bridges enclosed,~~
1950's; some window replacement.

Acreage _____ two acres



Sketch Map: Draw map of street, clearly showing all buildings; indicate street addresses for all buildings; identify intrusions.
Indicate north.



UTM REFERENCE _____
USGS QUADRANGLE _____
SCALE _____

Recorded by _____ A. Forbes
Organization _____ for Concord Hist. Comm.
Date _____ 3/10/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

Although asphalt siding and window replacement have altered some faces of the four buildings of the Allen Chair Factory on the south side of Bradford street, most of this small industrial complex still appears as it must have must have looked in the first decade of the twentieth century. The factory consists of three parallel three-story, wood-frame rectangular buildings with low-pitched roofs, and a one-story brick powerhouse with a small clapboarded drying shed attached. All four buildings rest on brick foundations. The westernmost of the three-story units, (the original millwork building), though largely covered with asphalt siding, retains most of its early 6-over-6 sash fenestration. The other two, (office/storage to the east, and storage/staining/varnishing/upholstering in the center,) are still largely clapboarded, though most of their windows have been replaced with 1-over-1's.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of streetscape and how the streetscape relates to the development of the community.

The Allen Chair factory was built in 1906 on a street laid out by the Concord West End Land Co. in 1899, under trustees Loring Fowler and Joseph Scott. As such, it is one illustration of a local West Concord entrepreneurship paving the way for industrial development from outside the town. The presence of the company's employees also inspired further housing development, especially on CWELC land in the Maple St./Lawsbrook Rd. area.

The factory is the best surviving illustration of the importance of the railroad in attracting industry to Concord Junction. A loading dock along the Fitchburg tracks originally ran the length of the complex, as the company depended on freight service for receiving supplies and shipping its furniture.

The Allen Chair Co., founded by Charles Allen and Messrs. Thompson and Whitney, and managed by Charles, W. Stuart and T.F. Allen, manufactured a variety of chair designs over its 40-year history, including Mission and Arts and Crafts styles, and box-seat dining chairs. It was best known for its oak "Bank of England" chair, found in courtrooms throughout the country. The factory was bought by the Finley Furniture Co. in the mid-1950's; it is now owned by Bradford Furniture Co.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1903 and 1909.

The Concord Enterprise, May 18, 1906.

The Concord Journal, Sept 1, 1983.

Pickard, Dorothy. Concord from its Settlement in 1635 to the Present Day. Concord, 1916. Unpublished manuscript.

MHC INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MHC Inventory scanning project, 2008-2012

MACRIS No. CON. DA

