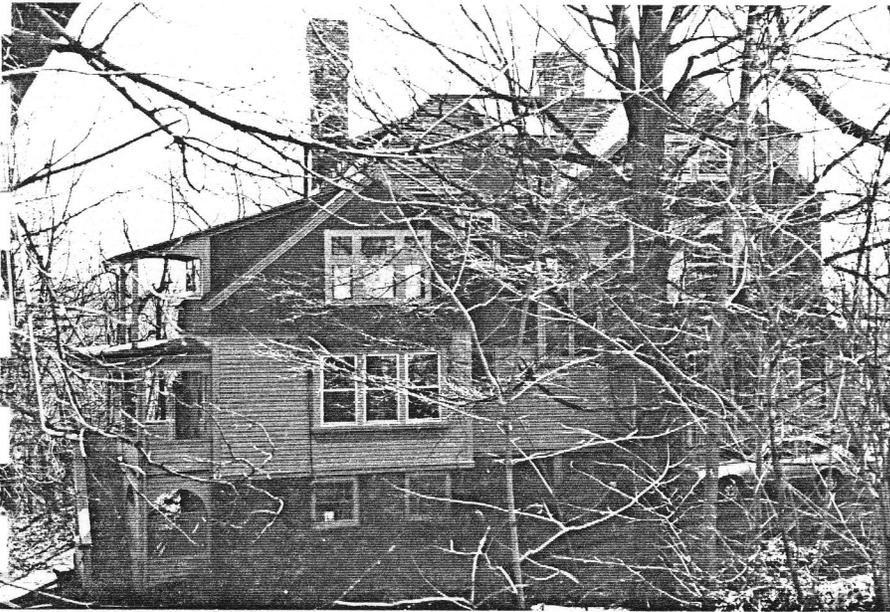


FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
H	372

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



n Lexington

ress 17 Oakland Street

toric Name Maywood Cottage,

G.S.
Jackson House

: Present residential

Original residential

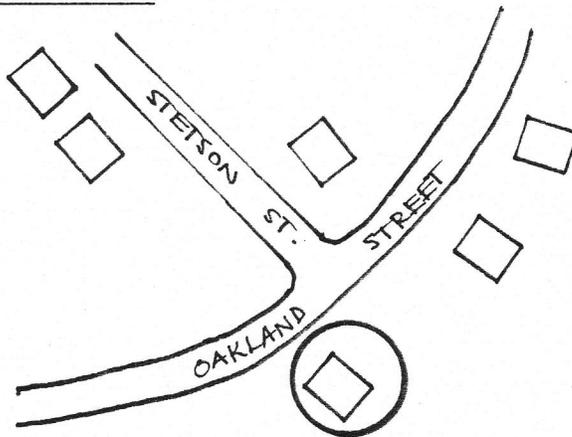
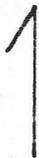
DESCRIPTION:

e 1883-1884

ource Lexington Minute Man, July 13, 1883

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.



Style Queen Anne

Architect Allen and Kenway

John May, builder

Exterior wall fabric shingles, clapboards

Outbuildings _____

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage .8 A. (33100 ft.²)

Setting On the southern slope of Meriam Hill; on a street of primarily late nineteenth century residences.

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.)

One of the earliest houses to be built on Meriam Hill and originally a summer cottage, this house is one of the finest and best preserved examples of the Queen Anne Style in Lexington. Picturesquely massed and enlivened by many different window types, the house is perched on bedrock on the precipitous southern slope of Meriam Hill. A porch with spindled balustrade extends across the rear and terminates at each end in a polygonal projection. The left hand end has original glazing (see photograph). Of particular interest is the

(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.)

The house was built as a summer residence by George Stephen Jackson of Boston, described as a commission merchant and as a grain broker. (Note: both the current owner and a neighbor remember Jackson's daughter stating that he was Superintendent of Schools in Boston). An article in the local newspaper reveals how Jackson and his neighbor to the immediate east on Oakland Street, E.P. Bliss, came to settle in Lexington. They had been summer guests at the Massachusetts House for several years before purchasing the adjoining lots. Their experience was not unique. Many of the people who built on Meriam Hill and its counterpart, Munroe Hill, were first introduced to the town as summer guests at one of the four hotels. Some built homes for summer use, some as permanent residences from which they commuted by train to jobs in Boston. Jackson moved to Lexington permanently c. 1894. Jackson's daughter, Mary Lee, who lived in the house for many years was active in women's rights.

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, p. 321. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Lexington Minute Man, May 11, 1883, July 13, 1883, February 8, 1884.

Withey, Henry F. Dictionary of American Architects (deceased), p. 15. Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

1889 atlas

1906 atlas

1887 Directory

1894 Directory

1899 Directory

1906 Directory

(see Continuation Sheet)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 372
Property Name: 17 Oakland Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

rectangular two-story bay window on the right side with a decorative lion's head panel (see photograph). There are staggered butt shingles on the second level and clapboards with double-beaded edges on the first level.

The interiors have not been changed. Original wallpaper survives in the vestibule and the original curtain between dining room and living room remains. The gas fixtures in the dining room still work. Noteworthy interior features include a fine-cut brick fireplace in the living room; a dining room fireplace which is finished with a cast metal frieze of a woman's face in the midst of a field of flowers and a fireback of similar design; an upstairs fireplace with coal grate with decorative metal panel of a theatrical mask or grotesque; a panelled stairhall with elaborate staircase and a painted and stained glass window on the landing of the stairs. The window, a design of leaves in brilliant green, incorporates the verse:

If I could put my woods in song
And tell what's there enjoyed
All men would to my garden throng
And leave the cities void.

An upstairs stained-glass window includes the name "Maywood Cottage."

Plans for the building by Francis Allen and Arthur Kenway, architects, are in the possession of the owner. Allen later designed the Riverside Church in New York in partnership with Charles Collens.

The contractor, John May, built the house at 19 Oakland Street at the same time as this one. May lived in Magnolia, Massachusetts, in the 1890s and built many summer houses there. May was contractor for the houses at 14 and 16 Percy Road and at 6 Stetson Road. He designed the latter house as well.

James S. Merriam, local painter, was awarded the contract for painting and inside decoration of the house. The date, June 1884, was inscribed on a rock on the drive shortly after the house was first occupied in April.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Personal communication from Joyce Miller.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
17 OAKLAND ST.

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

Area(s) Form No.

H	372
---	-----

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The obituary of George Stephen Jackson (1841-1903) appeared in the *Lexington Minute-man* on February 21, 1903. It states that he was a linguist of great ability and a connoisseur of books and works of art. He was described as "first of all a gentleman in every sense of the word". Jackson was a grain broker, associated in the 1860s with Scudder & Co., grain dealers, and was a member of the corn exchange when it was merged with the Boston Chamber of Commerce and was secretary of the exchange in 1872 and 1873. He later was a partner in the firm of Jackson & Morse but after 1890 represented J.A. Edwards & Co. of Chicago and Prichard & McGourkey of New York. (There is no evidence that he was ever superintendent of the Boston school system, as was previously reported.) Jackson, his wife and daughter, Mary Lee were members of the Church of Our Redeemer and the family was well known in society and literary circles (*Minute-man*, February 21, 1903). Miss Mary Lee Jackson (b. 1872) was still living at 17 Oakland Street in 1942.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, February 21, 1903.
U.S. Census Records, 1900-1930.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
June 2009

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: 372
Property Name: 17 Oakland Street	

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

