

49

Boston N.

J

90-93; 422-426; 439; 1279-1324

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125



Town: Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village):

Name of Area: Parker St./Upper Clarke St.

Present Use: Residential

Construction Dates or Period: c.1860-c.1930

Overall Condition: good

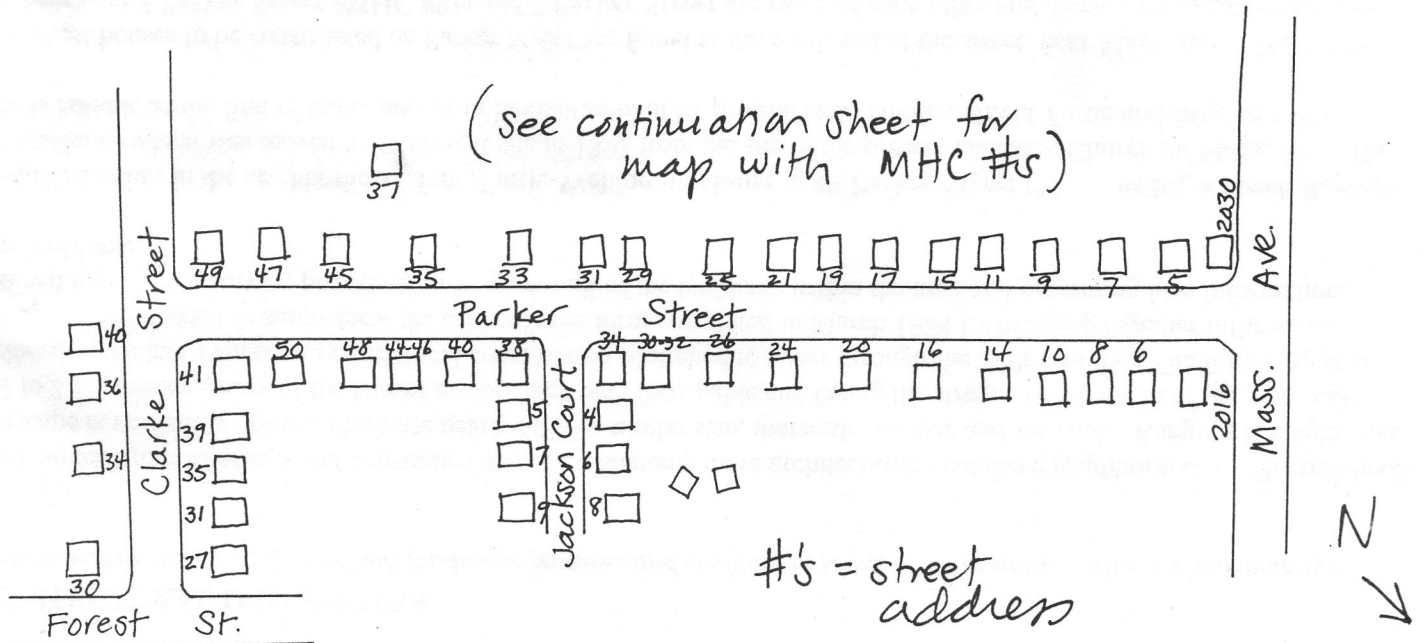
Major Intrusions and Alterations: additions, new construction behind 26 Parker

Acreage: approx. 13

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year): Jan. 2000



## AREA FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

*Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.*

Parker Street/Upper Clarke Street constitutes one of Lexington's more architecturally cohesive neighborhoods. The tree-lined streetscape is unified by houses which are nearly all of a similar size, materials, lot size and set back. Ranging in height from 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 stories, many of the houses are oriented with their gable end facing the street. While much of the area was developed in the late 19th century additional construction continued to occur through the 20th century. The following area form update is intended to supplement the original area form completed in March 1984 by bringing together information contained in the 1984 survey, providing coverage for all of the buildings within the area and presenting new information, where available.

The earliest house in the neighborhood is the **Tuttle-Wellington House at 49 Parker Street (MHC #426)**, a Greek Revival-style residence which was moved to its present site in 1892 from the site of the present Hancock Church on Mass. Ave. The house is notable as the first of many houses in Lexington built by prolific local builder, David Tuttle and dates to 1840.

The earliest houses to be constructed on Parker Street are found at the south end of the street, near Mass. Ave. The 2 1/2-story houses at **5 Parker Street (MHC #91)** and **7 Parker Street** are twins of each other and display cross gable plans and widely projecting eaves which end in returns. Constructed in the early 1870s, the houses are Italianate in their inspiration. The houses have seen various alterations over the years including the addition of aluminum siding to 5 Parker Street. Across the street the houses at **6 Parker Street (MHC #92)** and **8 Parker Street** are also twins of each other and were constructed about 1873. The two houses display a 2 1/2-story, three bay-wide gablefront with simple brackets supporting the cornice returns. The front porch supported by turned posts is a later addition.

The **Byam House at 15 Parker Street (MHC #422)** is notable as one of Lexington's best preserved gablefront Italianate residences. The building displays a number of three-sided bay windows, chamfered posts and paired brackets at the eaves. The property is also notable for its detached carriage house with gable wall dormer. The house at **14 Parker Street** is a two-story gablefront dwelling which retains paired brackets but has been altered by several additions.

It is the Queen Anne style expressed in a 2 1/2-story gablefront form which predominates in the neighborhood. The **Daniel Owen house at 25 Parker Street (MHC #425)** is an excellent example of the style, sheathed in a combination of shingles and clapboards. Contrary to information contained in the previous survey, the house was constructed in 1890. It was built by prominent Lexington builder, Abram C. Washburn. The house at **20 Parker Street (MHC #423)** is another well-preserved Queen Anne-style dwelling, notable for its brackets, bay window and wrap-around porch with Chippendale balustrade, decorative frieze and turned posts. This house was constructed by well known local builder David Tuttle for Ellen Lane in 1885. The house at **24 Parker Street (MHC #424)** displays flared shingles in its gables and a wrap-around porch with turned posts and a spindle frieze; its barn has been removed. One property which retains its detached barn is 40 Clarke Street. The Queen Anne style is also evident in detailing on the houses at **35 Clarke Street, 26 Parker Street, 33 Parker Street, and 47 Parker Street**. A deteriorating but intact example is visible at **31 Clarke Street**. A hip-roofed example of the style is visible at **40 Parker Street**. The house at **30 Parker Street** is an unusual example of a Queen Anne-style, gablefront duplex, while **44-46 Parker** is a former barn which was converted to a duplex about 1894. The building displays decorative trusses in the side gables. The house at **41 Clarke** displays a characteristically irregular massing but its integrity has been impaired by the installation of wide, synthetic siding. The house at **16 Parker Street** has been nearly completely rebuilt and a large addition constructed after a fire in 1995.

More modest Queen Anne homes include **4, 5, 6 and 7 Jackson Court**. The latter displays an octagonal corner tower capped by a conical roof. Contrary to local legend, the houses on Jackson Court were not moved from other locations but were all built for George Jackson for rental use.

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

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LexingtonProperty Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) Form No.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The Shingle Style is represented by the house at **10 Parker Street** which displays a gablefront pent. Unfortunately the house has been sheathed in aluminum siding, lessening the visual effect of the original shingle cladding. Examples of the Dutch Colonial Revival with the ubiquitous gambrel roof are located at **34 Clarke Street** and **39 Clarke Street**.

After the turn-of-the-century, the increasing influence of the Craftsman style is visible in the design of several houses in the neighborhood including three-hipped roof Four Square houses **19, 21, and 35 Parker Street**. The latter is notable for its exposed rafters and distinctive front porch posts flanked by latticed panels. The house at **21 Parker Street** retains its original novelty siding and remains largely intact. A modest but well-preserved example of a side-gabled Bungalow style stands at **11 Parker Street**.

After 1920 the Parker Street neighborhood continued to see infill construction on vacant lots. Many of these were "Colonial" in inspiration. The house at **29 Parker Street** is a later Dutch Colonial Revival home, constructed in 1928. The Cape Cod dwelling at **31 Parker Street** was constructed in 1953 while the Garrison Colonial mode is visible at **36 Clarke Street** and **9 Parker Street**. The addition of detached garages to older properties was common in the early 20th century. Small, intact garages include those at **19, 20, 30-32, 44-46 and 45 Parker Street**.

The area continues to exhibit great architectural integrity and most of the houses (except **31 Clarke Street**) are in good-excellent condition. While there are cases of synthetic siding, generally speaking care has been taken not to remove trim. In recent years a number of owners have improved/rehabilitated their homes including returning exteriors to historically appropriate paint schemes. Several houses including **47 Parker Street** have seen the construction of large rear additions in recent years. The house at **16 Parker Street** was largely rebuilt after a fire in 1995. Other recent construction includes two larger homes which are out of scale with the neighborhood which have been constructed in the back lot of **26 Parker Street**.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this area relates to the historical development of the community.*

The Parker Street/Upper Clarke Street neighborhood was lotted in 1872 on land which Richard Blinn purchased from Asa Cottrell in 1866. Blinn's plan for the neighborhood refers to this as the "Belfry Hill Stock Farm". What is now Parker Street was labeled as Stark Street. The subdivision also included lots on Clarke Street which extended to Forest Street extension. The 1872 plan shows that at that time there was only a single building on the acreage and that was on Forest Street.

Blinn had moved to Lexington from Bedford in 1852. He was president of the Lexington Railroad, a member of the first board of trustees of the Lexington Savings Bank and served as a member of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1869 and 1874. Blinn lived in the former Greeley House on Mass. Ave. (**1948 Mass. Ave., MHC #64**). The Panic of 1873 put Blinn into bankruptcy and he left Lexington. Blinn died in Chicago in 1906.

By the time of the 1875 map there were four houses on Parker Street (at **5,6,7 and 8 Parker Street**). In 1885 Clarke Street was extended from Forest Street to Parker Street. By the time of the 1889 map, one more house had been constructed on the west side of Parker Street (**15 Parker Street**) with six additional houses built on the east side at what are now **14, 16, 20, 24 and 30-32 Parker Street** as well as at **31 and 35 Clarke Street**. To the west of Parker Street were baseball grounds and the Lexington Gun Club.

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LexingtonProperty Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (continued)

Inspection of the 1898 map indicates that between 1889 and 1898 four more houses were located on the west side of the street including new construction at **25 Parker Street**, **33 Parker Street**, and **47 Parker Street** as well as the house at **49 Parker Street** which had been relocated from Mass. Ave. New construction on the east side of Parker Street included **40**, **48** and **50 Parker Street** as well as **41 Clarke Street**. According to Edwin Worthen, the house at **44-46 Parker Street** was formerly a barn on the Robinson Estate, Stratham Road, and was sold to George Jackson who moved it here and converted it to residential use. Valuation records indicate it was moved in 1894.

Jackson Court was laid out east of Parker Street between **34** and **38 Parker Street** prior to 1898 although by 1898 only the house at **8 Jackson Court** was in place. Between 1898 and 1903 three other houses on Jackson Court had been constructed (**6**, **7** & **9**) as well as the house at **34 Parker Street**. The final two houses, at **4** and **5 Jackson Court** were built between 1903 and 1906, as was the house at **45 Parker Street**. Contrary to local tradition these houses do not appear to have been older structures moved to the site. Various articles appearing in the *Lexington Minute-man* describe the construction of the houses for George H. Jackson between 1901 and 1904. The house at **9 Jackson Court** was built by Jackson for his clerk, George A. Warner, in 1901. An article in December 1901 notes that another foundation was being installed on Jackson Court for Jackson who "owns quite a tract of land and has already built several dwellings for rental" (December 14, 1901). Jackson added another house for rental in 1904 for Jackson who is described as owning "a little colony of houses in this locality" (Feb. 13, 1904). George H. Jackson came to Lexington in 1868 and lived at **7 Parker Street** for many years. He was in the provision business, served as a trustee of the Saving Bank and was an assessor. He owned extensive real estate; for example in 1902 he was assessed for eight houses in the Parker Street area.

In 1905 the *Minute-man* reported that the barn on the P.J. Keenan property (formerly owned by Dr. Rolfe) had been sold to Edward Montague, a builder, who had moved it to Parker Street (the present **45 Parker Street**) and converted it into a dwelling (April 15, 1905). Montague was also apparently responsible for construction of his own house at **33 Parker Street** and for moving a former barn from Concord Hill (2318 Mass Ave.?) to **48 Parker Street** and converting it to a residence.

Between 1908 and 1918 three additional houses (**13 Parker Street**, **34** and **39 Clarke Street**) were built on vacant lots within the neighborhood. Another five houses at **19**, **21**, **35**, **35A** and **38 Parker Street** date to the 1918 to 1927 period. The house at **29 Parker Street** was constructed in 1928. The post World War II period saw the construction of houses at **31 Parker Street** in 1953 and **9 Parker Street** in 1958.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey of Lexington, 1984.  
Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society.  
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1915.  
Lexington Directories, various years.  
*Lexington Minute-man*, various issues.  
Lexington, Town of. List of Persons, various years.  
Lexington, Town of. Valuation Lists. Assessors' Office, Town Hall, Lexington, Massachusetts.  
Sanborn Map Co. *Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1887, 1892, 1897, 1903, 1908, 1918, 1927, 1935. Microfilm.  
Worthen, Edwin. Notes on Moved Buildings. [Courtesy of Nancy Seasholes].  
1875, 1889, 1895, 1906 maps.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|

**DISTRICT DATA SHEET  
AREA J  
PARKER ST./UPPER CLARKE ST.**

| Assessors | Resource  | Address          | Style                   | Date      | MHC#    |
|-----------|---|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|---------|
| 49/132    | Milton Holt House   | 27 Clarke Street | Garrison Col.           | 1964      | 1279    |
| 49/131    | J.J. Buckley House  | 31 Clarke Street | Queen Anne              | 1875-1889 | 1280    |
| 49/88A    | Sarah & Lester Smith House                                  | 34 Clarke Street | Dutch Colonial          | 1912      | 1281    |
| 49/130    | Mary & H.A.C. Woodward House                                | 35 Clarke Street | Queen Anne              | 1875-1889 | 1282    |
| 49/88B    | Gus Geckos House  | 36 Clarke Street | Garrison Col.           | 1967      | 1283    |
| 49/129    | House   | 39 Clarke Street | Dutch Col. Revival      | 1906-1908 | 1284    |
| 49/89A    | Edward Wood House   | 40 Clarke Street | Queen Anne              | 1893      | 1285    |
|           | Carriage House  | 40 Clarke Street |                         | c.1890    | 1286    |
| 49/128    | Wm. Tanton House  | 41 Clarke Street | Queen Anne/<br>Eastlake | 1894      | 1287    |
| 49/87     | Blinn-Crone House   | 30 Forest Street | Italianate              | c.1870    | 439 (K) |
| 49/117    | G.H. Jackson Rental Property                                | 4 Jackson Ct.    | Queen Anne              | 1903-1906 | 1288    |
| 49/122B   | G.H. Jackson Rental Property                                | 5 Jackson Ct.    | Queen Anne              | 1903-1906 | 1289    |
| 49/118A   | G.H. Jackson Rental Property                                | 6 Jackson Ct.    | Queen Anne              | 1898-1903 | 1290    |
| 49/121A   | G.H. Jackson Rental Property (built for William A. Jackson) | 7 Jackson Ct.    | Queen Anne              | 1898-1902 | 1291    |
| 49/119    | G.H. Jackson Rental Property                                | 8 Jackson Ct.    | Queen Anne              | 1889-1898 | 1292    |
| 49/120    | G.H. Jackson Rental Property (built for George Warner)      | 9 Jackson Ct.    | Queen Anne              | 1901      | 1293    |
| 49/180    | House   | 2016 Mass. Ave.  | Queen Anne              | c.1890    | 93 (B)  |
| 49/181    | House   | 2030 Mass. Ave.  | Federal                 | c.1810    | 90 (B)  |
| 49/106    | House   | 5 Parker Street  | Italianate              | c.1870    | 91 (B)  |
| 49/107    | George B. Dennett House                                     | 6 Parker Street  | Italianate              | c.1873    | 92 (B)  |
| 49/105    | House   | 7 Parker Street  | Italianate              | c.1870    | 1294    |
| 49/108    | S.W. Hendley House  | 8 Parker Street  | Italianate              | c.1873    | 1295    |
| 49/104    | Welsh House   | 9 Parker Street  | Garrison Col.           | 1958      | 1296    |
| 49/109    | House   | 10 Parker Street | Shingle Style           | 1898-1903 | 1297    |
| 49/103    | Mitchell House  | 11 Parker Street | Bungalow                | 1914      | 1298    |
| 49/110    | House   | 14 Parker Street | Italianate              | c.1875    | 1299    |
| 49/102A   | Byam House  | 15 Parker Street | Italianate              | c.1880    | 422 (J) |
|           | Barn  | 15 Parker Street |                         | c.1880    | 1300    |

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LexingtonProperty Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

J

DISTRICT DATA SHEET  
AREA J  
PARKER ST./UPPER CLARKE ST.

| Assessors | Resource  | Address          | Style                             | Date                                      | MHC#    |
|-----------|---|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---------|
| 49/111    | Willis House  | 16 Parker Street |                                   | c.1880/<br>1995                           | 1301    |
| 49/102B   | House   | 17 Parker Street | Col. Rev.                         | c.1990                                    | 1302    |
| 49/101    | Gilson House  | 19 Parker Street | Craftsman<br>Four Sq.             | 1921                                      | 1303    |
|           | Garage  | 19 Parker Street |                                   | 1926                                      | 1304    |
| 49/112    | Ellen Lane House  | 20 Parker Street | Queen Anne                        | 1885                                      | 423 (J) |
|           | Garage  | 20 Parker Street |                                   | c.1910                                    | 1305    |
| 49/100    | House   | 21 Parker Street | Craftsman/<br>Four Sq.            | c.1923                                    | 1306    |
| 49/113    | Vickery-Litchfield-Lane-<br>Talcott House                                   | 24 Parker Street | Queen Anne                        | c.1885                                    | 424 (J) |
| 49/99     | Daniel E. Owen House  | 25 Parker Street | Queen Anne                        | 1890                                      | 425 (J) |
| 49/114A   | Francis Cobb House  | 26 Parker Street | Queen Anne                        | 1897                                      | 1307    |
| 49/98     | Michelson House   | 29 Parker Street | Dutch<br>Colonial                 | 1928                                      | 1308    |
| 49/115    | Ferguson Double House   | 30-32 Parker St. | Queen Anne                        | c1880                                     | 1309    |
|           | Garage  | 30-32 Parker St. |                                   | c.1920                                    | 1310    |
| 49/97     | Hankard House   | 31 Parker St.    | Cape Cod                          | 1953                                      | 1311    |
| 49/96     | Edward Montague House   | 33 Parker St.    | Queen Anne                        | by 1898                                   | 1312    |
| 49/116    | G. H. Jackson Rental Property   | 34 Parker St.    |                                   | 1900                                      | 1313    |
| 49/95     | Leighton House  | 35 Parker St.    | Craftsman/<br>Four Sq.            | 1923                                      | 1314    |
| 49/94     | Double House  | 37 Parker St.    |                                   | 1918-<br>1927                             | 1315    |
| 49/123    | Spencer House   | 38 Parker St.    | Craftsman                         | 1919                                      | 1316    |
| 49/124A   | Desmond House   | 40 Parker St.    | Queen Anne                        | 1895                                      | 1317    |
| 49/125    | Robinson-Jackson Double<br>House (Robinson Barn moved<br>from Stratham Rd.) | 44-46 Parker St. | Stick/<br>Queen Anne              | (moved<br>here<br>1894)                   | 1318    |
|           | Garage  |                  |                                   | c.1930                                    | 1319    |
| 49/93     | McCaffrey House<br>(Rolfe Barn moved from<br>1963 Mass Ave.)                | 45 Parker St.    | Greek<br>Revival/<br>Col. Revival | moved<br>here<br>1905                     | 1320    |
|           | Garage  | 45 Parker St.    |                                   | c.1920                                    | 1321    |
| 49/92     | Cheney House  | 47 Parker St.    | Queen Anne                        | 1892                                      | 1322    |
| 49/126    | Tanton-Montague House<br>(former barn moved from<br>Concord Hill?)          | 48 Parker St.    | Queen Anne                        | c.1890<br>(or<br>moved<br>before<br>1898) | 1323    |
| 49/91     | Tuttle-Wellington-Glass House   | 49 Parker St.    | Greek<br>Revival                  | 1840<br>(moved<br>1892)                   | 426 (J) |
| 49/127    | Tanton-Gurney House   | 50 Parker St.    | Queen Anne                        | c.1890                                    | 1324    |

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



view down Clarke Street



view down Jackson Court toward Parker Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



49 Parker Street



5 Parker Street



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



45 Parker Street



33 Parker Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



20 Parker Street



38 & 40 Parker Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



5 Jackson Court



9 Jackson Court

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



35 Parker Street



21 Parker Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



11 Parker Street



29 Parker Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



45 Parker Street



30 Parker Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



34 & 36 Clarke Street



24 & 26 Parker Street

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|



16 Parker Street



26 Parker Street



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
Parker St./Upper Clarke St.  
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
Massachusetts Archives Building  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

|   |  |
|---|--|
| J |  |
|---|--|

