

# FORM B – BUILDING

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

Date (month / year): September 2015

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

20/77    2260

Town/City: Lexington

Place: (neighborhood or village):

## Photograph



East (façade) and north elevations

Address: 40 Rindge Avenue

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1918-20

Source: town directories, U.S. census

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: concrete

Wall/Trim: vinyl siding and trim

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Attached shed

Major Alterations (with dates):

Artificial siding (L 20<sup>th</sup> c); fenestration on right side elevation (L 20<sup>th</sup> c?); rear egress door and stairway (L 20<sup>th</sup> c?)

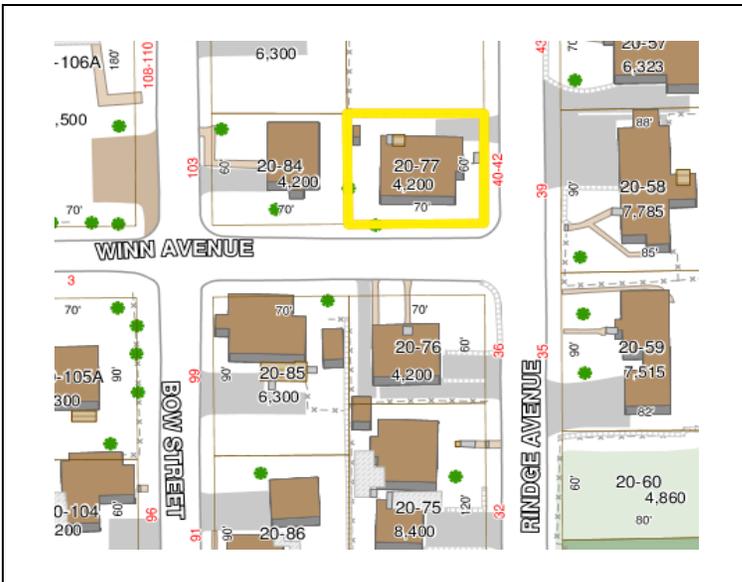
Condition: fair

Moved: no  yes  Date:

Acreage: 0.10

Setting: Located at the intersection of Rindge and Winn avenues, in a dense residential neighborhood. Surrounding buildings are of varying size and scale and predominantly early to mid-20th century construction.

## Locus Map



Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

40 RINDGE AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	2260
--	------

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

40-42 Rindge Avenue occupies a small, level, corner lot. The two-family house is roughly centered on the property, which is maintained chiefly in lawn with foundation plantings and street trees. A paved driveway extends halfway through the northern end of the parcel. The brick steps with bluestone treads occupy most of the front setback between the street and the main entrance of the house. The building sits on a level lot. The parcel consists of a front and side yard of mostly lawn with a few small to medium sized foundation plantings and street trees. The building consists of a 2 ½ story main block with several varied projections.

The nearly square main block rises from a concrete foundation to a hip roof with a center chimney. Walls are clad with vinyl and vinyl trim. Windows typically have 1/1 double hung sash. The front façade (east elevation) is dominated by a shallow, two-story high projection with a flat roof, which covers the right half of the façade, and a two-story angled bay window on the left end. A gabled entry portico is offset on the rectangular projection, supported by Tuscan columns. Railings composed of square balusters connect the columns to the façade. The single-leaf main entry door has paired windows on the left and is surmounted by a triplet of windows on the second story. Each face of the angled bay window has one window on each floor. A half story dormer with a hip roof and flat fascia board is centered on the front slope of the main roof and contains a single 1/1 window.

The north (right side) elevation has a small, rectangular two-story projection near its centerline and irregular, mostly small fenestration at various heights. A square Queen Anne-style sash is set towards the front of the first floor, along with a single-leaf entrance to the basement; a small utility shed with a low shed roof projects from the wall behind the two-story bay. A half story dormer with a hip roof and single 1/1 window is offset on the right slope of the main roof.

The south (left side) elevation contains three regular but asymmetrical window bays, with one window in each on each floor. A half story dormer with a hip roof and a single 1/1 window is centered on the left slope of the main roof. The west (rear) elevation has two casement windows and a second story egress door accessed by a long wood staircase with square posts.

Although it has lost architectural integrity through the application of vinyl siding and trim, 40-42 Rindge Avenue is a good example of ambitious, two-family suburban housing in Lexington in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house is notable for its comparatively large size, solid massing, two-story high façade modulations, modestly stylish entry portico, and multiple dormers.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*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.*

The neighborhood centered around Bow Street and Hillcrest, Cliffe, and Rindge avenues covers a steep hillside between Massachusetts Avenue and Lowell Street along the Arlington town line. The Great Meadows and Arlington Reservoir are located to the west and east, respectively. By 1898, a very short stub of road between Mass. Avenue and the B&M Railroad tracks is labeled Bow Street. North of the tracks, it continues as a pathway to a farmhouse identified as J. A. Wilson. The 1899 directory identifies a James Wilson, farmer and market gardener, with a house off Bow, and a James A. Wilson, market gardener, with a house on Bow. The land remained undeveloped as part of the Wilson Farm until at least 1906.

Most of the streets here were laid out and platted for house lots by 1927; development most likely began after 1918. Development slowly crept up the hillside through the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, most densely along the grid of streets closest to

# INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

40 RINDGE AVENUE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

	2260
--	------

Massachusetts Avenue. The Wilson farm remained in existence east of Bow Street (in the area now traversed by South Rindge Street) until at least 1950, when it encompassed a substantial farmhouse and greenhouse and two other large outbuildings.

The area was likely developed in response to the electric street railway, which began service on Mass. Avenue in 1899. Like Liberty Heights to the south of Massachusetts Avenue (which it resembles, architecturally; LEX.Q), this neighborhood—known as Massachusetts Avenue Terrace and Arlington Heights Terrace— was laid out by Jacob W. Wilbur, a prolific Brookline developer. Wilbur typically sited his subdivisions near streetcar lines and appealed to working class residents.

Rindge Avenue was laid out by 1918, and by 1922 seven households were identified on the street, in unnumbered houses. By 1935, houses stood on only about a third of the lots platted on the west side, and only one house is shown on the unplatted east side of the street. 40-42 Rindge Avenue is first depicted in 1935, with a long, narrow shed (not extant) behind and to the right of the house. Although houses were unnumbered then, occupants of this house were identified as early as 1920, when Anthony Cataldo, a shoe cutter in a shoe shop (later employed as a rubber worker; born in Italy), lived here with his wife Concetta (the child of Italian immigrants), and their infant son. By 1930, Anthony and Concetta had four more children here.

In 1935, Cataldos were still living in one of the apartments (Ciriaco, no occupation given, and Mary A.), but the other unit was vacant. By 1945, both apartments were occupied by Cataldos, including Ralph D., a farmer, and his wife Elizabeth F., and Joseph A., a mail clerk for the railway, and his wife Susan E. Subsequent residents included Edward L. Scanlan, a sheet metal worker, and his Margaret F., and Patrick F. McHugh, a mechanic, and his wife Alice (1955 and 1965).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Historic maps and atlases: Walling 1853; Beers 1875; Walker 1889; Stady 1898; Walker 1906; Sanborn 1908, 1918, 1927, 1935, 1935/1950.

Lexington Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey, Period and Area Summaries.

<http://historicsurvey.lexingtonma.gov/index.htm> Accessed Jul 23, 2015.

Lexington Directories: 1899, 1908-09, 1918, 1922, 1934, 1936

Lexington *List of Persons*: 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Lexington." 1980.

\_\_\_\_\_. Form A – Liberty Heights. 2001.

U.S. Census: 1920, 1930.

## SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



South and east (façade) elevations