

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

0063000082

Boston N.

702

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 20 Adams St.

Historic Name Freeman J. Doe House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1903

Source Minute-man; Schoenhut letter

Style/Form Craftsman

Architect/Builder Willard D. Brown

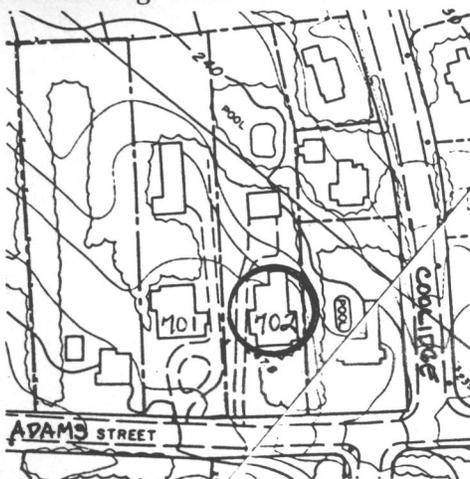
Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Garage



Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 0.75 A.

Setting On a heavily-trafficked residential street in a neighborhood of 19th- and early 20th-century houses with some later 20th-century infill

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) January 1998

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

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

20 Adams St. is one of the earliest examples of Willard Brown's work as well as one of Lexington's well-preserved high-style Craftsman houses. The house is basically rectangular with a rear ell and many projecting bays, 2½ stories in height, and has a side-gabled roof with an end ridge and a side chimney. It is on a fieldstone foundation, clad with wood clapboards, and has an asphalt shingle roof. The main entry is on the south side and the windows are small-paned casement and 6/1 double hung sash. In addition to its massing, this house has many details that emphasize its relationship to 18 Adams St. (MHC #701), most notably the modillions under a pent roof in the front gable, a similar feature in both houses. Other similarities are the facing side entrances, the numerous cross-gabled bays, the curved exposed rafter ends, and the curved fascia boards. The molded rafters under the front entry roof and oriel at this house are similar to, but slightly different from, those under the front entry roof at 18 Adams St. In addition, the arched cut-out with square shoulders between the paired porch posts at this house echoes the shape of the lights in the front door at 18 Adams St. Distinctive features of this house include the flattened Tudor arches and paired posts on both the front and side porches, the front oriel with a similar flattened Tudor arch window head and walls that flare outward at the base, the hip-roofed oriel with a dentil course at the cornice and small-paned windows facing 18 Adams St., shed-roofed dormers, and a gable-roofed rear ell. This house has a front-gabled, shingled three-car garage with flattened-arch doors with key blocks similar to those in the garage at 56 Hancock St. (MHC #733).

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

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 designed in 1902–1903 by Lexington architect Willard D. Brown (see 8 Adams St., MHC #697) for Freeman J. Doe. Doe and his brother, Charles (see 18 Adams St., MHC #701), wanted similar houses facing each other on Adams St. but with separate driveways and a fence between them. Brown reportedly tried to dissuade them from building so close together, facing each other and the fence, but they prevailed and the result is this house and the one at 18 Adams St.

Freeman J. Doe (1829–1913) was born in South Newbury, Vt. and came to Boston in 1847 when he was 18. For three years he worked for the firm of Chamberlain & Hall in the Faneuil Hall Market district and then, in 1850, became a partner in the firm, which was renamed Chamberlain, Kimball & Doe. In 1868, after Kimball died, a new firm—Gass, Doe & Chapin—was formed, and it, after Chapin's retirement, became Gass, Doe & Co. After Gass' death in 1899, Doe and John J. Sullivan, another member of the former firm, established Doe, Sullivan & Co. This firm, a dealer in cheese, was still operating in the Quincy Market building in the 1970s and continued there for several years after the market was renovated in 1976.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Lexington Minute-man, 6 December 1902.

Schoenhut, Sarah Emily Brown to Anne A. Grady, 13 March 1984. In possession of Anne A. Grady, Lexington, MA.

Woburn Daily Times, 16 July 1913.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

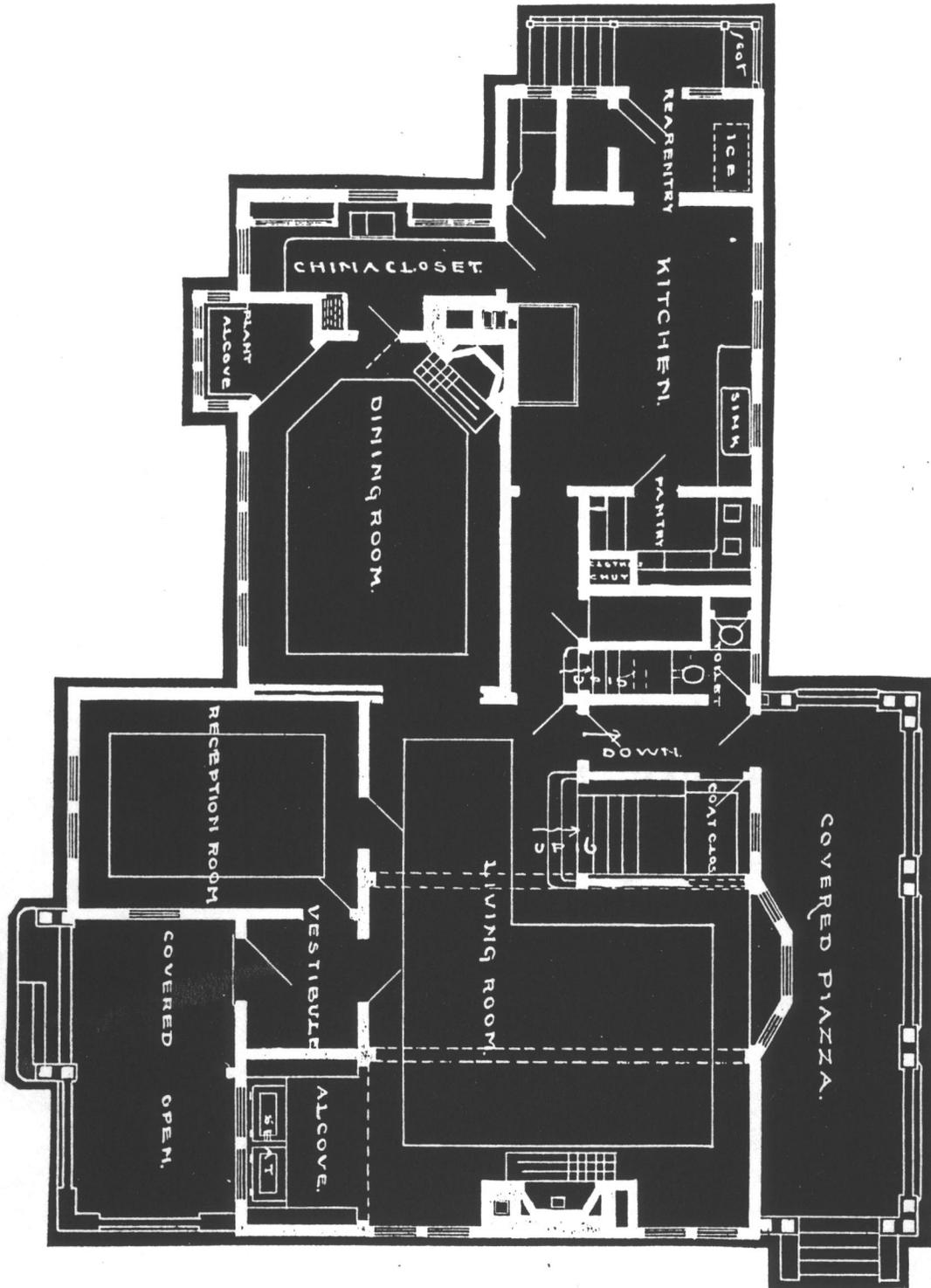
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