

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

13/403	Boston North		1552
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Lexington

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

**Address:** 26 Bow Street (at Leighton Ave.)

**Historic Name:** Wiggins Duplex

**Uses:** Present: Two-family residence  
Original: Two-family residence

**Date of Construction:** c.1915

**Source:** deeds

**Style/Form:** Four-Square Duplex

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingles/wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**  
none

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

date? – new windows, new balustrade above porch

**Condition:** good

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

**Acreage:** 0.12 acre

**Setting:** mixed residential neighborhood

## Photograph



## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): May 2008

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET**

LEXINGTON

26 BOW STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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.*

26 Bow Street is a well-preserved duplex in the Four Square style, dating to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. It rests on a rubble foundation and is sheathed in wood shingles. The hip roof has a prominent front gable dormer and overhanging eaves that shelter two bay projections on the façade. The north half of the façade is fronted by a single-story porch supported by Tuscan columns. The stick balustrade is of recent construction and replaces an earlier "X" balustrade. Windows contain a mix of individual, paired and tripartite windows with 4/1 and 6/1 sash.

**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.*

This property comprises Lots 13 & 14 of the J.W. Wilbur Subdivision known as Massachusetts Avenue Terrace (Plan Book 182, Plan 8). This is one of several subdivisions that Wilbur, who lived in Brookline, developed in East Lexington in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. What is now Bow Street, was originally known as Wilson Avenue. The lot was purchased from Jacob Wilbur by Emma Wiggins in 1909. The deed included a restriction that no house valued less than \$800 be erected. In 1916 Emma Wiggins, wife of Ferdinand, conveyed the property to John A. Wiggins of East Lexington (Book 4053, Page 164). In 1922 one unit was occupied by Joseph H. Wiggins, a meat dealer, while the other was rented to Howard Foster, an advertising solicitor.

The property remains in the Wiggins family today.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Middlesex South Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Town Directories

U.S. Census, various years.