

# Brookline Preservation Commission

## Demolition Application Report

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**Address:** 59 Valley Road

**Petitioner:** Benjamin Dewey and John Dewey

**Type of Building(s):** house

**National Register Listing (if Applicable):** N/A



### **Preliminary Findings of Historical/Architectural Significance**

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The house at 59 Valley Road was constructed in 1959 by David Starberg, a Brookline builder who lived on Heath Street. It was custom-designed in a postwar traditional style by J. Francis Dooley. Set on a corner lot in the All Gas Colony neighborhood, formerly the land of the Chestnut Hill Country Club, its character-defining features include sets of simulated French doors with wood panels and segmental arches, offset front entry and dormered hip roof. The facade of this six bay wide and one-and-one half story house has a shallow cross-hip center bay with an oriel window whose narrow lights match those of the dormers and French doors.

The All-Gas Colony neighborhood, on Denny, Fairway, Hilltop, Valley, Reservoir and Crafts Road was developed beginning in the mid-1930s. Most of its houses are traditional types such as Colonial Revival capes and garrisons; several built in the 30s and 40s were designed by architects Leland & Larsen and Raymond Stowell, while those dating to the 50s include a few ranches and one Core house.



J. Francis Dooley was a prolific mid-20th century architectural designer based in Needham. In Brookline his other work included houses on Walnut Street, Hammond, Hyslop, Princeton, Rangeley and Woodland roads. The Wellesley Historical Society holds a collection of 252 of his blue-line prints and blueprints.

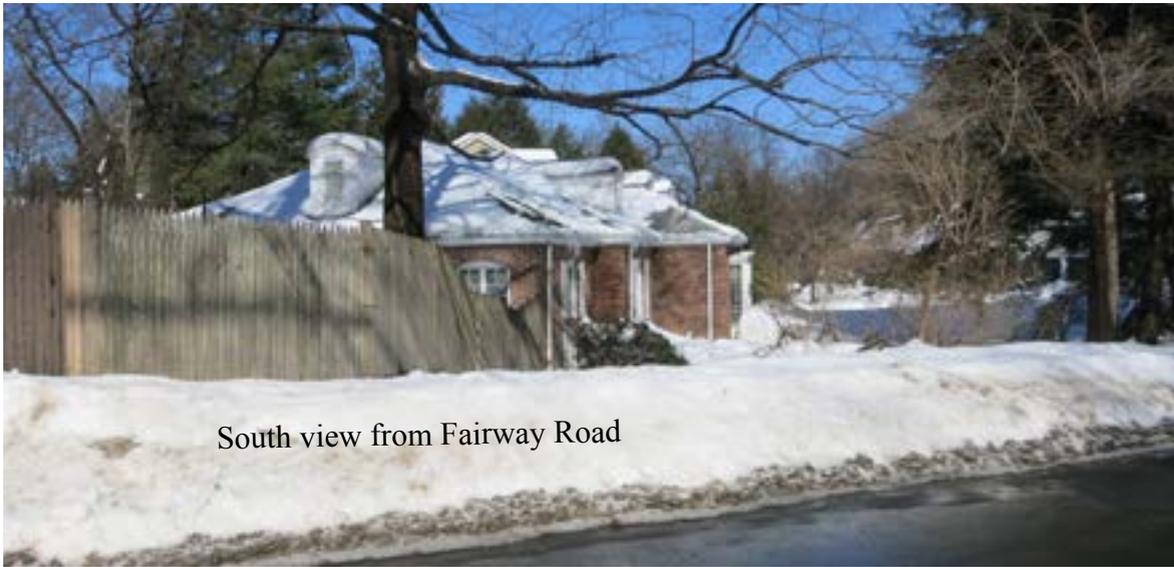
The property's significance meets the following criteria in Section 5.3.5--

c. The building is associated with . . . the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social history of the Town or Commonwealth; and

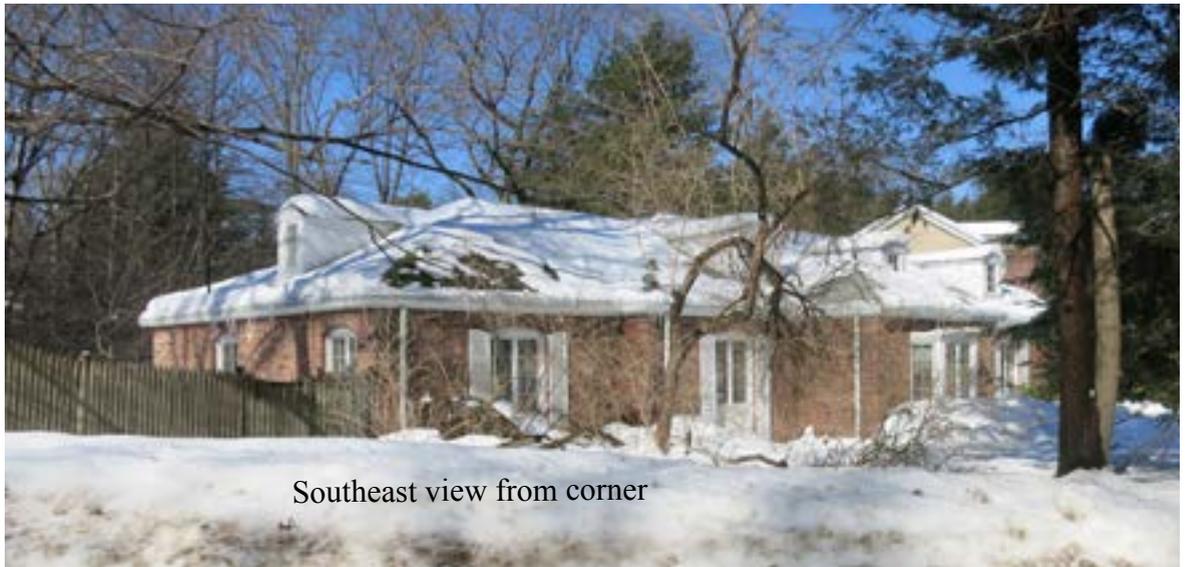
d. The building is historically or architecturally significant in terms of its period, style, method of construction, or its association with a significant architect or builder, either by itself or as part of a group of buildings.



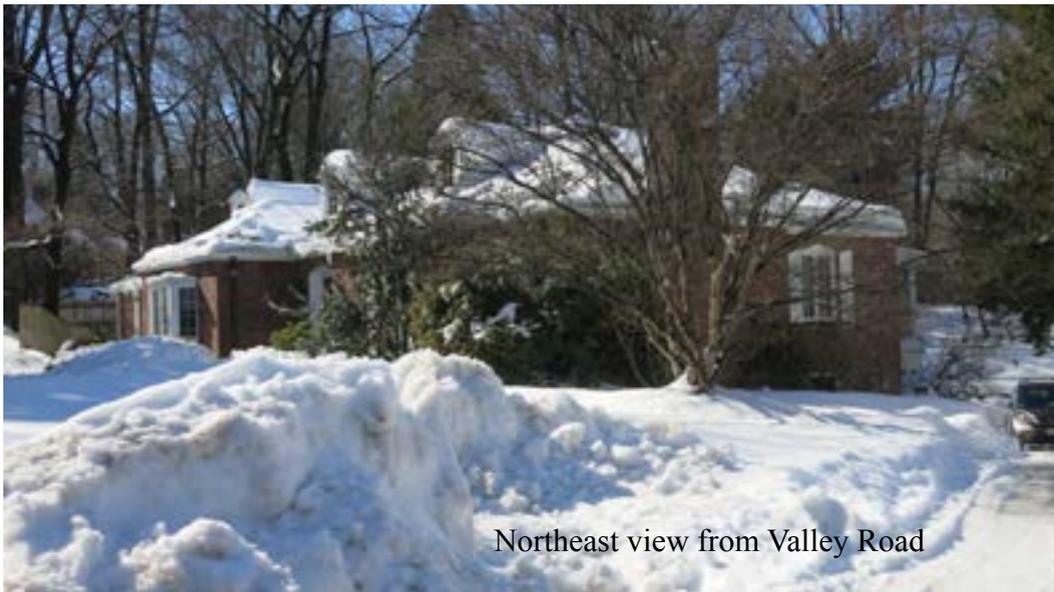
*Hip roofed ranch house design  
by J. Francis Dooley  
(courtesy of the Wellesley  
Historical Society, Wellesley  
Massachusetts)*



South view from Fairway Road



Southeast view from corner



Northeast view from Valley Road