

# ANOTHER ACHIEVEMENT FOR LEXINGTON

By Marilyn Litvak

The small town of Lexington in eastern Massachusetts is well known as the site where in April, 1775, “the shot heard ‘round the world” occurred.

For here on the town’s grassy Common, American volunteers confronted British soldiers in what amounted to the first battle in our country’s great Revolution.

The historic Lexington Common, or Battle Green, where it all began can still be found in the center of town.

Although the Common is now dotted with statues and memorials commemorating that day, the appearance of the area remains much as it did over 200 years ago. Leafy green trees surround the Common; and handsome two-story white colonial houses and a church appear in the distance. Wounded American revolutionary soldiers were taken to some of these houses for care as the battle moved west to Concord. And several of these brave men were laid to rest in the nearby Old Burial Ground.

Across the street from the Common, the pale yellow, Federal-style Buckman Tavern, where much of the battle planning took place, also stands as a reminder of times past. Each year on April 19, the town commemorates the battle with a parade and festivities culminating at this site.



Buckman Tavern



Lexington Common



Old Burial Ground

This past April, an additional celebratory party occurred in Lexington with the festivities being held in the town's wonderfully restored train depot not far from the Common. The reason for the celebration was the inclusion of one of the town's neighborhoods on the National Register of Historic Places. The neighborhood was Peacock Farms and for many years my husband and I were privileged to own and live in a home there.

Now you've probably made the assumption that the homes in the Peacock Farm development are colonial style. Not so! Anything but! Rather the development consists of mid-century modern homes constructed in the 1950's. Designed by well-known Cambridge architect, Walter Pierce, and built by developers, Green and White, the houses are primarily all of the same design. The tri-level, vertical cedar-clad houses, stained in gray or brown with open floor plans have large inviting windows to the outside with cathedral ceilings and exposed wooden beams running across the width of the home. All 58 homes in the development are individually sited on 42 acres of rolling terrain lending a special ambience to the neighborhood.

In addition, a community pool set in the neighborhood's common land of 13 acres is enjoyed by all Peacock Farm residents in the summer months; with ball playing and games of hide and seek taking place in the surrounding field. And when winter invariably rolls around, ice skates can be laced up for a go-around on the common land's shallow marsh.



*Mid-Century Modern Peacock Farm House*

Of course, if you're a bird watcher, this same open marsh area provides many opportunities in spring and fall for viewing migratory birds.

A charming, bubbling brook runs through the heart of the property interspersed with many rock wall fences created when the property was used as farm and grazing land back in the 1800's. And as the name, Peacock Farm, implies, there were even peacocks raised on the property early in the 20th century.



19<sup>th</sup> Century Peacock Farm House

To Conclude: It should be noted the Peacock Farms development is one of several mid-century modern projects built in Lexington in the 1950's. Hence the National Register program officially titled the listing project as the "Mid-Century Modern Movement in Lexington" with owners, past and present, in three separate developments taking pride in knowing that their property is historically significant. As described on the Register site, only structures and objects deemed worthy of preservation are listed. See web site – [www.nps.gov/nr/research](http://www.nps.gov/nr/research).

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