

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	522

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



wn Lexington

dress 33 Oak Street

storic Name Smith-Nichols House

e: Present residence

Original residence and farm

DESCRIPTION:

ite c. 1849

Source Worthen Collection

Style Italianate

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings barn

Major alterations (with dates) bay added to southwest end (second half of nineteenth century); rear additions (date unknown)

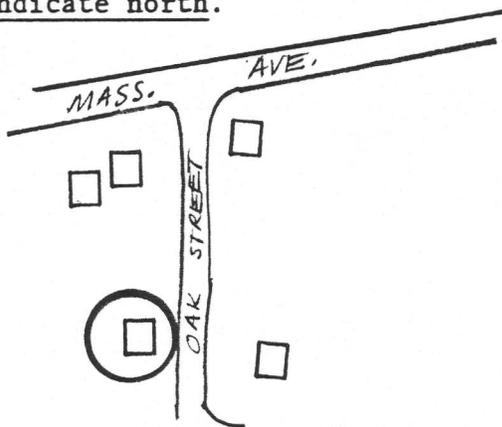
Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 3.51 A.

Setting In the midst of the hillside pastures and surrounding stone walls which have been the setting for this house since the nineteenth century.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

When constructed in 1849, the West Farm house was a typical Italianate Vernacular structure: five-bays wide, one-room deep, rear chimney plan with pedimented gables, modillions at the eaves, and projecting window caps and sills supported by simple brackets. The house was built by Curtis Capell, an East Lexington carpenter, who constructed many buildings there. C. 1890, the southwest facade was extended by one bay and the ridge of the roof was raised over that bay only to accommodate the increased width. This was, among other

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

A penciled note by Edwin B. Worthen indicates that the house was built in 1849. By 1853 Billings Smith was the owner, so very likely it was built for him as well. Smith (b. 1821, d. 1890), a farmer, served as town treasurer in 1870-1871.

Subsequent owner, Edward Payson Nichols (b. 1835, d. 1916), was a school-teacher in Syracuse when he decided to learn the cotton business in order to earn more money. He became treasurer of a cotton mill in New Hampshire and moved to Lexington in 1888. The family lived on Oak Street until 1906 when they moved to the center of town. They retained ownership of the house in East Lexington and for a number of years summered there. Dudley West bought the property in 1933. He removed apple trees below the house and cleared the pasture above the house. The acreage of the farm became conservation land in the 1960s, thereby assuring the preservation of the nineteenth century setting of the house.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 494, 646. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Worthen, Edwin B. Note in the Worthen Collection, Cary Memorial Library.

"Architectural Yesterdays in Lexington." Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Volume IV, p. 119. Lexington: Lexington Historical Society, 1912.

Personal communication from Phoebe Nichols Palmer.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 522
Property Name: 33 Oak Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

things, an economical way of achieving a more prominent profile from Massachusetts Avenue. The drive once ran along the downhill side of the house; its location is still marked by stone walls. There have been rear additions so that the house now connects with one of the barns.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom