

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14/123	Boston North		
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**Town:** Lexington

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

**Address:** 29 Fern Street

**Historic Name:**

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** c.1900 (betw. 1898 and 1902)

**Source:** maps, deeds

**Style/Form:**

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: clapboards

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

Date? – addition under first floor porch and to east

**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no | x | yes | | **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Acreage:** 0.85 acre

**Setting:** mixed 19<sup>th</sup> century residential on narrow road off Pleasant Street

## Photograph



## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Feb. 2010

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

LEXINGTON

29 FERN STREET.

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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.*

Set above a stone wall on the north side of Fern Street, 29 Fern Street is a 2 ½-story gablefront dwelling which is sheathed in clapboards and rests on a rubble foundation. The gablefront displays projecting eaves that end in returns and a smaller two-story gable projection with returns is located on the west elevation. The façade is spanned by an unusual, two-level porch with hip-roofed hoods on the lower level sheltering a 2/2 window and a doorway. Above this is a sunporch enclosed by continuous 2/2 windows. A two-story addition extends to the east of the porch. Windows include a mix of original 2/2 sash and modern 1/1 units. A single-story hip-roofed bay at the rear shelters another entrance.

**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 early history of this property is somewhat unclear. The 1898 map does not show a house on the land. A 1902 Plan (Plan Book 137, Page 46) indicates that the house was then present, owned by Maude E. Sim (wife of William Sim). The 1906 map also shows the house present but indicates it was still owned by the Isaac Buttrick estate (also shown as the owner of the land on the 1889 map). There is no apparent familial relationship between the Buttricks and the Sims. William Sim was a carpenter and according to the 1910 Census, was living on Mass. Ave.

Fred and Mabel Longbottom were living here (then 23 Fern Street) by 1922. He was a carpenter. The property was sold to Miss Harriet Shaw, a teacher, prior to 1928 and she sold it in 1944. It has been owned by Albert Whitcomb since 1945.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Hudson, Charles. *History of Lexington, Massachusetts*, vol. 2, p. 619.

Lexington Directories, various dates.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

U.S. Census, various years.

Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998.

1898, 1906 maps

