

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
22/141

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1051



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Follen Hill

Address 52 Follen Road

Historic Name Aiden & Doris Ripley House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential/Studio

Date of Construction 1932

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Early 20th C. Eclectic

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation fieldstone

Wall/Trim live edge siding, wood

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) date? - dormer on east side

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 23,160 SF

Setting end of long driveway leading uphill from Follen Road, surrounded by woods



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) July 2000

BUILDING FORM (52 Follen Road)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of the building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Constructed in 1932, the Ripley House is a simple but eclectic 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed dwelling which features a fieldstone first floor with the upper level sheathed in live edge siding. The house is set above Follen Road and surrounded by woods. The northern portion of the house served as a studio for the original owner, artist Aiden Ripley, with northern light coming in through a large multi-paned window on the north gable end. Below the studio there is a single-car garage with an arched opening filled with vertical board double doors with large iron hinges.

Extending to the south of the studio and garage, the main house block is rectangular in plan (18' x 32') and slightly more narrow than the studio. The main entrance is located on the east elevation and is fronted by a large concrete stoop. The entrance contains a vertical plank door. Fenestration includes a multi-light picture window and metal casement units. A clapboarded shed dormer has been added on the east slope of the gable roof.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Describe the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

This house was constructed in 1932 for Aiden and Doris Ripley who purchased the lot (Lot 27 in the Follen Heights subdivision) in June of 1932. The Ripleys were first assessed in 1933 for a house valued at \$7,000 and a 23,160 square foot lot. Aiden Lassell Ripley (1896-1969) was a well-known Lexington artist who had a studio in the house. He studied at the Museum of Fine Arts School in Boston and lived in Lexington most of his life. Ripley was best known for his hunting and fishing scenes, was an ardent conservationist and a member of Lexington's Planning Board and Board of Appeals. His paintings are included in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and the Chicago Art Institute. His 1950 mural, "The Four Seasons" was installed in the Cary Library in 1977.

The property was sold by Doris Ripley to Joseph Kilbridge in 1973. Gail Hubbell owned the property from 1980 until 1996 when it was purchased by the present owner.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Fearnside, Joyce C. *Guide to the Cary Memorial Art Works*. Cary Memorial Library, 1991.
- Lexington Assessors Records.
- Lexington Directories, various dates.
- Lexington Valuation Lists, various dates.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attached a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*