

FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number  
56/114A

USGS Quad  
Boston N.

Form Number  
1132



Town Lexington  
Place (neighborhood or village) Upper Meriam Hill

Address 44 Somerset Road  
Historic Name Lawrence & Olive Burnham House

Uses: Present Residential  
Original Residential

Date of Construction 1927

Source Lexington Valuation Lists

Style/Form Dutch Colonial

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick  
Wall/Trim brick/wood shingles  
Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures  
none

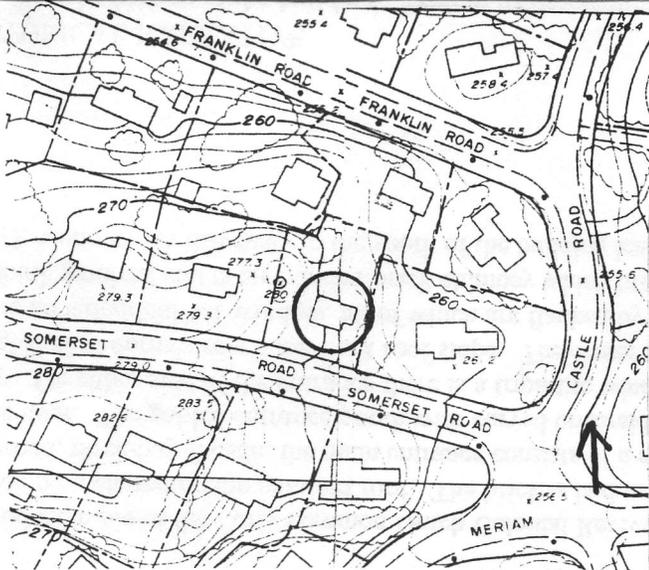
Major Alterations (with dates) 1988-open porch on north  
side, rear addition and built-in garage

Condition good

Moved  no  yes Date

Acres 14,004 SF

Setting early 20th century residential neighborhood



Recorded by Lisa Mausolf  
Organization Lexington Historical Commission  
Date (month/year) May 2000

## BUILDING FORM (44 Somerset Road)

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

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

A good example of the fairly common Dutch Colonial Revival style, 44 Somerset Road is a 1 3/4-story brick house which is capped by a characteristic gambrel roof. The brick is laid in a stretcher bond with a soldier brick water table. Centered on the broad, three-bay facade, the main entrance consists of a six-panel door flanked by narrow sidelights extending the height of the door. The gabled entrance porch with curved underside is supported by Roman Doric columns resting on a brick stoop. On either side of the entrance there is a tripartite window consisting of a central 6/1 flanked by 4/1 units. A wood-shingled shed dormer spans the front roof slope. The center window opening consists of a pair of 4/1 windows. On either side is an individual 6/1 window, all of which are flanked by wooden board shutters with cutout details. Extending up from the south gambrel end is an exterior brick chimney which breaks through the roof of the single-story, hipped roof sunporch, lit by 8/1 windows. A driveway to the south of the building leads to the built-in garage below.

### 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.*

(see 60 Meriam St.)  
MHC # 388

This land was originally part of the 400-acre Francis B. Hayes estate which extended from Adams and Hancock Streets to Woburn Street (the house known as Oakmount or The Castle was built in 1884 and demolished in 1941). This portion of the Hayes estate was laid out in houselots in 1909.

This house was constructed about 1927 for Lawrence and Olive Burnham, formerly of Belmont. The Burnhams were first assessed for a house at 44 Somerset Road in 1928. The house was valued at \$8,500 and stood on part of lot 34 of the Hayes subdivision. Directories indicate that Lawrence Burnham was employed as a mechanical engineer.

The Burnhams continued to own the Somerset Road property until about 1940. Later owners included Theodore Shoemaker (c.1940). Eugene and Josephine Mirabelli purchased the property prior to 1950 and Mrs. Mirabelli still occupies the house today.

### 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.*