

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets

USGS Quad

Area Letter

Form Numbers in Area

57119 & 123;  
57/145-77  
57/145-79

Boston N.

AO

1468-1471

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Town: Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village):

Name of Area: Bedford Street Duplexes

Present Use: Residential

Construction Dates or Period: 1913-1914

Overall Condition: good

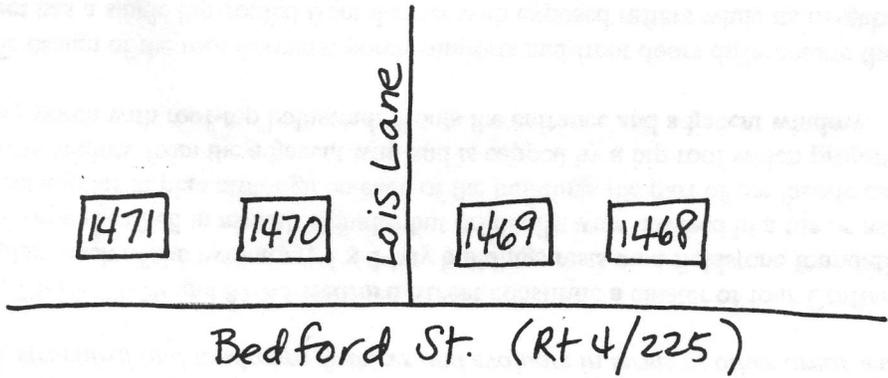
Major Intrusions and Alterations: some window replacement

Acreeage: *less than 1 acre*

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year): January 2000



↑  
North

## AREA FORM (69-71, 73-75, 77-79, 81-83 Bedford Street)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The buildings at 69-71, 73-75, 77-79 and 81-83 Bedford Street constitute a cluster of four Craftsman-style, stuccoed duplexes. Identical in plan, each of the two-story, 4 x 2-bay buildings rests on a fieldstone foundation and is capped by a steeply-pitched hip roof, now sheathed in asphalt shingles but originally were covered in a tile or asbestos shingle. The buildings are roughly rectangular in plan although on each of the buildings the part of the facade containing the entrance and two flanking bays projects slightly from the adjacent wall and is capped by a hip roof which projects from the main hip roof. An offcenter single-story porch with roof-top balustrade fronts the entrance and adjacent window.

Subtle differences in the design of the roof dormers, porch supports and front doors differentiate the buildings. The building at 69-71 Bedford Street has a single hip-roofed front dormer with exposed rafters while its neighbor has two smaller hipped dormers. A gabled dormer with braces rises from the front slope of 77-79 Bedford Street while 81-83 Bedford Street has a shed dormer which has been altered by the addition of jalousie windows. The choice of porch supports includes tapered wooden posts, square wooden posts, and stuccoed posts. With the exception of 73-75 Bedford Street, all of the buildings retain their original front doors and adjacent stained glass windows. The front door designs include one with an oval inset glass and two with square glass. The stained glass windows on the two northern buildings appear identical. On 73-75 Bedford Street, the original entrance has been replaced by two six-panel doors. The predominant windows are tripartite windows consisting of a central 6/1 sash flanked by 4/1 units and individual 6/1 sash, all set into molded surrounds. The building at 69-71 Bedford Street has witnessed the most alterations which include the painting of the stuccoed exterior, the replacement of the original windows with 1/1 sash, the addition of dormers on the side and rear roof slopes and a rear porch addition. This is also the only building which lacks window shutters.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

*See 89-91 Bedford St., MHC # 752*

These four duplexes were constructed in 1913-1914 by William J. Edwards, owner of the Edwards Cement System of Cambridge. The houses are located on the former Professor Holt property. On August 15, 1913, the *Lexington Minute-man* reported that the four buildings were under construction and on November 5, 1914 the houses were reported to be almost completed. The 1914 Town Valuation List indicates that Edwards was then living on Mt. Auburn Street in Cambridge and that the houses were unfinished. The Valuation List for 1915 lists the value of each building as \$5500 and states that Edwards was then living at 63 Bedford Street (the addresses of the duplexes at that time were 53, 55, 57 and 59 Bedford Street).

*the former Holt House*

The early tenants of the buildings can be characterized as middle class and appear to have changed fairly frequently. The 1922 directory (the earliest to have listings by address) indicates that 53 Bedford Street was then occupied by John McCullough, foreman electrician and Edward McKenzie, station agent of the Lexington Depot. The other residents were - 55 Bedford Street: James H. Russell, asst. chief claim dept. U.S.I.R. and Charles Goodwin, boiler inspector; 57 Bedford Street: Hubert Broderick, special agent and Daniel Worwood, insurance agent; and 59 Bedford Street: Edward Kelly, chauffeur, and Carl Stucke of Colonial Garage.

William J. Edwards died in March 1917 and by 1918 his widow, Florence, had sold all of the duplexes except what is now 81-83 Bedford Street which she continued to own until 1941 when it was sold to William and Anna Rice. Anna Rice retained ownership of the building until 1981. Lois Lane was laid out between 73-75 Bedford Street and 77-79 Bedford Street in 1975 and these two buildings were converted to condominiums in 1976.

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



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town  
Lexington 69-71, 73-75, 77-79, 81-83 Bedford

Property Address

Area(s) Form No.

AO	
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**DISTRICT DATA SHEET  
AREA AO  
BEDFORD STREET DUPLEXES**

<b>Tax Map #</b>	<b>Resource</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>MHC #</b>
57/123	Duplex	69-71 Bedford Street	1913-1914	1468
57/145-73 57/145-75	Duplex	73-75 Bedford Street	1913-1914	1469
57/145-77 57/145-79	Duplex	77-79 Bedford Street	1913-1914	1470
57/119	Duplex	81-83 Bedford Street	1913-1914	1471

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69-71 Bedford Street



73-75 Bedford Street



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77-79, 81-83 Bedford Street