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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

Sanderson House
HISTORIC Munroe Tavern

AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Sanderson House: 1314 Massachusetts Avenue
Munroe Tavern: 1332 Massachusetts Avenue

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF Fifth

STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Middlesex CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Sanderson House: Lexington Minute Men, Inc.
Munroe Tavern: Lexington Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER Minute Men: 1332 Massachusetts Avenue
Historical Society: Box 514

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF STATE Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER 208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN Cambridge STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (MASS-550, Munroe Tavern)
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE 1941 and 1975 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress; Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Washington, DC; Boston STATE Massachusetts

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sanderson House and the Munroe Tavern are located on contiguous properties on the southerly side of Massachusetts Avenue (formerly Main Street) near the center of the Town of Lexington.

The Sanderson House is first mentioned in a deed of 1747, and it is suggested that it was built by local townsman John Mason, Jr. Mason's father lived across the street and the property of his father-in-law Joseph Loring was adjacent to his. John Mason, Jr. married Lydia Loring in 1731, thus suggesting a possible date for the house.

The Sanderson House is a story and a half and is covered with shingles stained nearly black. The house faces southeast with its gable end toward the street. Either side of the ridge roof has three small dormers, each with 6-over-6 sash. The house is six bays wide and three bays deep. Judging by the roof framing, it seems to have been built three bays at a time, the northern section toward the street being the older. The second three bays were undoubtedly added within a few years, for the architectural characteristics of the rafters of the two portions are similar but not identical.

The main facade has a slightly off center entrance with a porch of later vintage. The entrance is flanked by two windows (2-over-2 sash) to the right and three more closely spaced windows (2-over-2 sash) to the left. The large chimney is not quite on line with the door, being slightly to the right of center. The middle of the three dormers is slightly to the left of center.

The broad north gable end toward the street has two windows (2-over-2 sash) at the first story level paired on the left half of the elevation. The right half of this elevation has only one window (2-over-2 sash). In the gable peak there is one window (2-over-2 sash) and a small six-paned window immediately to its right.

A one-story ridge roof ell of later date has been added to the south gable end of the house. Two windows (8-over-8 sash) in the gable of the old house at the second story level may be seen, one on each side of the roof line of the ell. A second chimney rises from the roof of the old house at this south gable end.

The neighboring Munroe Tavern demonstrates the accretion of parts typical of old New England houses. The main block is composed essentially of three parts: 1) a two and a half story, center entrance, one-bay deep section which faces the street, 2) a two and a half story, two-bay deep ell on the south side with center entrance, gable roof and chimney at the southernmost end, and 3) a two-story, three-bay wide, nearly flat-roofed section of indeterminate date tucked into the L shape created by the right angle junction of the other two sections of the building. The section facing Massachusetts Avenue pre-dates 1719, and the southerly ell is c. 1695. The roof line at the point where these two sections join slopes back to accommodate that juncture making the Tavern seem to be hip-roofed when viewed from the southeast corner. A one-story ell extends from the rear of the house to which is attached at the westernmost end a modern greenhouse.

The main facade faces northeast toward Massachusetts Avenue and is five bays wide with windows of 6-over-9 sash. The second-story windows are placed with their lintels flush against the eave line of the house. Restoration in 1939 altered the door from an early Classical Revival with sidelights the full height of the door and a heavy,

continued

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sanderson House and the Munroe Tavern have stood comfortably side by side since the early eighteenth century. The early history of each involves ownership by members of Lexington's most prominent early settlers - the Sanderson House with the Mason family and the Munroe Tavern with the Buckman and Munroe families. However, it is their shared history in 1775 which gives them their lasting historical significance.

Sargeant William Munroe of the Lexington Minute Men and great-grandson of the first William Munroe (1625-1717) in Lexington, bought the tavern which was to be associated with his name from John Buckman in 1770. Two years later, his cousin, Mary Munroe, great-granddaughter of old William though by different descent, married Samuel Sanderson of Woburn and moved into the old house just south east of the Tavern. Sanderson, a corporal in the Lexington Minute Men and a carpenter-coffin-maker by trade, carried on his business in the cellar of his house.

On the night of April 18, 1775, Sargeant Munroe entertained Solomon Brown, back home in Lexington after a day in Boston. Brown told Munroe that he had passed a group of British officers on the road out from Boston. Munroe, suspecting trouble, gathered eight other Minute Men to guard the parsonage of Reverend Jonas Clarke where John Hancock and Samuel Adams were spending the night.

When fighting erupted between Colonials and British regulars, first in the early morning of the 19th and again in mid-afternoon as the British made their painful retreat toward Boston from Concord, Cpl. Sanderson and Sgt. Munroe were among Capt. Parker's troop of defending Minute Men. Molly Munroe Sanderson fled to her parents' home on Woburn Street, while Mrs. Munroe and her children escaped to the woods behind the Tavern when it was occupied the afternoon of the 19th by General Percy leading a relief force of British soldiers to rescue Col. Smith's exhausted regulars. Percy mounted two field pieces to cover the road, one on the hill behind the Sanderson House and the Tavern, the other across the street, closer to the Green.

Percy turned the Munroe Tavern into a field hospital to treat the many seriously wounded men of Col. Smith's demoralized troops. Spacious as the Tavern was, it was insufficient to hold all those who needed care, so at least one man was deposited at the Sanderson House. When Molly Sanderson returned to her home late in the afternoon after the British had left Lexington she found the cow which had been part of her dowry slaughtered wantonly and a bleeding British soldier in the bed. Years later, she would recall that she gave him such a tongue-lashing in broad Scots that he was afraid to eat the food she gave him for fear of being poisoned. According to at least one source, the soldier, a German, recovered and lived in Lexington for many years.

continued

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, Volumes I & II. Revised and continued to 1912. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, Co. 1912.
Interim Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission Pertaining to the Lexington-Concord Battle Road. Government Printing Office, 1959.
Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Volume I, 1889; Volume III, 1905.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 77,234 square feet (1½ acres)

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	317680	4700980	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary begins at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Tavern Lane and runs southeast along Massachusetts Avenue to the southeastern property line of the Sanderson House, thence along the west property line of said house to the southeastern property line of the Munroe Tavern, thence southwest to Tavern Lane, thence north along Tavern Lane to the point of beginning.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Anne Grady and Elizabeth W. Reinhardt,

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor and Lexington Historical Commission

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

Mar. 15, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 2

#7:

flat entablature, to its present appearance with simple triangular pediment, pilasters instead of sidelights and a row of transom lights. This restoration also changed the facade from three bays with windows of 2-over-2 sash to the present five bays.

The southern facade retains something of its older appearance. The central entrance has been altered from a tall, narrow door frame without lights and a plain entablature with projecting flat cornice, to a doorway with five transom lights and pilasters. The entablature has been widened to extend across the width of the pilasters. The facade keeps the older fenestration with two windows paired to the left of the entrance on the first floor, balanced by one larger window to the right. There are three second-story windows, one centered over the door and one to each side. The windows were changed from the nineteenth century 2-over-2 sash to their present 6-over-9 appearance. All wall surfaces of the Tavern are sheathed in clapboard and all windows are wood framed with wood sash.

The Sanderson House and Munroe Tavern are within Lexington's local district known as the Munroe Tavern Historic District, which was established under special act of the state legislature in 1956.

#8:

After the war, in which both Sanderson and Munroe did later service, both men returned to their previous occupations, one to his carpentry, the other to his inn-keeping. In 1789 George Washington ate but did not sleep at the Tavern. William Munroe kept the Tavern until 1815 when his son Jonas became innkeeper. The Munroe Tavern thus became one of the dozen taverns that flourished in Lexington in the early 19th century, servicing the drivers coming down from Vermont, New Hampshire and Canada on their way to the Brighton markets. Jonas Munroe, famous for his hospitality, kept the old Tavern open until 1848. It was the last public house in Lexington to close after the opening of the railroad lines to the north in the early 1840's completely changed the patterns of travel.

From 1848 until 1911, when it was acquired by the Lexington Historical Society from James S. Munroe, the Tavern remained in the hands of the Munroe family. The Historical Society has maintained the Tavern as a house museum open to the public from April to October.

Samuel Sanderson, after the Revolution, continued to build coffins in his house next to the Tavern until the end of the eighteenth century when the family moved to Lancaster, Mass. Samuel died there in 1802 and his wife returned to Lexington where she lived to be 104 years old, sharp-tongued and Scots to the end. A daguerrotype of Molly Munroe Sanderson hangs in the Munroe Tavern.

continued

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

#8:

After the Sandersons left, the house was briefly occupied by a wheelwright named Downing who left for Concord, New Hampshire c. 1820 and founded the famous Concord Stage Coach Co. Since then the Sanderson House has been in private hands until it was acquired by the Lexington Minute Men, Inc., a private, non-profit organization which claims a continuous existence from the eighteenth century company of Minute Men. The house is now open to the public as a museum of the Revolutionary period specializing in military artifacts.

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sanderson House and Munroe Tavern

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Elizabeth W. Reinhardt DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT 10 Eliot Road, Lexington, MA 02173

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Sanderson House: north end and east facade.

PHOTO NO. 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sanderson House and Munroe Tavern

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

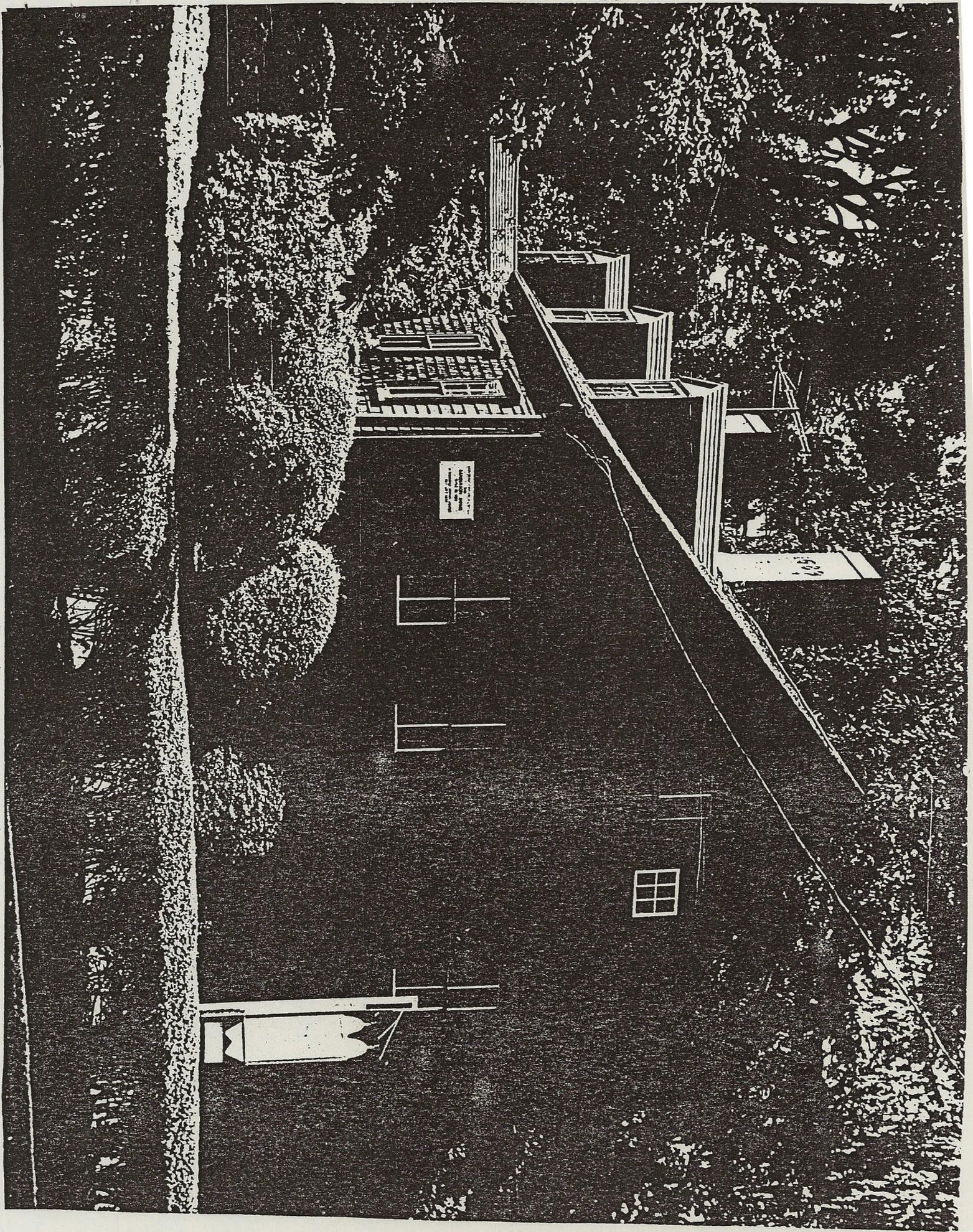
PHOTO CREDIT Elizabeth W. Reinhardt DATE OF PHOTO 1975

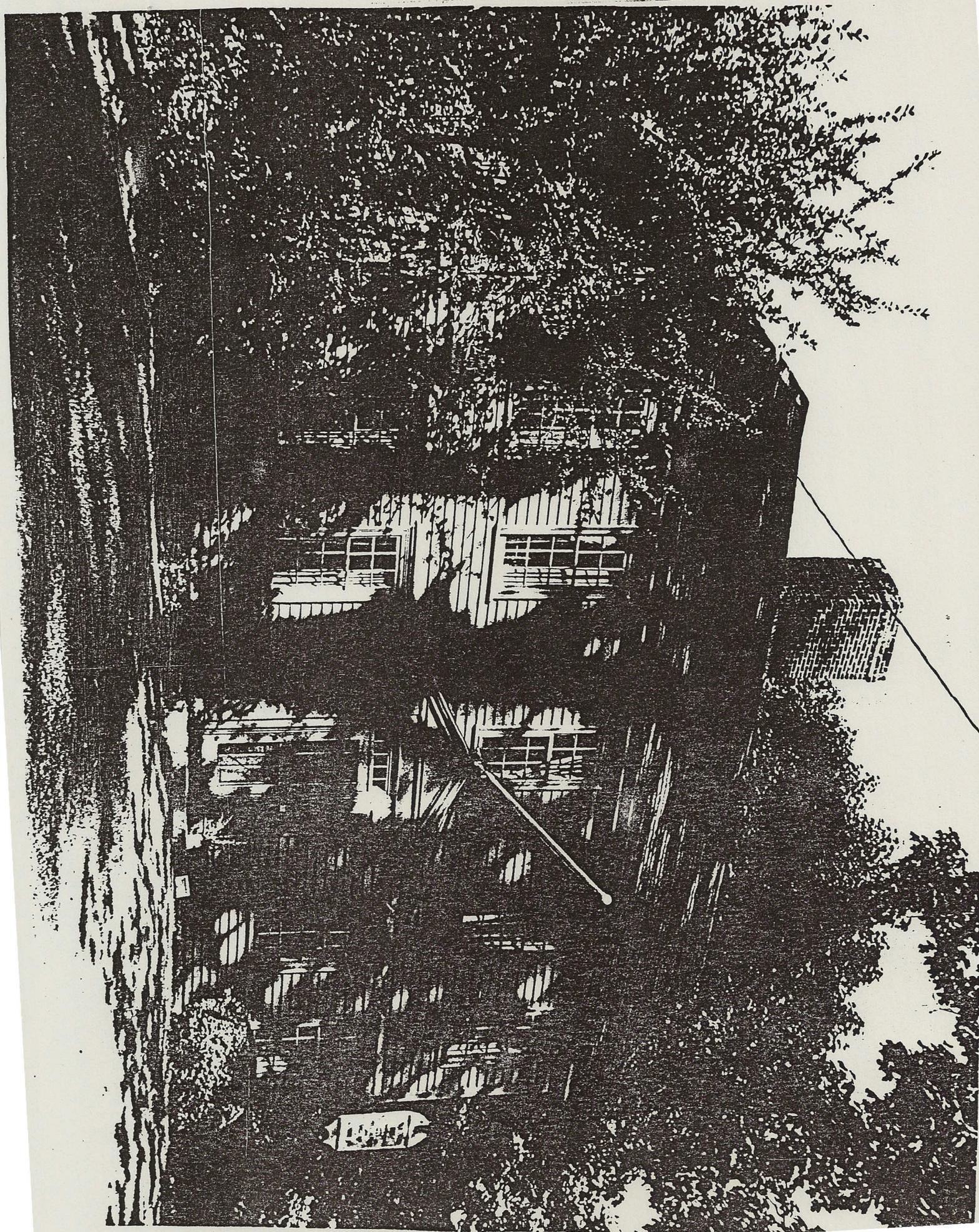
NEGATIVE FILED AT 10 Eliot Road, Lexington, MA 02173

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Munroe Tavern: looking west at facade.

PHOTO NO. 3





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sanderson House and Munroe Tavern

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Elizabeth W. Reinhardt DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT 10 Eliot Road, Lexington, MA 02173

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Sanderson House: east (main) facade.

PHOTO NO 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sanderson House and Munroe Tavern

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Raymond B. Barnes DATE OF PHOTO 1975

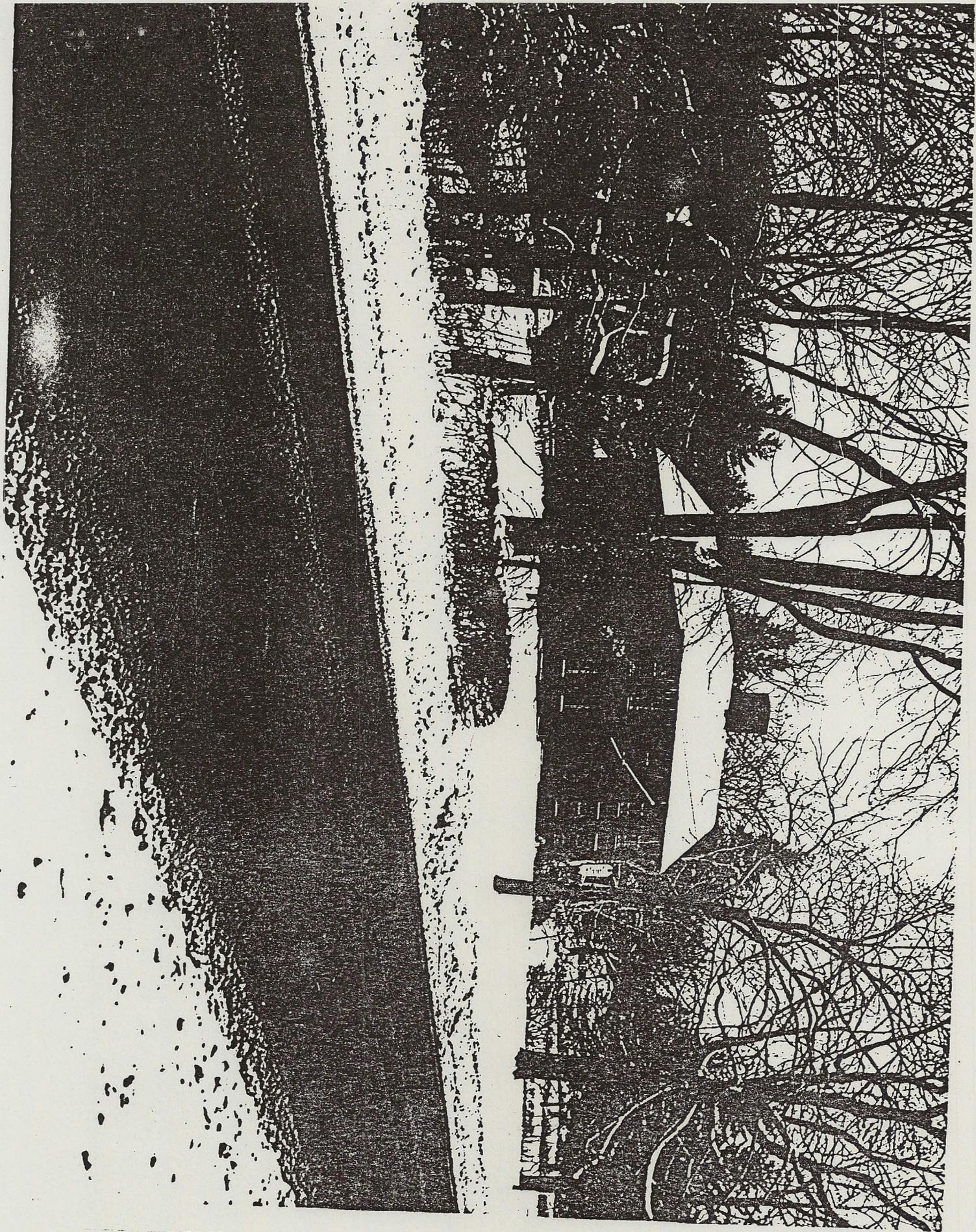
NEGATIVE FILED AT 59 Gleason Road, Lexington, MA 02173

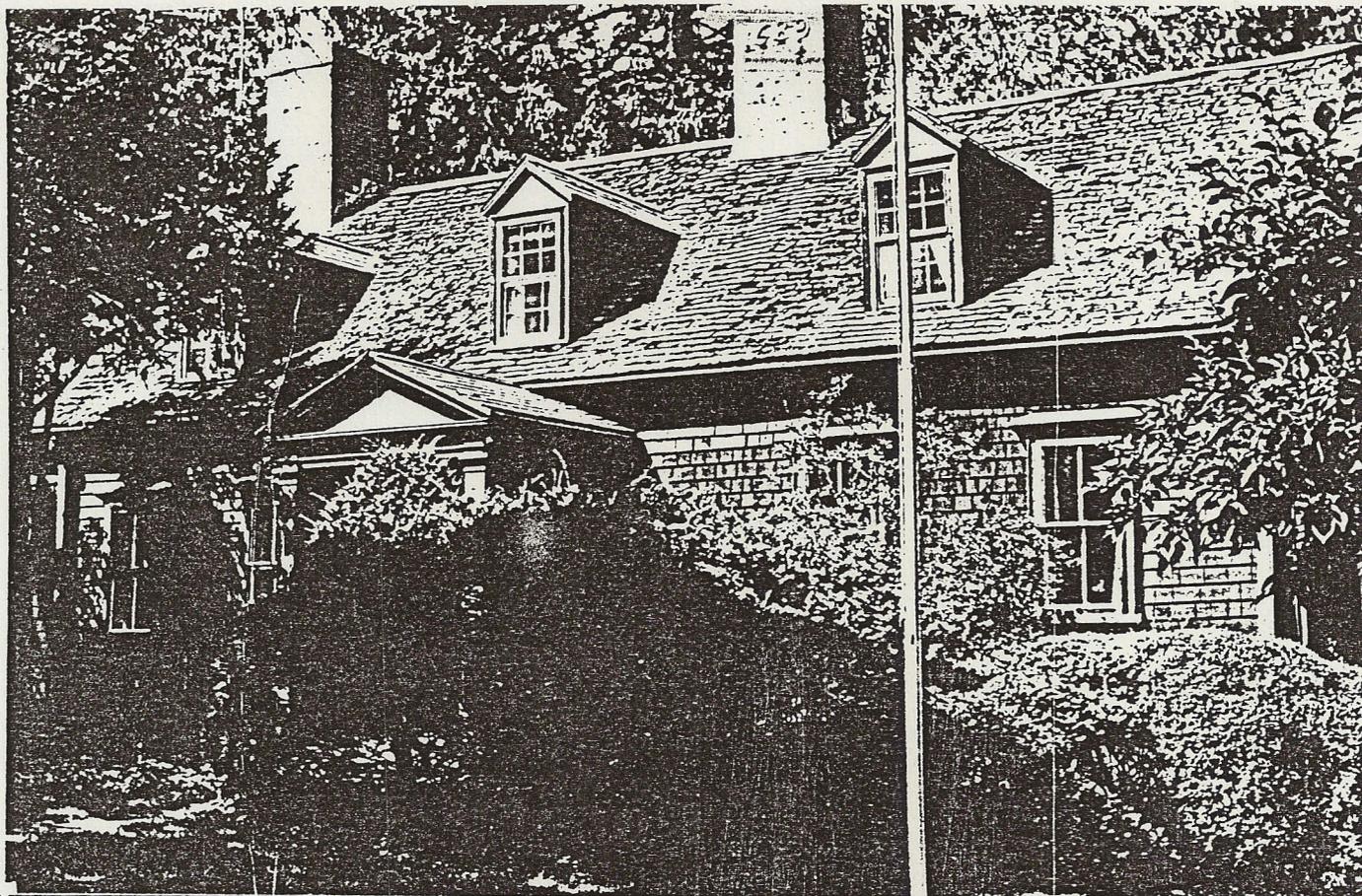
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Munroe Tavern: Looking northwest.

PHOTO NO 4





Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sanderson House and Munroe Tavern

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Sketch map, traced from Town Engineer's Map

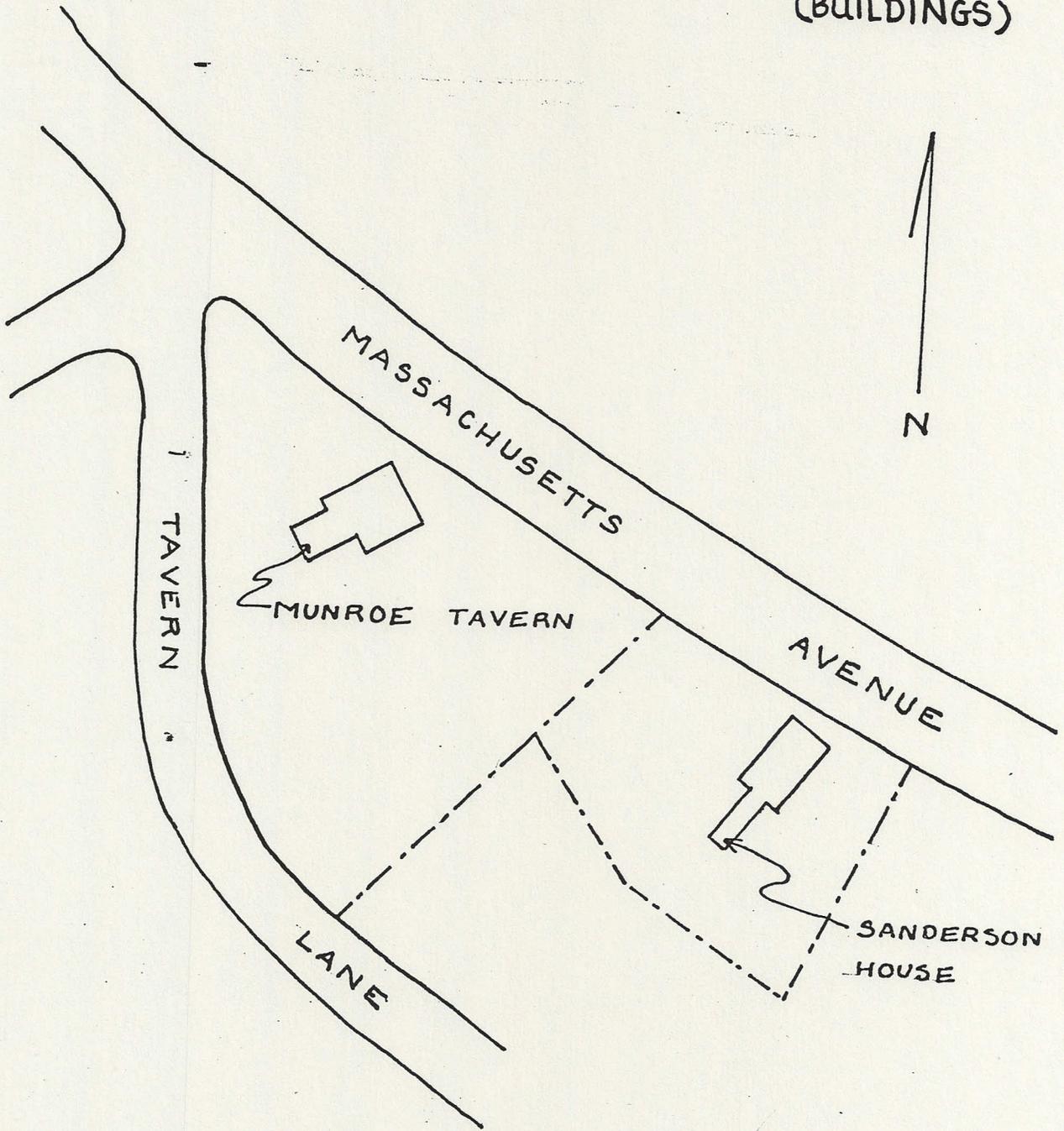
SCALE 1" = 100' DATE 1966

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

MUNROE SANDERSON DISTRICT
(BUILDINGS)



SCALE 1" = 100'

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sanderson House and Munroe Tavern

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

CITY/TOWN Lexington

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS, Lexington Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 346

27'30" 19.1 MI TO ... 19 MI. TO U.S. I.

