

# FORM C – OBJECT

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form Number

49/3	Boston North	AC, AG, B	902
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

**Town:** Lexington

**Place** (*neighborhood or village*): Lexington Green

## Photograph



**Address or Location:** Mass. Ave. & Bedford St.

**Name:** Minute Man Statue

**Ownership:**  Public     Private

**Type of Object** (*check one*):

- |                                                   |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> statue        | <input type="checkbox"/> monument        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bust                     | <input type="checkbox"/> milestone       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> group composition        | <input type="checkbox"/> marker          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious shrine         | <input type="checkbox"/> boundary marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other ( <i>specify</i> ) |                                          |

**Date of Construction:** 1899

**Source:** on statue

**Designer/Sculptor:** Henry H. Kitson

**Materials:** bronze, fieldstone

**Alterations** (*with dates*):

(date?) - ceased being used as a fountain

**Condition:** good

**Moved:**  no     yes    **Date**

**Acreage:** 2.54 acres (entire green)

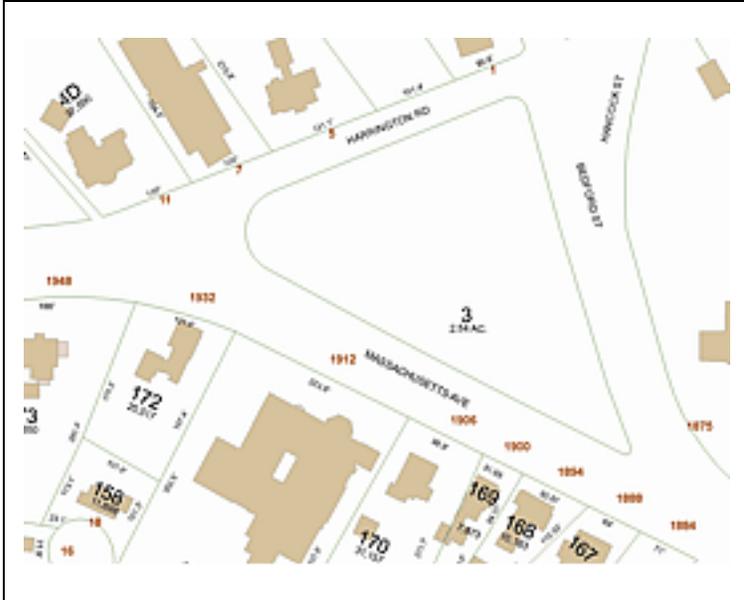
**Setting:** southeast corner of the Green

**Recorded by:** Lisa Mausolf

**Organization:** Lexington Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): Sept. 2009

## Topographic or Assessor's Map



**INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET**

LEXINGTON

MASS AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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\_\_\_ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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

**DESIGN ASSESSMENT**

*Describe the design features of the object and evaluate in terms of other similar types of objects within the community.*

Located at the southeast corner of the Battle Green, facing the route of the British advance, Henry Hudson Kitson's Minute Man Statue is a life-size bronze figure of a colonial farmer (an idolized Captain John Parker) carrying his musket with one foot slightly advanced. The statue is set on a high base of rough fieldstones. No longer a working fountain, the former basin now serves as a planter. On the rear is a smaller basin, above which the bronze plaque is mounted.

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

*Explain the history of the object and how it relates to the development of the community.*

In 1898 the town accepted a bequest of \$10,000 from Francis B. Hayes for a drinking fountain/watering place for men, horses, cattle and dogs. A contract was made with Boston sculptor Henry H. Kitson (c.1863-1947) on August 4, 1898. The man atop the fieldstone base was supposed to depict Capt. Parker. Medford resident Arthur Mather, among others, served as a model for the sculptor. The native fieldstone base was symbolic of the sturdiness of our ancestors. The fountain was unveiled on April 19, 1900, the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle. The total cost was \$10,853. In 1989 a traffic island was established next to the statue to allow tourists a safe place to take photos.

Among Kitson's other works are the Roger Conant Statue in Salem (1911); the Woburn Spanish American War Statue (1934) and the Pilgrim Maiden at Plymouth (1924).

**ENTIRE INSCRIPTION** *(if applicable):*

(back of monument on bronze plaque:)

THE BEQUEST  
OF  
FRANCIS BROWN HAYES  
TO  
THE TOWN OF LEXINGTON  
ERECTED 1899

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:**

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington from its first settlement to 1868* (Revised and Continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society). Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913, vol. 2, p. 544.

Kollen, Richard. *Lexington: From Liberty's Birthplace to Progressive Suburb*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2004.

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