

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA N	FORM NO. 484
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



town Lexington

Address 50 Bloomfield Street

Historic Name I.H. Ames House

Willard O. Ames House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date c. 1895-1900 1896

Source Minute Man 7/31/1896
stylistic analysis

Style Shingle Style

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) _____

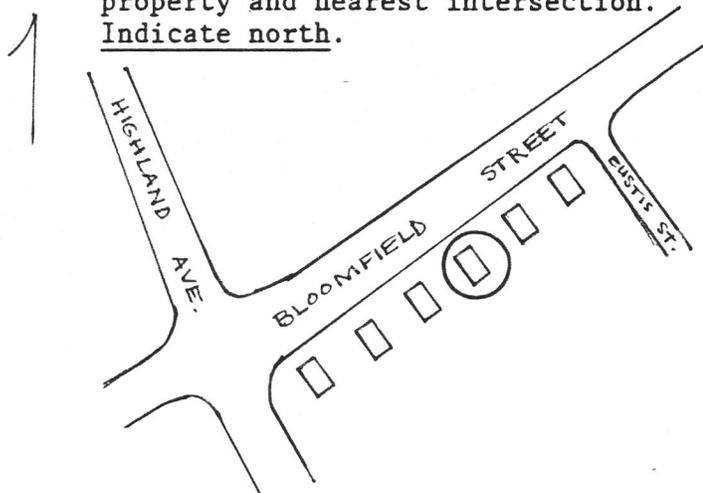
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 17000 ft.²

Setting Suburban residential street; a mix of houses from the third quarter of the nineteenth century and the twentieth century.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

More frankly Shingle Style and slightly later than its neighbors on the street, this building uses the gambrel roof encompassing the second floor and three-part windows as design features.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

1906 atlas

1889 atlas

1898 atlas

Hudson, vol. 2, p. 13.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON 50 BLOOMFIELD ST.

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

Area(s) Form No.

N	484
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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This house was constructed for Willard O. Armes in 1896 to replace an earlier house on the site which was destroyed by fire on January 24, 1896. The fire, which originated in a new house being built by Mr. Armes in close proximity to the dwelling he occupied, started in some barrels of lime. The fire destroyed the framework of the new house as well as the existing house (*Minute-Man*, January 31, 1896).

On July 3, 1896 the *Minute-Man* reported that "the home of Mr. O.W. Armes, destroyed by fire last winter, has been replaced by a pretty new house on the old site, on Bloomfield street". Later that same month, the newspaper reported that "E.W. Glass is doing considerable of a job of grading in front of the places owned by E.A. Shaw and W.O. Arms, on Bloomfield Street, which were destroyed by fire some months ago, but since have been rebuilt. Mr. Arms' house is a picturesque and attractive structure and is nearing completion" (*Minute-Man*, July 31, 1896). The E.A. Shaw dwelling appears to have been 44 Bloomfield Street, next door.

Willard Otis Armes (b. 1857) was a cotton broker and continued to occupy this house until about 1920. Fred I. Stone owned and occupied the house from about 1926 until at least 1932. Mr. and Mrs. H. Webster Thomas were living here in 1942.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Quite similar to dwelling at 183 Waltham Street (#455), built in 1895.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 13.
Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, January 31, 1896; July 3, 1896; July 31, 1896.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
1898 Atlas.

Supplement prepared by:
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