

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA H	FORM NO. 393
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



town Lexington

address 2 Chandler Street

Historic Name French-Dale House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1896

Source Lexington Minute Man, Feb. 7, 1896

Style Queen Anne

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) fire

(1967)

Moved _____ Date _____

Approx. acreage 0.3 acre (13,476')

Setting Meriam Hill; residential street

developed in the late nineteenth century.

Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Grady

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date March, 1984

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This house has a somewhat truncated look. It was reduced from 20 rooms and three stories to two stories after a fire in 1967 and given a hip roof. Originally, there was a tower at the west corner. The first two stories have not been changed (see attached copy of historic photograph). There is a porch of unusual design in which square posts embellished with diamond-shaped panels flank round columns. These are placed above a balustrade in which solid panels alternate with latticework. An overhanging second story on the right side is finished with many large brackets.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

Deed research indicates that this section of Meriam Hill was laid out for house lots by Matthew P. Merriam in 1888. Henry W. French, a shoe manufacturer at Lynn, purchased the lot in 1892 and built the house in 1896. Like many of the houses of Meriam Hill, its progress was chronicled in the Lexington Minute Man: preliminary landscaping was being done in April, 1895; the building contract was awarded to out-of-town parties in October; and the frame was up by February, 1896. From c. 1906 to 1922 Charles Dale lived in the house. Dale's daughter, Anita Dale Seymour, was a singer and for 50 years a vocal teacher in Lexington.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Hudson, Charles. History of the Town of Lexington, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society, Volume II, pp. 158, 231. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1913.

Lexington Minute Man, April 26, 1895, October 25, 1895, February 7, 1896.

Lexington Tax Assessment Records, 1896.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds, Cambridge, Massachusetts. Plan Book 58, Plan 19; Book 3334, p. 132.

Anita Dale's scrapbook. Lexington Historical Society Archives.

Rosemary Jason, unpublished paper. Lexington Historical Commission files.

Personal communication from Betty Howe, 4 Chandler Street, Lexington.

1906 Directory