

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	126

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

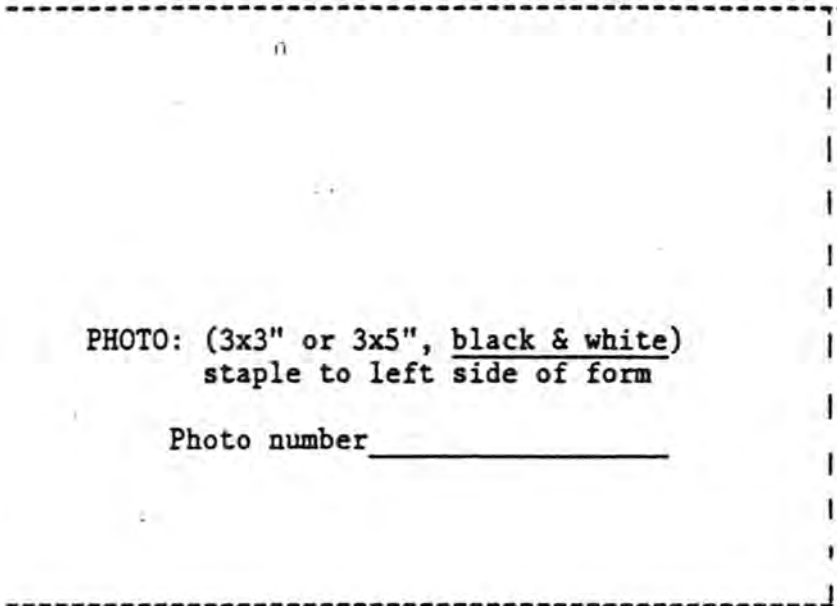


PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date December 1984

Town Arlington

Address 40 Westminister Avenue

Historic Name Robinson-Lewis-G.F. Fessenden House

Use: Present residence

Original farmhouse

DESCRIPTION:

Date ca. 1850

Source historical

Style Italianate (altered)

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) _____

porches ca. 1895-1910; roof extended over side entrance, 1935.

Moved no Date N/A

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting Located in a heavily treed suburban area, this house sits on the edge of a steep hill.

UTM: 19/320260/4699300

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

The Robinson -Lewis-Fessenden House is a well-preserved Italianate-style house. Of the early farmhouses predating the Crescent Hill subdivision, this one was probably the most fashionable. Ornate bracketed window surrounds and a dentilated entrance porch supported by square posts with beveled edges adorn an otherwise simple five-bay rectangular plan. The side chimney is a later alteration, as is the extended single-story porch running across the facade of the side ell.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

This is one of two early farmhouses that pre-date the ca. 1870-1890 subdivision of Crescent Hill. (The other is the Nourse House at 52-54 Westminister; the Hinsley House on Westminister may be a third.) It marks a period when this steep and rocky section of northwest Arlington was used, not altogether successfully, for farmland.

The Lewis family held this property during much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. They were in the wood-turning trade and later, the milk business. Original ownership is attributed to T.S.G. Robinson.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Robinson-Lewis-G.F. Fessenden House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It fulfills Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places as a well-preserved representative of the Italianate style.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

1875 Beers map
1898 Stadley map
Building permit files
Research by Kevin Doyle

ROBINSON, WASHINGTON STATE
RE BOSTON, MASS
WASHINGTON HISTORICAL COMMISSION
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Arlington Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Locke School

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 9/27/85

Attest

32. Milestone

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 9/27/85

Attest

33. Prentiss-Payson House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 4/18/85

Attest

34. Prentiss, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 9/27/85

Attest

35. Proctor, William, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 4/18/85

Attest

36. Rawson, Warren, Building

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 9/27/85

Attest

37. Rawson, Warren, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 4/18/85

Attest

38. Robindreau, Alfred E.,
House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 4/18/85

Attest

39. Robinson House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 4/18/85

Attest

40. Robinson-Lewis-G.F.,
Fessenden House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Melona Byers 4/18/85

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

^{G.F.}
Robinson-Lewis-G.F. Fessenden House
(Arlington MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR / 6 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 4/4/85 - 4/20/85
Action: ACCEPT 4-18-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

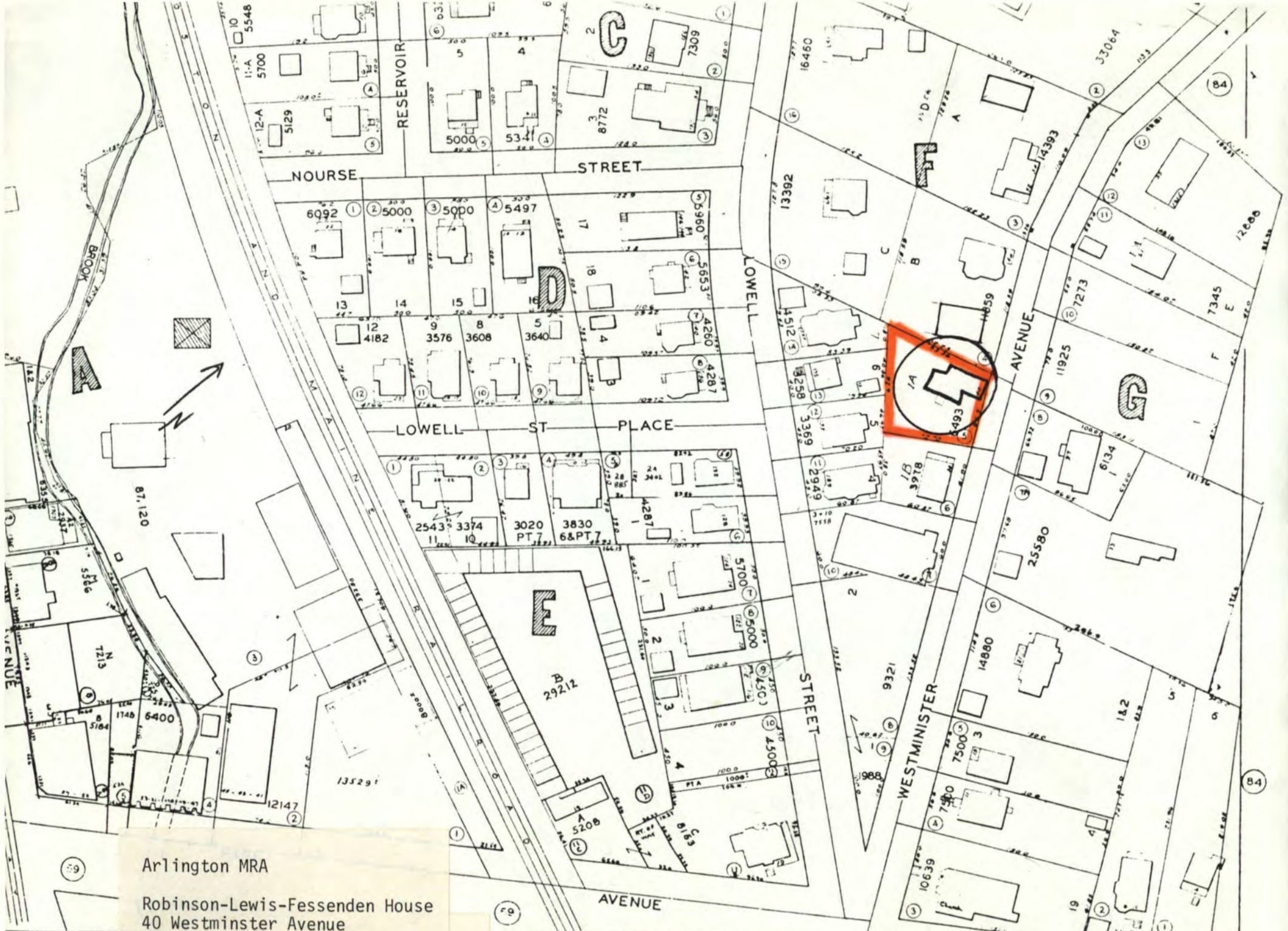


Robinson - Lewis - G.F. Fessenden House

Arlington MRA, MA

8530

981



Arlington MRA

Robinson-Lewis-Fessenden House
40 Westminister Avenue

SCALE 0 40 80 160 FEET

BLOCK PLAN NO 60