

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no. C	Form no. 105
------------------	-----------------



City Lexington

Address 20 Hancock St.

J.S. Parker House

Present use Home

Present owner _____

Description: circa 1840

Source _____

Style Italianate Greek Revival w/ mansard roof

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Wood clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) 2 car garage attached to rear

Other features Front porch w/4 greek ionic columns . Windows $\frac{2}{2}$ 1 window each side of

center. 3 dormers in slate (6 sided) shingle mansard. 1st. floor windows tallest, 2nd.

shortest (over) Altered Roof Date 1870s

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: _____

Less than one acre x Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 50'

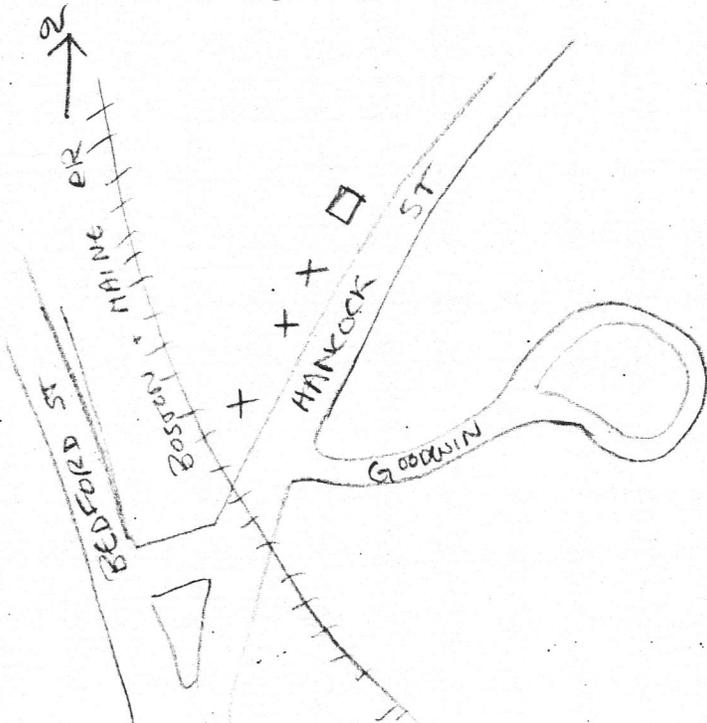
Approximate distance of building from street 25

6. Recorded by Muriel Williams

Organization Lex. Hist. Com.

Date 8/25/75

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/
settlement | _____ | Science/
invention | _____ |
| The Arts | _____ | Industry | _____ | Social/
Humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | _____ | | | | |

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Brackets paired under dormers and single at corners.
shutters front 3rd & 1st. Granite foundation
Two central chimneys
Fr. door no lights, simple framing
1st. floor front windows to floor
One room deep at front - ell behind west side, also mansard (added when mansard for front?
Rear ell beyond.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON 20 HANCOCK STREET

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

Area(s) Form No.

C	105
---	-----

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

According to the present owner (E. Ashley Rooney), this house was originally a saltbox with an addition to the rear (?). Granite foundation culminates in brick at the last addition. The third floor (mansard roof) was added c.1870. Garage was a carriage house. A well was in it.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The early history of this house remains somewhat unclear. According to the present owner, at one time the property was reportedly owned by Samson Adams. He died in 1785 and the land was sold to pay his debts.

In 1846 Samuel and Maria Bridge sold the property to Jonathan and Abigail Parker for \$125 (Book 956, Page 495). The 1853 map confirms that the house was then owned by J.S. Parker. Jonathan Simonds Parker (1812-1859) was captain of the Lexington Artillery, town treasurer from 1839 to 1844, assessor from 1850 to 1857 and 1859 and selectman in 1843, 1844, 1849. In 1835 he married Abigail Tuttle, daughter of David and Abigail Tuttle.

The 1889 map shows it was then owned by Mrs. Seaver. Directories indicate that Miss Elizabeth Seaver was living here in 1894. She is last listed at this address in the 1915 directory. The peonies in the lower garden were planted in 1913 (as told by Doris Patrick to E. Ashley Rooney).

Doris Patrick bought the property in 1925 (Book 4888, Page 451). She and her sisters were the seamstresses in town. Wedding and debutante gowns were fitted in the middle room.

E. Ashley Rooney has owned the house since 1972 and purchased it from R. Murray and Frances Chastain.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 517.
Lexington directories, various dates.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Rooney, E. Ashley (present owner). Information on history of house, Sept. 2007.

1853 Map

1889 Map

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
July 2009