

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAY 23 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Calvary Methodist Church
and/or common Calvary Methodist Church

2. Location

street & number 300 Massachusetts Avenue N/A not for publication
city, town Arlington N/A vicinity of
state MA code 025 county Middlesex code 017

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Board of Trustees, Calvary United Methodist Church, Inc.
street & number 300 Massachusetts Avenue
city, town Arlington N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Middlesex County Courthouse - South District Deeds Registry of
street & number 208 Cambridge Street
city, town East Cambridge state MA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth #513 has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1981 federal state county local
depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission
city, town Boston state MA

7. Description Calvary Methodist Church, Arlington, MA

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	(except steeple which was altered
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date 1888 and 1921)
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Calvary Methodist Church (1923) is located at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Linwood Street adjacent to the civic core of Arlington, MA. Set back from the street, the church is surrounded by lawn and a low hedge at the sidewalk. It occupies a particularly prominent site on a broad curve of Massachusetts Avenue, thus being visible for several blocks.

The plan and form of the Colonial Revival, wood-frame Calvary Methodist Church was inspired by the first stone church built in America, Kings Chapel (1749, Peter Harrison; 1785, Charles Bulfinch modifications), at Tremont and School Streets, Boston. Among Bulfinch's contributions to this important piece of architecture were the execution in wood of Harrison's design for a colossal Ionic portico and plans for a belfry cupola, never built. The Calvary Methodist Church departs from King's Chapel in material, detailing and fenestration, although basic similarities are evident; the belfry which terminates the tower is an original Bulfinch design (1809) for Boylston Market, Boston (demolished 1888 and donated to the church in 1921).

The main body of the church is rectangular in plan with a hipped roof and minimal ornamentation; trim is confined to simple surrounds of four 2-story round-head windows on each side elevation. A range of small rectangular windows light the low basement level.

The focal point of the church is its strongly projecting frontispiece, set on a stepped base, with a monumental tetrastyle Ionic portico and two stage tower and cupola. The side elevations of the frontispiece contain two 6/6 windows, arranged vertically and of slightly different proportions. Treatment of the central entry on the main facade is simple; large panelled double doors trimmed with rusticated blocks and surrounded by a 6/6 window set close to the portico soffit. Further articulation is generated by the continuation of the tower's quoins on the facade, outside the inner pair of columns, thus creating the illusion that the tower rises from basement level.

The severity of the tower is relieved on the square first stage only by a clock on the main face; a single small roundhead window on each secondary face, set low; and a balustrade above its plain cornice which forms a visual transition to the second stage. The flushboard second stage is also square in plan with a wide central projecting section on each face with narrow dentilled cornice. The Bulfinch cupola is octagonal in plan with round-head openings alternating with undecorated flushboard separated by engaged columns which support a plain frieze and modillioned cornice. A top the cornice, at each break in the cornice line, sit avoid finials in front of an octagonal stage with four recessed panels. The concave octagonal roof culminates at a point in a simple ball.

Clapboards, painted white, originally sheathed the main body, porch and tower. Although vinyl siding was applied in 1976, it retains the same proportions and coloring, thus not severely compromising the buildings visual impact.

8. Significance

Calvary Methodist Church, 300 Massachusetts Ave.,
Arlington, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1923, 1953 **Builder/Architect** James H. MacNaughton and William J. Perry; Charles Bulfinch (cupola) Arland Durlan (parish house)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Calvary Methodist Church possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is significant historically as a representation of continuing freedom of religion expression in Arlington, and for its associations with the community's development in the early-mid 20th century. Architecturally, the fact that it very nearly replicates King's Chapel, one of the most important ecclesiastical structures of the Colonial period combined with the integration of a genuinely important 18th century artifact sets it apart from the majority of Colonial Revival church buildings constructed in the early 20th century. Thus, the Calvary Methodist Church meets criteria A, and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Calvary Methodist Church can be considered the result of tertiary forces in the development of organized religion in the town of Arlington. Christian worship evolved from the prescribed "state" religion of the First Parish in the 17th and 18th centuries through splinter groups starting with the departure of the Baptists in 1790. The development of Unitarian and Universalist faiths was even more tumultuous, with a major schism that occurred in 1840. In 1875, the first Episcopalian Church was established; it is from this congregation and through this evolutionary arm that the Methodist sect emerged at the close of World War I.

Calvary Methodist Church came to fruition through the efforts of a small but devoted group of Methodists who met at the Grand Army Hall for the first time in 1916. From this group of 64, the congregation grew to 107 in 1917. In 1918 the first Pastor, the Reverend Garfield Morgan left to join the Canadian Army, and the Reverend Robert Ellsworth of Holliston was appointed minister. Due to the increased congregation size a church was deemed both necessary and attainable, and after considerable debate it was decided to construct a traditionally designed structure; architects James H. MacNaughton and William J. Perry were selected.

Upon acceptance of their proposed design, closely modelled after King's Chapel, Boston (1749), ground was broken in 1919. Amidst construction however, the congregation was unable to pay for escalating costs, and the contractor exercised a lien on the property, announcing that the building would be sold for use as a moving picture theater. Immediately a door-to-door campaign was launched; townspeople of all faiths rallied to the cause rather than see the secularization of a temple of worship, and the church was completed as planned by 1923, when it opened for the first services. The pastorate had changed hands and the congregation was then under the leadership of the Reverend Archiver J. Strait.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arlington Advocate. News articles, August 21, 1896; Jan. 29, 1916; Aug. 6, 1922; January 1, 1926; July 23, 1926; October 6, 1938; October 21, 1938.
Arlington Celebrates the Growing Years 1875-1975. Arlington:1975.
Arlington Historical Commission. Mill Brook Valley: A Historical and Architectural Survey. Arlington, MA 1976

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property .28 acres

Quadrangle name Lexington

Quadrangle scale 7.5 Minute
1: 25000

UTM References

A

19	32	3	26	0	4	6	9	7	1	9	0
Zone	Easting			Northing							

B

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C

Zone	Easting			Northing							

D

Zone	Easting			Northing							

E

Zone	Easting			Northing							

F

Zone	Easting			Northing							

G

Zone	Easting			Northing							

H

Zone	Easting			Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nomination includes the lot presently and historically associated with the Church, comprising 24 996 square feet. Please see attached assessor's map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

Virginia A. Fitch, Preservation Planner with Frederick W. Lyman,
name/title American Landmarks, Inc. and Jeffery A. Luxenberg, City Planning and
Urban Design Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date February, 1983

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617 727-8470

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Datum L. Westlow*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/28/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Allous Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/23/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Calvary Methodist Church Item number 7 & 8

Page 1

The simplicity of the church's exterior carries into the interior as evidenced in the pews, the wall detailing and in other minor ornamentation.

A one-story parish house, respecting the scale, proportions and materials of the 1923 structure was added to the rear north-west corner in 1953, but is attached only by a connector.

Part 8 Continuation Sheet

Since that time, the Calvary Methodist Church congregation has continued to expand propelling the church forward as an important locus integral to community and religious activities in Arlington.

The architectural design of the Calvary Methodist Church exists as a strong statement on the validity of both historical continuity and dynamic preservation. While not an exact replica in wood of the Quincy granite King's Chapel, the architects clearly gave much consideration to the concepts underlying Harrison's design; variations may be due in part to the architects' personal approach, the needs of a modern congregation and the difference in materials. Nonetheless, the church stands as a handsome structure, faithful in the most part to its historical precedent at a time when innumerable pseudo "Colonial" buildings were being erected.

During his research of King's Chapel, MacNaughton apparently secured information which suggested that both Harrison and Bulfinch had planned or designed finishing stages for the tower of King's Chapel. Neither had been built. Hearing, however, of a Bulfinch cupola which had been moved to a Charlestown brewery in 1886 upon the razing of the Boylston Market (1809, Charles Bulfinch) in Boston's South End, MacNaughton approached the owner. The cupola had been bought by subscription to house a clock donated by Ward Nicholas Boylson, Boston benefactor and Governor, shortly after the Market was constructed. The brewery, put out of business by prohibition, was itself slated for destruction. The owner, A.G. Van Nostrand, agreed to donate the cupola upon the condition that a bronze plaque be installed in the narthex of the church specifying its Boylston Market origin.

The parish house addition erected in 1953 is the work of a well-known local ecclesiastical architect, Arland Duran.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Calvary Methodist Church
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAY 23 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 6/23/83 - 7/7/83
Action: ACCEPT 6/23/83
 RETURN
Entered in the National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition:		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource -
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Calvary Methodist Church
Arlington, MA

PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION

Community: Arlington, MA
Photographer: Jeffery A.
Luxenberg

Date of Photo: 10/16/80

Location of Negative: Arlington
Historical Commission

View: North-East (Front)
Facade

PHOTO #1 of 4.



Calvary Methodist Church
Arlington, MA

PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION

Community: Arlington, MA

Photographer: Jeffery A.
Luxenberg

Date of Photo: 10/16/80

Location of Negative: Arlington
Historical Commission

View: Detail of Bulfinch Tower
(North-East Elevation)

PHOTO #2 of 4.



Calvary Methodist Church
Arlington, MA

PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION

Community: Arlington, MA

Photographer: Jeffery A.
Luxenberg

Date of Photo: 10/16/80

Location of Negative: Arlington
Historical Commission

View: North-West Elevation

PHOTO # 3 of 4.



Calvary Methodist Church

Arlington, MA

PHOTOGRAPH IDENTIFICATION

Community: Arlington, MA

Photographer: Jeffery A.

Luxenberg

Date of Photo: 10/16/80

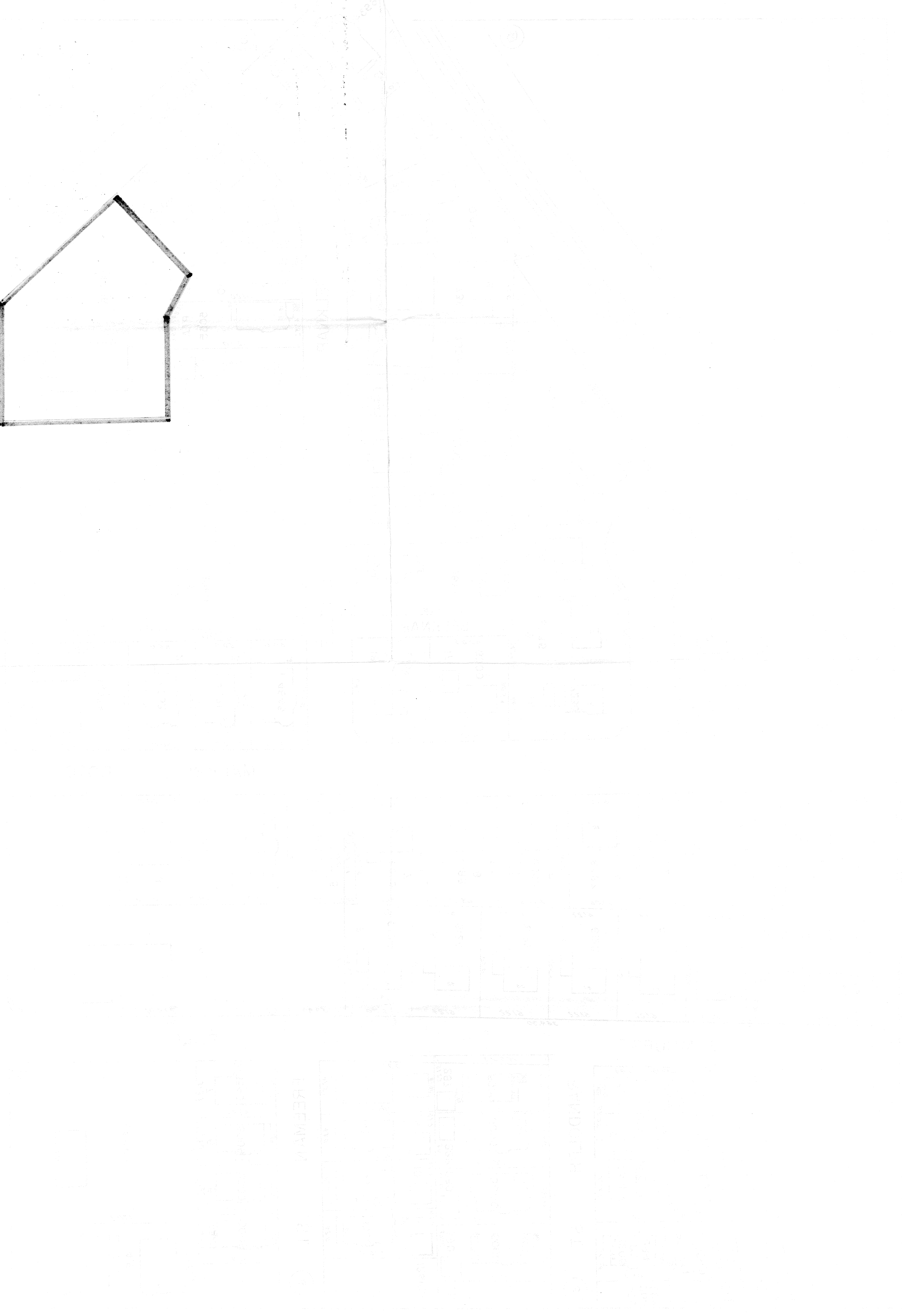
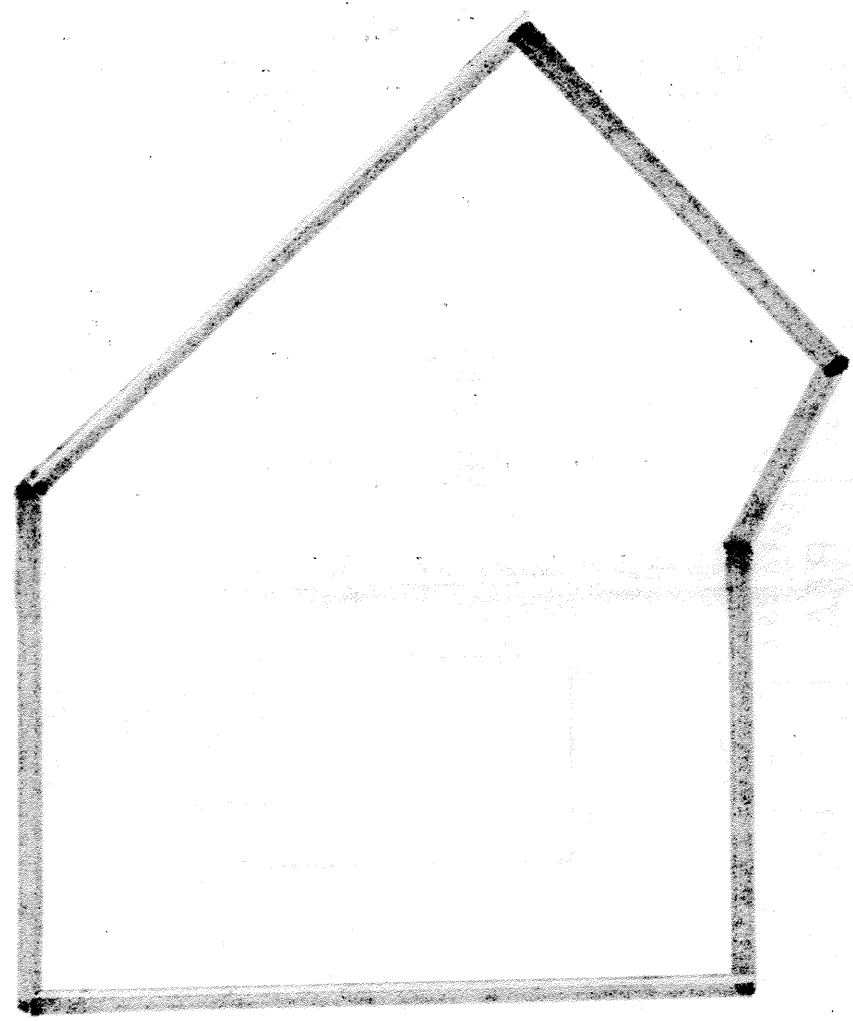
Location of Negative: Arlington

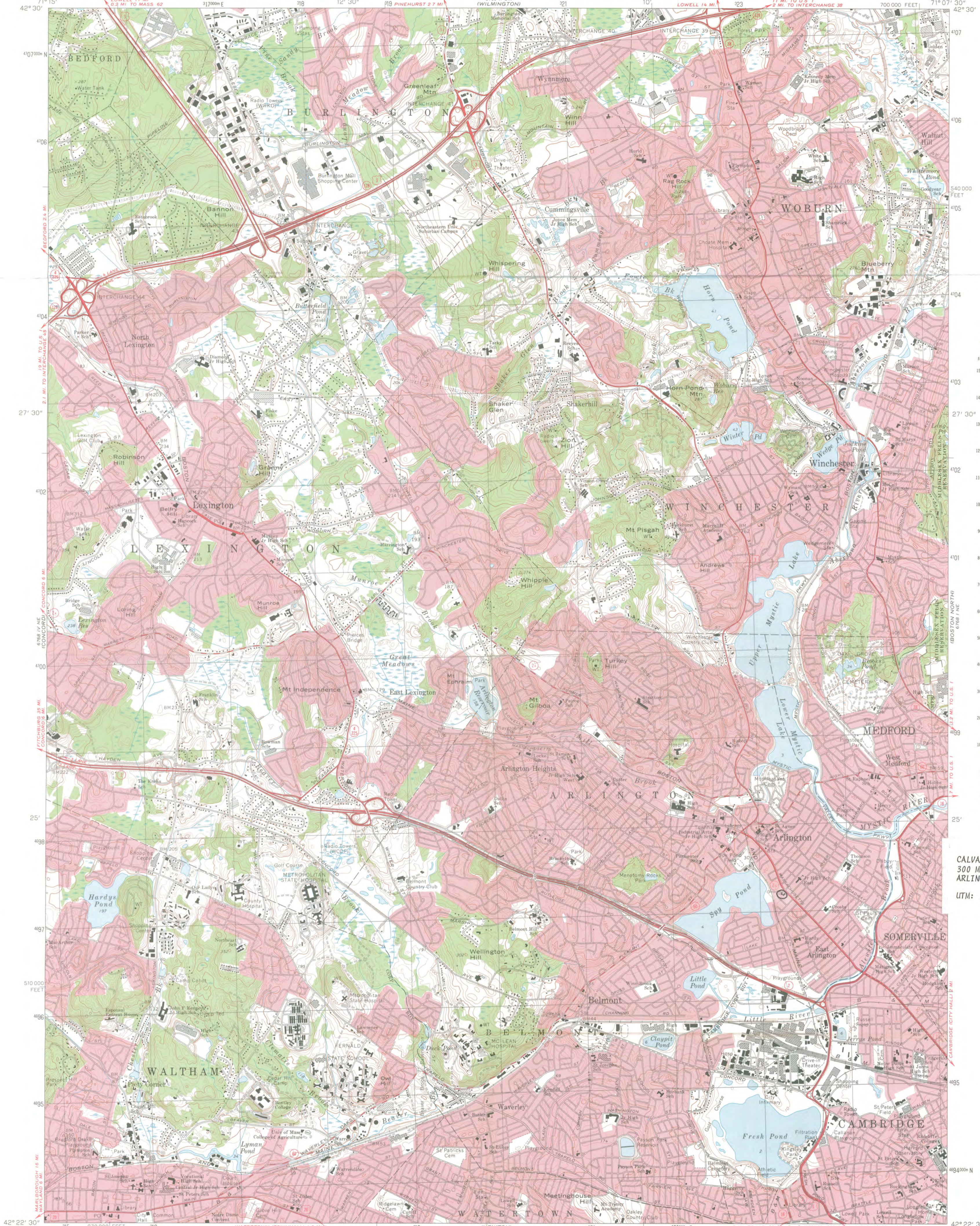
Historical Commission

View: Interior (looking
South-West)

PHOTO #4 of 4.

Calvary Methodist Church
302 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA
Source: Assessor's Map - Block Plan 8
Scale: 1" = 40'
Date of Map: Updated 1981

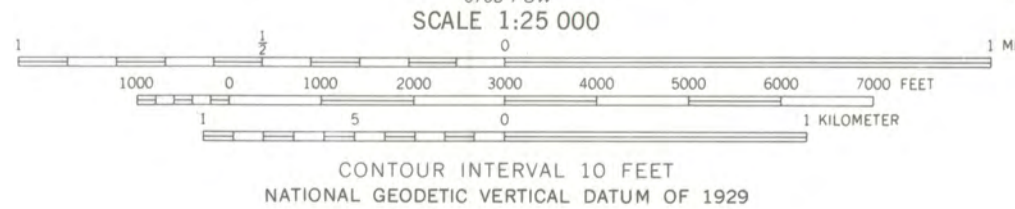
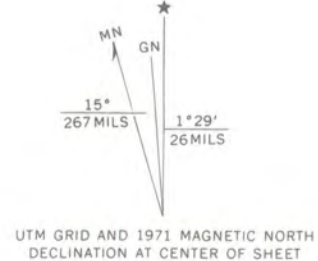




CALVARY METHODIST CHURCH
300 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
ARLINGTON, MA
UTM: 19J32360/4697190

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts
Geodetic Survey

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1939. Topography by planetable surveys 1943
Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark
buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LEXINGTON, MASS.
N4222.5—W7107.5/7.5
1971
AMS 8768 I NW—SERIES V814

Calvary Methodist Church
Arlington, Middlesex, MA
USGS Lexington quadrangle-
1971
7.5 Minute Scale: 1:25 000