

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
56/99

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1126,1127



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 39 Somerset Road

Historic Name Henry Stratton House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1912

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Colonial Revival/Craftsman

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation stone

Wall/Trim novelty siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

garage (MHC #1127)

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 11,390 SF

Setting early 20th century residential neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) May 2000 / Revised 2009

BUILDING FORM (39 SOMERSET ROAD)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Combining elements of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles, 39 Somerset Road is a two-story dwelling sheathed in novelty siding. The house rests on a rubble foundation and is capped by an asphalt-shingled, hip roof with projecting eaves. Centered on the three-bay façade is a closed entrance porch with a two-art, wrap-around frieze. The porch is pedimented and narrow sidelights and fluted pilasters flank the six-panel door which is set above wooden steps. On either side of the entrance is an 8/8 window with an abbreviated entablature lintel. Above the entrance is a smaller window flanked by 8/8 windows with molded surrounds but lacking the entablature lintel.

Projecting from the east side of the house is a single-story porch room supported by Roman Doric columns which are paired at the corners. The columns are spanned by square spindles with a vertical screen and simple frieze. The west side of the house is two bays wide with a shingled hip dormer. At the rear of the first floor is a three-sided bay window resting on two curved brackets.

A paved driveway extends along the west side of the house terminating at a flat-roofed garage sheathed in wood shingles. The building was altered to its present appearance in 2001. Wood shingles replace what was originally novelty siding. At the same time the existing pergola was made wider on the left side of the garage and the Doric columns were added.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

This land was originally part of the 400-acre Francis B. Hayes estate which extended from Adams and Hancock Streets to Woburn Street (the house known as Oakmount or The Castle was built in 1884 and demolished in 1941 – see 60 Meriam Street, MHC #388). This portion of the Hayes estate was laid out in houselots in 1909 and 1912.

This house was constructed in 1912 for Henry W. Stratton of Medford. The 1913 Valuation list indicates that Stratton was assessed for a house located on Lot B of the 1912 plan for Oakmount Park (part of lots 27 and 28 on the 1909 plan), measuring 11,390 square feet. In 1916 Stratton was first assessed for both a house and garage. Peter and Ella Robertson had purchased the house by 1919. He was a Boston manufacturer. In 1943 Peter Robertson sold the property to Carroll and Martha Beers. Carroll Beers bequeathed the property to Hancock Church in 1974. Francisco J. and Anne Nolan Cuervo purchased the house from the Hancock Church in that year. In 2002, the house was put into the Anne Nolan Cuervo and Philip J. Poinelli Realty Trust.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Cuervo, Anne Nolan (present owner). Information on history of house, Nov. 2007.
Lexington Assessors Records.
Lexington Directories, various dates.
Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
July 2009

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
Lexington

Property Address
39 Somerset Road
Area(s) Form No.

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

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