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**SIX MOON HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT, LEXINGTON, APPROVED FOR NOMINATION TO
THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Secretary of the Commonwealth William F. Galvin is pleased to announce that the Massachusetts Historical Commission recently approved the Six Moon Hill Historic District in Lexington for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination will be submitted to the National Register of Historic Places at the National Park Service in Washington, DC, for final consideration and designation.

“The Massachusetts Historical Commission is dedicated to preserving the Commonwealth’s rich historic, architectural, archaeological, and cultural resources,” Secretary Galvin said. “Inclusion of the Six Moon Hill Historic District in the National Register is a testament to Lexington’s rich architectural heritage and, in particular, its historic significance as a center of Mid-Century Modern architecture and design.”

Part of the “Mid-Century Modern Houses of Lexington” Multiple Property National Register Submission, which began with the listing of the Peacock Farm Historic District in 2012, the Six Moon Hill Historic District is located in East Lexington just north of Route 2, and is primarily laid out along the winding, hilly Moon Hill Road. The district consists of 29 houses of Mid-Century Modern design, and one house built in 2006 that does not contribute to the district’s historic significance due to its recent construction.

The district’s mid-20th-century houses are all different, but they share a common design vocabulary that exemplifies the principles of Mid-Century Modern architecture. These include not only architectural features such as flat roofs, horizontality, large expanses of glass, and informal plans, but also very close attention to landscape, open space, and house siting.

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The district also includes commonly owned recreation facilities—a swimming pool, picnic area, and undeveloped open space—that reflect the Mid-Century Modern concept of the neighborhood as a community and not just a collection of individual houses. The Six Moon Hill development was largely the project of architects associated with The Architects' Collaborative (TAC), many of whom lived in the houses they designed there.

TAC became a force in modern American architecture in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s. Individually and as a firm, TAC architects—Walter Gropius, Norman C. and Jean B. Fletcher, John C. and Sarah P. Harkness, Robert S. McMillen, Louis A. McMillen, and Benjamin C. Thompson—won almost every major architectural award.

Other prominent architects associated with the Six Moon Hill development include Leonard J. Currie, who founded the architecture programs at Virginia Tech and the University of Illinois at Chicago, and William E. Haible, a partner in the firm of Anderson, Beckwith & Haible, which designed many modernist office buildings, as well as civic and educational buildings. Nearly all architects associated with Six Moon Hill were eventually elected Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

An especially interesting facet of the Six Moon Hill Historic District is that so many married pairs of architects were responsible for designs there, including the Fletchers and Harknesses, who designed and were the original occupants of 36 and 34 Moon Hill Road, respectively. Additionally, Leonard and Virginia Currie designed and were the original occupants of 16 Moon Hill Road, and William and Alice Haible designed and were the original occupants of 21 Moon Hill Road.

Six Moon Hill received perhaps more attention in the architectural and general-interest press, both nationally and internationally, than any Mid-Century Modern development of its time, including in publications such as *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui*, *Architectural Forum*, *Progressive Architect*, *Vogue*, and *Better Homes and Gardens*. The development is also significant for its association with the suburbanization that became a phenomenon in this part of Massachusetts and across the country with the return of soldiers from World War II

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The Six Moon Hill Historic District is one of five historic resources around the Commonwealth approved for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by the Massachusetts Historical Commission at this meeting.

Secretary Galvin serves as Chairman of the 17-member board, which meets regularly and considers historic resources eligible for the National Register four times a year.

The National Register is the nation's official listing of significant historic resources. In Massachusetts, there are more than 70,000 properties listed in the National Register. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has been administering the National Register of Historic Places program in Massachusetts since 1966.

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer and the State Archaeologist. It was established in 1963 to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth. Visit our website to learn more about the Commission's programs (www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc).

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