

FORM B - BUILDING

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

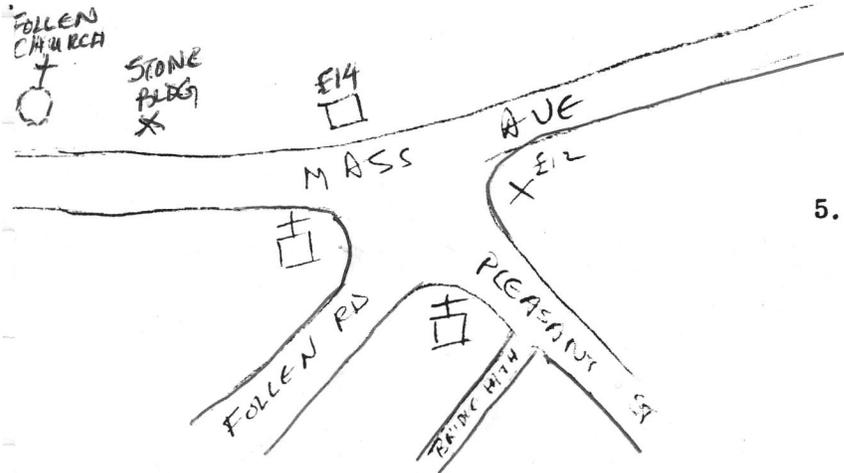
OCT 75

In Area no. E	Form no. 214
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Location Lexington
 Address 703 Mass. Avenue
 Name Brick store
 Present use Real Estate Agency
 Present owner B. Tillinghast
 Description:
 Date 1828
 Source _____
 Title Federal

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



Architect _____
 Exterior wall fabric brick
 Outbuildings (describe) _____
 Other features Five bay wide, 3 deep, two doors, 1 at each end of front facade foundation
 Altered Yes Date c 1940
 Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
 One acre or less x Over one acre _____
 Approximate frontage 150'
 Approximate distance of building from street 10'

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

6. Recorded by E. W. Reinhardt
 Organization Lex. Hist. Com.
 Date 7/75

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Eli Robbins

Original use Store

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates 1836 - Post Office

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

Built by Eli Robbins in 1828, may possibly be first all brick building in Lexington. (Though see B-19 on green) Original use - store; 1836 first Post Office in E. Village. (Note: Lexington Center & the East Village regarded themselves as separate communities until the end of the 19th century.)

Descrip: 2nd floor & gable end windows - 6 x 6. 1 chimney right end, in front of ridge. First floor altered for shop windows. 'Modern' mansard roof clapboard ell to right rear.

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

1853 Survey Map

Proceedings of Lex. Hist. Soc. - Vol II

J. G. Hale, 1830 Map of Lex.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No: E-214
Property Name: 703 Massachusetts Ave.	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Brick Store - East Village*

One of the oldest brick structures in town, this building was erected in 1828 for Eli Robbins. Always used for commercial purposes on the street level, the second floor contained a good-sized meeting room with access from the outside stairway on the westerly side. In the 1880's, the East Lexington Branch Library was here on the second floor.

In 1836 the East Lexington branch of the Post Office opened in this building, and remained here until 1867, when Augustus Childs was appointed Postmaster and moved the Post Office to his store nearer Curve St.

Following Eli Robbins, Billings Smith operated a grocery store here for a few years, succeeded in turn by Rufus Holbrook in the 1880's. A few people still remember with a smile one of East Village's most fun-loving characters, who worked here as a clerk at that period, - Peter T. Gillooly.

By 1900, the business had changed hands once again, and Lucius A. Austin was the proprietor, stabling his horses in the attached barn. . . . A clerk in the Brick Store, Edgar W. Harrod, eventually took over its ownership, running it for some years as a general store with everything from kerosene to hardware. "Harrod's", as older residents still remember it, continued in business until [his death in 1928]. . . .

*Written by S. Lawrence Whipple, from sources in the archives of the Lexington Historical Society. (Published in a brochure for the Lexington Arts and Crafts Society, about 1972.)

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