

**FORM B – BUILDING**

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

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

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Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) East Lexington

Address 5 Pleasant St.

Historic Name David Harrington House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction ca. 1845

Source Stylistic analysis; Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form Greek Revival

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Granite

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates)

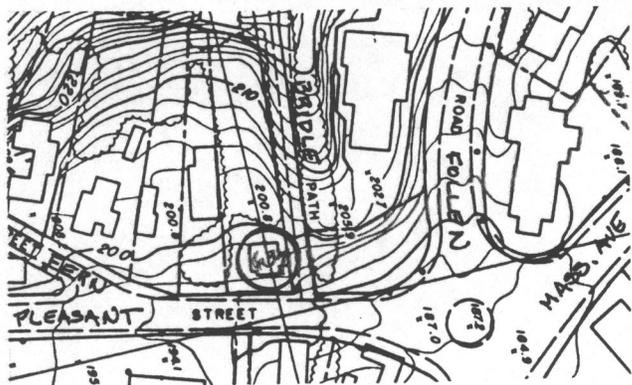
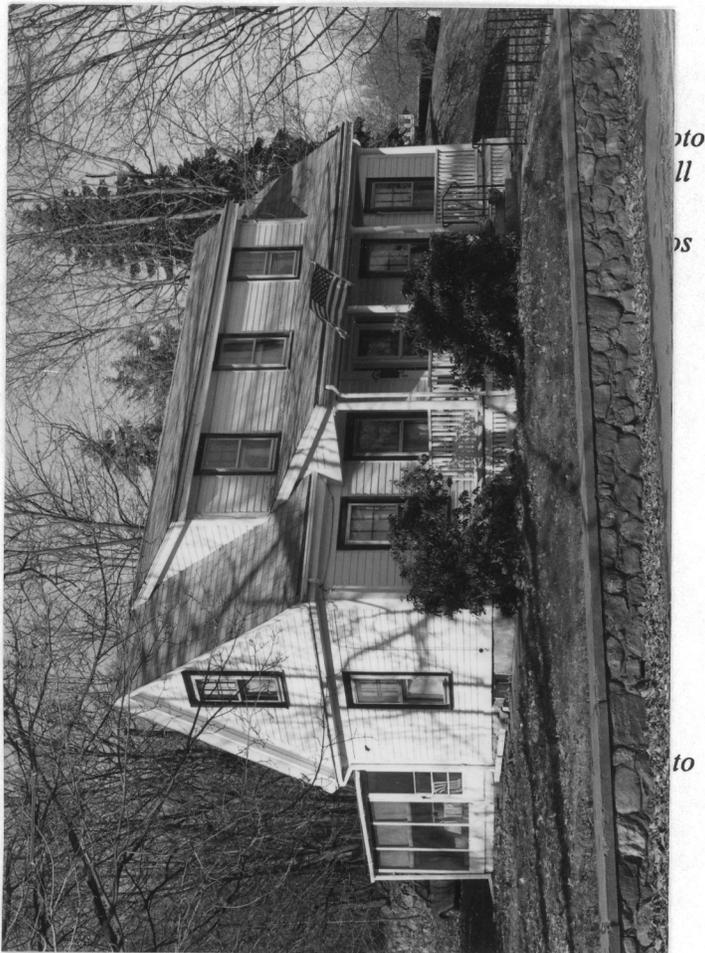
- Front porch (before 1923)
- Front shed dormer (after 1923)
- Remodeled after 1925 fire
- Rear porch (date unknown)

Condition Good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acreage 0.4 A.

Setting Near the intersection of two very busy streets and across from a heavily-patronized farm stand



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.*

5 Pleasant St. is one of only 10 side-gabled Greek Revival cottages in Lexington. The house is rectangular with a rear ell, 1½ stories, five-by-one bays, and has a steeply-pitched side-gabled roof with a chimney at the intersection of the main block and ell. The 1½-story one-by-one bay rear ell has a front-gabled roof that is also steeply pitched and a shed-roofed dormer in the reentrant angle. The house is set on a granite foundation, clad with wood clapboards, and roofed with asphalt shingles. There is a one-story flat-roofed screened porch in the west rear reentrant angle. The center entrance is flanked by full-length sidelights; windows are 6/6 double hung sash. A frieze board extends around the entire house, creating a pedimented attic. Additions on the facade include a three-bay shed-roofed dormer and a three-bay porch with slender Tuscan posts.

### 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.*

Although the caption on a 1923 photograph identifies this house as Nathan Fessenden's, historical maps indicate that it really belonged to David Harrington (1790–1870). Harrington bought the land on which this house stands in 1840, but it is not clear exactly when the house was built. David Harrington was assessed for a house in 1841, but deeds and assessors' records indicate it was not on this land nor, apparently, was a second house for which he was assessed in 1844–1846. However, the similarity between this house and the one at 1 John Wilson Ln. (MHC #638), which was built in 1846, suggests that this house was also built in the 1840s. David Harrington had worked for many years dressing furs in the East Lexington fur industry, but in the early 1840s he began to cut and process peat on land he owned in the Great Meadow, a business he continued until 1858. The 1923 photograph shows the house with gable rather than a shed dormer; in 1925 the house reportedly partially burned and was remodeled.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

Church, Burr. Photograph Collection. Lexington Historical Society, Lexington, MA.

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1913. 2: 283.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 394: 515; 384: 147.

Sileo, Thomas P. Sileo. *Historical Guide to Open Space in Lexington*. Lexington, Mass.: Thomas P. Sileo, 1995. 266.

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