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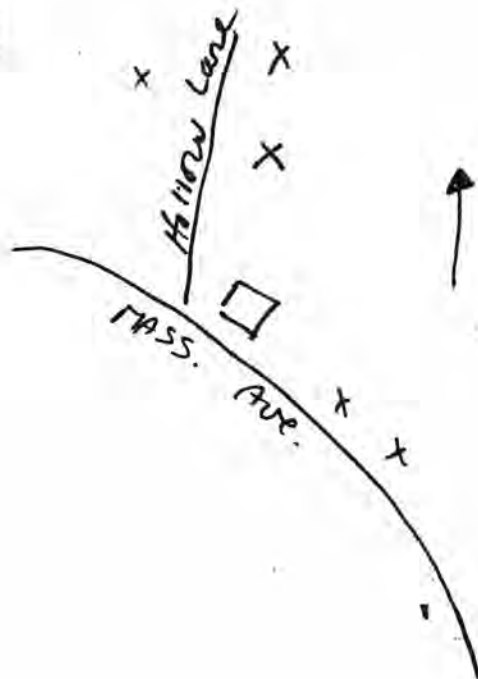
FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photos

13:3 east chamber
13:7 detail, summer beam and end
girt, west chamber
13:9 south facade
14:26 attic

Sketch Map:

Town Lexington 017Address 1303 Massachusetts Ave.Historic Name John Mason HouseUse: Present ResidenceOriginal Residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1715Source visual analysisStyle 1st Period core/Federal vernac-
ular exteriorArchitect UnknownExterior Wall Fabric ClapboardsOutbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates) Lean-to
added, its roof raised, ell addition
to the right side, extended several
times, dates unknown
Condition Good

Moved No Date N/AAcreage 3.7 acres

Setting Suburban setting of well-
spaced houses; open land of Seasons
Four greenhouse and great meadow
to the rear - condos to the west

Recorded by Anne GradyOrganization Boston UniversityDate October 1985UTM REFERENCE 19 / 317-830 / 4700-930USGS QUADRANGLE LexingtonSCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: LEXINGTON	Form No: 102
Property Name: John Mason House	

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The John Mason House has integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship in its later First Period frame which embodies distinctive characteristics of form and construction eligible under Criterion C. The Mason House is one of four early 18th century houses in Lexington with quirk-beaded frames. In this house and in the Buckman Tavern (c. 1709), the bead is exceptionally wide at one inch.

The Mason house may be part of a transitional pattern noted in other houses surveyed, where horizontal beams are quirk-beaded, but vertical posts are meagrely chamfered, or plain, perhaps because the posts were intended to be boxed from the beginning.

The Mason house has an all principal rafter roof, a late First Period framing variant found primarily in Middlesex County. At least one other house surveyed with principal rafter roof also has the relatively rare longitudinal summer beams on the second floor. Further study of framing techniques in these Middlesex County houses with principal rafter roofs is likely to yield important information about the origins and rationale behind these rare framing alternatives.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The John Mason house is a two and one half story structure with two story lean-to in the rear and a long ell, added in several building campaigns to the right-hand end. The original house, (the front left-hand portion of the current house,) is a structure of modest scale, three bays wide and one bay deep, asymmetrical in plan.

The clapboarded structure has Greek Revival vernacular exterior trim, a 20th century open porch at the center entrance, and two chimneys on the rear slope. The chimneys replaced an earlier central chimney in the early 19th century.

MAJOR FIRST PERIOD FEATURES

Evidence of First Period construction is found in the southeast room and in the southeast and southwest chambers.

In the southeast room, only the east end girt is exposed. It has an inch-wide quirked bead.

In the southeast and southwest chambers, the front and rear plates, the end and chimney girts and the longitudinal summer beams are all decorated with an inch wide quirked bead. Posts exposed in the rooms are boxed, but in a closet, one flared post displays a flat chamfer.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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In the attic, the roof framing is composed of thirteen sawn principal rafters approximately 3 1/2 inches square, spaced 32 to 35 inches apart. The rafters are bridle jointed and pegged at the ridge. There is no ridge piece, and no purlins. The feet of the rafters above the four tie beams (two end tie beams and only two intermediate tie beams flanking the central bay) are framed into the tie beams. How other rafters are attached to the plates was not determined.

Rafters at the center of the rear slope are slightly different in character, suggesting that they may have been installed after the central chimney was removed and replaced by rear chimneys.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

John Mason owned the site of this house by 1706, but the deed was not recorded until 1714, a likely time, on the basis of style, for this house to have been built. John Mason was a prominent early citizen of Lexington, which until 1713 was called Cambridge Farms. He served as constable, town clerk and selectman at various times in the early years of the town's history.

REFERENCES

Joan Webber, Study of the John Mason House, unpublished paper, Lexington Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

c/24/80

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR
State _____

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

101. Jaquith, Abraham, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/14/91
Attest _____
102. Mason, John, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
103. Meeting House of the Second Parish in Woburn **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
104. Noyes--Parris House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth F. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
105. Page, Christopher, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
106. Putnam, Rev. Daniel, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
107. Robbins, George, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth F. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
108. Spaulding, Zeb, House **Substantive Review** Keeper Beth F. Savage 3/9/90
Attest _____
109. Tenney Homestead **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____
110. Upham, Phineas, House **Entered in the National Register** Keeper Melrose Byers 3/9/90
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mason, John, House

MULTIPLE NAME: First Period Buildings of Eastern Massachusetts TR

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/24/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/07/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/23/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/10/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000172

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/9/90 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

☐ count ☐ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

☐ historic ☐ current

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification
☐ materials
☐ descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ applicable criteria
☐ justification of areas checked
☐ relating significance to the resource
☐ context
☐ relationship of integrity to significance
☐ justification of exception
☐ other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage ☐ verbal boundary description
☐ UTM's ☐ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps ☐ USGS maps ☐ photographs ☐ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Lexington, MA

1303 Massachusetts Ave

John Maorn House

13:03

1st Period Buddings of E. May, TR

1985



1303 Massachusetts Ave.,
Lexington, Ma

John Mason House

1st Floor Buildings of B. May TR

13:09

1985



Lexington, MA

1303 Massachusetts Ave.

John Mason House 14:26

1st Period Buildings of E. May, TR

1985-



Lexington, MA

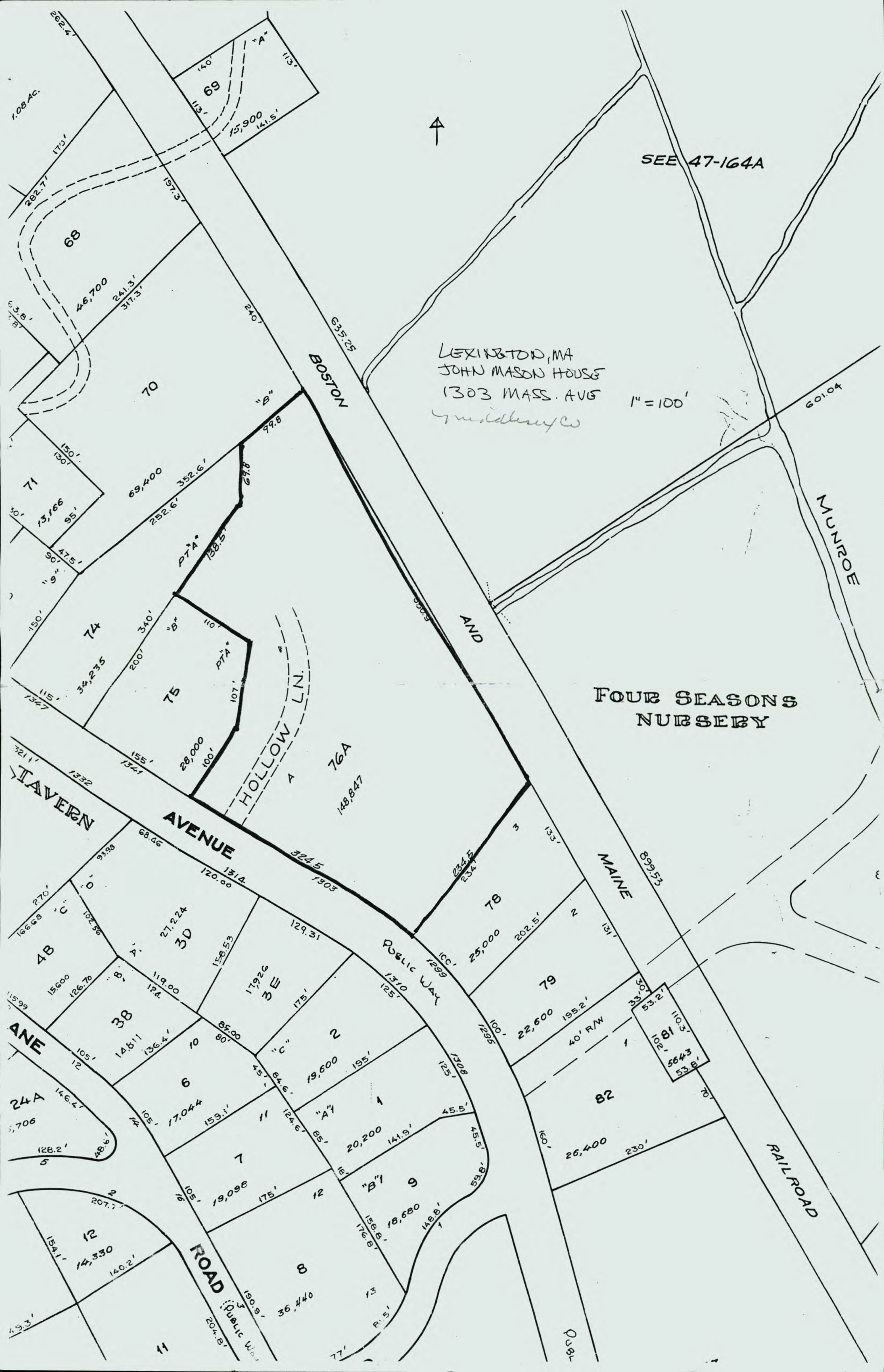
1303 Massachusetts Ave.

John Mason House

period
1st Buildings of E. Mo., TN

13:07

1985



Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000281