

FORM C – OBJECT

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

49/3	Boston North	AC, AG, B	904
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Town: Lexington

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Lexington Green

Photograph



Address or Location: Massachusetts Avenue

Name: Battle Line Boulder

Ownership: Public Private

Type of Object (*check one*):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> statue | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monument |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bust | <input type="checkbox"/> milestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group composition | <input type="checkbox"/> marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious shrine | <input type="checkbox"/> boundary marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (<i>specify</i>) | |

Date of Construction: 1884

Source: *Historic Monuments & Tablets Erected by the Town*

Designer/Sculptor: NA

Materials: granite

Alterations (*with dates*): none

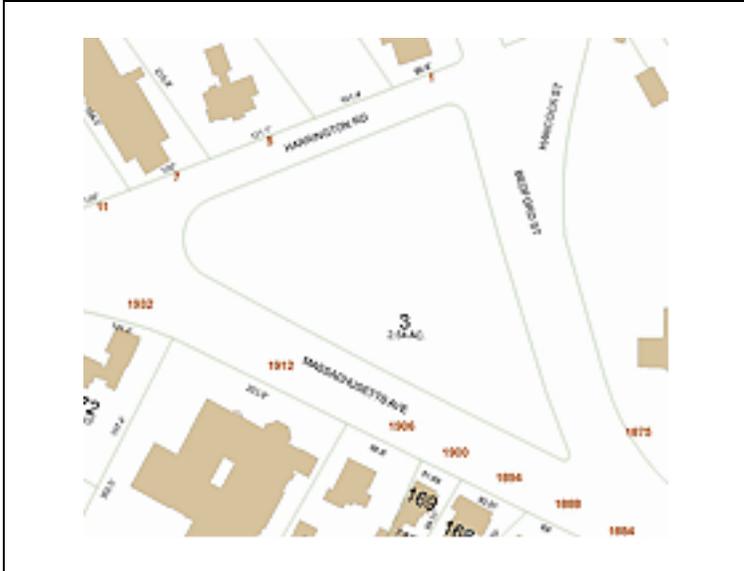
Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date**

Acreage: 2.54 acres (entire Green)

Setting: the Green

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): Oct. 2009

INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

MASS AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

B

904

___ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Describe the design features of the object and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.

The east end of the line formed by the Minute Men on April 19th is marked by a rough granite boulder near Bedford Street. On the smooth face are a raised flintlock musket and powder horn. Carved in deeply cut letters are the words Captain Parker reportedly spoke to his men.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain the history of the object and how it relates to the development of the community.

This monument was one of several erected by a historical committee on monuments established by Town Meeting in March 1884. A total of \$1500 was appropriated for the project and this monument cost \$245. The others include the Stone Cannon at 1475 Massachusetts Avenue, the Hayward Well Monument, the Bluff Monument and the Meetinghouses Marker on the Green.

The stone, weighing an estimated 12 to 15 tons, was hauled about two miles from the woods on the old Muzzey property in the western part of the town. The use of the native rough granite boulder was intended to symbolize the character of the men who fought on the Green on April 19, 1775. The stone was placed on a deep, firmly laid cemented foundation with the exposed section about six feet above the general level of the common.

The words inscribed on the marker were found in a letter of Theodore Parker's, giving some account of his ancestor.

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION *(if applicable):*

LINE OF THE MINUTE MEN
APRIL 19, 1775

STAND YOUR GROUND.
DON'T FIRE UNLESS FIRED UPON
BUT IF THEY MEAN TO HAVE A WAR
LET IT BEGIN HERE

CAPTAIN PARKER

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

Historic Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Town of Lexington 1884. Lexington: 1884, p. 13-14.

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington from its first settlement to 1868* (Revised and Continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913, vol. 1, p. 551.