

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
H	394

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



town Lexington

address 3 Chandler Street

Historic Name Edwin Francis Fobes House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

date 1902

Source Minute-man, July 20, 1901
Feb 22, 1902

Style English Revival

Architect unknown / O. B. Marston, contractor

Exterior wall fabric shingles

Outbuildings garage

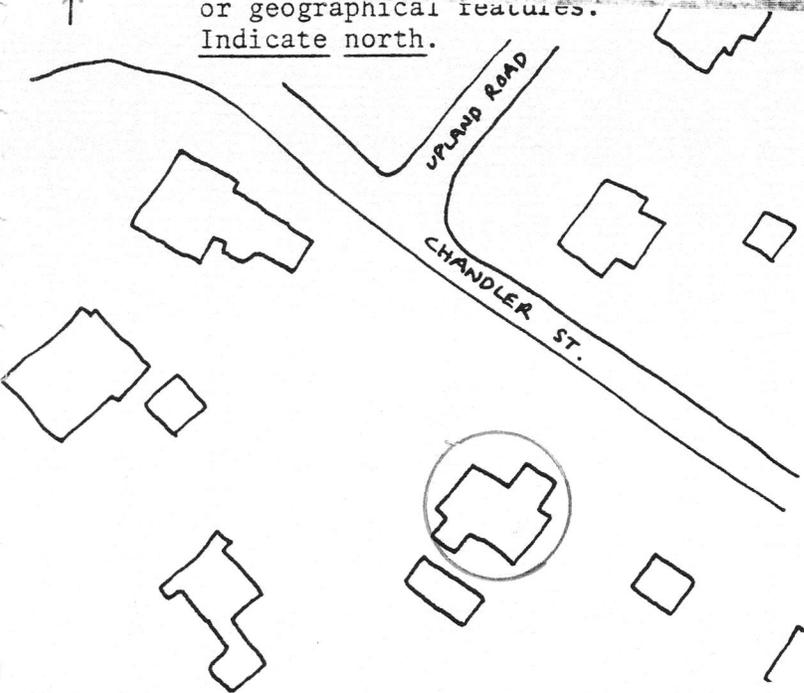
Major alterations (with dates) swimming pool (1955); alterations (1957)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 0.8 acre (34,175')

Setting At the very top of Meriam Hill; with panoramic view, except to the east.

or geographical features.
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.)

This is one of Lexington's best Queen Anne houses, and one of the few which reveals the influence of the British Old English Style. Noteworthy features include the entry porch with carved bargeboard, the overhang of the second level of the facade gable supported by huge brackets, the half-timbered treatment of the gables, and the oriel window with arched tracery.

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

The building was owned in 1906 by Edwin Francis Fobes, a manufacturing confectioner in Boston.

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

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, p. 223. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

1906 map

Personal communication from Mrs. Skolnikoff.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
3 CHANDLER ST.

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

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

A detailed interior description of this house appeared in the *Lexington Minute-man* on Feb. 22, 1902:

A Picturesque House

Mr. O.B. Marston, one of the oldest and most reliable carpenters and builders of Arlington, has just completed a private residence in Lexington of which he may well be proud as an example of his work not only in the regular line of building but for the fine, first class cabinet work which, is an important, feature of the interior finish. The house is located on one of Lexington's several hill streets and has a superb outlook, unobstructed in every direction and ever basking in the sunlight, so that it was desirable to plan the house with these features in view and the architectural plan decided on was the Elizabethan style, arranged like so many English houses with the hallways and working departments on the front with the living rooms in the rear open to the far away southern exposure. To the east one looks over on to Boston, with the Bunker Hill monument in the foreground; on the west the view includes the mountains in the western part of the state and southern New Hampshire. A small vestibuled entry-way leads into the reception hall which occupies the centre of the house on the ground floor. Out of this a cozy den or study, a large living room, suggesting a library in its appointments, and a dining room. All these apartments are in quartered oak, even to the floors, with the antique finish. In the hall there is a high wainscot of gothic panels, while on the first landing of the stairway is a charming conservatory. There is much paneling and cabinet work in the living room, notably about the broad open fire place and bookcases and in the cross-beamed ceiling. The hall has a green tapestry paper, while the living room is papered in crimson. Oriel windows, with their broad window ledges, convenient for flowers, are a picturesque feature of the house, with their emblazoned, small, leaded panes of glass. In the dining room the cabinet work is especially elaborate and decidedly handsome and unique in design. At what would be the lower edge of the frieze line on the walls there is a wide molding available as a plate rest. This is joined by pilasters in oak, which divide the room into sectional parts occupied by doors and windows which have carved framings of oak. One side of the room is filled by a handsomely designed fireplace and over mantel with china cupboards on either side. There are the usual number of chambers on the second floor where most of the finish is a beautifully toned and grained cypress wood. One of the mantels is especially pleasing in its novel and picturesque design. We have used the word picturesque several times, but the appointments of the house suggest it at every turn, so its use in description is unavoidable. The bath room is most inviting with its mahogany wood, nicely toneing with green walls and a beautiful white tiled floor, set in small cubes. The closet room is ideal, as is also the housekeeping department, including as it does, linen, broom closets, large clothes presses, a butler's pantry with roomy china cabinets, a kitchen dresser and pantry with many other features which add so much to the appointments of the highest class of our modern homes. The cellars and space under the roof have been utilized in the most sensible manner and will make a comfortable and artistic home for the lucky possessor. Mr. Marston has carried out the architects' plan with unusual success and commendable skill and as example of his ability as a carpenter and building the house is one he can point to with pride.

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The house was occupied by Edwin Fobes, his wife Jesse, son and daughter. Edwin died before 1942 but his widow continued to live here with her son Frances H. Fobes, who was educated at Harvard and Oxford University and received the first Massachusetts Rhodes scholarship. He was an instructor at Harvard and later a Greek professor at Amherst College. The current owner, Winifred Skolnikoff, acquired the property from James and Claire Collier in 1968.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, July 20, 1901; February 22, 1902.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
U.S. Census Records, 1900-1930.

Supplement prepared by:
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June 2009