

FORM B – BUILDING

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

57/144	Boston North		
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town: Lexington

Place: (neighborhood or village)

Photograph



Address: 45 Bedford Street

Historic Name: Lexington Fire Headquarters

Uses: Present: Fire Station

Original: Fire Station

Date of Construction: 1946

Source: Minute-man, June 19, 1947

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Leland & Larsen

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: brick

Roof: asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (with dates):

Condition: good

Moved: no | x | yes | | **Date** _____

Acreage: 1.39 acres

Setting: busily traveled road between Rt. 128 and Lexington Center

Topographic or Assessor's Map



Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year): December 2009

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

45 Bedford Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

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.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The Lexington Fire Headquarters at 45 Bedford Street is a brick structure designed in the Colonial Revival style which was favored for the town's buildings in the early to mid 20th century. The northern portion of the structure is a two-story side-gabled residential structure with 8/8 and 8/12 windows, brick quoins, a Classically-inspired door surround, exterior chimney and curved first floor bay. The southern section consists of a three-bay, gablefront garage with cupola. The garage section is outlined by quoins with cornice returns and a fanlight centered at the top of the gablefront.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Lexington Board of Fire Engineers first discussed the idea of a new fire station and location to replace the Meriam Street station in 1943. At a special town meeting in Jun 1944, town meeting approved the current location and voted \$3600 to purchase the land from Mrs. John Phelps. The sum of \$3,750 was appropriated to draw plans and specifications. The building committee consisted of George W. Emery, Donald E. Nickerson, George C. Sheldon, Gordon D. Richards and Aiden L. Ripley. The architects were Leland & Larsen who later served as architects for alterations to the First Parish Church in 1948, the Harrington School in 1955 and the Hayden Recreation Center in 1956.

At town meeting in 1945 \$110,000 was appropriated to build the new fire headquarters. Twelve firms were invited to submit bids and Tredennick-Billings Co. of Needham were subsequently awarded the contract. Work started in April 1946 and construction was completed in the spring of 1947. On June 8, 1947, after sixty years on Meriam Street, the Fire Department moved into its new building. At the time of its completion, the *Minute-man* noted that it is "unique in that none of the living quarters are over the apparatus floor – an idea that saved considerable money" (June 19, 1947, p. 10).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hinkle, Alice and Andrea Cleghorn. *Life in Lexington 1946-1995*: p. 13.

Lexington Minute-man, June 19, 1947.

Massachusetts State Archives, Building Inspector Plans.

Worthen, Edwin B. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Mass. 1620-1946*: p. 133.