

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
F	351

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON. MA 02100



1 Lexington

Address 4 Cottage Street

Historic Name Dennis Collins House

Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

c. 1895 1907

Source Minute Man, Aug. 10, 1907  
stylistic analysis

Style Workers Cottage Queen Anne

Architect A.C. Washburn, builder

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings \_\_\_\_\_

Major alterations (with dates) rear

ell

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage 3900 ft.<sup>2</sup>

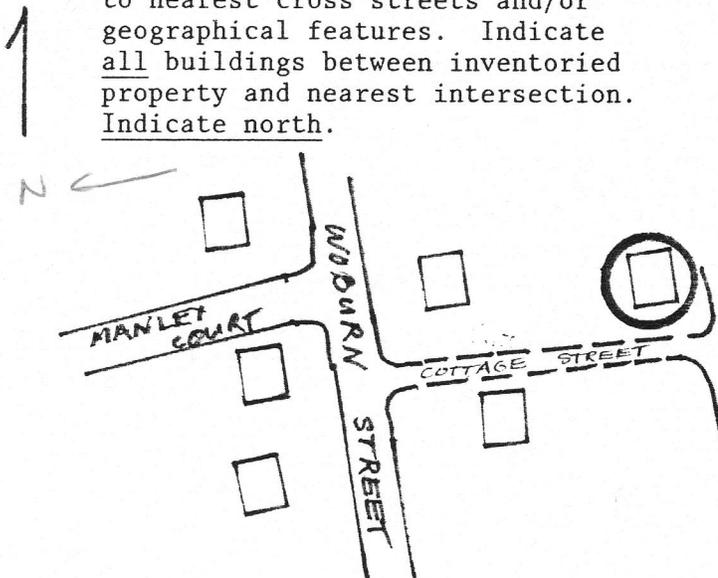
Setting On a quiet street next to

similar house and close to other nine-

teenth century houses.

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 Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

See area form F.

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

See area form F.

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

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
4 COTTAGE STREET

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

Area(s) Form No.

F

351

## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The *Lexington Minute-man* on August 10, 1907 includes a reference to the construction of this house:

A.C. Washburn, the carpenter and builder, is busy this summer as usual. He is building...a cottage for Mr. Dennis Collins, at a cost approximately thirty-five hundred dollars, located on Woburn Street.

Abram C. Washburn was Lexington's most prolific late 19<sup>th</sup> century builder/contractor. Many of his houses were built speculatively in Lexington's best neighborhoods and included homes on Parker, Clarke, Forest, Oakland, Chandler, and Bloomfield Streets, Glen Road, Winthrop Road, Stratham Road and Percy Road. The documentation on this house is useful as it suggests that the total output and range of his work was probably even greater than had been thought. Commissions for smaller cottages such as this were rarely mentioned in the local newspaper.

According to directories, Dennis H. Collins was a school janitor. The 1910 Census indicates that in that year he was 39 and his Irish born wife Agnes was 35. Also living with them were Rose and Mabel Cominskey, ages 15 and 13, and described as boarders. The 1920 Census lists two adopted children, a boy and a girl, as also living with them. In the 1932 directory Collins is described as a janitor at the Munroe School. By 1942 Dennis was deceased but his widow Agnes was still living at 4 Cottage Street.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various years.  
*Lexington Minute-man*, August 10, 1907.  
U.S. Census, various dates.

Supplement prepared by:  
Lisa Mausolf  
March 2009