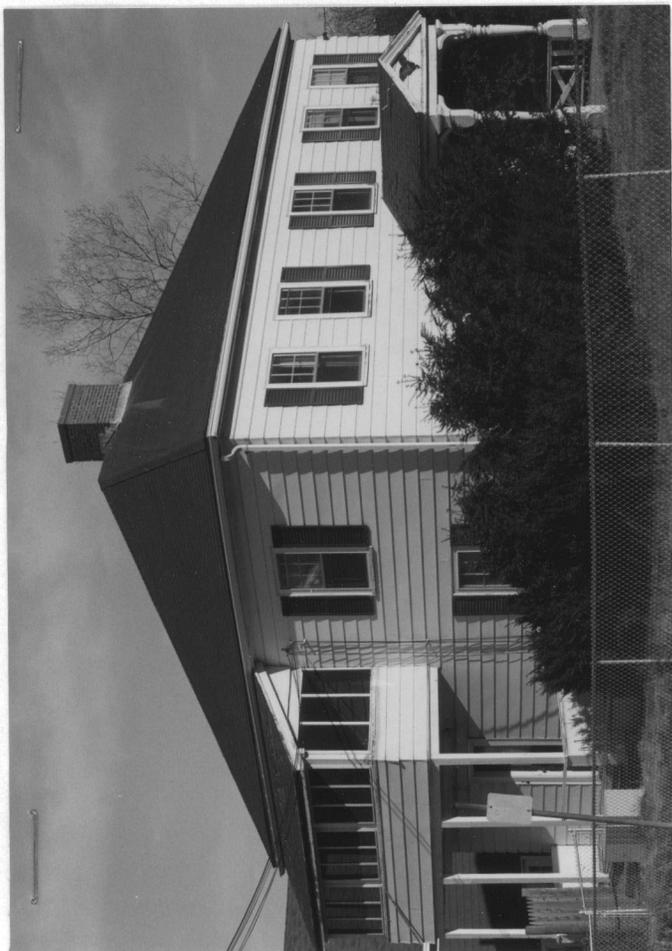


# FORM B – BUILDING

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



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

0013000412 Boston N. 634

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 109 Massachusetts Ave.

Historic Name Locke/Alderman House

Uses: Present Commercial (offices)

Original Residential

Date of Construction 18th century

Source Interior inspection

Style/Form Georgian (altered)

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Aluminum Siding

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

Italianate details added (ca. 1868–1870)

Roof line (1948)

Rear addition, second story porch (dates unknown)

Condition Fair

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 0.1 A.

Setting On a major street with commercial buildings on this side and residences opposite

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) April 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.*

109 Massachusetts Ave. is a Georgian house that retains its center chimney but has lost most of its architectural integrity. The house is rectangular, two stories, five-by-two bays, and hip roofed with a center chimney. It is set on a granite foundation, clad with aluminum siding, and roofed with asphalt shingles. A one-story three-by-one bay gabled rear addition is set on a concrete block and fieldstone foundation. The center entrance is under a gabled hood supported by turned posts with curved brackets; there is a separate entrance in the rear addition. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash. A projecting second-story porch supported by posts is on the west elevation. In the basement massive beams and large floor joists are visible as is the brick arch that supports the center chimney. On either side of this arch are a number of brick piers with wooden shelves set into the bricks, suggesting that these shelves date from the original construction of the house. No other original interior finishes appear to have survived.

### 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 not clear when this house was built nor by whom. Deed research indicates that Joshua Russell owned it in 1809 when he sold a half interest in the property to a Job Hill, but it is not clear if this is the house listed for Joshua Russell in the Direct Tax of 1798. In any event, the arch under the center chimney strongly suggests the house was built in the 18th century, and historical photographs show that it originally had a side-gabled roof. In 1812 Russell and Hill sold the property to Micajah Locke (1786–1842), who came to Lexington from a part of West Cambridge that is now in Winchester. Locke acquired a large farm along what is now Massachusetts Ave. in East Lexington and Arlington and was also in the “meal business.” Meal dealers reportedly delivered ground corn meal on a regular route in Boston, much as “milk men” delivered their milk. After distributing the day’s load of meal, the dealers would buy unground corn at the docks in Boston and take it to one of the three grist mills in West Cambridge (now Arlington) to be ground for the next day’s deliveries.

After Micajah Locke’s death, the house was owned by his widow and then sold in 1858 to a Timothy Eaton of West Cambridge. It may have been Eaton who “Italianated” the house, for its assessed value almost doubled between 1867 and 1870 and a ca. 1923 photograph shows it with a center gable. (The 1923 photo also shows the present gabled entry hood with its turned posts and brackets.) In 1871 Eaton sold the house to Franklin Alderman (1829–1900), who had come to Lexington about 1858 and first

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

- Bryant, Albert W. “Lexington Sixty Years Ago.” *Proceedings of Lexington Historical Society* 2 (1900): 21–22. Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 199: 151, 316; 797: 587; 1166: 584.
- Church, Burr. Photograph Collection. Lexington Historical Society, Lexington, MA. Direct Tax of 1798.
- Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913. 2: 378, 11.
- Lexington Valuation Lists. 1862–1870.

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  
109 Massachusetts Ave.

Area(s) Form No.

	634
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## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

lived in the house at **18 Independence Ave. (MHC #644)** where he ran a butchering business. When he moved to this house he went into the business of buying, selling, and boarding horses, which he pastured near Great Meadow. Worthen describes Mr. Alderman as “short, stout, florid, and excitable” and very argumentative at town meeting. The Alderman family owned this house into the 20th century. An 1898 map shows the house with an series of rear ells connecting it with the barn, which is now detached and a separate property at **3 Bow St. (MHC #635)**. The present rear ell was reportedly built in the 1940s as a dance hall. On March 1, 1948, a fire destroyed the old side-gabled roof, which was then replaced with the present hip one.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (continued)

- Worthen, Edwin B. *Tracing the Past in Lexington, Massachusetts*. New York: Vantage Press, 1998. 68.  
Stadley, George W. & Co. *Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington and Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. Boston: George W. Stadley & Co., 1898. Pl. 32.  
*Lexington Minute-man*. 4 March 1948.  
Douglas Touart, personal communication 1998.