

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area 466-474	Area letter M
1 (A), 2 (A), 145 (D)	

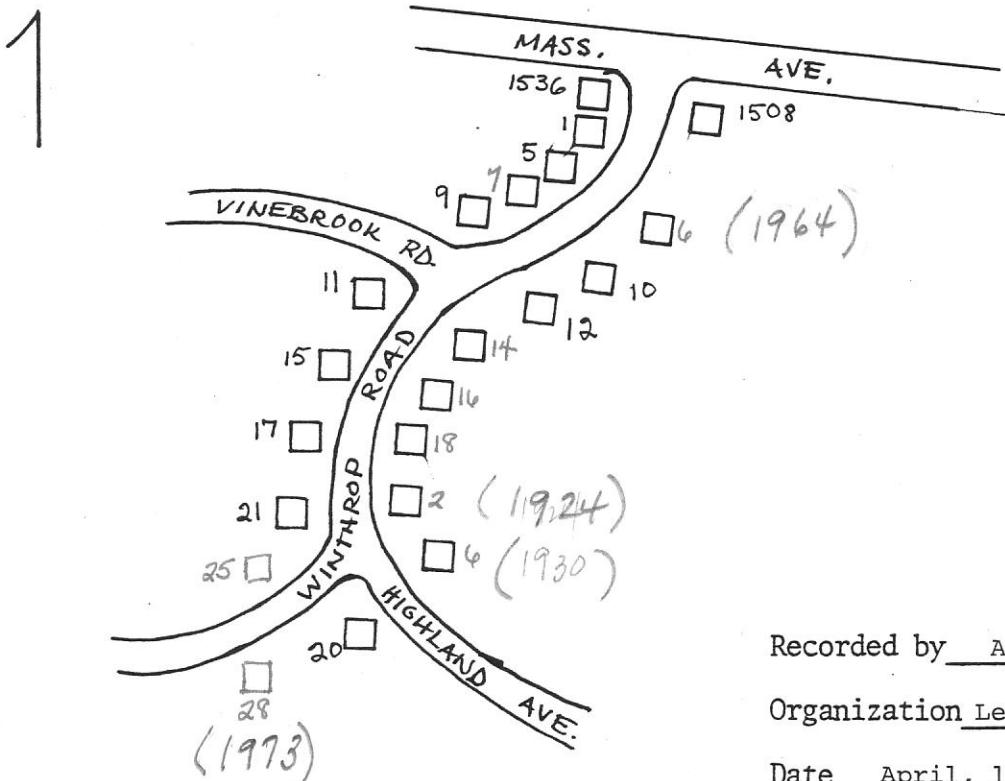


Lexington

of area (if any) Winthrop Road

1 date or period 1890-1910

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Winthrop Road rises gently from Massachusetts Avenue and, making a slight curve, joins Highland Avenue as though it was a continuation of that street. The actual westerly end of Winthrop Road, put in later in the twentieth century, is a road which turns to the west at the beginning of Highland Avenue.

There are over a dozen substantial houses in late nineteenth century and early twentieth century picturesque styles on the portion of Winthrop Road laid out in 1894. The house at 10 Winthrop Road is one of the most interesting Shingle Style dwellings in Lexington. The house at 1508 Massachusetts Avenue is an elegant composition of curved bays and expansive porches accented with dormers with semicircular pediments. It was probably designed by the same architect (Samuel D. Kelley) who designed two other buildings for the Sherburne family (one is at 276 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston; the other at 11 Percy Road, Lexington, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places). Houses at 1,

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

The land in the area of Winthrop Road was the part of the farm of Benjamin Merriam in the eighteenth century. Merriam's house, since moved to Woburn Street, was entered by the retreating British on April 19, 1775 and he suffered losses of £223. In the nineteenth century, the land passed to John Viles. Viles' daughter, Mary, inherited the property. She married Benjamin F. Tenney, a stockbroker, in 1860, and in 1893 they had David Tuttle, local contractor, build them the house at 1536 Massachusetts Avenue. Their daughter, Maud, married Frank Foster Sherburne, a member of the firm of Eastabrook and Company and a trustee of the Lexington Savings Bank. Sherburne's family had been summer residents of Lexington for a number of years, and about this time other members of the family took up permanent residence in the Percy Road area.

F.F. Sherburne and his wife built a large house adjacent to her parents' at 1508 Massachusetts Avenue in 1891. The local paper noted on August 3, 1894, "Mr. F.F. Sherburne has opened up a street on the old Viles place recently purchased by him, which enters Main Street between his and Tenney's house. He proposed to connect the street to Highland Avenue. The land opened up by this street is high and offers unusual advantages for building lots." The street was evidently intended to be on a lesser scale a haven for commuters similar to the Munroe Hill and Meriam Hill neighborhoods, and the same kind of substantial homes were built here. Construction did not proceed very quickly. By 1898 only four houses had been built. By 1906, however, most of the beginning of the street was built up.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume I, p. 174. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 692, 616. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

(see Continuation Sheet)