

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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| Inventory No: | CON.DQ |
| Historic Name: | Damon - Conant Streetscape |
| Common Name: | |
| Address: | |
| City/Town: | Concord |
| Village/Neighborhood: | West Concord |
| Local No: | |
| Year Constructed: | |
| Architect(s): | |
| Architectural Style(s): | |
| Use(s): | Residential District; Workers Housing |
| Significance: | Architecture; Community Planning; 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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FORM G - STREETSCAPE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

| | |
|-----|-----|
| DDQ | 226 |
|-----|-----|

Town

West Concord

Street Name

Damon and Conant Sts.

Addresses (inclusive)

16 through 51

Damon St.; 188 through 205 Conant St.

DESCRIPTION

General Date or Period

1860's-1915

Predominant Architectural Styles

Greco/Italianate, Italianate, Gambrel

Major Intrusions

none

Alterations

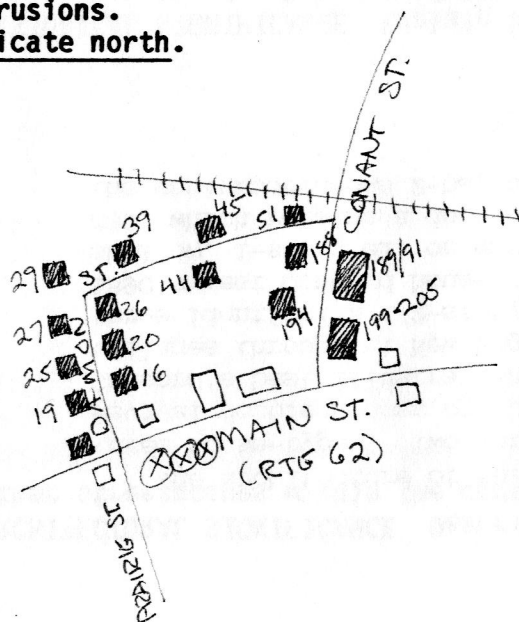
some synthetic siding and
window replacement; recent 2-story ell at
45 Damon St.

Acreage

Approx. 2 1/2 acres

- Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black and white)
Indicate street addresses for
buildings shown on back of each
photo. Staple to left side of form.

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

3/1/88

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

The architecture of this little U-shaped streetscape is largely a juxtaposition of three house-types. Two large, 6-bay, pitched-roof, paired-chimney, simply-detailed Greek Revival double houses of the 1860's at #'s 189/191 and 199-205 Conant St. are West Concord's best illustration of a large multi-family house design that appeared in mill villages throughout New England at mid-century. On the middle section of Damon St., three identical 2 1/2-story, 2-bay, gable-front houses show one version of a prevalent 1890's West Concord house-type--here designed with an octagonal facade bay window, and a shallow, 1-story ell on each side. This form, as typified by the most intact example at #39, which retains a door canopy supported by lathe-turned columns, relate somewhat to the contemporaneous 2-bay cottages built on upper Barrett's Mill Rd.

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

With the considerable range of dates and styles of its three main groups of houses, the Damon/upper Conant Street area provides an instructive illustration of several different approaches to housing the workers of Westvale. The first, the two mill workers' double tenements on Conant St., probably built by either Edward Damon in the early 1860's, or by the Damon and Smith Co. later in the decade, show the spacious, yet simple accommodations the company provided for its employees in the third quarter of the 19th century. The three 1890's gable-front houses on Damon St. may also have been built by the company, this time during its period as the Damon Manufacturing Co. They are also typical of houses built by small landlords in the '90's, when many West Concord residents responded to the housing shortage by building and renting as few as one or two cottages to factory workers. The other small houses here show one type of small early 20th-century cottage built on land owned by local real estate syndicates, such as those built by the West End Land Co. in the Lawsbrook Rd. area at Concord Junction. This particular group of cottages was probably built by the Concord Junction Investment Co., under John Studley and George Russell, the syndicate which bought all the Damon Manufacturing Co. real estate holdings in 1899, after the Damon business closed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Town Directories and Tax Records.
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1918 and 1927.
 Walker, George. Map of Westvale, part of Concord. 1889.
 Beers, F.W. Map of Concord. 1875.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

W. CONCORD

Form No:

222-DD

Property Name:

Damon & Conant Sts.

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

Five more 1 1/2-story cottages, built ca. 1910-15, are the Damon/Conant St. version of the early-twentieth century Gambrel cottage. While their contemporaries, the Gambrels in the Lawsbrook Rd. area, and on Prairie/Frances Sts., have full-width facade verandas, these houses are built with their entries recessed under the facade corner.

Other houses that lend variety to the streetscape are a handsome 2 1/2-story, Greek Revival/late-Italianate hybrid house at #194 Conant St., and three vernacular houses of ca. 1910-15 on Damon St., two gable-front, one hip-roofed.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, cont.

The anomaly of the streetscape, #194 Conant St., is yet another illustration of West Concord's creative approach to housing. It appears to be the building that was converted to a dwelling house in 1899 from part of the old Westvale schoolhouse, (probably the ell.) The rest of the schoolhouse was moved "down the road" to become a double house, and may be the building at #1574/76 Main St.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, cont.

Walling, Henry. Map of the Town of Concord. 1856.

Untitled map of Concord, between 1864 and 1871.

Walling, Henry, and Gray, O.W. Atlas of Massachusetts: Map of a Part of Concord, Massachusetts. 1871.

The Concord Enterprise, July and August, 1899.



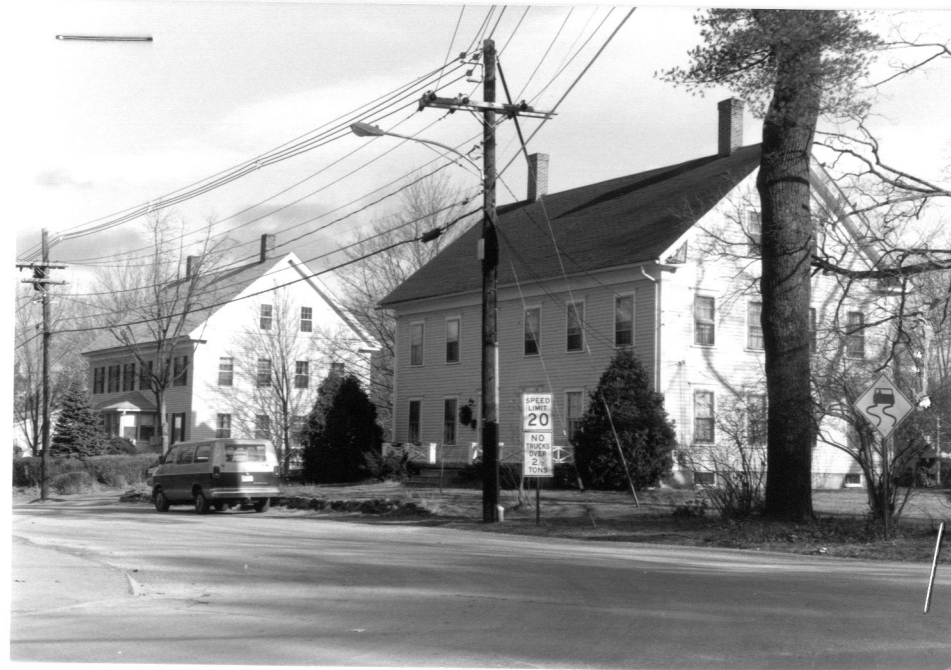
Damon Street, looking East.



194 Conant Street (CON. 1284)



*188 Conant Street 51 Damon Street
(CON. 1282), (CON. 1296)*



*199/205 and 189/191 Conant Street
(CON. 1285) and (CON. 1283)*



16, 20, 26 Damon Street
(CON. 1286, CON. 1288, CON. 1290)



39 Damon Street (CON. 1293)