

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	477

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



wn Lexington

dress 6 Rowland Avenue

storic Name Lucinda Munroe House

e: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

te early nineteenth century

Source Edwin B. Worthen

Style Federal / Gothic Revival
mid-nineteenth century Vernacular

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboards

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) doorway
 (recent alteration)

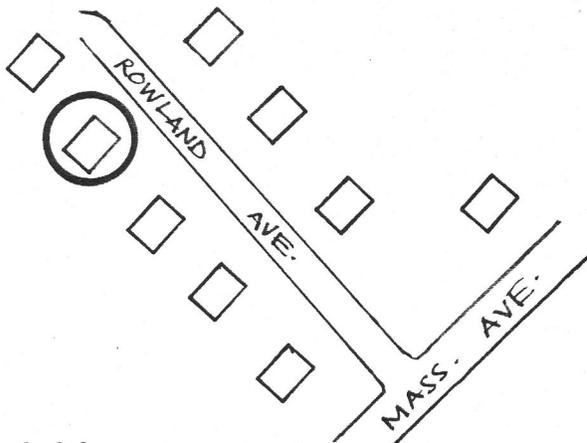
from 1454
 Moved Massachusetts Avenue Date 1906
c. 1910

Approx. acreage 6656 ft.²

Setting Suburban residential street of
mostly post-World War II houses.

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.)

This house has the plan of the early nineteenth century Federal Vernacular building it was originally: rear chimneys, five-bays wide, one-room deep. Now, however, its exterior appearance is that of a mid-nineteenth century Vernacular building with elements of Gothic Revival. Features include vertical proportions, a steep roof pitch, central facade gable, and fascia of the raking eave with intermittent patera trim. As the only nineteenth century house in an otherwise mid-twentieth century streetscape, the house becomes a focal point.

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

This house originally stood around the corner on the site of 1454 Massachusetts Avenue. It was built shortly after 1800 by Col. William Munroe, proprietor of the Munroe Tavern from 1771 until his death in 1827. The house was occupied by his unmarried daughter, Lucinda, until her death in 1863. Thereafter it was owned for many years by Albert Griffiths, a saw manufacturer in Boston. Very likely Griffiths gave the house its mid-nineteenth century appearance. The house was moved c. ~~1910~~ 1906 to make way for the construction of the current house at 1454 Massachusetts Avenue.

1906

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. 462. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Note attached by Susan Muzzey attached to historic photograph. Lexington Historical Society archives.

Worthen, Edwin B. Report prepared for the study committee of the Historic Districts Commission, 1963. Worthen Collection, Cary Memorial Library.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
6 ROWLAND AVE.

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

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HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

A brief mention appearing in the *Lexington Minute-Man* on September 29, 1906, confirms that this house was moved to its present house in that year to make room for a new house being erected by Benjamin Fitch at what is now 1454 Mass. Ave. The article notes:

The frame is up and boarded in for Mr. Benjamin Fitch's new house on the site of the former residence of Albert Griffith's family known as "The Lilacs"...The old house which years ago was known as the Aunt Lucindy Munroe place, is now placed on a rear lot of land to the east of its former position and is being occupied by Mr. Fitch's family while his new house is building. The old place just alluded to was also known at one time, before the Griffiths occupied it, as the D. Cutts Nye place. The old ell of the main structure was moved off the premises on Tuesday and presented a curious sight as it proceeded up Mass. avenue on wheels.

The house at 6 Rowland Avenue was still owned by Benjamin's daughter, Mary Fitch, in the 1920s. Later owners included Leon and Emma Kinsman who sold it to Mario and Marianne Plaff in 1954. The Plaffs continued to own the property until 1993.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Minute-Man, Sept. 29, 1906.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.
U.S. Census

Supplement prepared by:
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