

FORM A - AREA

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

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
478-489, 497, 1038-1040	N

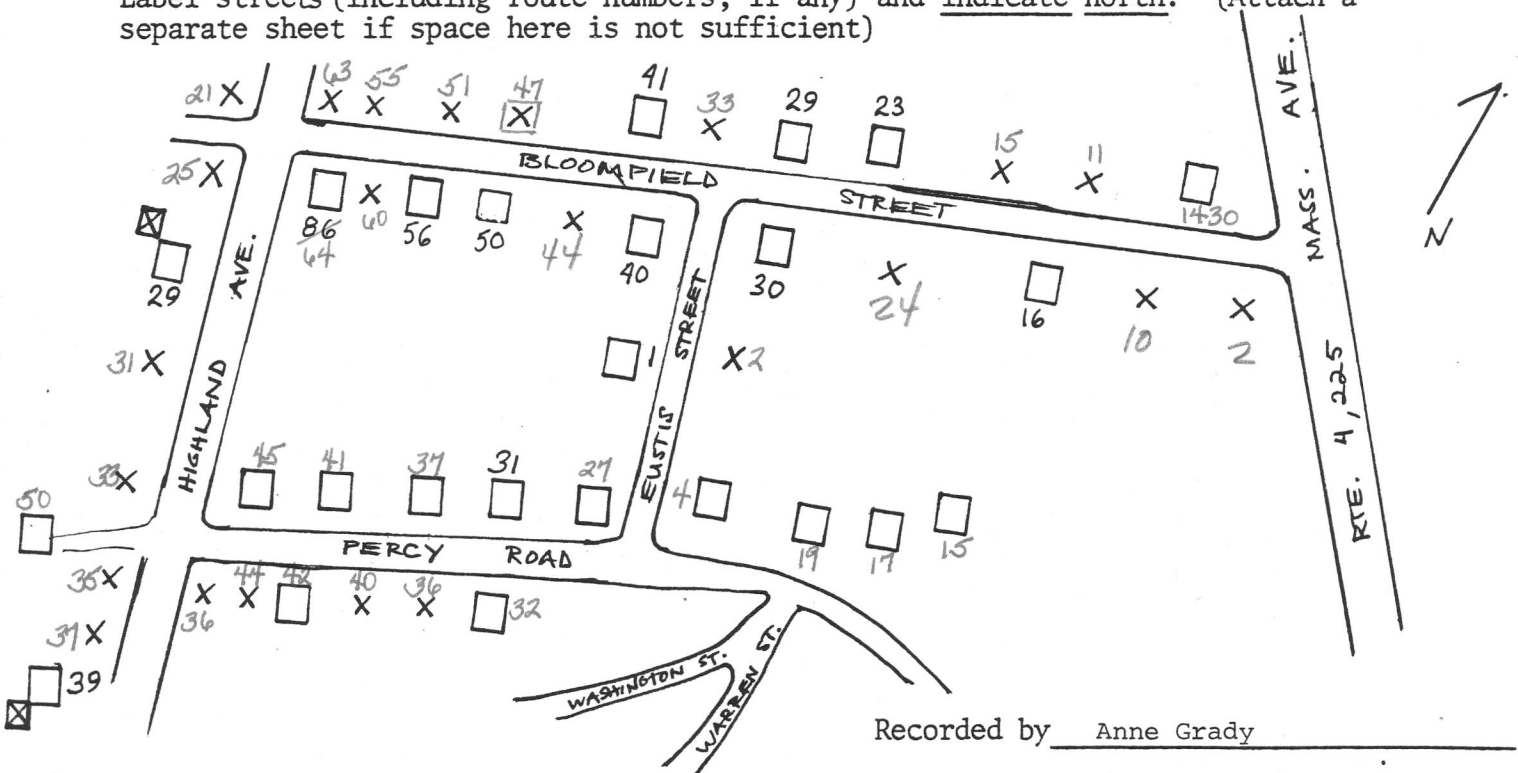


Lexington

f area (if any) Bloomfield Street

l date or period 1872 to c. 1900

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 March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Bloomfield Street "was developed as a controlled real estate speculation, first by one individual, later by a land company. The result was a closely integrated neighborhood of comfortable middle-class housing. . . . The street was laid out in house lots averaging 150' x 150' by Levi Prosser, a farmer from Bloomfield Connecticut. Prosser had turned to real estate speculation when he bought part of the old Wm. Munroe farm extending over the hill behind the Munroe Tavern. Development occurred in two ways. First Prosser might sell a lot to a prospective house owner who would then build a single family residence. As an alternative, Prosser might sell several lots at a time to a speculator developer such as John L. Norris, builder of the Norris Block in the Center, or to Abram Washburn, local contractor. The developer would then sell individual lots to those seeking to build for themselves. Construction would proceed one lot at a time as each was sold. Thus the houses along the street were built to suit the preference of each individual land owner, a process which avoided uniformity of design. A shared aesthetic, similar scale, and the use of common materials produced a harmonious neighborhood" (Reinhardt, pp. 90-91).

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

The Bloomfield Street area (which includes Bloomfield St., Eustis Street and the portions of Percy Rd. and Highland Ave. laid out for development by Prosser) is composed predominantly of houses of similar scale and materials built in the 1870s, 1880s and early 1890s. There are perhaps half a dozen more recent houses in the area. Deed restrictions limiting to one the number of houses per lot and requiring a 35' set back have given the area a feeling of spaciousness.

Although there are three houses with Italianate or Mansard features, virtually all of the rest of the late 19th century houses are Queen Anne/Shingle style vernacular structures with characteristic decorative features including bay windows, porches with turned posts, dormer windows or cross gables, exposed rafter feet, decorative trim on the fascia of the raking eave, and patterned shingles.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: N
Property Name: Bloomfield Street	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Patterns may be simply staggered butt shingles or rows of shingles of one shape alternating with rows of clapboards or shingles of another shape.

The use of patterned shingles to embellish an otherwise vernacular structure was a favorite device in Lexington in the late nineteenth century. Abram C. Washburn, Lexington's most prolific builder of the period who built several houses on Bloomfield Street on speculation, was a frequent user of patterned shingles.

The fact that many of the houses in the Bloomfield Street area are of similar design and that many retain their original finishes gives the area great architectural integrity. It is more cohesive, in fact, than neighboring Munroe Hill developed just a few years later, but in a much more individualistic manner. The Bloomfield Street area also retains six carriage houses, all displaying original finishes and areas of patterned shingles.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

An early example of land use controls in Lexington, the deeds from Prosser restricted to one the number of houses per lot and required a setback of 35 feet. Buildings along the street were soon referred to as "neat and tasty" cottages . . . . Sales were slow during the 1870s, because of the mid decade recession, but picked up in the 1880s. By 1885 the new streets of Eustis and Mt. Vernon higher up Munroe Hill had been opened for further construction. The Lexington Minute Man pointed with pride to Norris' efforts on Bloomfield Street and chronicled the construction and sale of the buildings there.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Plan by S. Sage, May 1872, Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 25, Plan 18.

Reinhardt, Elizabeth Wright. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, Boston University, pp. 90-91.

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# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
BLOOMFIELD ST.

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

Area(s) Form No.

N	
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**DATA SHEET  
AREA N  
BLOOMFIELD STREET**

MHC #	Address	Name	Style	Date
135	1404 Mass. Ave.	John L. Norris House	Queen Anne	1889
140	1430 Mass. Ave.	John L. Norris House	Italianate	c.1875/ alt. c.1900
	2 Bloomfield Street	Herbert Connors House	Dutch Colonial	1926
	10 Bloomfield Street	James Phillips House	Dutch Colonial	1926
	11 Bloomfield Street	Ervin Whittaker House	Dutch Colonial	1928
	15 Bloomfield Street	George Barton House	Colonial Revival	1928
478	16 Bloomfield Street	Levi Prosser-Samuel Gookins House	Italianate	1872
479	23 Bloomfield Street	Josiah Ingalls House	Queen Anne	1884
	24 Bloomfield Street	James Barrington House	Colonial Revival	1920
480	29 Bloomfield Street	Rev. Dr. Cyrus Hamlin House	Queen Anne	c.1885
481	30 Bloomfield Street	Babcock-Fox House	Second Empire/Queen Anne	c.1872
	33 Bloomfield Street	Donald Wilson House	Dutch Colonial	1926
482	40 Bloomfield Street	Rev. George W. Porter House	Queen Anne	c.1885
483	41 Bloomfield Street	R. W. Dickson House	Queen Anne	1889
	44 Bloomfield Street	E. A. Shaw House	Queen Anne	1896
1038	47 Bloomfield Street	J. M. Sampson House	Queen Anne	c.1886
484	50 Bloomfield Street	Willard O. Armes House	Shingle	1896
	51 Bloomfield Street	George A. Woods House	Shingle	1906
	55 Bloomfield Street	Lyman C. Little House	Shingle	1906
485	56 Bloomfield Street	Silloway-Kilgore House	Queen Anne	1884
1039, 1040	60 Bloomfield Street	Charles Rogers House	Queen Anne	1893
486	64 Bloomfield Street	Henry Wood Lewis House	Queen Anne/Colonial Rev.	1894
489	1 Eustis Street	Irving Stone House	Queen Anne	c.1885
	4 Eustis Street	Hayden M. Saben House	Queen Anne	1886
	21 Highland Ave.	Alton C. Dowling House	Dutch Colonial	1926
	25 Highland Ave.	Walter Trowbridge House	Colonial Revival	1926
487	29 Highland Ave./	J.L. Norris Rental Property	Queen Anne/Colonial Rev.	c.1885
	33 Highland Ave.	Clayton Hilliard House		1926
	36 Highland Ave.	Fred E. Giles House	Georgian Revival	1926
488	39 Highland Ave.	George Norris House	Stick Style	1888
	43 Highland Ave.	Archibald Geroux House	Colonial Revival	c.1910

Note: Percy Road structures are included in Munroe Hill (Area O) form.