

FORM B - BUILDING

LEX. 694

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

Assessor's Number 005900058C USGS Quad Maynard Area(s) Form Number 694

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 160 Wood St. NOW 2 1/2 Smith Farm Lane

Historic Name Schumacher Barn

Uses: Present Agricultural

Original Agricultural

Date of Construction 1889

Source Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form 19th c. post-and-beam

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Fieldstone

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

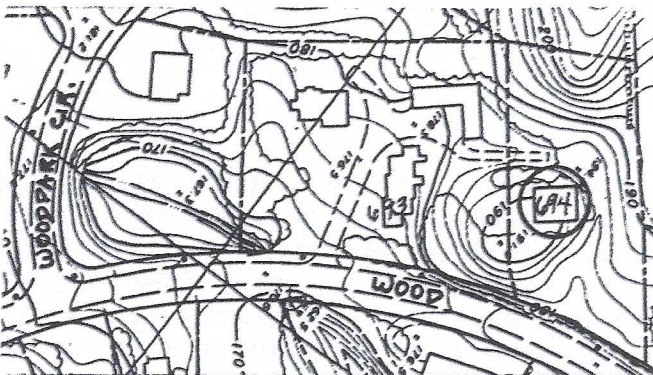
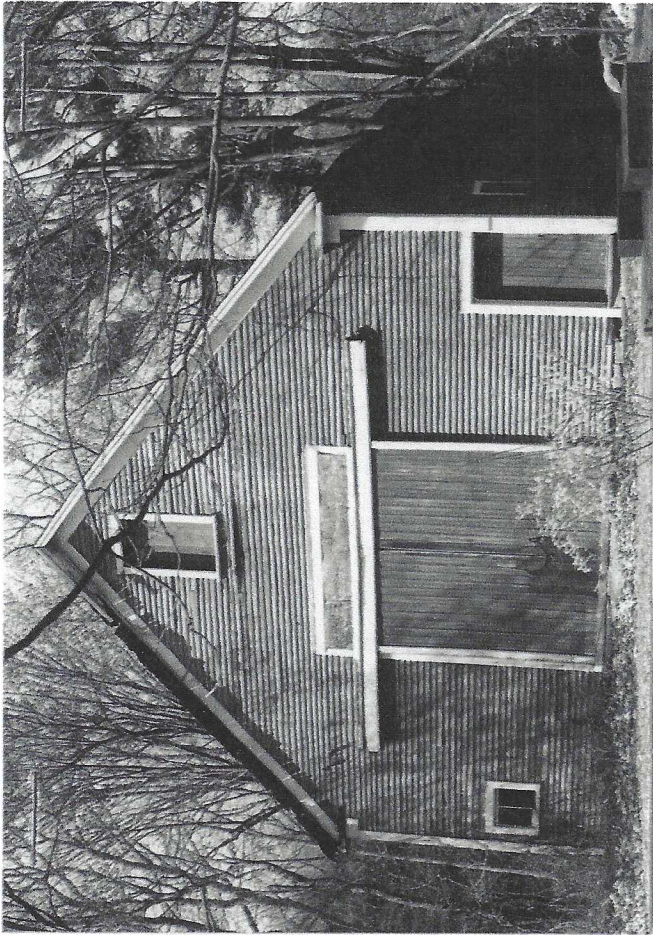
Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition Fair

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 0.9 A.

Setting On a rise above the farmhouse with which it was originally associated



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) March 1998

RECEIVED

AUG 27 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.

The Schumacher Barn has been described as an "elegant example" and "important document" of 19th-century post-and beam-construction, significant as one of the few surviving examples in Lexington of a post-and-beam barn and because of the elaborate strut work that supports the roof and the traditional division of interior space. In addition, the barn is still in its original relationship to the Schumacher farmhouse at 148 Wood St. (MHC #693) and other farm buildings even though it is no longer part of that property. The barn is rectangular, 1½ stories, three-by-four bays, and front-gabled. It had transom lights over the main door, a hay door, and a full cellar. On the interior, the timbers have circular saw marks, are pinned with machine-turned dowels with hand carved points, and the studs are toenailed with machine cut nails. There is a cow tie-up on the southern, and warmer, side of the barn and a hay loft in the story above.

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.

The Schumacher Barn was built as part of the farm at 148 Wood St. (MHC #693) but is now on a separate lot owned by the owner of the 170 Wood St. (MHC #695) property. Although many architectural features of the barn suggest a mid-19th century construction date (see above), Lexington assessors' records indicate that the barn was built in 1889 when the farm was owned by Joseph Ballard. There was no barn at all before that date on the property, which Ballard had acquired in 1879 after the person who built the farmhouse in 1876 had defaulted on a mortgage. Lexington assessors' records also show that the value of the barn quadrupled between 1899 and 1900 when the farm was owned by Joseph's son Ernest K. Ballard, suggesting that the barn was enlarged or improved in 1899.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES see continuation sheet

- Grady, Anne A. "The Schumacher Barn: Architectural and Historical Significance." March 1988. On file with Lexington Historical Commission, Lexington, MA.
- Lexington Valuation Lists. 1879-1900.
- Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 1502: 332, 335; 1507: 326; 2626: 130.

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