

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
365-366, 669-677	G



Lexington

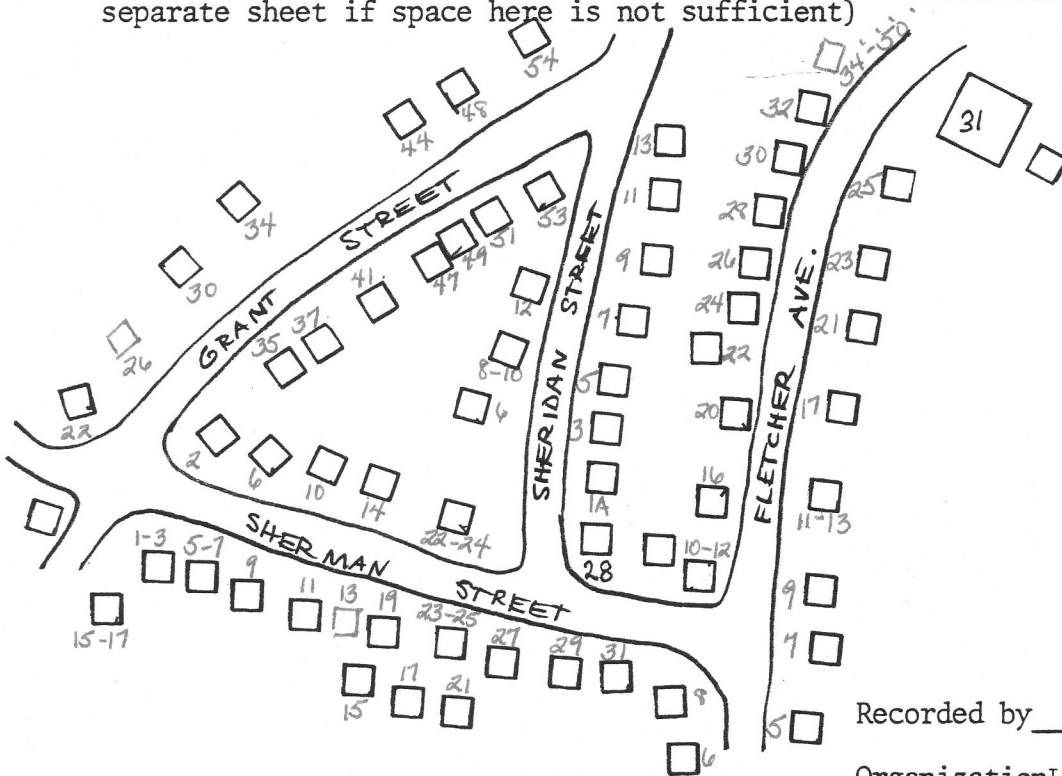
Area (if any) Grant/Fletcher/

Sheridan/

/Sherman Streets

date or period late nineteenth C.

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date April, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The Sherman/Grant/Sheridan/Fletcher street area occupies level land to the southeast of Meriam Hill. Development of the portion of the area closest to Massachusetts Avenue rather quickly in the 1890s is reflected in a cohesive streetscape. Houses are relatively modest, two-story, wood frame structures, oriented with their gable ends toward the street for the most part, and are embellished with a few simple features characteristic of the period of construction: porches with turned posts, balustrades, bay windows, overhanging eaves with brackets, and an occasional turret. Even though some houses have lost their original finishes, the area retains substantial architectural integrity.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

Grant, Sherman, Fletcher, and Sheridan streets were laid out in the late 1880s on land owned by David Wood Muzzey and Charles G. Fletcher. Why these men chose to subdivide their land has not been documented, but reasons must have included the increased demand for housing caused by the arrival in the 1880s and 1890s of many suburbanites and those providing support services for them. A more immediate reason may have been the establishment of a precision gearworks in the area in 1887, the Lexington Gear Works at 31 Fletcher Avenue.

The first reference to development of the area occurred in 1887 when the local newspaper states, "Mr. C.G. Fletcher is planning to build three houses to be rented at moderate prices . . . located on a street of Main St., just this side of Woburn St." (Lexington Minute Man, April 1, 1887). By 1889 Fletcher had built seven cottages.

The Lexington Minute Man continued to chronicle the development of the area, stating in 1891: "The house building of Mr. Muzzey on Grant St. is nearly completed and will make an attractive home. Mr. Muzzey built this house to demonstrate the fact that there is a demand for houses renting for \$25 per month and now there are likely to be others following his example."

By 1898, 25 houses were built; perhaps three-quarters of them were still rental properties. By 1906 two more houses had been built and two-thirds were owner occupied.

Residents of the area being renters are not listed on the maps and are therefore difficult to locate in the directories (1899, 1906). Occupations

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Lexington Minute Man, April 1, 1887, August 22, 1887, May 1, 1891, May 22, 1896, June 12, 1896, August 7, 1896, September 25, 1896, November 6, 1896.

1875 atlas

1889 atlas

1898 atlas

(see Continuation Sheet)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: G
Property Name: Grant/Fletcher/Sheridan/ Sherman Streets	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

identified tend to be those related to the railroad, such as engineer or baggage master, or trade or service occupations, such as clerk, janitor, carpenter, and gas house engineer.

The area is significant as one of the few areas in Lexington conceived primarily as a rental neighborhood.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom

**AREA G**  
**GRANT/FLETCHER/SHERIDAN/SHERMAN STREETS**

Address	Style	Date (if known)	MHC Number
6 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate cottage (Centre Engine Ho.)	1857; moved ca. 1877	669
7 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate	c. 1887	670
8 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate	1875	671, 672
10-12 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate	c. 1887	
11-13 Fletcher Ave.	Colonial Revival	by 1898	
16 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate/Stick	c. 1887	
17 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate	c. 1887	
20 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate/Stick	c. 1887	
21 Fletcher Ave.	Italianate/Stick	c. 1887	
22 Fletcher Ave.	Queen Anne	c. 1900	
24 Fletcher Ave.	Queen Anne	by 1898	
28 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1927	
30 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1928-1930	
31 Fletcher Ave.	Industrial (Jefferson Union Factory)	c. 1890	365
36 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1928-1930	
38 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1926-1928	
40 Fletcher Ave.	? (two-story, front-gabled)	1926 or 1927	
42 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1927-1930	
44 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1928-1928	
46 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1927	
48 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1927-1930	
50 Fletcher Ave.	Bungalow	1927-1930	
15 Grant St.	Dutch Colonial Revival?		
22 Grant St.	Bungalow		
34 Grant St.	Shingle Style?	by 1898	
35 Grant St.	Queen Anne	by 1898	
37 Grant St.	Queen Anne	by 1898	
41 Grant St.	Colonial Revival		
47 Grant St.	Queen Anne (Charles Harrington)	1896	677
49 Grant St.	Dutch Colonial Revival		
53 Grant St.	Dutch Colonial Revival		
1A Sheridan St.	Queen Anne	c. 1900	
3 Sheridan St.	Queen Anne	by 1898	
5 Sheridan St.	Queen Anne	by 1898	
7 Sheridan St.	Queen Anne	c. 1900	
8-10 Sheridan St.	Greek Revival (John Bacon House)	moved ca. 1902 from site of old high school (later Muzzey J.H.S.) on Mass. Ave. when high school built	
12 Sheridan St.	Greek Revival (ell of John Bacon House)	moved ca. 1902	
1-3 Sherman St.	Dutch Colonial Revival?		
2 Sherman St.	Queen Anne (Thurston)	1893-1894	676
5-7 Sherman St.	? (cement block foundation, exposed rafter ends, shaped fascia boards)		
6 Sherman St.	Queen Anne	by 1898	
10 Sherman St.	Colonial Revival	by 1898	

14 Sherman St.	Federal (Mulliken-Sherburne)	1809-1822; moved 1906-1918 from Mass. Ave.	675
15 Sherman St.	Queen Anne (Franks)	by 1898	
17 Sherman St.	Dutch Colonial Revival	c 1910	
19 Sherman St.	Queen Anne (Franks)	by 1898	
21 Sherman St.	Dutch Colonial Revival	c 1910	
22-24 Sherman St.	Dutch Colonial Revival (Muzzey Dbl.)	1897	
23-25 Sherman St.	? (flat roof, fieldstone foundation)	owner says 1930s c 1910	
27 Sherman St.	<del>Queen Anne</del> dem.		
28 Sherman St.	Queen Anne/Stick Style	c. 1890	366
29 Sherman St.	Queen Anne (Justus Morse)	1902	674
31 Sherman St.	Queen Anne (Robt. Hovey)	1902	673