

FORM C – OBJECT

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

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

48/276A	Boston North	D	910
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Town: Lexington

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Munroe Tavern Historic District

Address or Location: 1475 Massachusetts Avenue

Name: Stone Cannon

Ownership: Public Private

Type of Object (*check one*):

- statue
- bust
- group composition
- religious shrine
- other (*specify*)
- monument
- milestone
- marker
- boundary marker

Date of Construction: 1884

Source: *Historic Monuments & Tablets Erected by the Town*

Designer/Sculptor: E.G. Porter (designer)

Materials: granite

Alterations (*with dates*):
loss of gilding on letters

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date**

Acreage: 3.85 acres (entire parcel)

Setting: front lawn of former Muzzey High School (now Senior Center & Senior Housing)

Recorded by: Lisa Mausolf

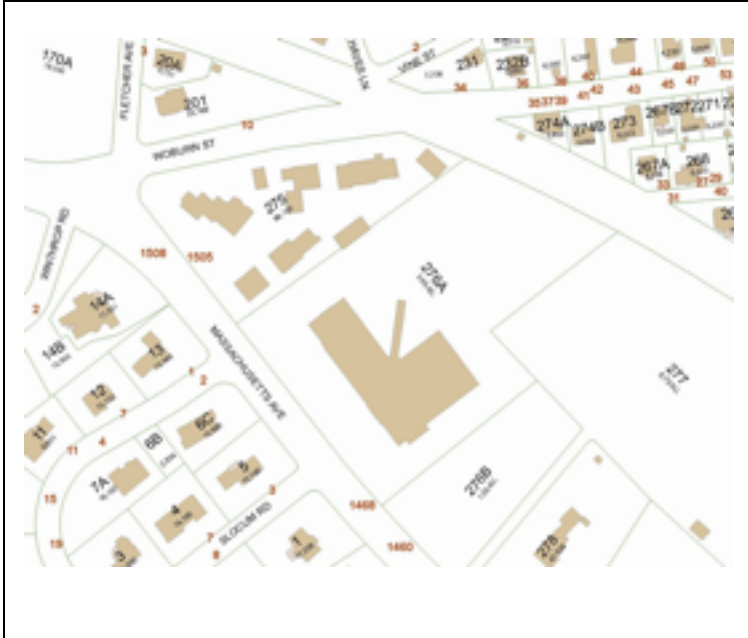
Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

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

Photograph



Topographic or Assessor's Map



INVENTORY FORM C CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

1475 Mass. Ave.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

DESIGN ASSESSMENT

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

Carved out of granite, this monument is a replica of a Revolutionary War field piece. It is approximately four feet high and five feet long. The granite has a rough finish except for a polished granite panel set between the two stone wheels. The lettering on the inscription was originally gilded but this finish wore off long ago.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

At town meeting in March 1884 a committee on historical monuments and tablets was formed in order to mark with suitable monuments and tablets the places of greatest historic interest in the town. The sum of fifteen hundred dollars was appropriated for the project. Four principal monuments were erected (including this cannon) as well as three memorial stones and nine memorial tablets, eight of wood and one of slate.

The stone cannon was erected to mark the spot where British General Earl Percy came to the relief of his fleeing army on April 19, 1775. According to historic accounts, one of his field pieces was planted near this site and the other on the high ground above the Munroe Tavern.

According to the town history, the stone cannon was designed by Edward Griffin Porter (1837-1900), a prominent member of the committee whose work it was to mark historic sites at Lexington. The monument cost \$156.40 exclusive of the foundation, the lettering and the gilding of the letters. The monument was originally sited in the front yard of the Town Hall/High School. The present building was constructed in 1902 on the same site.

ENTIRE INSCRIPTION *(if applicable):*

NEAR THIS SPOT
EARL PERCY
WITH REINFORCEMENT
PLANTED A FIELD PIECE
TO COVER THE RETREAT
OF THE
BRITISH TROOPS
APRIL 19 1775

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES:

Guide Book of Lexington and Concord. O.G. Seeley, 1901.

Historic Monuments and Tablets Erected by the Town of Lexington, 1884.

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.

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