

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
564-571	U

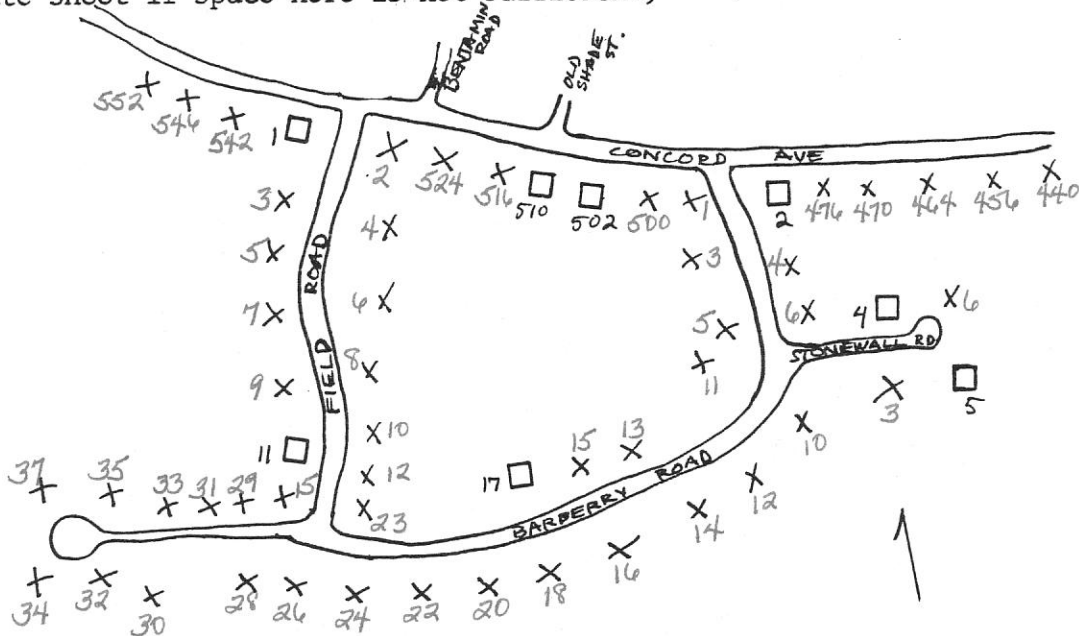


Lexington

f area (if any) Five Fields

l date or period early 1950s

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)



Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date February, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Set in an area once open fields separated by stone walls but now, after 30 years growth of landscaped plantings, largely wooded, Five Fields is a community of contemporary homes designed and developed by The Architects Collaborative (TAC) of Cambridge. TAC envisioned a planned community of well-designed, low-cost houses. In order to keep the price down and to compete with other similar houses then on the market, such as those by Techbuilt, TAC offered standard plans with certain components, such as roof trusses, mass produced. Originally, three house types were built: a one-story model on flat sites, a two-story version of the same model on steep slopes, and a split level on gentle slopes (see 11 Field Road and 1 Field Road forms). Problems arose, however, when prospective buyers wanted to make changes. The changes were costly, so later plans allowed more opportunities for custom design and as a result were more expensive.

The original Five Fields houses had vertical redwood siding and pitched roofs and could thus be called a variant of ranch style. (Pitched roofs were

(see Continuation Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

Five Fields was started in 1951 by The Architects Collaborative (TAC) of Cambridge. Pleased with the success of their Six Moon Hill development in Lexington (see Moon Hill area form), TAC wanted to repeat some of that community's unique features, particularly the common land and an incorporated community with its own bylaws. TAC was also interested in providing more work for the firm so, when they heard that an 80-acre parcel in Lexington was available, they decided to develop an entire housing community themselves (Norman Fletcher, personal communication). Because the AIA code of ethics prevented architects from being directly involved in development, a corporation named Site and Shelter was formed to build roads and sell lots.

Five Fields was originally farmland divided by stone walls into five fields, hence its name. TAC divided the area into 68 house lots of at least half an acre each and provided for 20 acres of common land; the latter was later changed to seven acres and the size of some lots increased. Roads were designed to curve or to be cul-de-sacs, for visual variety and, in the case of cul-de-sacs, children's safety. Field Road was the first to be built; then the section of Barberrry Road west of Field Road, and finally Barberrry Road east of Field Road. Ground was broken in June 1951; by August 1952, 29 houses had been built; and by 1957 all lots had been sold for what is now a community of 59 houses, some of which are on double lots.

A "Five Fields Association" began to meet in late fall 1951 as soon as the first residents moved in, and the corporation planned by TAC was set up soon afterwards. It determines policy on various neighborhood issues and all

(see Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- "Architects Turn Merchant Builders." House and Home, August 1952, 88-93.
- Five Fields Archives. In possession of S. Seymour Kassman, Lexington, Massachusetts.
- Gropius, Walter et al., editors. 1966. The Architects Collaborative: 1945-1965. Switzerland: Arthur Niggli Ltd.
- Reinhardt, E.W. The Architect Designed Development: Two Prototypes and their Implications. Paper prepared for FA798, Boston University, May 1974.
- Trefethen, Florence Newman. 1983. "Starting from Scratch." Bryn Mawr Alumnae Bulletin (Fall), pp. 20-22.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lexington	Form No: U
Property Name: Five Fields	

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

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

intentionally used because the site sloped and TAC did not want uphill houses looking down on neighboring flat roofs.) Later models had flat or shed roofs and wide overhangs and are more reminiscent of the International Style houses in the TAC development at Six Moon Hill in Lexington (see 2 Barberry Road, 5 Stonewall Road, and Moon Hill area forms).

On the interior the houses had an open living/dining/kitchen area, making the supervision of small children easier, and many features considered superior to those offered in tract houses of that era: a separate entry with a coat closet, a "T" hall plan that used little space and provided quick access to all areas, a circulation pattern that did not go through the living room, and storage space in the furnace room. The materials were also considered better than those in tract houses: oak floors, plaster walls and ceilings, metal window sash and door bucks, metal sliding closet doors, and large panes of glass.

Five Fields houses are sited to take advantage of the view, the sun, and the prevailing breeze; they have small windows on the street side and the living room and large areas of glass at the back, facing the view. This was in contrast to the usual tract development where houses were lined up facing the street. Five Fields landscaping was also different from the usual development: old trees were saved, houses were surrounded by the original fields rather than lawns, and plantings were designed to provide screening and privacy.

The architectural significance of Five Fields is not as much in the design of individual houses as it is in the attempt by an architectural firm to create a planned community of well-designed, well-sited, moderately-priced homes. Those that have been inventoried are examples of the original models (11 Field Road and 1 Field Road) and of the later, more custom-designed models (2 Barberry Road, 5 Stonewall Road, and 510 Concord Avenue), with preference given to houses that have been published. In addition to the standard houses, Five Fields also includes some houses custom designed by TAC architects and some of these are architecturally significant in their own right (see 502 Concord Avenue, 17 Barberry Road, and 4 Stonewall Road forms).

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

homeowners have a vote. In 1956 it was decided to build a community swimming pool and it is run as a separate corporation. As in their Moon Hill development, TAC retained design control over any building additions; although this control expired in 1971, additions have generally been in keeping with TAC's original designs. One eventuality that TAC did not foresee, however, was that, instead of moving when they outgrew their houses or became more affluent, many of the original or early residents have stayed and added on to their houses instead. Thus, most of the houses in Five Fields appear to be completely different from one another rather than variations on a few standard plans.

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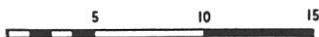
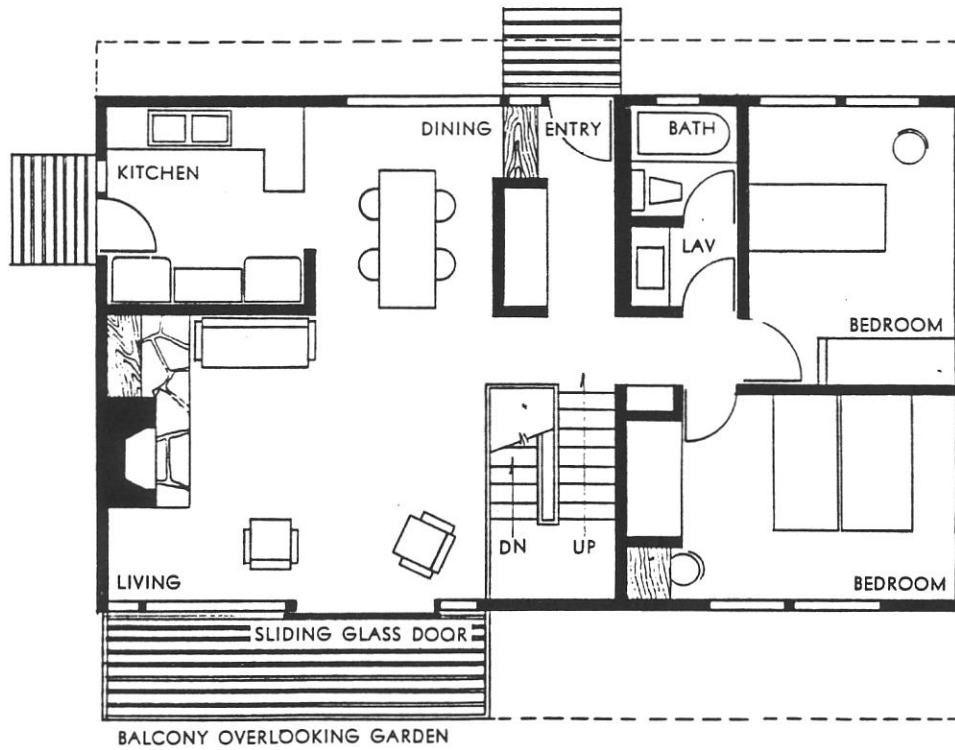
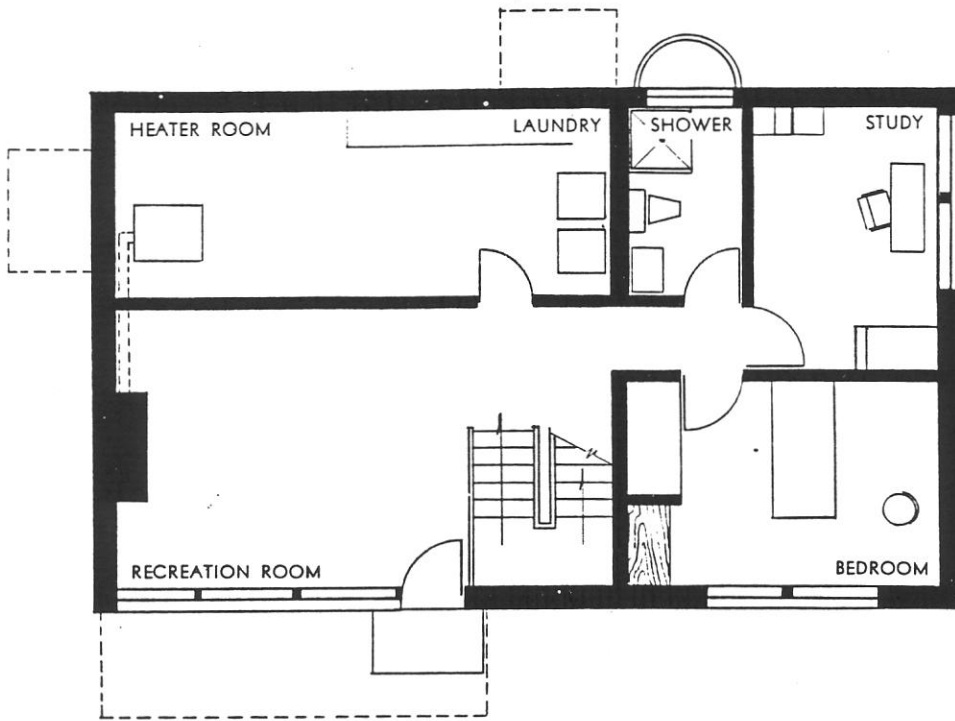
LEXINGTON - AREA U
FIVE FIELDS
AREA DATA SHEET

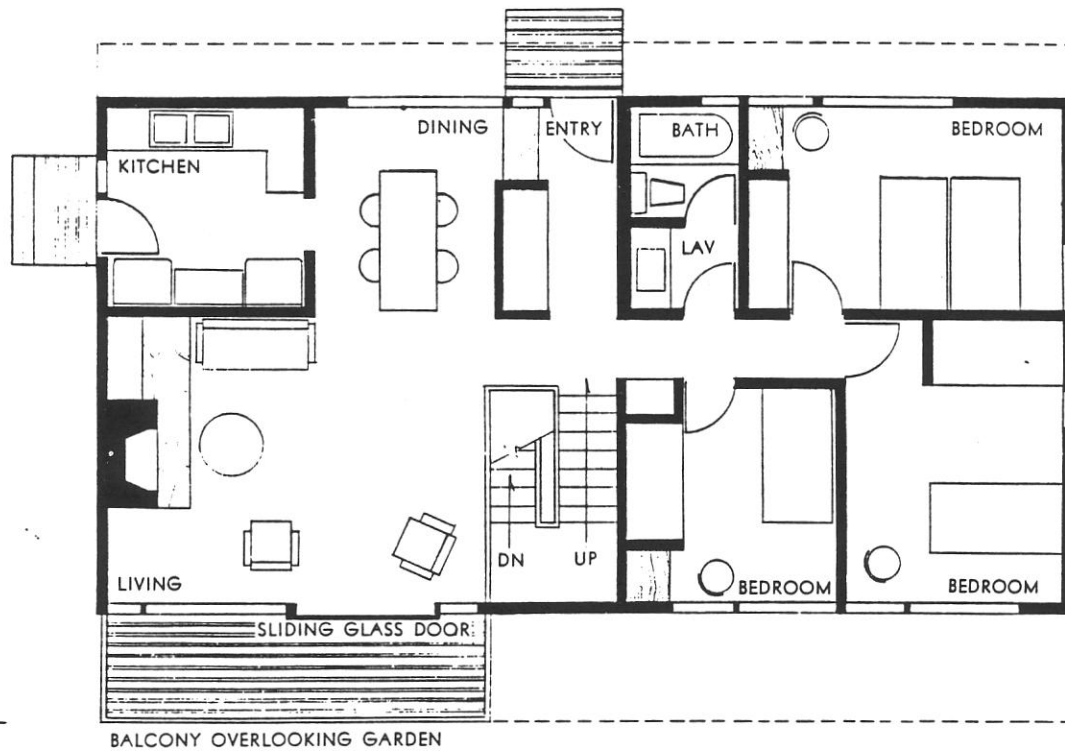
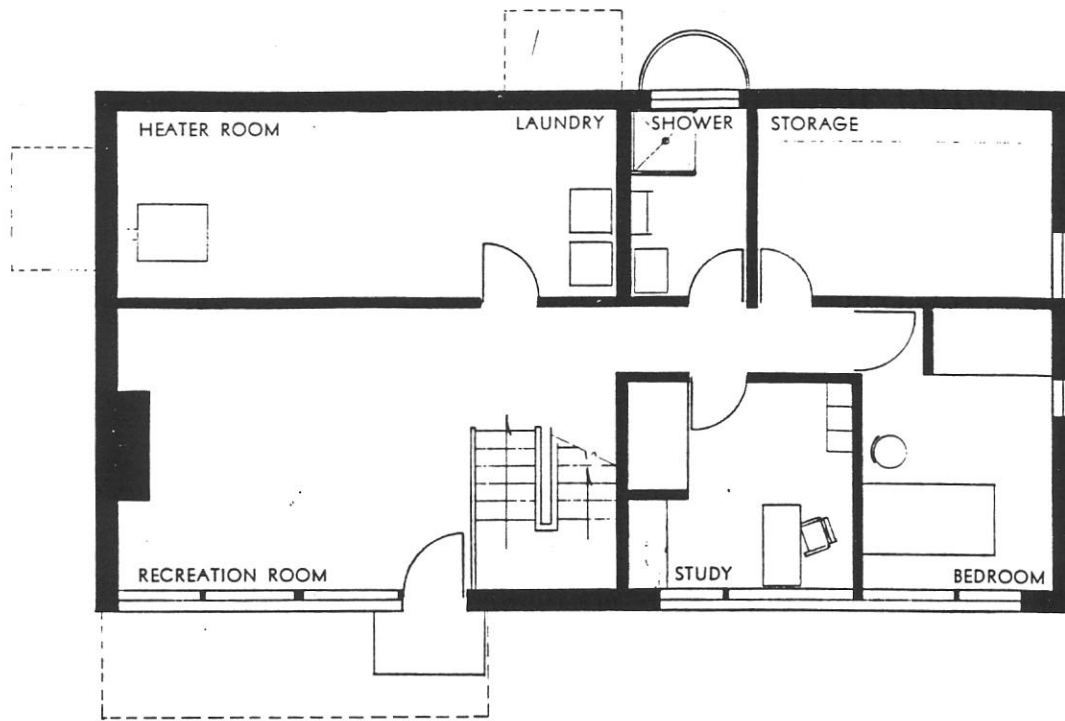
Address	Original owner	Date Completed	Architect	Style	Additions to house	Assessors' number	MHC number
1 Barberr	Foundas	1959	TAC - Mill House variant	Contemporary	yes	11/83	
2 Barberr	Nagel	1953	TAC - Type G	Contemporary	yes	11/39A	566
3 Barberr	Schafer	1954	TAC - Type F	Contemporary	yes	11/82	
4 Barberr	Rubel	1958	TAC - Mill House variant	Contemporary	yes	11/40A	
5 Barberr	Lin	1957	TAC - Mill House variant	Contemporary	yes	11/81	
6 Barberr	Grossman	1957	TAC - Mill House variant	Contemporary	yes	11/41	
10 Barberr	Mollo-Christensen	1953	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/45	
11 Barberr	Berman	1953	TAC - Type M	Contemporary	yes	11/80A	
12 Barberr	Schlesinger	1953	Frank Schlesinger	Contemporary	yes	11/46	
13 Barberr	Bogen	1953	Herbert L. Bogen	Contemporary	yes	11/79	
14 Barberr	Miller	1952	TAC - Type H	Contemporary	yes	11/47	
15 Barberr	Galvin	1964	Deck House	Contemporary	no	11/78	
16 Barberr	Robey	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/48	
17 Barberr	Sasaki	1958	Allison P. Goodwin	Contemporary	yes	11/77	
18 Barberr	Scotney	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/49	
20 Barberr	Williams	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/51	
22 Barberr	Livingston	1952	TAC - Type C1	Contemporary	yes	11/52	
23 Barberr	Rogers	1952	TAC - Type B	Contemporary	yes	11/75	
24 Barberr	Friedlander	1960	Herbert L. Bogen	Contemporary	yes	11/53	
26 Barberr	Friedlander	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/54	
28 Barberr	Weiss	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/55	
29 Barberr	Wetmore	1952	TAC - Type B	Contemporary	yes	11/63	
30 Barberr	Gordon	1952	TAC - Type D	Contemporary	yes	11/56	
31 Barberr	Jaccarino	1952	TAC - Type C	Contemporary	yes	11/62	
32 Barberr	Wilson	1953	TAC - Type D	Contemporary	yes	11/57	
33 Barberr	Katz	1952	TAC - Type E	Contemporary	yes	11/61	
34 Barberr	Brunn	1952	TAC - Type B	Contemporary	yes	11/58	
35 Barberr	Wallens	1952	TAC - Type E	Contemporary	yes	11/60	
37 Barberr	Kass	1952	TAC - Type A1	Contemporary	yes	11/59	

Demolished

Address	Original owner	Date	Architect	Style	Additions	Assessors' number	MHC number
440 Concord	Leary Wells	1953	TAC - Type F	Contemporary	yes	10/6	
456 Concord	Abrams	1962	Henry Hoover	Contemporary	no	10/4	
464 Concord	Carmen	1952	TAC - Type M	Contemporary	yes	10/3	
470 Concord	Eisenberg	1958	Herbert Eisenberg	Contemporary	no	11/37	
476 Concord	Klaudiny	1954	TAC - Type G	Contemporary	yes	11/38	
500 Concord	Sykora	1958	Herb Gallagher	Contemporary	no	11/84	
502 Concord	Payne	1958	Morse Payne	Contemporary	roofline	11/85	564
510 Concord	Grosser	1956	TAC - custom	Contemporary	no	11/86	565
516 Concord	Handrick	1954	TAC - custom	Contemporary	no	11/87	
524 Concord	Wade	1952	TAC - Type C	Contemporary	no	11/88	
542 Concord	Sokol	1952	TAC - Type A1	Contemporary	yes	11/91	
546 Concord	Cuetara	1952	Edward Cuetara	Contemporary	yes	11/92	
552 Concord	Stoney	1952	TAC - Type A1	Contemporary	yes	11/93	
1 Field	Hutchins	1952	TAC - Type E	Contemporary	no	11/90	571
2 Field	Powell	1952	TAC - Type B	Contemporary	yes	11/89	
3 Field	Aladjem	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/69	
4 Field	Kingston	1956	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/70	
5 Field	Grey	1957	TAC - Type M	Contemporary	yes	11/68	
6 Field	Riffin	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/71	
7 Field	Bayle	1952	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	yes	11/67	
8 Field	Waksman	1952	TAC - Type E	Contemporary	yes	11/72	
9 Field	LeBoeuf	1951	TAC - Type B1	Contemporary	no	11/66	
10 Field	Gerstenfeld	1965	Deck House	Contemporary	no	11/73	
11 Field	Nash	1952	TAC - Type A1	Contemporary	no	11/65	570
12 Field	Winkelman/Wozniak	1994	Oldenberg	Contemporary	no	11/74	
15 Field	Gaskill	1951	TAC - Type E	Contemporary	yes	11/64	
3 Stonewall	Bloembergen	1955	TAC - Type H	Contemporary	yes	11/43	
4 Stonewall	Nagel	1956	Chester Nagel	Contemporary	no	11/42	567
5 Stonewall	Kassman	1955	TAC - Mill House	Contemporary	yes	10/1	568
6 Stonewall	Carmen	1960	Allison P. Goodwin	Contemporary	yes	10/2	

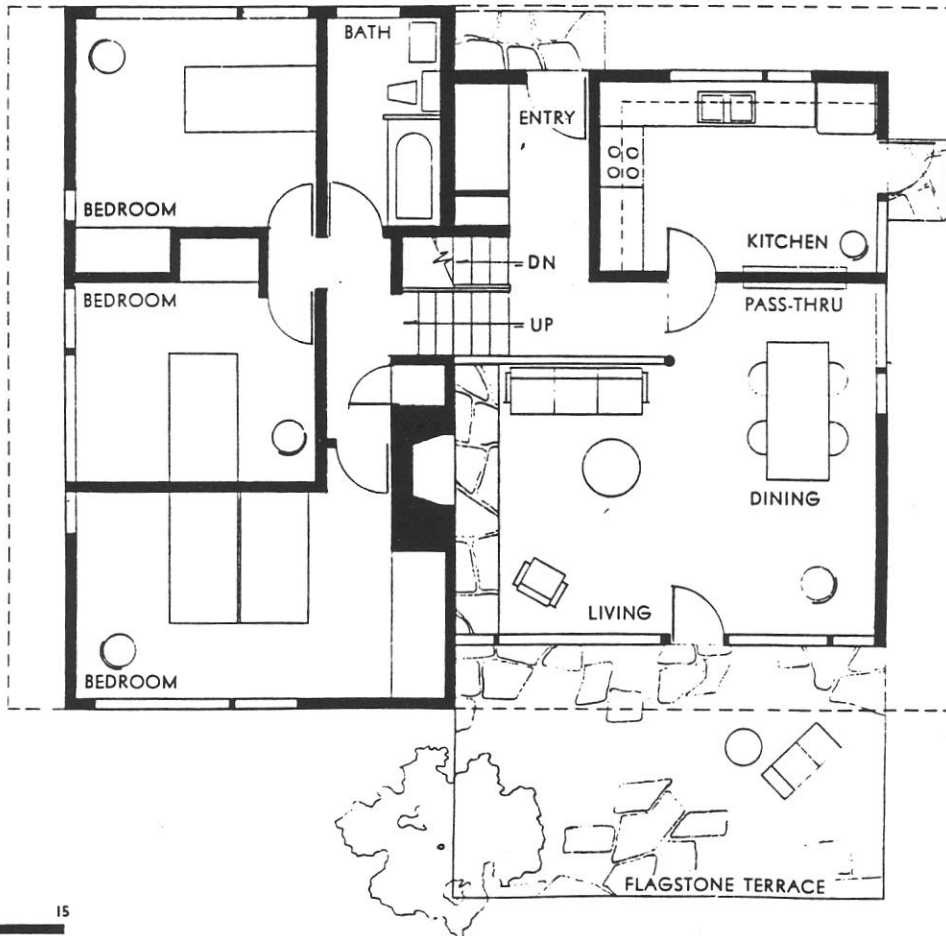
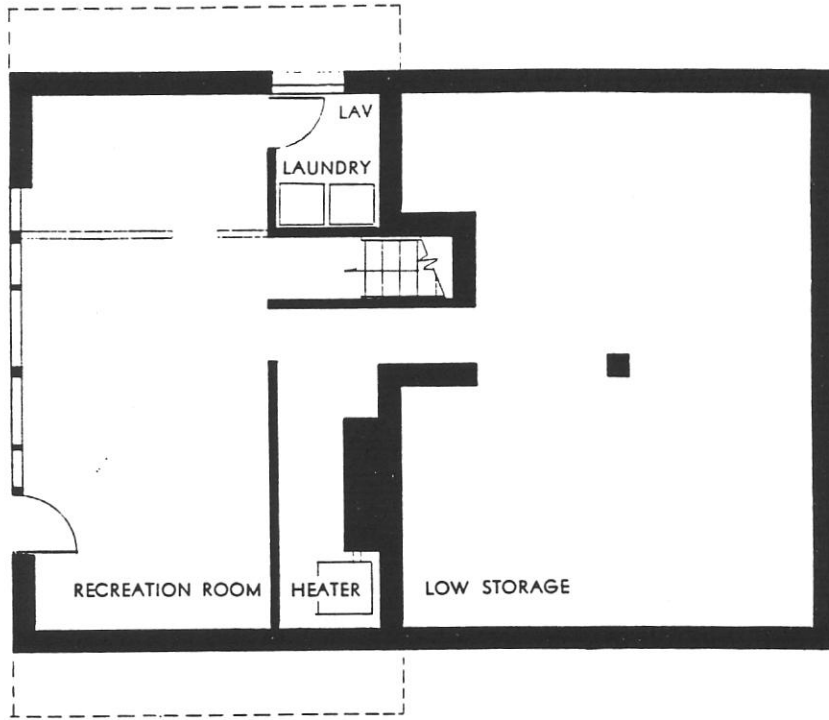
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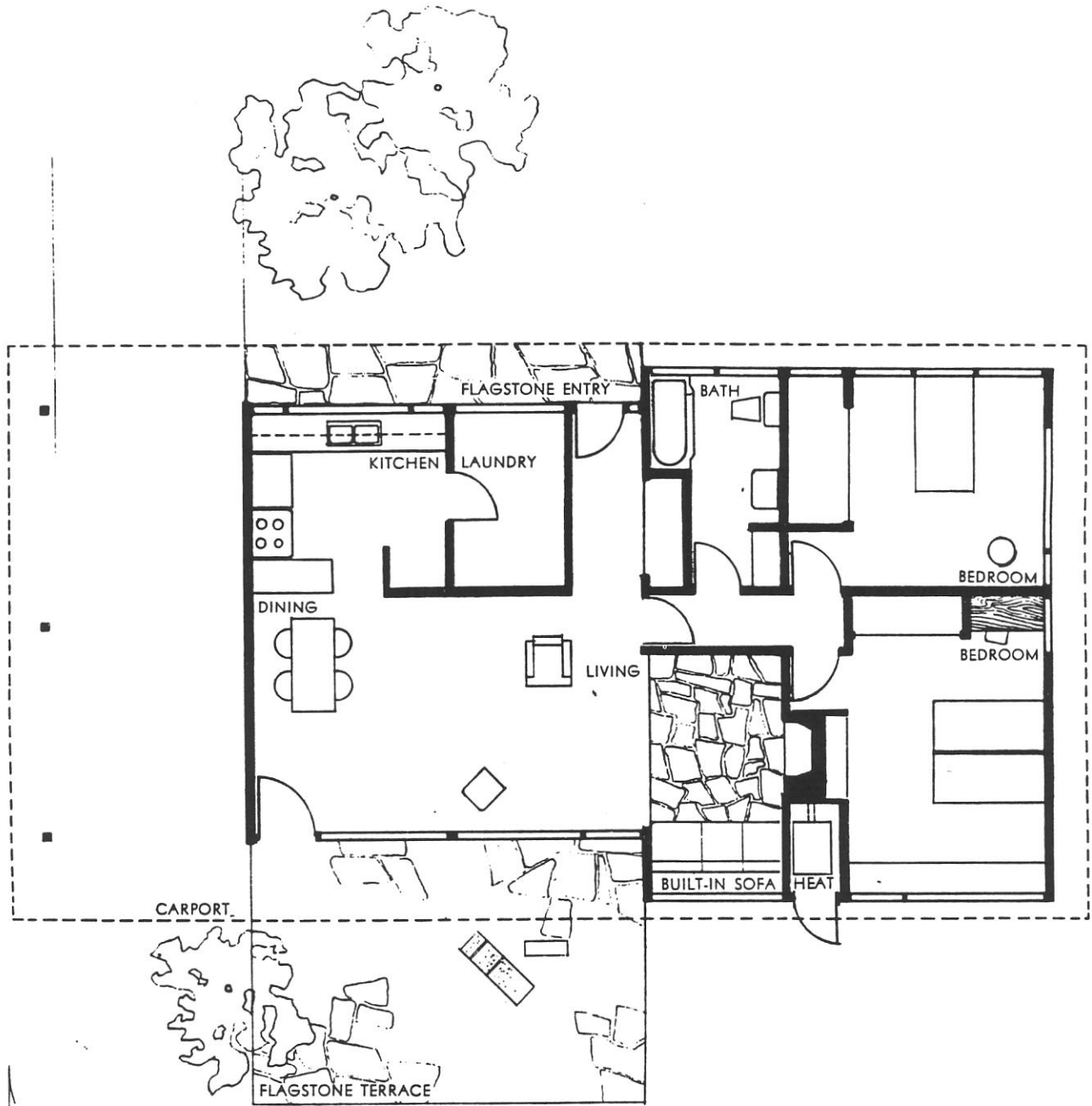


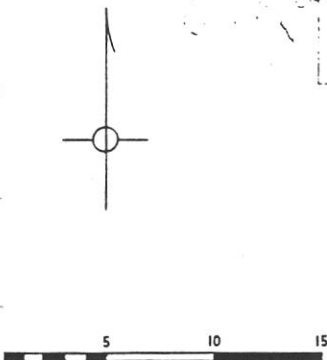
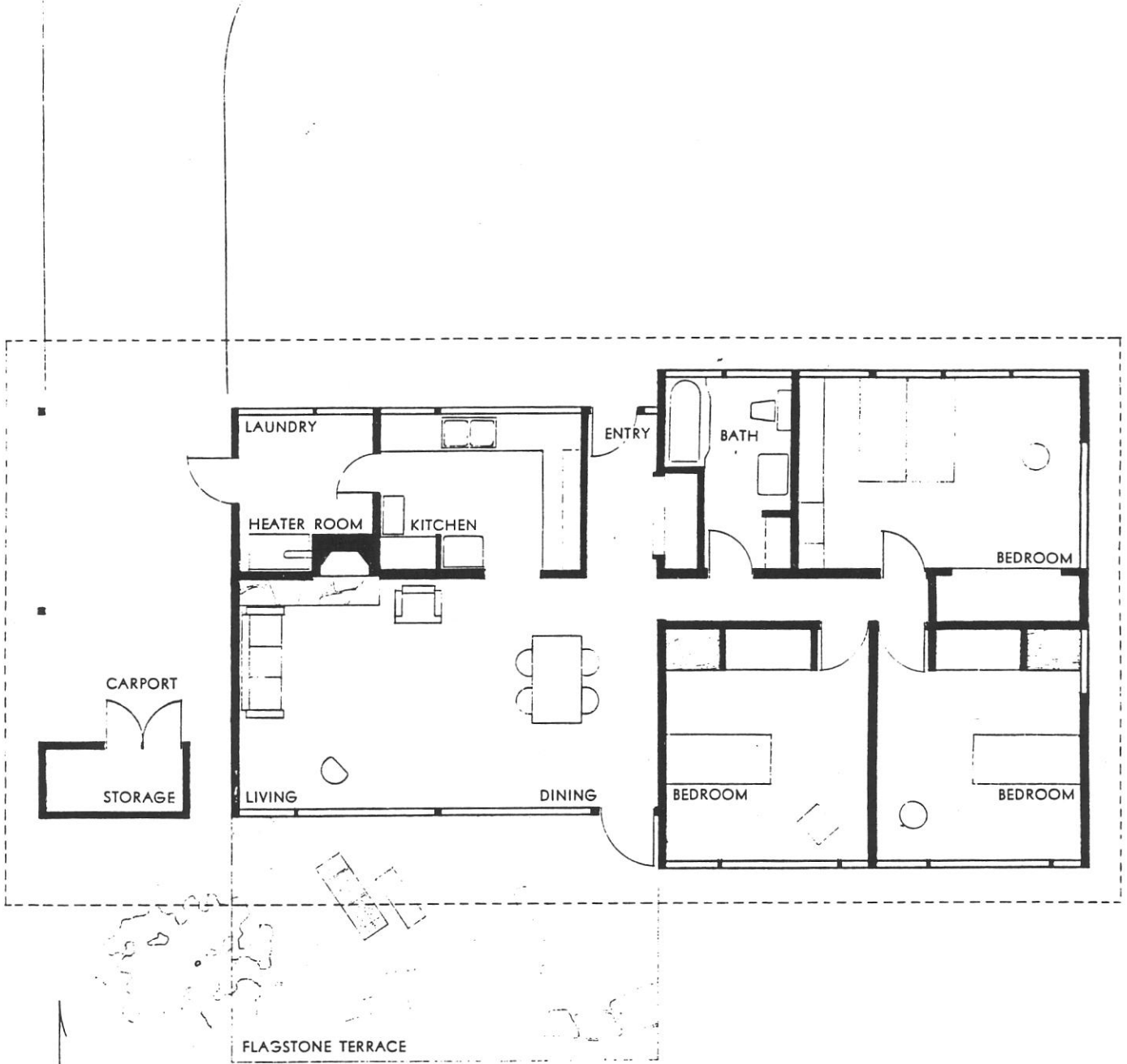


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TYPE B1







TYPE G

