

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

0048000213

Boston N.

668

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 29 Hayes Ln.

Historic Name Ell of Charles G. Fletcher House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 18th century

Source Interior inspection

Style/Form

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood Shingle

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date 1895

Acreage 1.1 A.

Setting On a quiet side street with predominantly 20th-century houses



Label photo
film roll
photo to
al photos

relation to
tures.
and
eets
ber the



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) March 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.

29 Hayes Ln. is one of several ells of 18th- or 19th-century houses in Lexington that have been separated from their parent building and moved to a new location (other examples are at 15 Belfry Terr. [MHC #683], 40 Forest St. [MHC #681], and 9–11 Cedar St. [MHC #688]). This house is rectangular, two stories, four (irregularly-spaced)-by-two bays, and side gabled with a rear chimney. It is set on a fieldstone foundation, clad with wood shingles, and roofed with asphalt shingles. The off-center entry is under a front-gabled roof; windows are 1/1 double hung sash. The house is of post-and-beam construction and the roof framed with a principal rafter/common purlin system where the ridge purlin is mortised through the overlapping rafter and the roof boards run vertically from eave to ridge—techniques typical of the 18th century.

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 originally the ell of what was known as the Fletcher House, which was on the northwest corner of the present intersection of Massachusetts Ave. and Fletcher and Woburn streets, now the grassy area east of the school administration building at 1557 Massachusetts Ave. The Fletcher House had belonged to Benjamin Estabrook (1729–1803), though was not the house in which he lived, and after his death was sold by his sons in 1808. It is not clear who had been living in the house or when it was built, although the construction of the ell definitely points to an 18th-century construction date. A ca. 1923 photograph of the Fletcher House shows it as five-by-two bays, side-gabled with two ridge chimneys, and having a center doorway surround with a molded projecting cornice and full-length sidelights. The house was acquired in 1820 by Abner Pierce (1766–1837) and it may have been Pierce who added the Greek Revival entry. When Pierce died the property was inherited by his daughter Lucy Turner and she sold it in 1868 to Charles G. Fletcher (1821–1904), a horse trader from Groton who soon moved to Lexington. Beginning in the late 1880s Fletcher subdivided the 30 acres associated with the house, which extended north from Massachusetts Ave. into the area where Fletcher Ave. and Hayes Ln. now run, into houselots and built houses intended as rental properties (see Area form G). In 1895 the ell of the Fletcher House was cut off and moved to its present location on Hayes Ln., an early 18th-century track that had become a town road in 1822.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Church, Burr. Photograph Collection. Lexington Historical Society, Lexington, MA.

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913. 2: 221–22, 537, 191–92.

Lexington Directory. 1922–1936.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 188: 61; 231: 271; 246: 212; 1038: 195; 2389: 98.

Worthen, Edwin B. Notes on buildings burned, torn down, and moved. "Houses" file, Worthen Collection. Cary Library, Lexington, Mass.

———. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998. 13–16, 25.

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