

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 28 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 30 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 The Stone Building

AND/OR COMMON

The East Lexington Branch Library (Cary Memorial Library)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 735 Massachusetts Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

5th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Town of Lexington

STREET & NUMBER
Lexington Town Hall

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts 02173

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

South Middlesex Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts 02138

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYSTITLE Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth
Historic American Buildings Survey (MASS-6Q5)

DATE

1967 (Mass.); 1941 (HABS)

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSMassachusetts Historical Commission
Washington, DC

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stone Building (Cary Memorial Library) faces onto Massachusetts Avenue (formerly Main Street), one of the principal roads in East Lexington. It is set back from the road approximately thirty feet and is surrounded by a circular driveway.

The Stone Building was designed in 1833 by architect Isaac Melvin of Concord and is said to be his first work. The contractor was John Colby and the carpenter was Curtis Capell. The building is an impressive example of the Greek Revival style.

The two-story structure is five bays wide and five bays deep. Its tetrastyle portico is supported by massive fluted Doric columns, and its front pediment contains two quarter-circle windows with finely wrought radiating sash. A series of guttae at the eaves adds further ornament to the pediment. The main focus of the front facade, and the highlight of the entire building, is the central entrance. The doorway is surmounted by a fanlight and flanked by sidelights. The entrance is further enhanced by Greek fretwork and other detail derived from anthemion and palmette motifs. The second-floor window above the doorway echoes the sidelights and Greek detail below. Heavy pilasters add emphasis at either corner of the front facade.

The Stone Building is sheathed with white clapboards, and the dark green shuttered windows have six over six lights. Three brick chimneys rise from the ridge roof. The exterior of the building is basically unaltered from its original appearance. Inside the downstairs floor has been adapted for library purposes, although the upstairs meeting room remains much the same as when it was used for religious and political gatherings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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APR 30 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 2

PAGE 1

The Stone Building, Lexington, Massachusetts (Middlesex County)

Correction:

The Stone Building is located in the Fourth Congressional District.



8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

1833

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Isaac Melvin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stone Building is significant as one of the early centers of free-thinking and discussion for religious, philosophical and cultural groups in the East Village of Lexington. The building is also the most elaborate Greek Revival structure in East Lexington today.

In 1832 Eli Robbins, a wealthy merchant and public spirited citizen of Lexington, saw the need for a public building in the town where lectures, preaching, and other meetings could be held and particularly where freedom of speech, including the current anti-slavery point of view, might be allowed. In the spring of 1833 Robbins engaged Mr. Isaac Melvin of Concord to design a suitable building located in the "East Village" of Lexington about two miles along the main road from the Battle Green.

In the same year citizens of the East Village petitioned the Town Meeting to provide a church and a minister in their own part of town. When no help was given, they formed the "Religious Society of the East Village" and in 1835 they began meeting in the building which Eli Robbins had commissioned.

The pastor of the new religious society was the Reverend Charles Follen who had been forced to flee his native Germany because of his radical political activities. In America he became an ardent abolitionist before such views were acceptable in New England, and as a result he lost his position as professor of German at Harvard College. In order to give full expression to his religious, moral, and political opinions, Follen turned to the ministry.

After six months of preaching to the Religious Society of the East Village, Follen was called to Watertown, and he sent as his replacement Ralph Waldo Emerson who preached in the hall about two years. Emerson was succeeded by other noted men such as the Reverend John Pierpont, the Reverend Theodore Parker, and the Reverend Samuel J. May. The building was also used as a gathering place for a number of other groups. Amos Bronson Alcott held conversation meetings there, and Henry Thoreau was said to have considered it as a home for his private school.

In 1851 the building was sold to Abner Stone who lived there with his family until his death in 1872. After the death of the widow Stone, her daughter, Miss Ellen A. Stone, offered the town the large house for use as a library. As an expression of its gratitude, the town voted to call the building the "Stone Building". It has been used ever since as a library and is today the East Lexington Branch Library

(Cary Memorial Library).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Piper, Dr. Fred Smith. "Architectural Yesterdays in Lexington," Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Vol. IV, Lexington, Mass. 1912.
 Smith, A. Bradford. "History of the Stone Building," Proceedings of the Lexington Historical Society, Vol. II, Lexington, Mass. 1900.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .37

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 318420 4699600
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Judy Dobbs, National Register Editor

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

November 24, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE

617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Eliabeth Reed Amador

TITLE

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE

Nov. 25, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

4/30/86

ATTEST:

Charles [Signature]

DATE

4-28-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Property The Stone Building and the Follen Community Church

State Mass. Working Number 6.13.75.1084

TECHNICAL

Photos 2
Maps 2

UTM incorrect

CONTROL

cm
6.16.75

Agree - need 2 nominations

HISTORIAN

Return
W. P. Luce
6/18/75

FROM AN ARCHITECTURAL VIEWPOINT, THESE BUILDINGS SHOULD BE NOMINATED SEPARATELY WITH BETTER STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE,

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

THE ONLY RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THESE BUILDINGS ARE 1) THEY ARE ADJACENT AND 2) FOLLEN PREACHED IN THE STONE BUILDING BEFORE THE CHURCH WAS BUILT.

RETURN?
LEBOVICH
6-18-75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry _____

Send-back 6.20.75
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 30 1976

INT:2106-74

Property The Stone Building

State Mass.

Working Number 11.28.75.2097

Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 1
Maps 1

CONTROL pl
OK 12.2.75

HISTORIAN
Accept
E. Smith
1-14-76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
W. J. M. D. 1/7/76

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4/26/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

[Signature]
4.28.76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered APR 30 1976

INT:2106-74



EAST BRANCH LIBRARY

927 582

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4.30-76

Title: The Stone Building
Middlesex Cty., Mass.

Loc. View facing east.
front corner view

12/1

PHOTOGRAPH
BY
ELIZABETH HEATH
6 MELLON ROAD
WELLESLEY, MASS. 02181

PLEASE CREDIT PHOTO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 28 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Stone Building

AND/OR COMMON

East Lexington Branch Library (Cary Memorial Library)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Middlesex STATE MA

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Elizabeth Heath

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT 6 Mellon Road
Wellesley, MA 02181

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO 1 *ah*

View facing east, front corner view.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 28 1975

APR 30 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC The Stone Building

AND/OR COMMON

East Lexington Branch Library (Cary Memorial Library)

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lexington

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY Middlesex

STATE MA

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE USGS, Lexington Quadrangle

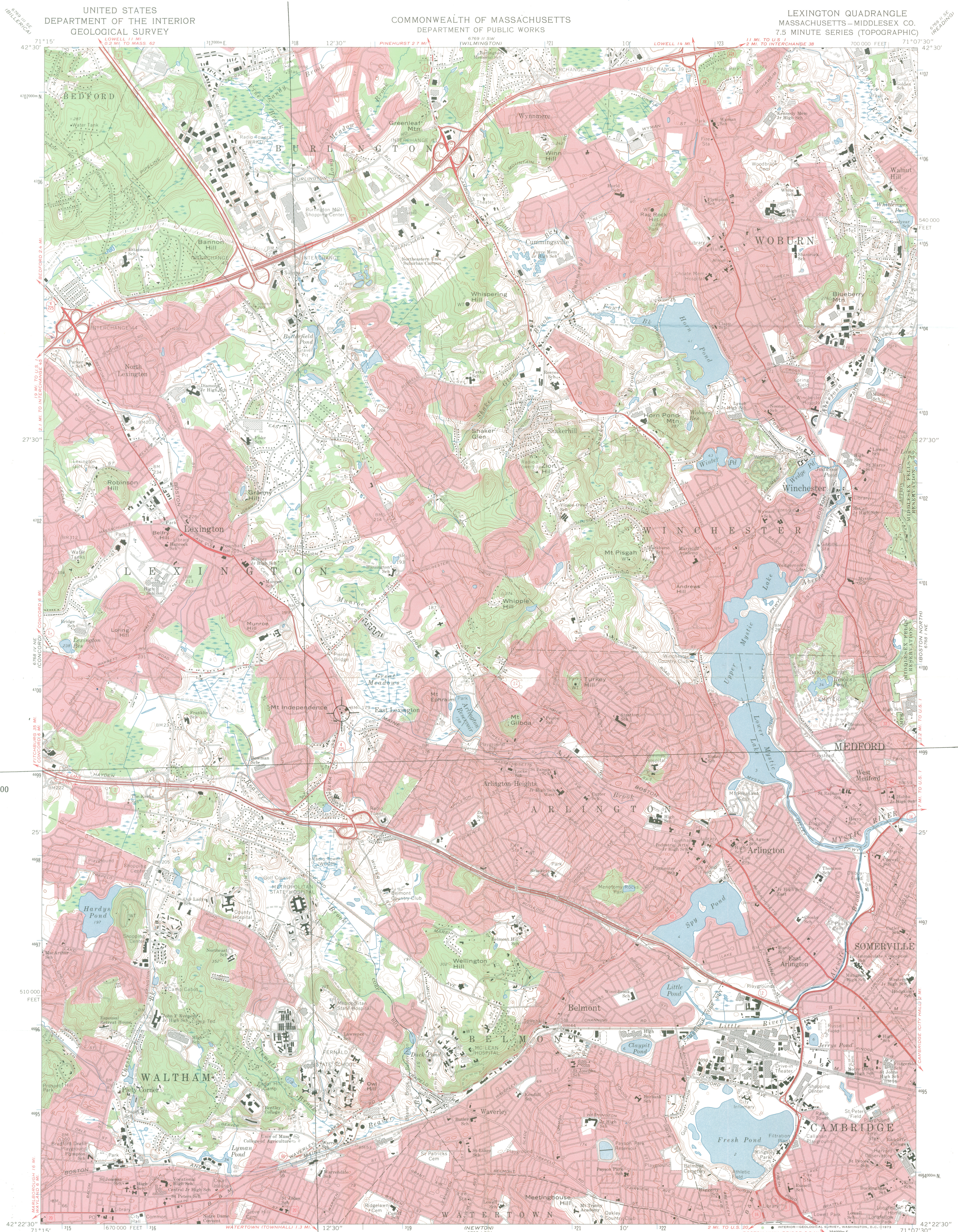
SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

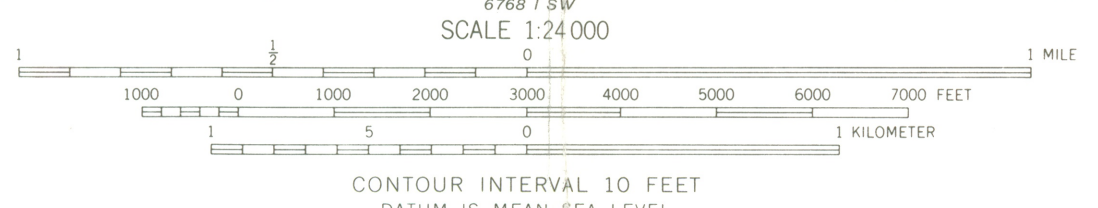
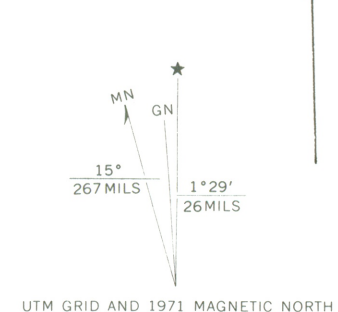
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

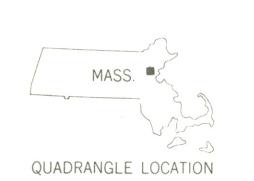


Lexington:
Stone Building
UTM Reference:
19/318420/4699600

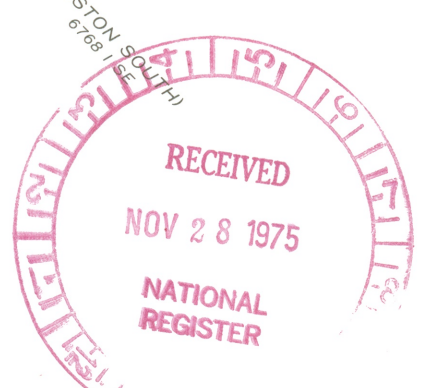
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts
Geodetic Survey
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



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



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



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

294 Washington Street
~~40X Beacon Street~~ Boston, Massachusetts 02108

727-8470

Paul Guzzi

Secretary of the Commonwealth

November 25, 1975

Mr. Charles Herrington, Chief
Registration
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Charles:

Enclosed please find two National Register nominations for the following properties:

1. Lexington, Follen Community Church
2. Lexington, The Stone Building

Originally submitted together as "buildings," the nomination for the Stone Building and the Follen Community Church was returned to us on June 26, 1975 with the suggestion that the two buildings be nominated separately. These properties were voted eligible for individual submission on July 8, 1975 by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (State Review Board) and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, Elizabeth Reed Amadon.

Sincerely yours,

Pat

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW/mw

Enclosures



PAUL GUZZI

Secretary of the
Commonwealth

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street Boston, Massachusetts 02108
(617) 727-8470

4 March 1976

Mr. Charles Herrington
Chief, Registration
Office of Archeology and Historic
Preservation
National Park Service
US Department of the Interior
18th and C Streets, NW
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Charles:

Please consider the following amendment to the National Register nomination forms for the Follen Community Church and the Stone Building (Lexington, Massachusetts, Middlesex County) which were submitted to you November 11, 1975:

The Congressional District is the Fourth Congressional District and not the Fifth.

Under redistricting a few years ago, the town of Lexington was divided and became part of two different districts, and this fact was only recently pointed out to us.

Continuation sheets for each nomination stating the correction are enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia L. Weslowski
Survey Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

PLW:JDD:jd

enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **APR 30 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The Stone Building	Lexington Middlesex County
Superior Courthouse and Bartlett Mall	Newburyport Essex County
The Follen Community Church	Lexington Middlesex County
Sands, Hiram, House	Cambridge Middlesex County
Lexington Green Historic District	Lexington Middlesex County
South Congregational Church	Springfield Hampden County
Paine, Timothy House	Worcester Worcester County
Bartlett-Russell-Hedge House	Plymouth Plymouth County

5/4/76

PR:M Mott:coc

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Paul Tsongas
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Edward P. Boland
Hon. Joseph D. Early
Hon. Gerry E. Studds

Also Notified

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

Regional Director, North Atlantic Region

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Stone Building
 ② OTHER NAMES: East Lexington Branch Library (Cary Memorial Library)
 ③ date of entry: 4-30-76
 ④ county code: 017

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 735 Massachusetts Ave.
 city / town: Lexington
 vicinity of: MA
 state: MA
 county: Middlesex
 ⑥ NPS REGION: North Atlantic

⑦ OWNER: PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS: NABS AER NHL
 ⑩ FUNDED? YES NO
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 5
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: NO
 ⑮ ACREAGE: .37
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION: deteriorated altered original site
 excellent ruins unaltered moved
 good unexposed reconstructed unknown
 fair unexcavated excavated
 ⑰ features: INTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5
 NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 EXTERIOR: NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-5
 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-6
 NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS: YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO
 ⑳ SAVED? YES
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY)
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30
 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 ㉒ CLAIMS: explain 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Educational / Religious
 CURRENTLY: educational
 ㉓ dates of initial construction: 1833
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 ㉔ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉕ architectural style(s): Greek Revival
 ㉖ architect: ② ISAAC MELVIN
 ㉗ master builder:
 ㉘ engineer:

㉙ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉚ interior decorator:
 ㉛ artist:
 ㉜ artisan: ③ Curtis Capell - carpenter
 ㉝ builder / contractor: ④ John Colby

㉞ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㉟ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: Frame, clapboarding; 2 1/2 stories, rectangular, gabled roof, interior chimneys, front center entrance with semielliptical fanlight and sidelights, tetrastyle templeform portico with quarter-round pediment openings; ~~side entrance~~ altered to residential use, 1851 and library use, ^{post} after 1872. Greek Revival. Early area center for free thinking and discussion groups.