

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

14/128	Boston North		
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Town: Lexington

Place: (*neighborhood or village*)
East Lexington

Address: 3 Fern Street

Historic Name: William B. Foster Property

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: c.1900 (between 1898 and 1906)

Source: maps

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: rubble

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
shed

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Date? – several additions, new windows

Condition: good

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

Acreage: 0.49 acre

Setting: intersection of Fern and Pleasant Streets

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

3 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.

Located at the junction of Fern and Pleasant Streets, 3 Fern Street is a 1 ½-story, gablefront dwelling dating to the turn-of-the-20th century. Set on a rubble foundation, it is sheathed in wood clapboards. The gablefront is spanned by a shed-roofed porch supported by burned posts with a spindle balustrade. Adding interest to the simple rectangular plan are several polygonal bay windows and a small gable projecting from the north half of the gablefront. The sidehall entry contains a glass and panel door and the opening beside it has been replaced by a multi-light picture window. Windows include original 6/6 sash and later replacement windows. The second story windows on the side elevations are smaller and are tucked under the eaves. Additions have been added to the north and rear.

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.

This house was constructed for William B. Foster (b. 1846 in Michigan) who lived at 7 Fern Street and purchased the property in 1899 from Eunice Harris. Foster became a resident of Lexington in 1882. He was in the real estate business and was a Mason. He held various town offices – selectman, fire engineer, board of health, constable and chief of police – and was also a trustee of the Lexington Savings Bank. The house had not been built at the time of the 1898 map but is depicted on the 1906 map. He also owned 15 Fern Street.

Foster continued to own the house at 3 Fern Street and rent it out until 1922 when he sold it to Pearl Stoney, widow of Benjamin Stoney, and formerly of Arlington. Mrs. Stoney continued to own the property until 1952. Later owners included Stanley Thomas Olen (1952-1960), Vincent Allia (1960-1) and Russell and Marion Morash (1961-1975).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hudson, Charles. *History of Lexington, Massachusetts*, vol. 2, p. 226.

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