

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 6 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 14 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC

Simonds Tavern *nd*

AND/OR COMMON

same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

331 Bedford Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE
025COUNTY
MiddlesexCODE
017**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**
 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT
OWNERSHIP
 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED
STATUS
 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO
PRESENT USE
 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John and Jean Shanahan

STREET & NUMBER

331 Bedford Street

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1975

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Simond's Tavern is a free standing two-story, gabled block situated on the east side of Bedford Street immediately before its intersection with the highway Route 128, and about 1/4 miles northwest of Lexington Center. The heavy traffic on Bedford Street detracts somewhat from the predominantly residential character of the neighborhood, as does Route 128. Despite these intrusions, Simond's Tavern remains unaltered.

Simond's Tavern is built on a granite faced, brick foundation with the gables to the side. The facade which faces west, the north elevation, and the east elevation are sheathed in clapboard. The south elevation is brick with bridged chimneys. The original Georgian house, c. 1795, is five bays wide, with a center entry and center chimney. A wing was added to the house about 1810; it is three bays wide with an entrance placed in the first bay, in an attempt to balance the facade proportionally.

The facade has been treated as a unit; the dentil course of the cornice continues uninterrupted for the full length of the building. The two entrances of the main facade are nearly identical with pilasters, a simple entablature and a projecting, flat cornice with modillions above a dentil course. The southern door, however, has a simpler and narrower architrave than the northern entrance.

Fenestration throughout is six-over-six sash. On the facade, the bays are equally proportioned except for the bay south of the south door, which is slightly wider; this tends to emphasize the distinction between the two sections of the building. Second floor window tops are flush with the cornice. On the north elevation, at the attic level, are two small windows placed close together. The windows of the east and south elevations are more randomly placed; all are original and are framed by a simple, flat molding.

Sheds and outbuildings to house animals were attached to the building and have since been removed.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Simonds Tavern is significant because of its association with the early settlers of Lexington and the commercial history of the Federal era of the Town.

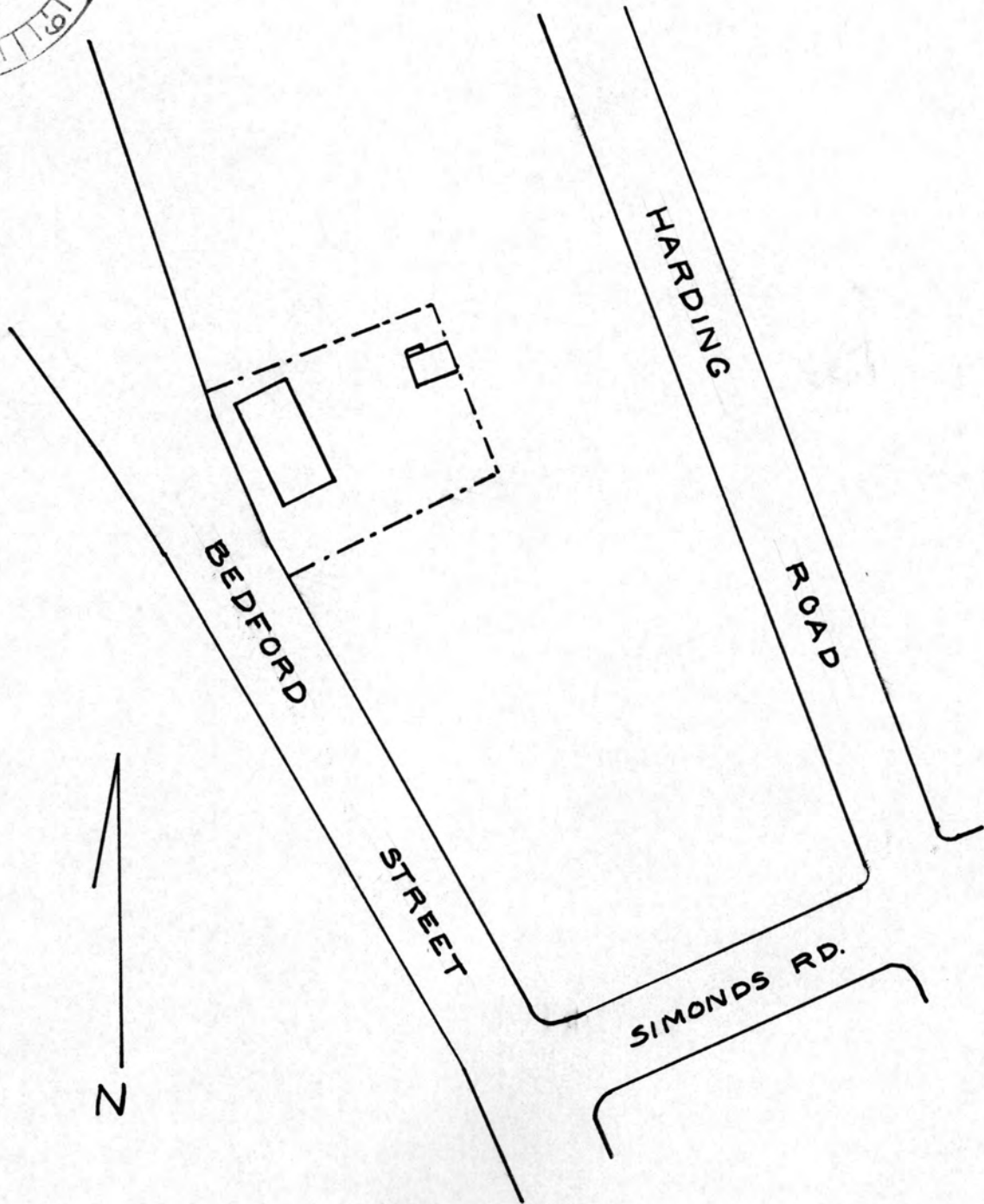
The Simonds family arrived in Lexington in 1686 and were large landowners. In 1760, Joshua Simonds acquired thirty-six acres of land where the Tavern was later built. He was a member of Captain Parker's company of Minute Men and participated in the Battle of April 19, 1775. Joshua Simonds Jr. (1770-1858) inherited the land and built the original north section of the tavern about 1794, when he married Abigail Cutler of Lexington. He kept a tavern (now lost) on Monument Street (now Massachusetts Avenue), at the base of Fiske Hill, west of Lexington Center. Sensing the opportunity created by the growing traffic of drovers bringing cattle, sheep and turkeys to the Boston market from the north, in 1802 he opened a tavern in his house on Bedford Street. In 1806, Bedford Street was rebuilt west from the Lexington Green, replacing the older more circuitous route. Simonds' new tavern prospered because of the new road, and an addition was built in 1810. Joshua Simonds apparently found running two taverns too strenuous and closed the Bedford Street tavern in 1828. Since then, the building has served as a farmhouse and residence for a succession of Lexington families.

The present owners have meticulously preserved the magnificent interior panelling of the older north section.

Architecturally, Simonds Tavern is significant as one of the few double Federal houses in Lexington.



SIMONDS TAVERN
LEXINGTON, MA.



SCALE 1" = 100'
BASE MAP: TOWN ENGINEER (1966)

Property

Simonds Tavern

State

Mass.

Working Number

7.6.76.3704

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

Drawing

CONTROL

OK pl
7.7.76

HISTORIAN

accept
B. Groven
7/13/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
M. J. Kelly
9-17-76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
w.R. Lee
10/6/76

BRANCH CHIEF

Hunt
10.7.76

KEEPER

[Signature]

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered OCT 14 1976

Federal Register Entry

12-7-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Simonds Tavern
Lexington, MA.
Elizabeth W. Reinhardt
1975
10 Eliot Road
Lexington, MA.
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
Facing north-west

Photograph #1

JUL 6 1976

dbt OCT 14 1976

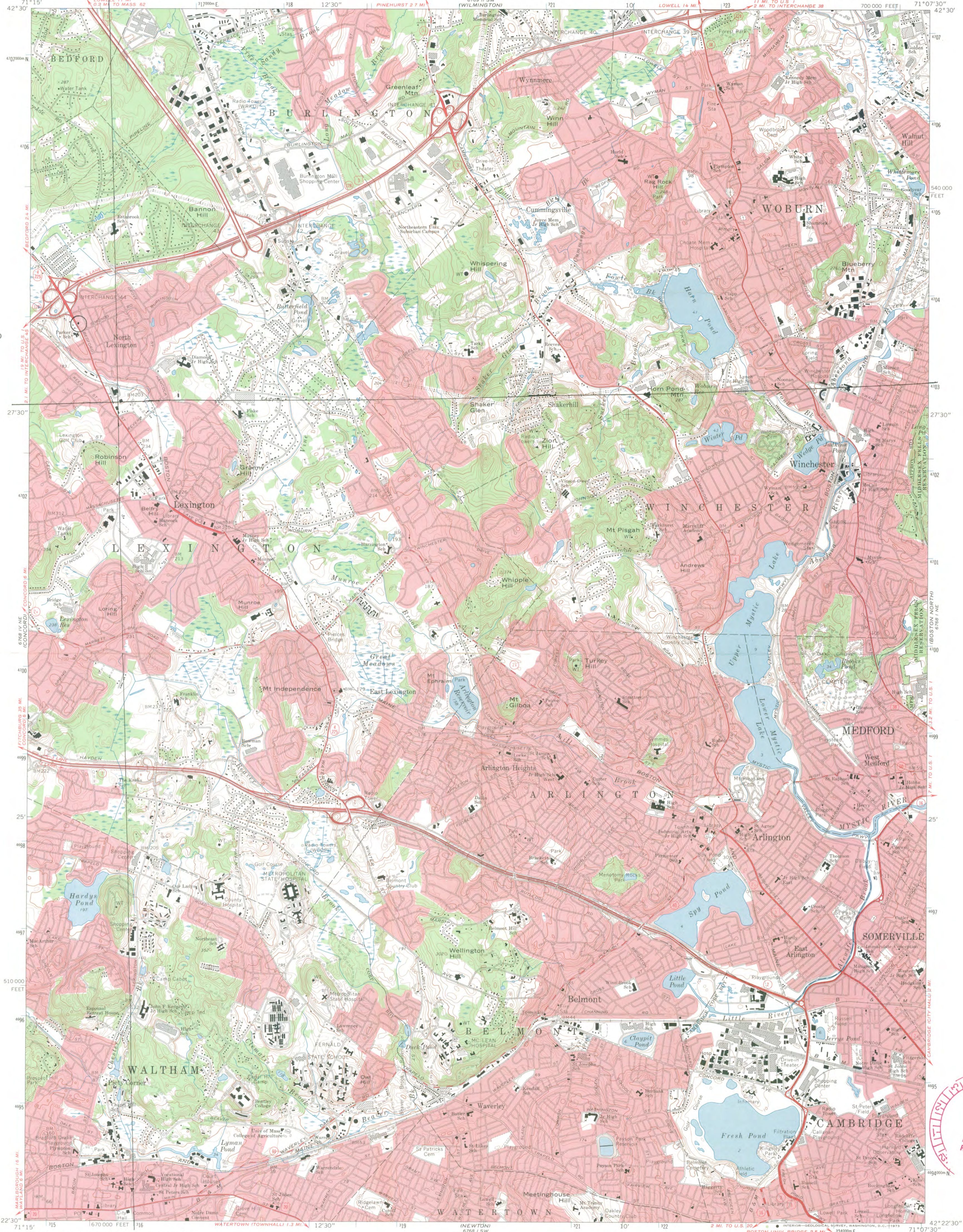
Tavern

Lexington, MA

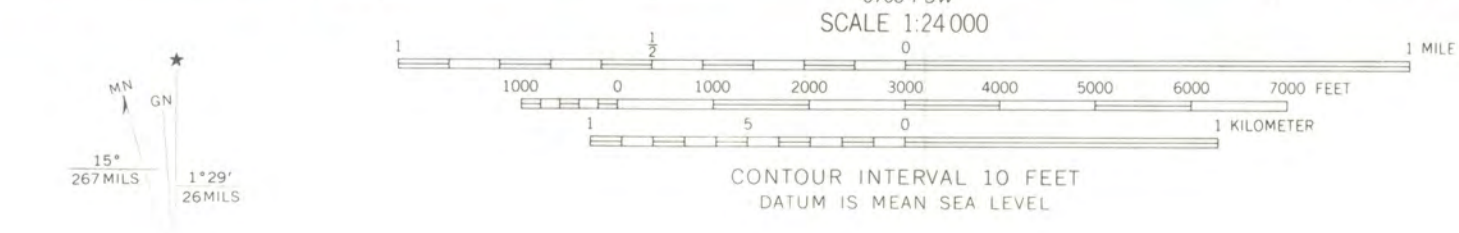
①

THIS PAPER
MANUFACTURED
BY KODAK

Simonds Tavern
Lexington, MA.
19/315560/4703920



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts
Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planimetric surveys 1943
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark
buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LEXINGTON, MASS.
N4222.5—W7107.5/7.5
1971
AMS 6768 I NW—SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **OCT 14 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Simonds Tavern	Lexington Middlesex County
The Manse	Northampton Hampshire County
Washington Street Shoe District	Haverhill Essex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Paul Tsongas
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
**Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region**

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NEWS-TRIBUNE
WALTHAM, MA.
D. 15,350

Mass
History

NOV 15 1976

New
England
Newsclipp

Middlesex

List Simonds Tavern in National Register

Simonds Tavern, 331 Bedford St., Lexington, which was nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, has been accepted, State Secretary Paul H. Guzzi, chairman of the commission, has been informed by Gary Everhardt, director of the National Park Service in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

It is significant because of its association with the early settlers of Lexington and the commercial history of the federal era of the town.

The Simonds family arrived in Lexington in 1686 and were large landowners. In 1760, Joshua Simonds acquired 36 acres of land where the tavern was later built. He was a member of Capt. Parker's company of Minute-Men and participated in the Battle of April 19, 1775.

Joshua Simonds Jr. (1770-1858) inherited the land and built the original North section of the tavern about 1794, when he married Abigail Cutler of Lexington. He kept a tavern (now lost) on Monument St. (now Massachusetts Ave.) at the

base of Fisks Hill, West of Lexington Center.

Sensing the opportunity created by the growing traffic of drovers bringing cattle, sheep and turkeys to the Boston market from the North, in 1802 he opened a tavern in his house on Bedford St. In 1806, Bedford St. was rebuilt West from the Lexington Green, replacing the older and more circuitous route.

Simonds' new tavern prospered because of the new road, and in addition was erected in 1810. Joshua Simonds apparently found running two taverns too strenuous and he closed the Bedford street tavern in 1828. Since then, the building has served as a farmhouse and residence for a succession of Lexington families.

The present owners, John and Jean Shanahan, have meticulously preserved the magnificent interior panelling of the older North section. Architecturally, Simonds Tavern is significant as one of the few double federal houses in Lexington.

Sheds and outbuildings to house animals were attached to the building and have since been removed.

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 7/13/76
Reviewer: INITIALS: B6
DOE
OCT 14 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Simonds Tavern

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER: 331 Bedford Street
CITY/TOWN: Lexington CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5th
STATE: Massachusetts VICINITY OF: 025 COUNTY: Middlesex code: 017

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR: Substantially intact-1 unknown-4 not applicable-7
EXTERIOR: Substantially intact-2 unknown-5 not applicable-8
ENVIRONS: Substantially intact-3 unknown-6 Not applicable-9
CONDITION - EXCELLENT GOOD FAIR DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED Unexcavated UNALTERED ALTERED Reconstructed Excavated ORIGINAL SITE MOVED Unknown
ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO
WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:
WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- House, tavern
now- House

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION entertainment
- ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC ECONOMICS LAW/Gov't/politics SCIENCE health
- AGRICULTURE EDUCATION LITERATURE MILITARY recreation
- ARCHITECTURE ENGINEERING MUSIC SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN settlement
- ART EXPLORATION PHILOSOPHY TRANSPORTATION socio/cultural
- COMMERCE INDUSTRY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT OTHER (SPECIFY) urban & commu
- COMMUNICATIONS INVENTION planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: *Federal*

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role

&

appropriate date)

personal

Joshua Simonds - acquired land, 1760 - member of Capt. Parker's minute men, and participated in Battle of Lexington

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): *1795, 1810*

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: *1810 - addition*

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

.2

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

description: frame, clapboarding, brick south facade, 2 1/2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof, interior chimneys, original 5-bay section in center entrance framed by pilasters and a full entablature with modillioned cornice, 3-bay wing has off-center entrance with similar treatment in 3-bay wing, cornerboards, denticated cornice. Federal.

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

One of the few double Federal houses in Lexington; Simonds Tavern was built as 2 house for Joshua Simonds Jr., member of an early prominent family; the tavern opened in 1802 and prospered from 1806 to 1828 when Simonds closed it to construct a second tavern elsewhere in town.