

National Register Nomination Mid-Century Modern Houses in Lexington, Massachusetts

With the support of a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC), the Lexington Historical Commission contracted with AHS to begin the process of listing the town's Mid-Century Modern houses on the National Register of Historic Places. Senior Historian Bruce Clouette, Ph.D., produced two separate products: 1) a comprehensive Multiple Property Submission (MPS) Form that established the historical context for Lexington's Mid-Century Modern architecture, analyzed several distinct property types that might be eligible for National Register listing, and specified that characteristics needed to qualify; and 2) district nominations for Six Moon Hill, an internationally acclaimed neighborhood of 30 Modernist designs by the participants in the Architects Collaborative (a group that included Walter Gropius, Ben Thompson, and other leading lights of Mid-Century Modernism), and Peacock Farm, a residential subdivision that was an award-winning design, a commercial success, and a cohesive, livable community.



Lexington has an exceptionally large number of Mid-Century Modern Houses because of its location along the Route 128 technology corridor and its proximity to two of the country's leading schools of architecture, M.I.T. and Harvard. Architects include national figures such as Carl Koch, Hugh Stubbins, Jr., and Walter Gropius's group, The Architects Collaborative, as well as lesser known figures now recognized as major Massachusetts architects: Walter Pierce, William Haible, and Henry Hoover. Preparation

of the MPS required extensive reading in primary and secondary sources, especially popular and professional architectural literature, and knowledge of the Mid-Century Modern movement on the local, national, and international levels. The MPS was approved and Peacock Farm was listed on the National Register on November 7, 2012. Six Moon Hill was listed on January 16, 2016.

