

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. B	Form no. 57
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Lexington  
11 Harrington Rd.  
Dr. J. Odin Tilton House  
Rental Residences  
Whalen  
1897  
Minute Man, Oct 15, 1897  
Shingle Style

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



Architect A.C. Washburn, bldr.  
 Exterior wall fabric Shingle  
 Outbuildings (describe) 2 Car shingle garage  
 Other features Central turret with conical roof, wide porch from front center around SE side of house

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

5. Lot size:  
 Less than one acre x Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approximate frontage 75'  
 Approximate distance of building from street 30'

6. Recorded by E.W. Reinhardt  
 Organization Lex. Hist. Comm.  
 Date August 20, 1975

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE  
 USGS Quadrant \_\_\_\_\_  
 MHC Photo no. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Original owner (if known) Dr. Tilton  
 Original use Residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates \_\_\_\_\_

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Tilton moved house now at corner of Parker + <sup>Mass Ave</sup> Forest <sup>90</sup> (B46) in order to build this house c 1900.)

Descrip. Cost. Fieldstone foundation. 1 story bay on west side, strongly marked 'strong course' between 1st. & second levels, modified hip roof with dormers. Tall chimneys (3) with ornamental brick courses at cap Heavy roof overhang, plain fascia  
 Harrington Rd. was Elm St. until ? 1930's?

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

Property Name: 11 Harrington Road

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house was built in <sup>1897</sup>~~1895~~ (see Lexington Minute Man, and correspondence in files of the Lexington Historical Society). Home and office for many years of Dr. J. Odin Tilton, one of Lexington's most respected physicians (his office and waiting room were in the small addition on the east end). In addition to his professional duties, Dr. Tilton was also an antiquarian, amateur ornithologist, and avid enthusiast of the Lexington Gun Club.

A small stable/carriage house was demolished by a subsequent owner, Mrs. <sup>1941</sup> John P. Whalen, in the 1960s. The Whalen family acquired the property about ~~1945~~-1946, renting the third floor for apartment use to Mr. and Mrs. W. Elliott Hanna, (she was a well-known local artist).

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town  
LEXINGTON 11 HARRINGTON ROAD

Area(s) Form No.

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## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

A brief mention in the *Lexington Minute-man* on April 30, 1897 noted that "Dr. Tilton's residence has been moved from its old site to a position near the adjoining church property and on the vacated location Mrs. Tilton's father is to erect for his daughter a handsome modern residence. The family will occupy the old house during the process of building the new and everything has been arranged as conveniently as possible, with this idea in view. The only difference will be that they will view affairs from a higher altitude, the house remaining on the timbers on which it was moved, raised several feet higher in the air".

A few months later, the newspaper published a detailed description of the new house:

Mr. A.C. Washburn, one of Lexington's most successful carpenters and builders, has just completed for the occupancy of Dr. J.O. Tilton and family an example of his skill and workmanship of which he may well feel proud. The structure stands at the head of Lexington Green, next to the old First Parish church, occupying the site of the old Simon W. Robinson house, which Dr. Tilton purchased some time ago and remodelled into a pleasant and comfortable home that which has now been given place to the modern and elegantly appointed home which has all the advantages of the exceptionally fine location of the old house which is to be moved away. The house has a commanding appearance, yet is of no particular style of architecture, but is also a pleasing example of a residence adapted to our New England climate and ways, so that it appears in good taste and is attractive as well. A spacious open veranda and a recessed and pillared piazza are the most striking features of the exterior. The doctor's quarters are distinct from the main house and have a separate entrance. They consist of an office or waiting room, an operating room, filled with all kinds of convenient apparatus, cabinets, etc., and a toilette room perfect in its appointments. These rooms face on a passageway which leads into the large main hall of the house, which has its own street entrance. The hall and living room are practically one, the former being finished in sycamore, with handsome fire place of pressed brick, and the latter in oak, with a finely proportioned stairway, broken half way up by a spacious landing with clustered windows and a broad window seat. The hall and sitting room have a rich tapestry paper, in dull red and olive tones. The reception room and dining room are on either side of the hall and are both finished in white enamel, which contrasts with handsome effect in the reception room, with a rich-toned scarlet and maroon paper. The dining room has a finely proportioned and carved mantle, while the side board is built into the room and is finished in mahogany to match the furnishings; a large bay, opening out of the room, is arranged to accommodate plants and the room is hung above the decorated buckrum wainscoting with a green-toned tapestry paper. The housekeeping departments are especially complete and convenient in their arrangement, consisting of a large china closet, a pantry finished in hard pine with the ice chest built into the same, a laundry and a large store room, besides the kitchen with its usual fittings. There are five rooms on the second floor, two of which have connected toilette rooms and all are hung with artistic papers. The third floor also affords ample room for well proportioned sleeping apartments. The linen closet and bath are also important adjuncts to the house, the latter being furnished with open plumbing, nickel plated fixtures, enameled tub and a handsome flooring of white tiles, while the walls are enameled and suitably decorated and finished. There are numerous attractive features about the house which cannot be enumerated here, aside from a passing mention of artistic gas and electric light fixtures, electric bells, and tastefully tinted ceilings and finely finished wood work. This latter work was done under the skillful supervision of Mr. J.S. Scott, which is a guarantee of its excellence (*Lexington Minute-man*, October 15, 1897).

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LEXINGTON 11 HARRINGTON ROAD

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Josiah Odin Tilton (1853-1943) was born at Limerick, Maine in 1853. He was educated at Sanbornton and Milford, New Hampshire and graduated from Colby College in 1875 and the University of New York Medical College in 1882. For four years he was principal of Peterborough High School in New Hampshire. Dr. Tilton came to Lexington in 1883 and held several positions in town including Board of Health and school physician.

The original address of this house was 1 Elm Avenue. It remained in the Tilton family until 1941 when it was sold to John and Loretta Whalen. It was owned by the Whalen family until 1977.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 200.  
*Lexington Minute-Man*, April 30, 1897; Oct. 15, 1897.  
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Supplement prepared by:  
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