

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number
33/176

USGS Quad
Boston N.

Area(s)
Y

Form Number
1111



Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village) Fair Oaks

Address 40 Prospect Hill Road

Historic Name Fred & Katherine Lord House

Uses: Present Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1914

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form 20th century Eclectic

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation rubble

Wall/Trim brick

Roof tile

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

none

Major Alterations (with dates) 1984 - new roof

Condition good

Moved no yes Date

Acreage 53,428 SF

Setting mixed 20th century residential

Recorded by Lisa Mausolf

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month/year) April 2000

BUILDING FORM (40 Prospect Hill Road)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

The house at 40 Prospect Hill Road is a large and unusual early 20th century 2 1/2-story, side-gabled dwelling with a brick exterior, rubble foundation and a green tile roof (the house was reroofed in 1984). The brick is laid in a bond alternating a course of stretchers with a course of headers. A band of three soldier bricks separates the first and second stories. The side-gabled building displays overhanging eaves with large curved brackets with pyramidal tops supporting the notched ends of the raking. Centered on the three-bay facade and fronted by brick steps with boulder sidewalls, the main entrance is sheltered by a shed hood resting on large braces. The single-panel door is flanked by 2 x 4-light sidelights. On either side of the entrance is a set of casement window consisting of four 2 x 4-light panels. The second story facade consists of a central set of casement windows consisting of four 2 x 3-lights with a set of three 2 x 4-light windows on either side. A central gable wall dormer breaks through the roof above the entrance.

On the left end of the house there is a single-story stone-walled extension lit by multi-paned panels set above a paneled wall balustrade. On the other end of the house, closer to the road, there is a brick single-story extension fronted by a boulder wall enclosing a small patio. The overhang of the roof at the entrance is supported by a notched brace. Remaining windows consist primarily of casement windows. There is a gable wall dormer on the rear elevation, set above a curved first floor projection.

Set on a spacious 53,428 SF lot, the house is setback from the road and fronted by a circular drive.

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.

"Fair Oaks" was developed into house lots in 1912. This house was one of the first in the subdivision and was constructed in 1914 for Fred and Katherine Lord of Everett. Valuation records indicate that in 1913 the Lords owned only the lot. In 1914 they were assessed for an unfinished house valued at \$15,000; the following year the assessment had climbed to \$25,000 marking the completion of construction. Mr. Lord was a produce dealer. The Lords continued to occupy the house into the 1940s. Later owners included the Clements family who sold the property to Ervin and Sylvia Blake in 1958.

The original layout of the "Fair Oaks" development was the work of Arthur E. Horton, a landscape architect who had worked for the Metropolitan Park Commission in Boston, for much of this time under the direction of Charles Eliot. The street layout which was finally accepted by the town in 1924 was apparently a revised layout. Although an overview of the Fair Oaks subdivision is provided in Area Form Y, additional research needs to be done to determine the sequence of construction in the neighborhood and any commonalties which may exist.

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.*