

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

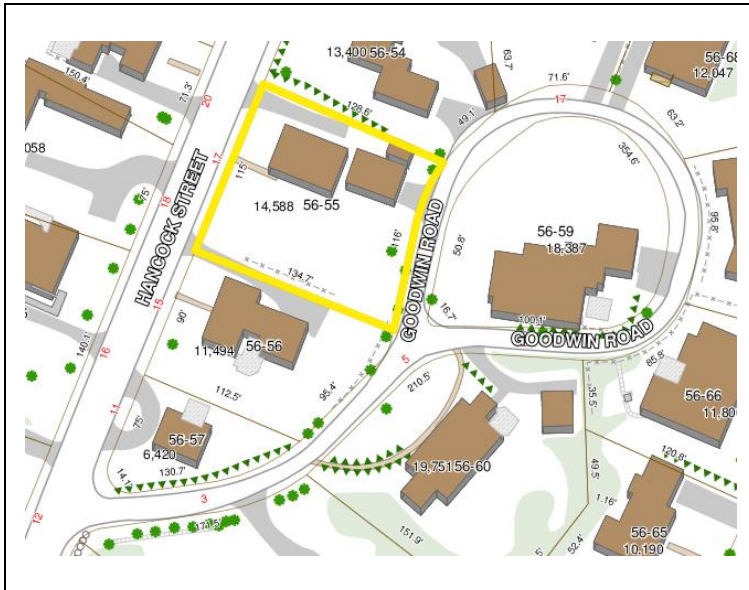
Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

Photograph



West and south (facade) elevations

Locus Map



Town/City: Lexington

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Merriam Hill

Address: 17 Hancock Street

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1927-30

Source: U.S. census, historic maps

Style/Form: Garrison Colonial

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: fieldstone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards and trim

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

None

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Side addition (L 20th c)

Condition: excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.33

Setting: Located on main thoroughfare between Lexington center and northeast Lexington, near intersection with Mass. Avenue. Densely developed residential neighborhood with most houses built from the 19th through early 20th centuries.

Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): September 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

17 HANCOCK STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

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

The house at 17 Hancock Street occupies most of its narrow, deep lot on the main thoroughfare of Hancock Street. The building is set close to Hancock Street and to the left side property line, affording a wide setback on the right side of the lot, which the building faces. A straight paved driveway extends between the back of the house and the left side property line. Rising gradually up to the rear, the lot is maintained chiefly in lawn at the front of the house, with a variety of plantings in the setback between the street and the side elevation of the house. A brick walkway leads from the sidewalk to the front entrance. The building consists of a 2 ½ story main block and one story side additions.

The substantial, three by five bay main block rises from a fieldstone foundation to a side gable roof with two interior chimneys on the ridgeline. Walls are sheathed with wood clapboards and trimmed with sill boards, corner boards, and fascia boards. The second story overhangs the first story of the facade and the half-story overhangs the floors below on the left side (street) elevation. Both of these projections are elaborated with chunky pendants at the building corners and thick sawn brackets between the window bays. Windows typically have 6/6 double hung sash with band molding and hinged wood shutters.

The five-bay façade has a single-leaf center door accessed by a raised brick patio and brick steps. The left (street) side elevation contains three slightly asymmetrical windows on each floor, and a smaller window centered in the pedimented gable end. The rear elevation displays a center entrance with a single leaf door and a shed-roofed hood and a shed roofed projection to its left on the first floor; five asymmetrically placed windows on the second floor, and a shed dormer with two pairs of smaller windows. A one-story addition with a hip roof extends towards the back of the lot and is barely visible from the street.

Well maintained and well preserved, 17 Hancock Street is a handsome, creative example of the mid-20th century Colonial Revival style. It is notable for the boldness of its scale and detailing, including the pendants and brackets at its wall overhangs, and for its siting perpendicular to a busy street.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss 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.

Established by the early 18th century, Hancock Street is one of the radial roads leading outward from the meeting house in the town center. Numerous houses were already in place along the street by 1853, and by 1875 fashionable residences occupied most of the western side of the street. The eastern side of Hancock Street borders Merriam Hill and was more sparsely developed. By 1898, this property was part of a small, planned development known as Colonial Park, which consisted of 10 lots laid out around the loop road now called Goodwin Drive on what had been the estate of M. H. Merriam. Merriam moved to Oakland Street and left his house standing in the center of the loop road.

17 Hancock Street was built between 1927 and 1930. Its first known occupants were Walker L. Chamberlain (1891-1967), treasurer of a bank in the latter year, his wife Florence B., and his parents, Winston and Katie Chamberlain. (Winston, age 76, was still working as a gardener.) The Chamberlains remained in the house at least through 1945. Subsequent residents included Theodore E. Lannefeld, a chemist, and his wife Margaretha (1955) and Robert L. Seaman, a businessman ("ass't compr.") and his wife Jacqueline B. (1965).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Ancestry.com. Massachusetts, Mason Membership Cards, 1733-1990 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013. Original data: Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Masons Membership Cards 1733-1990. New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

Cambridge directory: 1930.

Historic maps and atlases: Walling 1853; Beers 1875; Walker 1889; Stadly 1898; Walker 1906; Sanborn 1908, 1918, 1927, 1935, 1935/1950.

Lexington Directories: 1899, 1908-09, 1922, 1934, 1936.

Lexington *List of Persons*: 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965.

Massachusetts Historical Commission. "MHC Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Lexington." 1980.

U.S. Census: 1920, 1930, 1940.

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Back and left side (Hancock Street) elevations