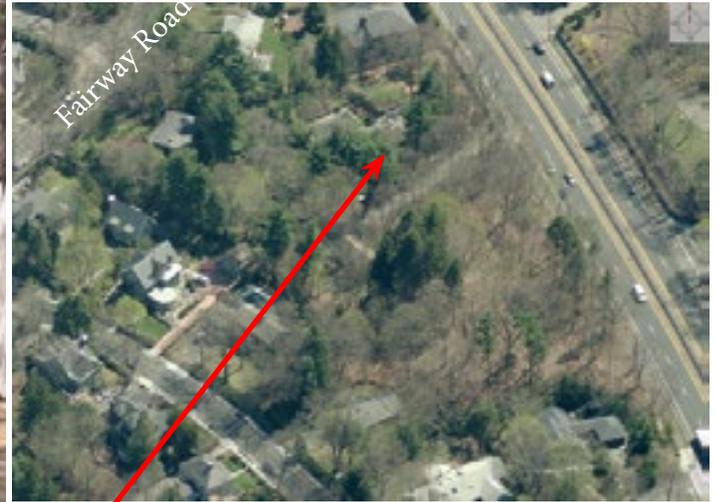


Brookline Preservation Commission Local Historic District Reports



1033Boylston St

Local Historic District: Chestnut Hill North

Applicant: Dan Zelman

Address: 1033 Boylston Street

Summary Statement of Significance: Designed by Saltonstall & Morton in 1961, this house is closely associated with the history of an earlier house on an adjoining parcel, 192 Fairway Road (1952, MHC #3141, Walter Bogner, archt.), located immediately north of Boylston Street. Both houses are significant examples of mid-20th century architecture in Brookline. Cambridge architect and modernist Walter Bogner designed the house at 192 Fairway Road for Joseph M. Edinburg and his wife, Dorothy Braude Edinburg. Joseph Edinburg was an executive with Chandler & Farquhar, a hardware and machinists' supplies dealer then based in Boston. Previously, his father-in-law, Harry B. Braude of Brookline, was president of the company. Dorothy Braude Edinburg was an art collector. The Edinburgs lived in Cambridge before occupying their new house in Brookline by 1954.

The Edinburgs resided at 192 Fairway Road at the time they commissioned Saltonstall & Morton to design another house, immediately to the southwest, in 1961. The second house, known as 1033 Boylston Street, has its principal frontage on Boylston Street with a narrow strip of frontage on Fairway Road. The later house was finished by 1963. Both houses remained in the family until last year. The property has been subdivided and this house has been bought by a family who will convert it and live here.

This Edinburg house is significant architecturally as an illustration of Modernist-style architecture in Brookline. The building's placement in the landscape – set back from the public way on a wooded lot. The wood-frame dwelling is one story on a slab foundation with a flat roof. Roughly rectangular in massing, the house has wood exterior cladding, possibly cypress boards, applied horizontally. The entry is recessed beneath an integral three-bay porch divided by square posts. Some full-height floor-to-ceiling windows light the living areas, while smaller windows containing sliding sash are arranged in a band set close to the eaves. There is a bronze fence around the pool, designed by noted sculptor Kahil Gibran.

Architect Nathaniel Saltonstall (1903-1969, AIA 1941) was born in Milton and earned degrees from Harvard (1928) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1931). He was an associate partner in Putnam & Cox & Saltonstall from 1931 to 1939, and a partner from 1939 to 1942. Saltonstall lived in a house of his design at 70 Main Street, Medfield (1932, MHC #190). In 1945, he established the firm of Saltonstall & Morton with Oliver Perry Morton (d. 1964, AIA 1947). The firm designed the Mayo Colony in Wellfleet (1948-1949, MHC #533), an artists' retreat cooperative in a wooded setting that encompassed a cluster of modernist cottages and a communal gallery. Saltonstall served as president of The Mayo Hill Colony, Inc. beginning in 1949. Other commissions included houses at 6, 10, and 16 Millbrook Road, Medfield (ca. 1941, MHC #s 281-283); the Solaray House, a prototype solar house at 86 Woodland Street, (South) Natick (1946); exterior alterations to Locke-Ober Restaurant, Boston (1956); interior work at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (1958); the first Institute of Contemporary Art, 1175 Soldiers Field Road, Boston (1959-1960, MHC #8063); and the Samuel L. Kuhn House, 179 Thoreau Way, Wellfleet (1960, MHC #537). Saltonstall was a founder of Boston's Institute of Contemporary Art, established in 1936 and known until 1948, when he began serving as a trustee, as the Institute of Modern Art.

Proposed Alterations: Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness to reroof house with about four inches of insulation adding to height of roof; remove chimney and install modern venting systems; install four skylights; build window-well facing Boylston Street with floor length door and windows; replace one clear window pane with opaque glass on west facade.

Statement of Applicable Guidelines: It is difficult to cite exact guidelines in this instance- it is an unique building in an unusual siting- alterations are being made to convert this "pool house" into an all year single family residence.

Statement of Preliminary Findings: The applicants want to adapt this house to live in while making minimal alterations. The skylights and the new windows (which echo the existing ones) on the Boylston Street facade are the only outward visible changes and seem appropriate for this circumstance.



north facade

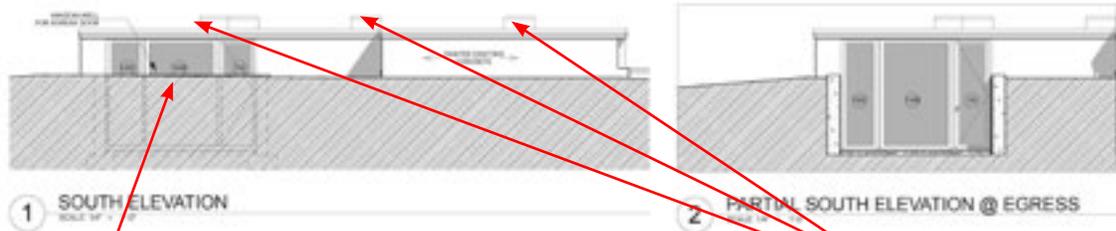


view from interior
to pool and Kahil
Gibran-designed
fence



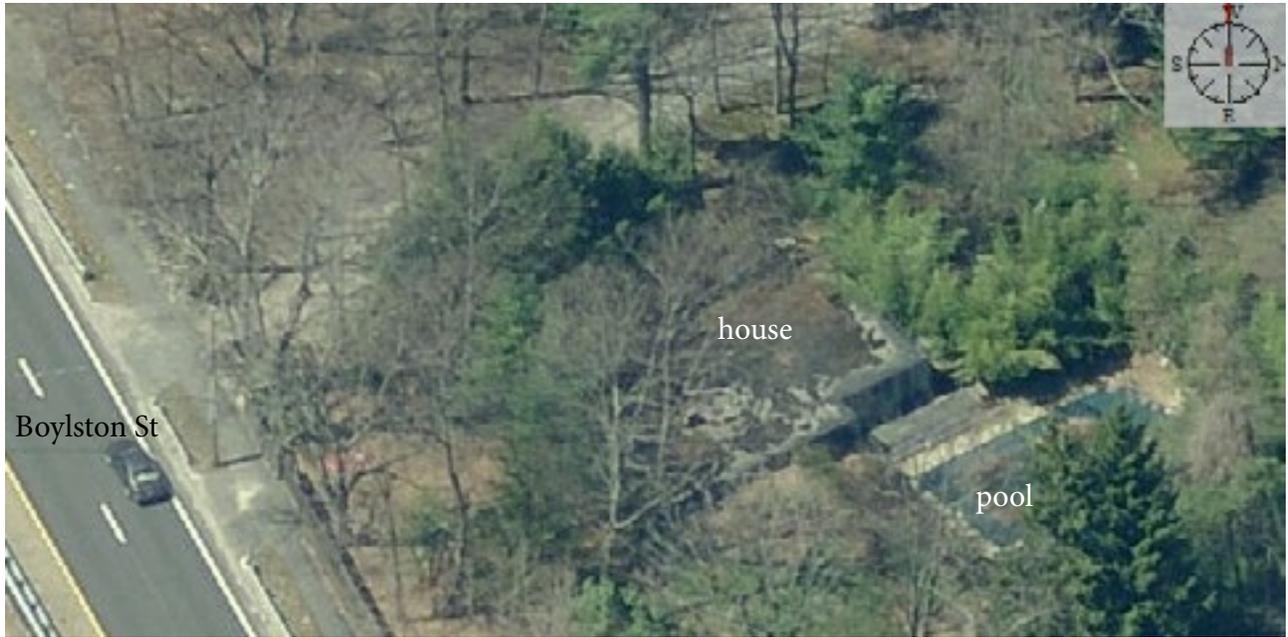
west facade

front door proposed
to be moved from side
to principal plane of
facade



the addition of windows and door in the window well

proposed skylights



Visibility of house from Boylston Street