

LHD 6/11/56
NRDIS 4/30/76

LEX. 53

In Area no. B, AC	Form no. 53
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MISSION
oston

1. Town Lexington *Pi. Lex*
 Address 3 Bedford St. *SET A*
 NAME FIRST NORMAL SCHOOL
 Present use Masonic Temple

Present owner Simon W. Robinson
~~Lodge of Free Masons~~

3. Description:
 Date 1822
 Source Lex. Hist. Soc. Proceedings
 Style GRK. Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) _____

Other features Dentil Course at cornice

Flat Pilasters At Corners, by door from foundation to cornice, elegant Weathervane

Altered Yes Date Frequently

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size:
 Less than one acre X Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 75'

Approximate distance of building from street 20'

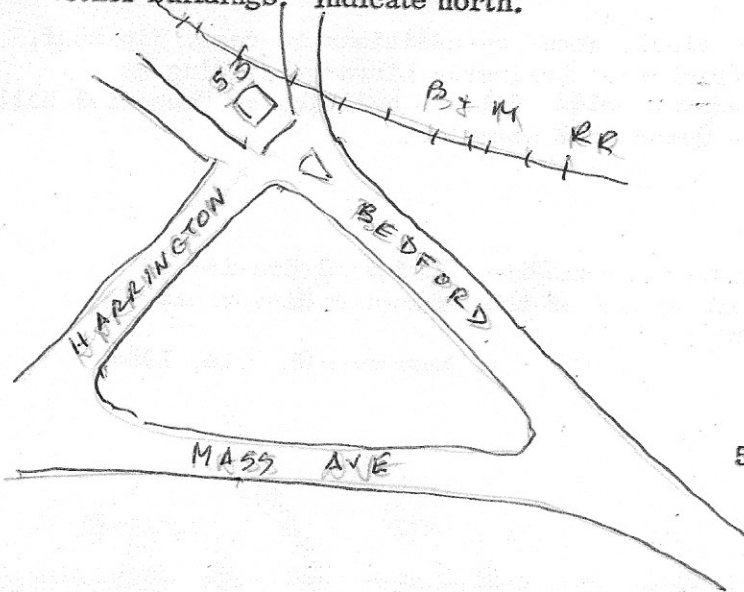
6. Recorded by E.W. Reinhardt

Organization Lex. Hist. Comm.

Date August 20, 1975



on
in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
 USGS Quadrant _____
 MHC Photo no. _____

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Lexington Academy
 Original use Secondary School
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates: 1839-1844 First Normal School in Nation

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>x</u>	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>x</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	<u>x</u>
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____
Community development	_____				

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

1839-1844. Building housed first normal school or teacher's college in nation. Horace Mann had persuaded Mass. State legislature to establish the institution. Abolitionist Rev. Samuel J. May was principal of school in 1842.

Occupied by nearly formed Hancock Church Society (Congregational) from 1868 until construction of present building on Mass. Ave. (Form B-15) in 1892.

Bought by Simon W. Robinson Lodge, 1913.

Descrip. cont. Granite foundation on main block, stone on additions to rear. Hip roof. Col. Rev. porch on N.W. side entrance. (Pictures: Lexington Library-building as Congregational Church w. spire SPNEA - Lex, unmounted files - building as "Memorial Hall" no date - style - Queen Anne shingle.

Historical significance

Banner weathervane may be original to the building. Original drawing of Lexington Normal School (1839) in the collection of the Lexington Historical Society. Also, photographs 1880s and 1890s.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Worthen, Edward. A Calendar History of Lexington - p-54, p. 61, p. 63
 p. 72, p. 91

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