

FORM B – BUILDING



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

0056000040

Boston N.

725

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 46 Hancock St.

Historic Name Warren M. Batcheller House #1

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1897

Source Minute-man, Worthen letter

Style/Form Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)



Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 0.6 A.

Setting On a heavily-trafficked residential street in a neighborhood of large, high-style 19th- and early 20th-century houses

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) January 1998

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The house at 46 Hancock St. is one of many well-preserved Colonial Revivals in Lexington but is distinguished by its elaborate doorway, which was moved here in 1929 from an earlier building (see Historical Narrative). The house is rectangular in plan, three-by-two bays, 2½-stories, and side-gabled with an end chimney. At the rear is a one-story screened porch. The house is set on a fieldstone foundation, clad with wood clapboards, and roofed with asphalt shingles. The recessed center entrance is framed by an elliptical arch with a key block and side pilasters with Ionic capitals. There are molded panels, some with a Greek fret design, in the reveals and elaborate tracery in the sidelights and the elliptical fanlight. Windows are 8/1 or 4/1 double hung sash. Colonial Revival details include modillions at the cornice, paired windows under a dentil course in the south gable (see photo), and a palladian window with lancet panes in the north gable.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE see continuation sheet

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 house was built in 1897 by Warren M. Batcheller (b. 1842), a real estate developer who had bought the lot in 1888, which at the time contained an earlier house. Batcheller lived in his parents' house at 53 Hancock St. (MHC # 730), reportedly renting the older house on this lot and then living in it before building this house.

The doorway of this house came from the Paul Revere Tavern, originally the Monument House, which stood on the southwest corner of Massachusetts Ave. and Muzzey St. until it was torn down in 1929 to make way for the Lexington Trust Co. building, now the Fleet Bank. The Monument House was reportedly built about 1840 as a hotel by a Christopher Solis. It was later enlarged by Charles Adair and called Adair's Tavern; an 1888 photograph shows it as a large 2½-story, five-by-five bay, front-gabled Greek Revival building. After the old ell was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in 1892, it became the Leslie House and finally, in the first decade of the 20th century, Ye Paul Revere Tavern. The doorway is very similar to the one at 676-678 Massachusetts Ave. in East Lexington (MHC #212), which was reportedly designed by Isaac Melvin and is pictured in an antiquarian article about Lexington architecture. When the tavern was demolished, Eugene G. Kraetzer, who was remodeling his house at 46 Hancock St., purchased the doorway and installed it here.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913. 2: 26.

Kelley, Beverly Allison. *Lexington: A Century of Photographs*. Lexington, Mass: Lexington Historical Society, 1980. 111. *Lexington Minute-man*, 25 Dec. 1896.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, Mass. 1871: 20.

Piper, Fred Smith. "Architectural Yesterdays in Lexington." *Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society* 4 (1912): opp. 127.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town
Lexington

Property Address
46 Hancock St.
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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

"Then & Now: Monument House now Shawmut Bank." *Lexington Minuteman*, 9 November 1995.

S. Lawrence Whipple, personal communication.

Worthen, Edwin B. to Mrs. Bruce Currie, 16 February 1951. Worthen Collection. Cary Library, Lexington, MA.

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———. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998. 179.

LEXINGTON
FOUR STAR BOOKS
1940-1945