

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**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

HISTORIC
Simonds Tavern
AND/OR COMMON
same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
331 Bedford Street
CITY, TOWN
Lexington
STATE
Massachusetts
VICINITY OF
CODE
025
COUNTY
Middlesex
CODE
017
NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th

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 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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
John and Jean Shanahan
STREET & NUMBER
331 Bedford Street
CITY, TOWN
Lexington
STATE
Massachusetts 02173
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds
STREET & NUMBER
208 Cambridge Street
CITY, TOWN
Cambridge
STATE
Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth
DATE
1975
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Massachusetts Historical Commission
CITY, TOWN
Boston
STATE
Massachusetts
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Simond's Tavern is a free standing two-story, gabled block situated on the east side of Bedford Street immediately before its intersection with the highway Route 128, and about 1½ miles northwest of Lexington Center. The heavy traffic on Bedford Street detracts somewhat from the predominantly residential character of the neighborhood, as does Route 128. Despite these intrusions, Simond's Tavern remains unaltered.

Simond's Tavern is built on a granite faced, brick foundation with the gables to the side. The facade which faces west, the north elevation, and the east elevation are sheathed in clapboard. The south elevation is brick with bridged chimneys. The original Georgian house, c. 1795, is five bays wide, with a center entry and center chimney. A wing was added to the house about 1810; it is three bays wide with an entrance placed in the first bay, in an attempt to balance the facade proportionally.

The facade has been treated as a unit; the dentil course of the cornice continues uninterrupted for the full length of the building. The two entrances of the main facade are nearly identical with pilasters, a simple entablature and a projecting, flat cornice with modillions above a dentil course. The southern door, however, has a simpler and narrower architrave than the northern entrance.

Fenestration throughout is six-over-six sash. On the facade, the bays are equally proportioned except for the bay south of the south door, which is slightly wider; this tends to emphasize the distinction between the two sections of the building. Second floor window tops are flush with the cornice. On the north elevation, at the attic level, are two small windows placed close together. The windows of the east and south elevations are more randomly placed; all are original and are framed by a simple, flat molding.

Sheds and outbuildings to house animals were attached to the building and have since been removed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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

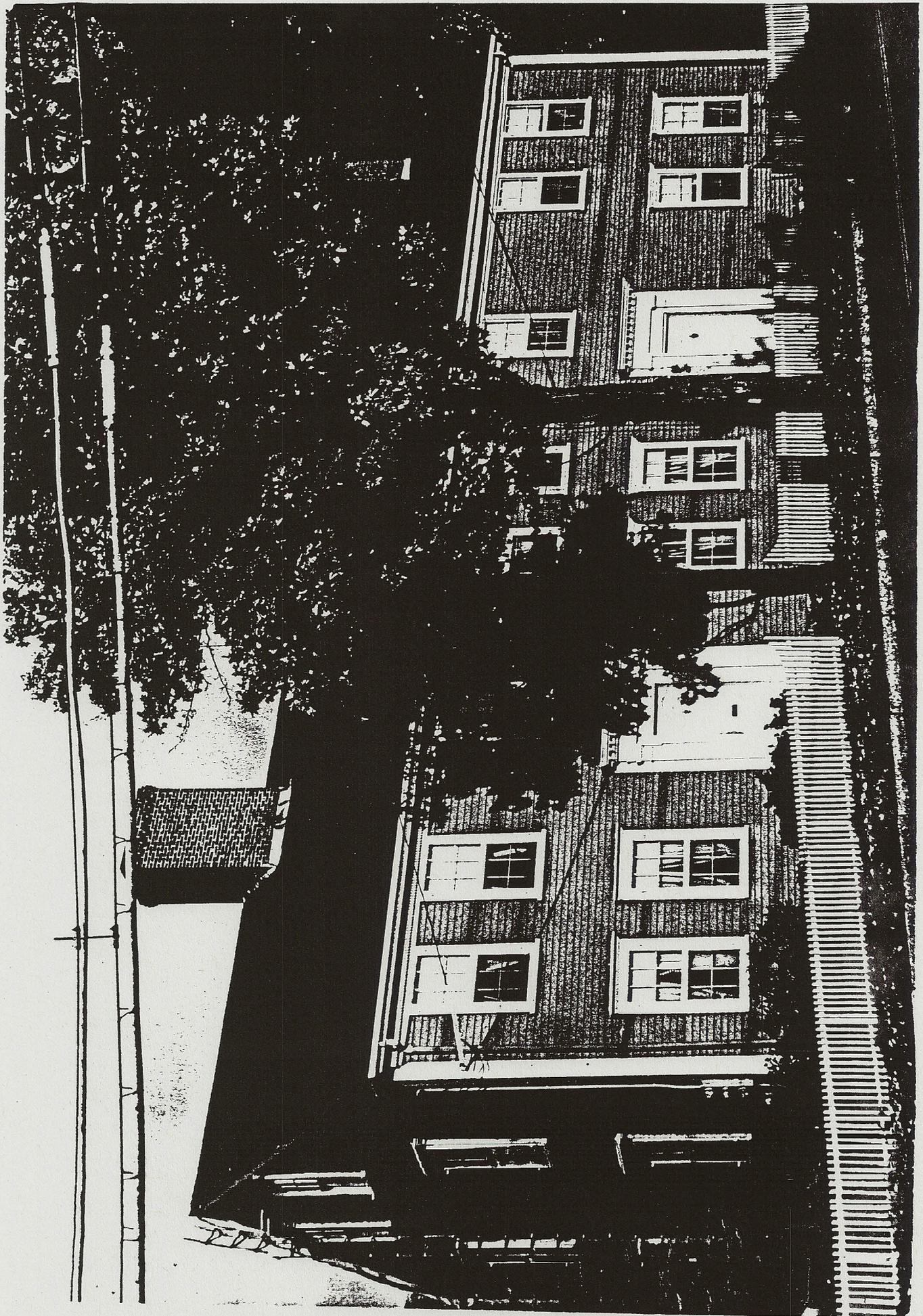
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Simonds Tavern is significant because of its association with the early settlers of Lexington and the commercial history of the Federal era of the Town.

The Simonds family arrived in Lexington in 1686 and were large landowners. In 1760, Joshua Simonds acquired thirty-six acres of land where the Tavern was later built. He was a member of Captain Parker's company of Minute Men and participated in the Battle of April 19, 1775. Joshua Simonds Jr. (1770-1858) inherited the land and built the original north section of the tavern about 1794, when he married Abigail Cutler of Lexington. He kept a tavern (now lost) on Monument Street (now Massachusetts Avenue), at the base of Fiske Hill, west of Lexington Center. Sensing the opportunity created by the growing traffic of drovers bringing cattle, sheep and turkeys to the Boston market from the north, in 1802 he opened a tavern in his house on Bedford Street. In 1806, Bedford Street was rebuilt west from the Lexington Green, replacing the older more circuitous route. Simonds' new tavern prospered because of the new road, and an addition was built in 1810. Joshua Simonds apparently found running two taverns too strenuous and closed the Bedford Street tavern in 1828. Since then, the building has served as a farmhouse and residence for a succession of Lexington families.

The present owners have meticulously preserved the magnificent interior panelling of the older north section.

Architecturally, Simonds Tavern is significant as one of the few double Federal houses in Lexington.

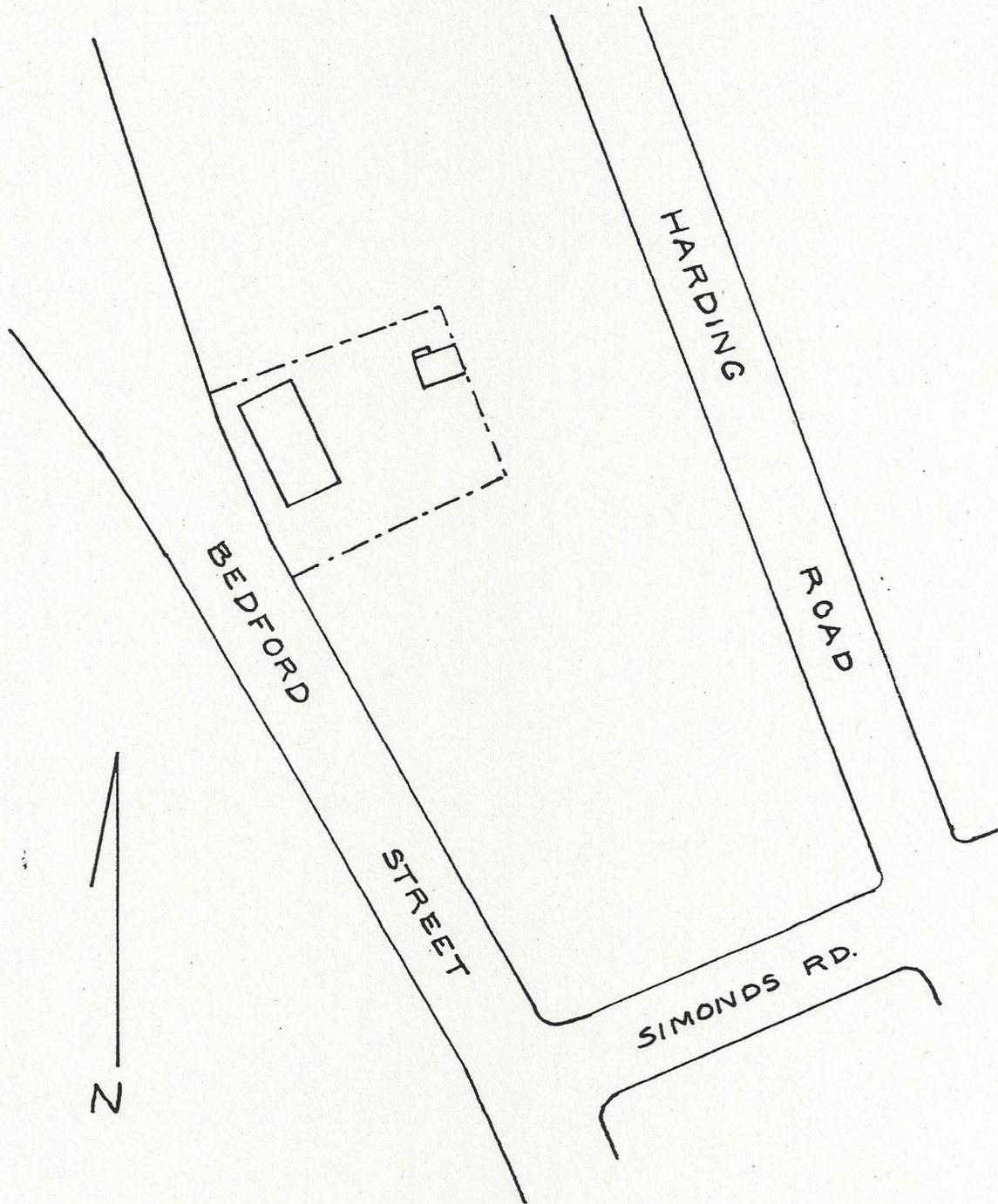


Simonds Tavern
Lexington, MA.
Elizabeth W. Reinhardt
1975
10 Eliot Road
Lexington, MA.

Facing north-west

Photograph #1

SIMONDS TAVERN
LEXINGTON, MA.



SCALE 1" = 100'
BASE MAP: TOWN ENGINEER (1966)

Simonds Tavern
Lexington, MA.
19/315560/4703920

