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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Lexington Green Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Triangle formed by intersections of Massachusetts Avenue, Bedford Street,
and Harrington Road

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF Fifth
STATE Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY Middlesex CODE 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Lexington VICINITY OF STATE Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER 208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN Cambridge STATE Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth
HABS (Buckman Tavern, MASS-547 and Harrington House, MASS-548)

DATE 1967; 1941, 1962, 1963 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Massachusetts Historical Commission; Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Boston; Washington, DC STATE Massachusetts 02108

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lexington Green Historic District consists of thirteen properties surrounding the Lexington Battle Green. The Green itself is a National Historic Landmark in recognition of the encounter between the patriot Minute Men and British troops which took place there on April 19, 1775. Of the contiguous properties surrounding the Green, three of the existing structures were witnesses of that battle. Most of the remaining structures were built within the next half century after the close of the Revolution. Thus, the area is visually and architecturally coherent, preserving a pleasant human scale in the buildings which face the shaded park space of the Green.

The commercial district of Lexington Center begins immediately to the east of the Green area on Massachusetts Avenue. Design control exercised by the local historic district commission and beautification efforts in the mid-1960's by local architects have combined to keep the business center of the town compatible with the Green.

The architectural highlight of the district is the First Parish Church (#6). Designed in 1847 by Isaac Melvin, Cambridge architect and later partner of Ammi B. Young, this handsome Classical Revival building stands at the northwest corner of the Green. The main block is two stories high with a ridge roof. From the front of this clapboard church projects a rectangular pavilion with a balustrade above the cornice. The side walls of the recessed entrance portico terminate in Ionic pilasters, the capitals of which match the two Ionic columns defining the space in front of the door. The door is framed by Ionic pilasters supporting a heavy flat entablature. The four-stage steeple is made up of a rectangular clock tower surmounted by an octagonal lantern, circular drum and octagonal spire. The front facade and the projecting pavilion are covered with flush boarding. Later additions include a low vestry to the rear, added in 1871 and enlarged in 1908. The porte-cochere over the driveway on the east side was also added in 1908.

In contrast to the First Parish Church is the Hancock Congregational Church (#8), designed by Walter J. Paine of Boston and built by Dodge Brothers of Somerville in 1892-1893. The original building is fieldstone and is two stories with a ridge roof running parallel to the street. On the east end is a square, buttressed tower with a pyramidal roof. An archway is cut through the tower, and to the right is the recessed entrance porch with a double arched doorway. From the roof of the western end of the original block emerges an extremely wide dormer clad in green slate in which is recessed a four-part diamond paned window strip. Below this, projecting forward from the facade is a five-sided bay surmounted by a conical roof. Originally of fieldstone, the bay is now covered with stucco scored to look like stone blocks in regular ashlar course. This treatment is continued in the 1950's addition to the west end of the building.

On the opposite side of the Green is the Masonic Building (#3). Built in 1822 to house the Lexington Academy, the original building had a tall ornamental cupola emerging from the pedimented end of the roof. Although this feature no longer survives, the basic two-story block and ell remain. The roof has had its present modified hip appearance and dentiled cornice since at least the 1890's and possibly earlier. The tripartite division of the main facade, marked now by foundation-to-cornice Tuscan pilasters at the corners and on each side of the door, has been a permanent feature of the building's appearance.

All three of the remaining pre-Revolutionary buildings facing the Green have been altered by restoration. The Jonathan Harrington House (#4) was remodeled in 1910 by owner Leroy Brown. Old views show a high hip roof, center entrance, center chimney dwelling which

continued

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lexington Green Historic District is most widely recognized as the scene of the Revolutionary War encounter of April 19, 1775. It is also significant as the focal point of the town's religious and civic history after it was set aside from Cambridge as the separate parish of Cambridge Farms in 1692. The area is associated with some of Lexington's most prominent families, notably the Munroes, Harringtons, Buckmans and Meriams.

One of the oldest buildings in the district is the Marrett and Nathan Munroe House (#9) which was built around 1730 by John Munroe, one of the earliest settlers in the green area. The house became the home of John's son Marrett in 1737, and at the time of the Revolution the house was occupied by Marrett's son Nathan.

The Harrington family was associated with at least three houses around the Green (#4, #5 and #12). The family was established in Lexington with the arrival from Watertown of two cousins, John and Robert Harrington, who came to the town around 1713. The earliest Harrington House on the Green was occupied in 1775 by Jonathon Harrington (grandson of the first John) who was mortally wounded in the fateful battle of April 19. In the 1820's the house was owned by shoemaker-philanthropist John Augustus who endeavored to teach his trade to young offenders of the law and inculcate in them more socially responsible habits, thus establishing one of the earliest systems of probation. Later in the nineteenth century the house was the center of the Chittenden and Burr clock makers' works.

Another of the earliest structures around the Green is the Buckman Tavern (#1) built around the time the town was incorporated in 1713. It was here that the Minute Men awaited the arrival of the British the night of April 18-19; in the mid-nineteenth century the Tavern became the residence of the Meriam family.

Also closely associated with the history of the town is the old Burying Ground behind the First Parish Church. The earliest stone dates from 1690 and later stones reveal the development of the art of slate-carving. Here the patriot dead were buried after the Battle and rested here until 1837 when, with great ceremony, the bodies were removed to a new grave near the 1799 Monument on the Green. Here also is the grave of Captain Parker who led the Minute Men, not only on April 19, 1775, but also at Bunker Hill.

From 1690 when the Parish of Cambridge Farms was established until 1846, the first Parish of Lexington had built its meeting houses on the Green. In 1846, after extensive refurbishing by architect Isaac Melvin, the third meeting house on that site burned to the ground. The present First Parish Church (#6), from designs of Melvin, was its replacement

continued

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Greeley, William Roger. Notes on the History of the First Parish Church in Lexington: 1691-1941.
- Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington. Vols. I and II. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin, 1912.
- Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society. Vols. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15.87 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	19	316500	4702120	B	19	316680	4701840
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	19	316540	4701700	D	19	316160	4701980

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION From Massachusetts Avenue at the northern side of Meriam Street, northeast to the Boston and Maine Railroad tracks, northwest along the western line of track right of way to Hancock Street, across Hancock Street along property line of #3 Bedford Street, across Bedford Street to northern property line of #1 Harrington Road, follow rear property lines of #1 Harrington Road to #7 Harrington Road, thus enclosing all of #5 Harrington Road, follow property line of #7 Harrington Road to boundary of the Old Burying Ground, continue around the Burying Ground to intersection with property line of #7 Harrington Road, southeast along line of #7 Harrington Road to (continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy D. Dobbs, National Register Editor, and Elizabeth W. Reinhardt, Lexington Historic

ORGANIZATION

DATE Commission

Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 30, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth Reed Amador

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE 3/30/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

#7:

is five bays wide and two deep. Brown's alteration removed the old chimney and replaced it with two smaller ones - one to the left of center and one on the eastern slope of the roof. Although the fenestration remains unchanged, the doorway was altered from one with a simple entablature supported by pilasters to the present modillioned and dentiled pediment over a door with crossetted surround flanked by Tuscan pilasters. Brown also altered the Marrett and Nathan Munroe House (#9) in 1915, resorting to similar devices.

Buckman Tavern (#1) (HABS and NHL) was also restored in the 20th century. Restoration in this case was more scholarly than with the Harrington and Munroe houses, and a genuine attempt to replicate the appearance of the tavern as depicted in Doolittle prints of the Battle of Lexington was made by local architect William Roger Greeley in the 1920's.

Of the two other-18th century houses facing the Green, the Nathaniel Harrington House (#12) is the most interesting. Reputed to be the first all-brick house in Lexington, it has been called the "honeymoon" cottage of the Harringtons. The main block of brick is five bays wide with a center entrance and a chimney at each end. The lintels of the door and all windows are simple granite slabs. The roof was altered in 1874 to a mansard, and restored to its original hip shape in 1926 by William Roger Greeley. It is probable that the door was modified at the same time, the fine dentil course of the cornice and the reeding of the frieze being more probably Colonial Revival than original. Later additions include the 1830 side porch and expansions of the kitchen area to the rear in 1920.

The district is located within the local district known as the Battle Green Historic District, established in 1956 by special act of the Massachusetts legislature.

#8:

The first occupant of the Academy Building (#3) was the Lexington Academy, which failed after ten years. In 1837 Horace Mann became the first head of the state's new Board of Education, and one of his reforms involved the establishment of Normal Schools for the training of public school teachers. In 1839 the first Normal School in the country began in the Academy Building in Lexington under the direction of Cyrus Pierce. Pierce was succeeded in 1842 by Reverend Samuel J. May, abolitionist, transcendentalist, and uncle of Louisa May Alcott. During May's direction of the school, it continued to grow until it was forced to move to larger quarters in Framingham in 1844. Samuel May also served a brief term as minister to the First Parish Church in 1843. The Lexington Academy Building was occupied by the congregation of the Hancock United Church of Christ from 1867, when the church was organized, until 1893, when the present Hancock Congregational Church (#8) was constructed. The Academy Building was also used as a Memorial Hall, with shops with living quarters above, an early movie theatre, and since 1917 as the home of the Simon W. Robinson Lodge of Free Masons.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

10:

Massachusetts Avenue, across Massachusetts Avenue to northwest property line of #1932 Massachusetts Avenue, follow property line of #1932 Massachusetts Avenue southwest, then southeast to intersection with property line of #1912 Massachusetts Avenue, continue across back line of #1912 Massachusetts Avenue to intersection with southeast property line of #1906 Massachusetts Avenue, follow line across southeast boundary of 1900 and 1894 Massachusetts Avenue to intersection with southwest property line of 1888 Massachusetts Avenue, follow southwest property line to north side of Clark Street, cross Massachusetts Avenue from north side of Clark Street to North side of Meriam Street.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 3

Justification for inclusion of the Visitors' Center in the Lexington Green Historic District:

The Visitors' Center (Town Information Center) (#13) was built in 1960. It faces the Green and is an integral part of the grouping of buildings in the district. Although a reproduction of an earlier style, the Visitors' Center is sensitively designed and blends in well with the rest of the area where visually it is not considered an intrusion.

The Visitors' Center is a white clapboard structure with a gambrel roof and is six bays wide and two bays deep. There are three front dormers and a brick chimney slightly to the right of the center dormer. The windows have black louvered shutters and have eight over twelve lights. The dormers have six over six lights. The entrance is situated slightly to the left of center and has double paneled doors.

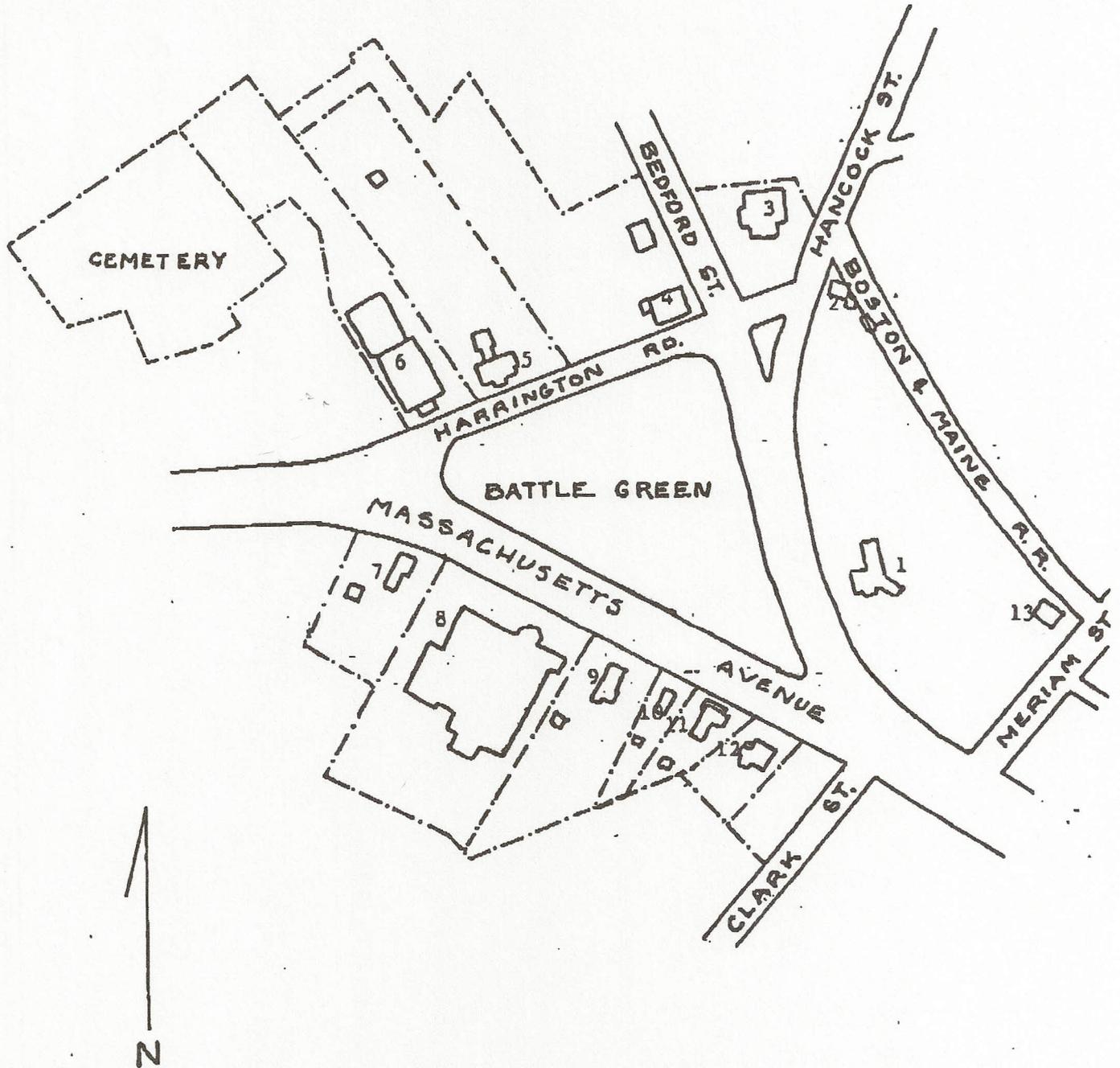
The southeast boundary of the Lexington Green Historic District is formed by the Boston and Maine Railroad and Meriam Street. The land on which the Visitors' Center and the Buckman Tavern stand is owned by the town and so it is logical to include the entire parcel in the district.

Lexington Green Proposed National Register District - Map Key

1. Buckman Tavern - 1713, (HABS) - 1 Bedford St. (National Historic Landmark)
2. Red Cross Building - Early 19th Century, put together from older components
3. First Normal School, Now Masonic Building - 1822 - 3 Bedford St.
4. Jonathon Harrington House, mid 18th Century - 1 Harrington Rd. (HABS)
5. George Harrington House, 1799 - 5 Harrington Rd.
6. First Parish Church, 1847 - 7 Harrington Rd.
7. 1932 Massachusetts Ave. , c.1850
8. Hancock Congregational Church, 1892 - 1912 Massachusetts Avenue.
9. Marrett and Nathan Munroe House, c1730 -1906 Massachusetts Ave.
10. 1900 Mass. Ave. - c. 1850
11. 1894 Massachusetts Ave. - c. 1850
12. Nathaniel Harrington House - c. 1790 - 1888 Massachusetts Ave.
13. Town Information Center, 1960 -

LEXINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Lexington Green Historic District



Town Engineer's Map
1976
1" = 200'



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Lexington Green
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lexington Green, Lexington Common, Battle Green

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Massachusetts Avenue, Harrington Road, and Bedford Street
CITY OR TOWN:
Lexington
STATE: Massachusetts CODE 025 COUNTY: Middlesex CODE 017

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Polly M. Rettig, Landmark Review Project
DATE OF PHOTO: November 1974
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey
1100 L Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
General view of Green from northwest; right foreground shows Revolutionary War monument; left background shows Buckman Tavern, also an NHL.



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1100 L Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
View across Green from east to west; boulder (foreground) and monument (background) showing line of Minute Men on April 19, 1775.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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Massachusetts

COUNTY

Middlesex

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Lexington Green

AND/OR HISTORIC: Lexington Green; Lexington Common, Battle Green

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Massachusetts Avenue, Harrington Road, and Bedford Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Lexington

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Middlesex

CODE

017

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Polly M. Rettig, Landmark Review Project

DATE OF PHOTO: November 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Historic Sites Survey

1100 L Street NW., Washington, D.C. 20240

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

General view of Green from south (intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Bedford Street); right foreground - Minute Man Statue