



UTM REFERENCE _____
 USGS QUADRANGLE _____
 SCALE _____

AREA F FORM NO. 538

Town ACTON
Address 62 River Street
Historic Name George W. Rand - 1860s
 David Rynn - 1870s
Type: Present single family residential
Original single family residential

DESCRIPTION
Year 1861
Source Nylander notes
Style Greco-Italianate
Architect unknown
Exterior Wall Fabric wood clapboard
Outbuildings garage on fieldstone foundation
 with feather edge clapboards
Major Alterations (with dates) full length
 enclosed porch, dormers

Condition good
Moved no Date n/a
Acreage less than one acre
Setting North side of River St., opposite
 r.r and brook and near mill sites, rural
 setting with Greco-Italianate modest
 housing on School St. behind this dwelling
Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler
Organization Acton Historical Commission
Date April 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The property is eligible for National Register nomination as part of the School-River-Main Mill and Commercial Historic District for Criteria:

A - its association with the development of the railroad community from the 1840s with thriving mills and retail businesses on School, River and Main, as well as the owners and workers housing.

C - its representation of the Greek Revival and Italianate architecture most popular in developing the community of South Acton.

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

South Acton, once part of the 1000-acre farm granted to Concord's Major Simon Willard, was sold to Ephraim and Samuel Jones and Jonathan Knight in 1701. The first fulling mill was established and throughout the 18th and 19th century mill privileges on Fort Pond east of Main Street were developed. South Acton became the first village center in Acton, preceding Acton Centre, which revolved around the Common, Meeting House, and school from 1806. With the advent of the Fitchburg Railroad in 1844 came the major growth of South Acton Village as an industrial village.

River Street, laid out in 1847 for access to the mills built along Fort Pond Brook, runs from School Street near Mill Corner to Parker Street in the eastern section of South Acton. Paralleling the railroad and the stream (Fort Pond Brook), River Street was the location of several important 19th century mills for woodworking and textile manufacturing. The road is only sparsely developed with dwellings that were for the most part associated with the 19th century mills.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas/Birdseye/Map: 1870, 1875, 1886, 1889, 1892.
Acton Historical Society. Library Files.
Nylander and Forbes. "Mill Corner", 1989.
Nylander, Robert. research notes.
Phalen, Harold. History of the Town of Acton, 1954.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ACTON	Form No: F- 538
Property Name: 62 River Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION - 62 RIVER STREET

Located on the north side of River Street opposite the location of several former mills, the modest 1 1/2 story side hall entry dwelling has a Greek Revival gable front facade with a full length side enclosed porch which has a flat roof and is built on a concrete foundation. The gable front dwelling rests on a granite foundation and is clad in wood clapboards. There is a 1-story rear ell that is only partially visible behind a stockade fence on the east side. There is one brick chimney west of the ridge and one wood stove pipe near the rear of the house behind the dormer on the east side.

The main facade has a side hall entry that is slightly recessed and has a modern mid 20th century panelled door with two small top lights. The door enframingent has bevelled sides, a narrow entablature and a slightly projecting flat lintel. Window of 2/2 sash are surrounded by an applied molded trim. There are two in the gable peak and two to the left of the entrance door. The trim includes narrow corner boards, a reworked roof line with raking cornice and no returns.

The long enclosed flat roof porch has nine 2/2 sash on the long side and two facing River Street. All have an applied trim and projecting sill with recessed molded panels below the windows. There is a tall pediment roof dormer that pierces the eave on the east side. On the west side there are two dormers, each with a 2/2 sash, a deck porch and a 1-story rear ell with a raised basement. Sliding glass doors lead to the deck and there is one 2/2 window near the front of the house.

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

The modest gable front dwelling is one of three similar Greco-Italianate houses on this part of River Street and is representative of the type of housing built for the mills workers in the mid to late 1800s. According to earlier research this house was built by George Rand (b. 1823) in 1861. He was one of the many local carpenters and probably built this house for his own occupancy. By 1875 David Rynn (1816-1890) who lived at 55 School Street owned the property and rented it to local mill workers. Rynn owned the house as late as 1889 at which time he continued to live at 55 School Street.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

