

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
56/132

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)

Form Number
1096



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 39 Meriam Street

Historic Name James & Helen Barrington House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1939

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Tudor Revival

Architect/Builder Royal Barry Wills

Exterior Material:

Foundation concrete

Wall/Trim brick/wood/stucco

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

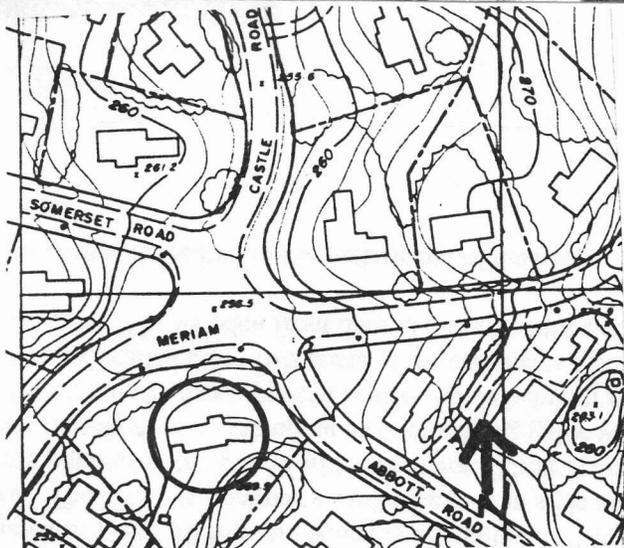
Major Alterations (with dates) 2000 - addition

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 34,843 SF

Setting mixed 20th century residential neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) June 2000

BUILDING FORM (39 Meriam Street)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

Constructed in 1939, 39 Meriam Street is a rambling, 1 1/2-story, side-gabled, brick dwelling capped by a steeply pitched slate roof. The house is minimally Tudor Revival in style and typical of the simplified, almost Ranch-like version of the form which was popular in the pre-World War II era. There is no attempt here at precisely copying medieval forms but various details are loosely applied including an overhanging gable which is half-timbered with live edge siding at the top of the gable. Brick infill in a herringbone pattern is also visible between some timbers. Decorative beams accent the overhang and diamond-paned leaded glass fills some of the casements. Live edge siding also caps the gable dormers which contain multi-light casements. The wooden front door is decorated by a studded diamond design and displays large iron hinges.

A two-car garage is located in the eastern end of the house. A single-story addition is currently under construction at the west end.

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 for James and Helen Barrington shortly before their marriage in 1940. The Valuation List indicates that in 1939 James Barrington was assessed for an unfinished house on Meriam Street valued at \$2,500. The following year the assessment had climbed to \$15,000, indicating the completion of the house. The 1940 Poll List shows that Helen T. Chadwick, age 42, was living at 17 Audubon Street in 1939 while James L. Barrington, 52, was living at 24 Bloomfield Street. Subsequent directories list Mr. and Mrs. Barrington in residence at 39 Meriam Street. He was employed as a sales manager.

By 1959 Helene and W. John Dunnan were living in the house. Ralph and Helen Davis owned the house from 1954 to 1964. Later owners included Robert Anthony who sold the property to the present owners in 1971.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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.