

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

50/179    2239

**Town/City:** Lexington

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

## Photograph



Front (façade) and right side elevations

**Address:** 15 Lake Street

**Historic Name:**

**Uses:** Present: residential

Original: residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1906-25

**Source:** historic maps, town directories, style

**Style/Form:** Dutch Colonial Revival

**Architect/Builder:**

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: artificial siding and trim

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

Detached garage/barn

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

Artificial siding, replacement windows, rear addition (L 20<sup>th</sup> – E 21<sup>st</sup> c)

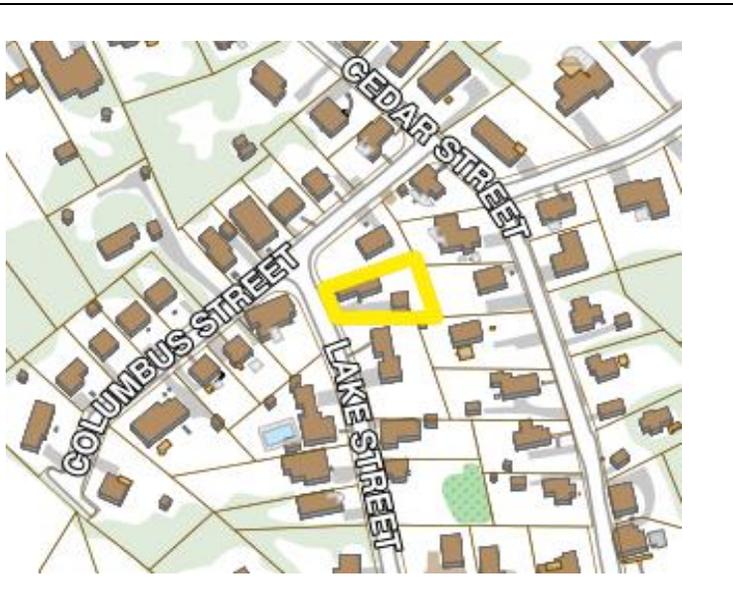
**Condition:** good

**Moved:** no  yes  **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.22

**Setting:** Residential side street between Massachusetts Avenue and Columbus Street. Heterogeneous collection of late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century housing, with small cluster of L 19<sup>th</sup> century cottages at intersection with Columbus. Several recent mega-mansions appear in the streetscape.

## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Wendy Frontiero

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): September 2015

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

15 LAKE STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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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.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

15 Lake Street occupies a long trapezoidal lot, with a modest front setback and narrow setback on the left side. Generally flat, the surface of the lot is dominated by concrete pavers, which form a U-shaped parking area/drive in front of the house and a long, wide driveway to the right of the house. The house consists of a 1 ¾ story main block and a larger, 2-story rear addition.

The main block rises from a fieldstone foundation with deeply recessed joints to a front gambrel roof. Walls are clad with artificial siding and trim. Windows are typically 6/6 and 8/8 double-hung replacement sash on the main block, 8/8 on the rear addition. The front façade contains a full-width, hip-roofed porch with modern posts and railings. The offset entrance has a single-leaf, period door with multiple wood panels and a square glass pane. Paired windows are set to the left on the first floor. Two windows are symmetrically set on the second floor of the façade, with a small window centered in the peak of the gambrel.

The left side elevation has two widely spaced windows on the first floor and two shed dormers, each with one window, on the second floor. A narrow two-story rear addition at the left side of the main block appears to have a pitched roof and one window at the second floor. The right side elevation of the main block contains two pairs of windows on the first floor and two shed-roofed dormers of varied sizes on the lower slope of the gambrel.

The large rear addition projects several feet to the side of the main block and rises to a large, steeply pitched gambrel roof. Its narrow front face (oriented towards the street) contains a single-leaf door under a small covered portico with wood steps. The long right side elevation of the rear addition has paired and tripled windows at the first floor. A shed-roofed dormer runs the entire length of the addition and encompasses one pair of large windows and three smaller, loosely grouped windows on the second floor.

The outbuilding at the back right corner of the lot is 1 ½ stories high with a tall, front gable roof. Sheathed in wood or artificial clapboards, its façade contains an offset, single-bay garage door and a single-leaf pedestrian door on the ground floor, a blind window opening centered above, and a vestigial hoist beam element near the peak. The side walls of this outbuilding are constructed of small ashlar blocks; one window is centered in the right side elevation.

Well maintained, the original house at 15 Lake Street has suffered from the application of artificial siding and trim and the dominating scale of the rear addition. Nonetheless, it survives as an example of early suburban development in an outlying area of town. The house is notable for its front gambrel form, front porch, and the unusual composition and materials of its early outbuilding.

## 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.*

Lake Street appears on the town maps between 1875 and 1898. By the latter year, and at least through 1906, only four houses were dispersed along the street. No building is shown at this location in 1906. The 1922 directory lists no house numbered 15, although this building may have existed by that time. Mindful that street re-numbering (which was prevalent in Lexington in the early 1930s) may have occurred, a possible candidate for this property is the last odd-numbered house on the street in 1922, #11. That address was occupied by Jessie Ferry, a tree worker, and his wife Elsie. By 1935, house now numbered 15 was occupied by Norman C. Carr, an iceman with A. G. Davis Ice Co., and his wife Mabel H. From at least 1945 through 1965, the

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house was occupied by Edwin H. Wilbur, a mechanic. In 1945, he was accompanied by his son Edwin R., a mechanic, and daughter-in-law Constance E. In 1955, septuagenarian Leona Dunphy was also living here.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Historic maps and atlases: Walling 1853; Beers 1875; Walker 1889; Stady 1898; Walker 1906; Sanborn 1908, 1918, 1927, 1935, 1935/1950.

Lexington Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey, Period and Area Summaries.

<http://historicsurvey.lexingtonma.gov/index.htm> Accessed Jul 23, 2015.

Lexington Directories: 1899, 1908-09, 1913, 1915, 1918, 1922, 1926, 1932, 1934, 1936.

Lexington *List of Persons*: 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Lexington." 1980.

U.S. Census: 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940.

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**SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES**



Front (façade) elevation



Garage: Front (façade) elevation



Garage: Front (façade) and right side elevations