

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

49/37A & B	Boston North		
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## Photograph



**Town:** Lexington

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*)  
Central Business District

**Address:** 1780-1788 Massachusetts Avenue

**Historic Name:** Ribock Block

**Uses:** Present: commercial  
Original: commercial

**Date of Construction:** 1922

**Source:** Worthen, *Calendar History*, p. 117

**Style/Form:** Commercial

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

## Exterior Material:

Foundation:

Wall/Trim: brick, wood

Roof: tar and gravel

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

**Major Alterations (*with dates*):**  
Date? – storefront alterations

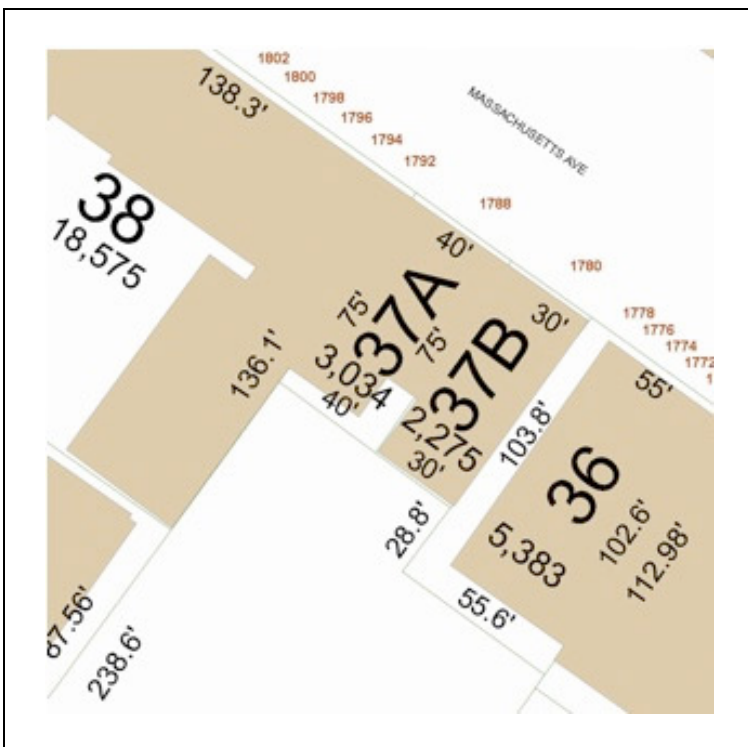
**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.12 acre

**Setting:** mixed downtown area

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date (*month / year*):** January 2010

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

LEXINGTON

1780 Mass. Ave.

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 Ribock Block is a single-story, simple, commercial building constructed of brick with a flat roof. Originally divided into five stores, the building now contains two remodeled storefronts. That to the east (#1780) has been Colonialized and features three wooden posts set on masonry bases with multi-pane windows resting on brick bases. The western storefront (#1786) retains three piers which appear to be original, constructed of multi-colored brick. The single-pane display windows are set into aluminum frames and set on later, red brick bases. Above the two signboards is the same multi-hued brick visible in the piers.

**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.*

Originally known as the Ribock Block, 1780-1788 Massachusetts Avenue was built in 1922 on the site of the Meserve House which was torn down. It originally consisted of five narrow stores (numbered 446 to 454 Mass. Ave.). Michelson's Shoes, the town's oldest family-owned business, has been located in the block since 1941.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Hinkle, Alice and Andrea Cleghorn. *Life in Lexington 1946-1995*.  
Middlesex South Register of Deeds, Cambridge, MA  
Sanborn Insurance Maps  
Town Directories  
Worthen, Edwin B. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620-1946*. Lexington: 1946.