

FORM B – BUILDING

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

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

56/180 [] H 2157

Town/City: Lexington

Place: (neighborhood or village):
Merriam Hill

Address: 2 Oakmont Circle

Historic Name:

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1962-63

Source: town directories

Style/Form: Colonial Revival Cape

Architect/Builder: unknown; possibly Royal Barry Wills

Exterior Material:

Foundation: poured concrete

Wall/Trim: wood clapboards, flushboarding, and trim

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Attached garage

Major Alterations (with dates):

Rear deck

Condition: excellent

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.40

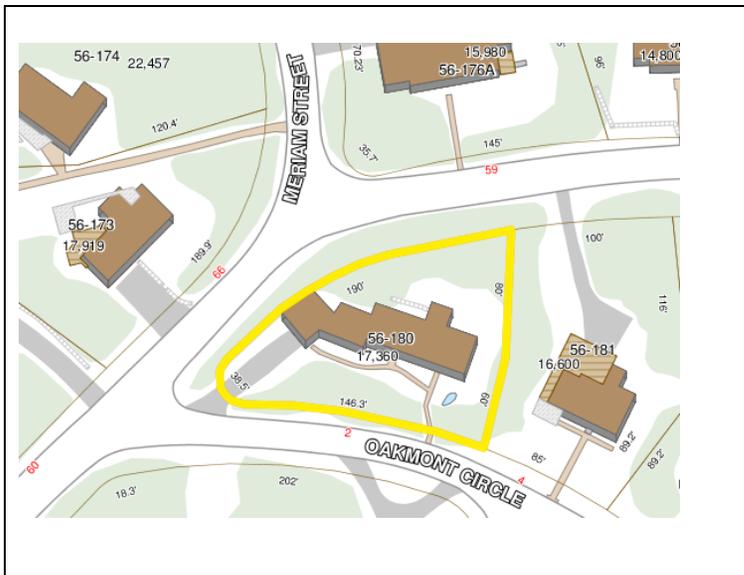
Setting: Located on a secluded residential side street at the corner of Oakmont Circle, Meriam and York Streets, near the top of Merriam Hill. Neighboring houses on Oakmont Circle are typically early 20th c revival styles, brick or stucco, and somewhat larger in scale.

Photograph



Front (facade) and right side elevations

Locus Map



Recorded by: Wendy Frontiero

Organization: Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year): September 2015

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

LEXINGTON

2 OAKMOUNT CIRCLE

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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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.

2 Oakmount Circle occupies a spacious lot on a residential side street on Merriam Hill, at the intersection of Oakmount Circle and Meriam and York streets. The vicinity includes a variety of mostly early 20th century revival homes (Colonial Revival, Spanish Colonial, and Medieval Revival). The building has wide setbacks from the surrounding streets. The lot slopes gradually down from Oakmount Circle to the front of the house, and then drops off steeply in the back to York Street. A straight paved driveway leads up to the garage from Oakmount Circle. Most of the lot is wooded, although a narrow strip of lawn borders the front, back, and right side of the house. A bluestone stairway and walk leads from the driveway to the main front entrance.

The compact house consists of three rectangular volumes: a 1 ½ story main block with gambrel roof and two 1-story, gabled side wings. An attached garage is set at a diagonal at the left side of this composition. The building rises from a poured concrete foundation with a raised basement at the rear. Walls on the main block and left wing are clad with wood clapboards and trimmed with corner boards and a narrow fascia with slender bed molding. The right wing and garage are sheathed with vertical flush boards. Windows typically comprise 12/12 double hung sash with flat casings and functional louvered wood shutters. A large interior chimney is centered at the ridgeline of the main block. An interior chimney rises from the end wall of the right wing, and an exterior chimney rises from the left side of the left wing at its intersection with the garage.

The façade of the central main block has four bays with an off-center entrance accented by plain pilasters; its traditional door consists of wood and glass panes. The asymmetrical façade of the right wing has a plain central doorway with flat casings, flanked by a single window to its left and projecting bay window with picture window unit to its right. The wing to the left of the main block is distinguished by two asymmetrically set windows and simple sawn brackets at the eaves.

The right side elevations consist of an off-set, single window at the partially-exposed half-story of the main block, and two widely spaced windows on the saltbox side of the right wing. The main block's partially-exposed left side elevation features a single window centered in the gable peak of the main block and a small polygonal bay window on the first floor. The left wing's partially-exposed left elevation contains a single window towards the back of the first floor. The rear elevation is irregular and informal, with a multi-light picture window and long shed dormer on the main block, and a narrow angled bay window and simple sawn eave brackets at the left wing. A large wood deck with rectangular vertical balusters extends from the back of the right wing of the house.

The attached garage has two vehicle bays with solid wood doors, a side gable roof, and simple sawn brackets at the roof eaves. Its exposed gable end has a single 12/12 window centered on the main floor; the rear elevation contains an offset doorway with plain flat casing.

Well-preserved and well-maintained, 2 Oakmount Circle is a good example of mid 20th century Colonial Revival residential design in Lexington. It is notable for its varied and informal massing, variety of roof forms, dominant center chimney, and careful attention to proportions and details.

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.

In 1906, this area of Merriam Hill was still part of the Hayes Estate, with buildings only along the perimeter roads (Adams and Grant streets). The land had been surveyed and laid out in house lots in 1903, however, as part of the Oakmount Park

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subdivision. 2 Oakmount Circle is one of the most recent houses in the neighborhood, perhaps because of its challenging, steeply sloped site. The building appears to have been constructed in 1962-63. The first known residents were Robert Merriam, retired, and his wife Grace (1963). Further research is recommended to determine the architect for this house, whose design is consistent with the work of Royal Barry Wills.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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

Lexington Historical Commission (Anne Grady). Form A, LEX.H update, Merriam Hill Area (draft). 2015.

Lexington List of Persons: 1935, 1945, 1955, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1965.

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

Middlesex Registry of Deeds, South District. "Plan of Oakmount Park, Lexington, Mass." Recorded Jul 15, 1903

SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES



Garage and wing: Front (facade) elevations