

# 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	903
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**Town:** Lexington

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*): Lexington Green

**Address or Location:** Massachusetts Avenue

**Name:** Meetinghouses Marker

**Ownership:**  Public     Private

**Type of Object** (*check one*):

- statue
- monument
- bust
- milestone
- group composition
- marker
- religious shrine
- boundary marker
- other (*specify*)

**Date of Construction:** 1884

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

**Designer/Sculptor:** NA

**Materials:** granite

**Alterations** (*with dates*):

**Condition:** good

**Moved:**  no     yes    **Date**

**Acreage:** 2.54 acres (entire Green)

**Setting:** the Green

**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

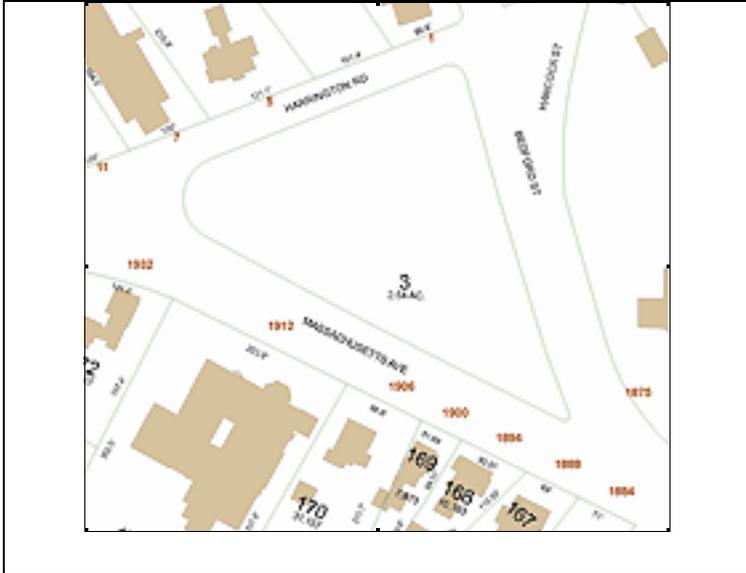
**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

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

## Photograph



## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET**

LEXINGTON

MASS AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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 monument consists of a single block of red Jonesboro granite resting on a base of Fox Island granite, representing a reading desk with a closed, polished book upon it. It is located on the site of the first three meetinghouses built in Lexington. It was oriented to face south to reflect the fact that the pulpit in at least two of the meetinghouses faced south. The closed book indicates that the civic and religious history of 150 years enacting on this spot is complete. Sunken polished panels on the front and rear provide a chronology of the three meetinghouses and the names of the pastors.

**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 at \$345, was the costliest of the memorials erected at that time. The others include the Stone Cannon at 1475 Massachusetts Avenue, the Hayward Well Monument, the Bluff Monument and the Battle Line Boulder on the Green.

**ENTIRE INSCRIPTION** *(if applicable):*

SITE OF THE FIRST THREE MEETING  
HOUSES IN LEXINGTON  
I. BUILT 1692 WHEN THE TOWN WAS A  
PARISH OF CAMBRIDGE  
II. BUILT 1713 ON THE INCORPORATION OF  
LEXINGTON  
III. BUILT 1794. BURNED 1846. THIS SPOT IS  
THUS IDENTIFIED WITH THE TOWN'S  
HISTORY FOR 150 YEARS

## PASTORATES

BENJAMIN ESTABROOK	1692-1697
JOHN HANCOCK	1698-1752
JONAS CLARKE	1755-1805
AVERY WILLIAMS	1807-1815
CHARLES BRIGGS	1819-1835
WILLIAM G. SWETT	1836-1839
JASON WHITMAN	1845-1846

**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. 504

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