

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
H	381

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108



wn Lexington

dress 19 Meriam Street

McElwin?  
storic Name McDonald House

Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Year 1887

Source David A. Tuttle manuscript

Style Queen Anne

Architect David A. Tuttle, builder

Exterior wall fabric shingles, clapboards

Outbuildings garage

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Moved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage .3 A. (12,500 ft.<sup>2</sup>)

Setting Residential street at foot of

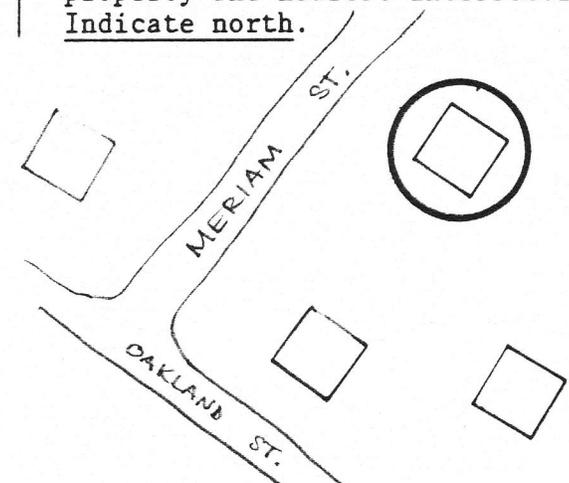
Meriam Hill; houses a mix of late nine-

teenth and mid-twentieth century

construction.

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. 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.)

One of the more modest of the late nineteenth century Meriam Hill houses, this is a house of L-shaped plan. A three-sided bay to the left side culminates in a three-sided peaked roof which suggests an engaged turret. Staggered butt shingles are used in the gable for texture. This is one of the many houses in Lexington finished with clapboards on the first level and shingles above.

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

The house was built in 1887 by David A. Tuttle, prolific local builder, for McDonald. In 1903 it was owned by local merchant Frederick C. Jones, who sold newspapers and men's furnishings, etc.

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

David A. Tuttle, manuscript list of houses he built, written 1904. Lexington Historical Society Collection.

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town  
LEXINGTON

Property Address  
19 MERIAM ST.

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

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## HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Several brief notices found in the *Lexington Minute-man* chronicle the construction of this house. In March 1887 the paper reported that "Mr. McElwee has purchased a lot near the Episcopal Church where he will proceed to erect himself a residence" (*Minute-man*, March 25, 1887). On June 10, 1887 the paper noted that "The house being built under the direction of Mr. Tuttle next to the Episcopal church is progressing". The house was completed about a month later and the paper reported "The exterior of the house being built by Mr. McElwee, on Merriam street, next to the Church of Our Redeemer, is now completed, and very attractive indeed it is. It has been effectively painted in two colors by A.L. Scott, the painter" (*Minute-man*, July 22, 1887).

In 1900 Andrew McElwin sold the house on Meriam Street to Fred C. Jones. At the time it was occupied by Roger I. Sherman and family. Mr. Jones purchased the house as an investment and the house was to be continued to be occupied by Sherman (*Minute-man*, November 10, 1900). It was later owned by Sheldon Robinson of Breck-Robinson Nurseries from at least 1918 to 1932.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*, revised and continued to 1912 by the Lexington Historical Society. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1913.  
Lexington Directories, various dates.  
*Lexington Minute-Man*, March 25, 1887; June 10, 1887; July 22, 1887; November 10, 1900.  
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.  
U.S. Census Records, 1900-1930.

Supplement prepared by:  
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