

FORM C – OBJECT

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

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

	Boston North		
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Town: Lexington

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Photograph



Address or Location: Massachusetts Avenue at Woburn Street

Name: Triangle Marker

Ownership: Public Private

Type of Object (*check one*):

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

Date of Construction: c.1920

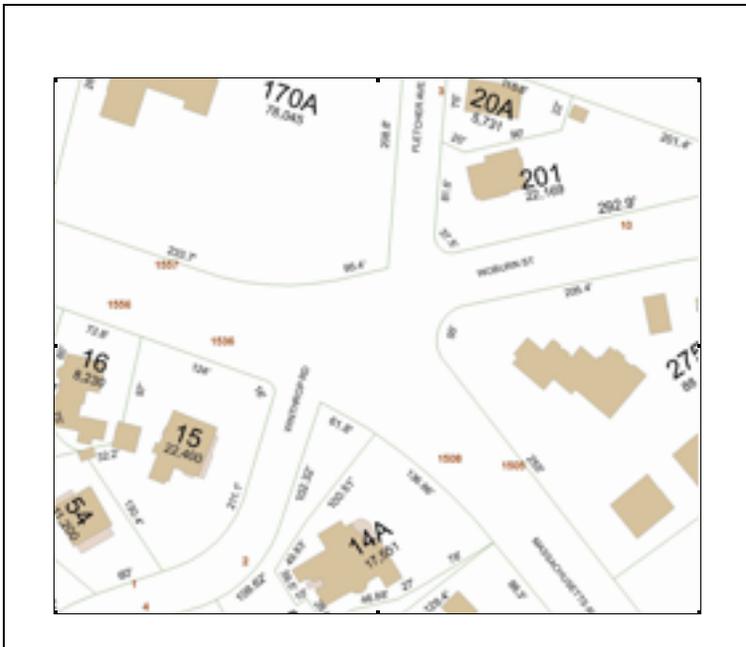
Source: see text

Designer/Sculptor: Lebanon Machine Co.

Materials: cast metal

Alterations (*with dates*): none

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date**

Acreage: NA

Setting: triangular landscaped island in middle of road, junction of Mass. Ave., Woburn St., Fletcher Ave.

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

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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 metal signboard located in the triangular island at the corner of Woburn Street and Massachusetts Avenue is mounted between two metal posts and displays an arched top. Raised, painted letters offer the distance to neighboring towns accessible via Massachusetts Avenue as well as local landmarks. A small supplementary sign mounted on the top states the mileage to additional towns (Woburn, Winchester and Stoneham) which can be reached from Woburn Street.

Raised (but unpainted) letters at the bottom of the signboard indicate that it was manufactured by the Lebanon Machine Company of Lebanon, New Hampshire.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

This metal directional marker appears to have been erected by the Lexington Field and Garden Club c.1920. The Club was initially formed by a small group of public-spirited and progressive men in 1876 but was formally incorporated in 1891. It was dedicated to preserving and enhancing certain town assets including its aesthetics. Among its projects was the improvement of the land in front of the Lexington Center Depot (Emery Park), maintaining Hastings Park and improving and protecting the appearance of the Green. The triangle at the junction of Hancock and Revere Streets was one project as was the triangle in East Lexington at the junction of Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant Street.

The Field and Garden Club's involvement in the triangular plot at the junction of Massachusetts Avenue and Woburn Street is noted in general terms in the town history (Hudson, vol. 1, p. 486). A brief mention appearing in the *Lexington Minute-man* on October 6, 1906 notes that the Club had recently finished the triangle at Woburn Street and Massachusetts Avenue. No additional information is given.

Cursory research into the maker of the sign, Lebanon Machine Co. of Lebanon, New Hampshire suggests that it was manufactured in the late 1910s or early 1920s. Directories indicate that the company opened for business sometime between 1915 and 1919; it is no longer listed in the Lebanon directory of 1929. An advertisement in the 1924 directory indicates that they were makers of traffic beacons, street signs and markers, guide boards and traffic controllers.

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MASS AVE.

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ENTIRE INSCRIPTION *(if applicable):*

Main sign:

TOWN OF
LEXINGTON
MASSACHUSETTS AVE.
4 < BEDFORD
5 < LINCOLN
5 < WALTHAM
7 < CONCORD
16 < LOWELL
ARLINGTON >5
BOSTON > 12

< HANCOCK-CLARKE HOUSE
< OLD BELFRY
< BATTLE GREEN
< BUCKMAN TAVERN
MUNROE TAVERN >
JONATHAN
HARRINGTON
> HOUSE

Top piece:

WOBURN ST.

5 > WOBURN
6 > WINCHESTER
9 > STONEHAM

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

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. 486-7.

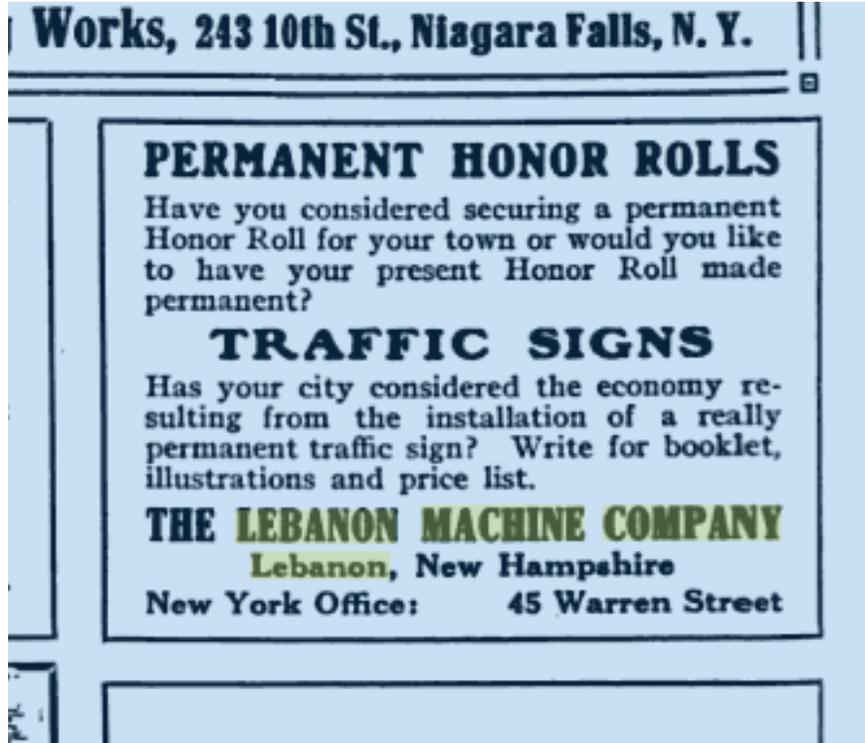
Lebanon, NH Directories, 1915-1929.

Lexington Minute-man, October 6, 1906.

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1919 Advertisement