

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

0030000102

Boston N.

647

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 15 Maple St.

Historic Name Nancy Brown/Gustave Kauffmann House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1838

Source Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder

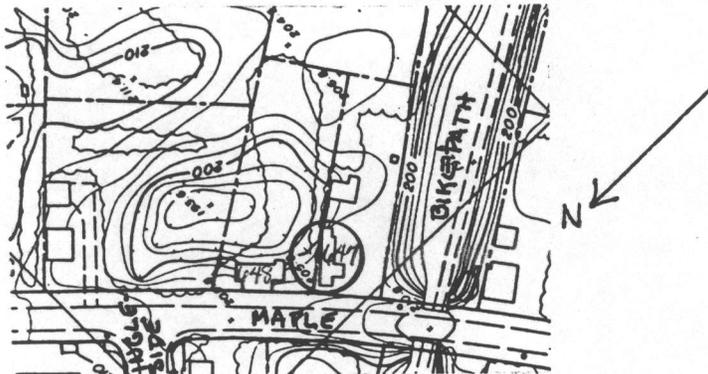
Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood Shingle

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Barn with attached garage



Major Alterations (with dates)

Rear addition, barn converted to residence (dates unknown)

Condition Good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 0.4 A.

Setting Close to a heavily-trafficked street and next to the bikepath (formerly railroad tracks); in a row of 19th-century houses

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) February 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.

15 Maple St. is one of several simple front-facing L-shaped Italianate cottages in Lexington (a comparable example is at 16 Adams St. [MHC #698]). The house is cross-gabled with a rear ell, two stories, and has a side chimney in the ell. It is set on a fieldstone foundation, clad with wood shingles, and roofed with asphalt shingles. The long front-gabled rear ell has a flat-roofed addition on its west elevation and a screen porch at the rear. The main entry of the house is in the reentrant angle and windows are 2/2 double hung sash. The house has very few period finishes other than eave returns and a small drop at the corner of the entry porch roof. The front-gabled 1½-story barn is clad with wood clapboards and has been converted to a residence; on its west elevation is an attached shed-roofed one-car garage clad with wood drop board siding.

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.

It is interesting that this house and the one next to it at 19 Maple St. (MHC #648) which were both built at the same time—this one in 1838 and the one next door between 1837 and 1846—are both unusual styles for the period—this one an Italianate and 19 Maple a Federal—and both built by single women. Lexington assessors' records indicate that this house was built in 1838 by Nancy Brown (1780–1862), who had been the wife of John Brown (1779–1846) of Lexington but by 1834 had apparently left her husband and was living in Bedford. That year she bought a house for herself on what is now Massachusetts Ave. in East Lexington and the following year bought the one-third acre on which this house stands. In 1838 she built this house on the lot, for in 1839 she was assessed for two houses, and until 1843 her son Horatio (b. 1809) lived here.

In 1876 this house was purchased by the wife of Gustave Kauffmann (b. 1843), a cigar manufacturer who had emigrated from Germany in 1857, fought in the Civil War, and moved to Lexington in 1868, living first on Concord Ave. before moving to Maple St. Kauffmann originally worked in Boston but later had his cigar manufacturing shop on this property. He was reportedly very patriotic, in 1893 organizing the first Color Guard in the United States, and was a Lexington assessor from 1901–1910.

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: 68–69, 331–32.

Lexington Valuation Lists. 1834–1846.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 336: 71; 358: 382; 893: 478; 1412: 1.

Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998. 37–38.

———. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620–1946*. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Savings Bank, 1946. 92.

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