



1178

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD

other names/site number "The Village," Curve Street

2. Location

street & number roughly Curve Street and Prospect Street not for publication

city or town Newton vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 02465

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon October 14, 2008
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, SHPO Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I, hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Andrews

Date of Action

12/11/2008

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
26	13	building
		sites
		structures
		objects
26	13	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Newton MRA, 1636-1907 (1986) and 1908-1940 (1990)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling and multiple dwelling
RELIGION: religious facility, church
RELIGION: parsonage, church-related residence

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single, multiple dwellings
RELIGION: religious facility, church
RELIGION: parsonage, church-related residence

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Victorian Eclectic
LATE 19th & 20th C. REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE
walls WOOD: weatherboard, shingle
ASBESTOS METAL: aluminum
SYNTHETICS: vinyl
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 7 Page 1

Narrative Description

Introduction

The Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood, in the city of Newton, Massachusetts, consists of 26 contributing resources that collectively make up the surviving half of the city's only historically African-American district. The city of Newton is a relatively affluent suburban community, located directly west of Boston. The Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood is located in the village of West Newton, one of twelve villages in the city, directly northwest of the intersection of Auburn Street and Washington Street (MA Route 16). Property lines of parcels historically owned or inhabited by the neighborhood's African American residents form the historical boundary for this district, which contains approximately 6.5 acres in an arc shape. The general boundaries of this district are the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) to the north, Prospect Street to the northeast, and the rear lot lines of properties on the west and east sides of Curve Street to the southwest.

In the immediate vicinity but outside the district, Saint Bernard's Roman Catholic Church, convent, and school on Washington Street south of Allen Place, and the houses and other buildings facing Washington and Auburn Streets, are not associated with the African-American neighborhood along Curve and Prospect Streets. The varying shapes of lots and the position of rear lot lines in the Myrtle Baptist Church neighborhood account for the district's somewhat ragged southeastern boundary.

The Myrtle Baptist Church neighborhood was built for African-American residents after the 1874 founding of Myrtle Baptist Church on a few streets behind the main thoroughfares of Auburn and Washington streets, and south of the Boston & Albany Railroad tracks. The neighborhood stands at the northwestern foot of West Newton Hill on low, flat land along the former marshy, meandering bed of Cheese Cake Brook. The brook, which flows north through the neighborhood under Washington Street, Prospect Street, and Prospect Place, was placed in a buried channel in the late 19th century. By 1866, the main tributary roads to this neighborhood were laid out, and to this day are Washington Street, Auburn Street, and the southern portion of Prescott Street. After 1866 and before 1874, Curve Street connected Auburn and Prospect Streets, and Simms Court was parallel to Prospect Street, connecting Virginia and Washington Streets. After 1874 but before 1907, Allen Place and Prospect Place were constructed.

By 1886, the neighborhood's streets were in place and the adjoining land was subdivided into modest quarter-acre parcels, which were almost completely developed by 1907. With the exception of a small row of commercial buildings along Washington Street, almost all

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 7 Page 2

properties fronted eight interior roads: Curve Street, Prospect Street, Prospect Place, Allen Place, Simms Court, Douglas Street, Hicks Street, and Virginia Street. In 1963, approximately half of the original neighborhood was destroyed with the construction of the Massachusetts Turnpike extension parallel to the Boston & Albany Railroad right-of-way through Newton eastward to Boston. All of Douglas, Hicks, and Virginia streets were demolished, as were the northern portions of Prospect Street and Simms Court and almost all the commercial buildings on Washington Street along the neighborhood's northeastern edge. Recent demolition has severed Allen Place and Simms Court from the rest of the remaining neighborhood, and thus they are not included in the present nomination.

Within the surviving neighborhood are the church, one business, twenty-two houses, and various garages and utility sheds. The buildings date primarily from ca. 1880s to 1929 with the exception of one former residence, now a commercial structure, built in 1845, and one residence built in 1865. Only one outbuilding, a stable, dates before 1900. The newest house in the neighborhood, 40 Curve Street (1956), is a 1½ -story, three-bay, Cape Cod style house with two dormers and a single attached garage. This house is also a contributing element to the district. There are fourteen modern garages and small utility sheds. Long-time residents report that at least two houses, 46 Curve Street and 15 Prospect Street, were moved to the neighborhood around the turn of the century from their original locations on West Newton Hill. Most of the houses are sited near the front of their modest lots, between five and twenty feet from the sidewalks. Most parcels have their own driveway, running along the side of the dwelling to a small parking area or occasionally a small garage at the rear. Curve Street and Prospect Street are largely shaded by mature trees growing from front and side yards, while Prospect Place is more exposed to the parking and service areas behind Saint Bernard's Catholic Church.

The houses range widely in size and massing from working-class, single-family housing to a high-style, three-story, Second Empire house, which has been converted into a condominium complex. Roofs also vary widely, ranging from front gable, side gable, flat, hipped, mansard, and gambrel. Stylistic categories include more or less altered forms of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Italianate, and Victorian Eclectic. There are several multiple-family housing units, including several double houses and one triple-decker. All but four houses in the district are sheathed with aluminum or vinyl siding. Although many structures have been altered with minor additions, enclosed porches, and synthetic siding, the district's buildings retain their original rooflines and silhouettes, scale, and massing, as well as their physical relationships to each other and distinction from the surrounding neighborhoods.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 7 Page 3

Curve Street

Curve Street had already been laid out by the time Myrtle Baptist Church was founded in 1874. The street had been almost entirely subdivided by 1886 and was completely built upon by 1907. Myrtle Baptist Church, the parish house, and several of the district's best-preserved houses line this well-shaded street. The community's most prominent building and namesake for the neighborhood is Myrtle Baptist Church at 21 Curve Street (Photo #8). J.G. McCraw is listed in the State Archives as the architect of this church, and is also credited with building the house at 9 Curve Street in 1895.

The current two-story, wood-framed church was designed and built by its African-American congregants and opened in 1898, a year after the original 1874 church building was destroyed by fire. The front-gabled nave roof is high and steep, and the Gothic-arched front entrance doorway is contained in an extended, angled, rectangular corner tower with a three-story, front-gabled steeple. A rectangular addition on the rear of the church, containing offices, meeting space, and a child-care facility dates from 1985. The entire building is covered with white aluminum siding. The most visible historic elements are the two large, elaborate stained-glass windows. The three-paneled rectangular window in the eastern facade is entitled "The Ascension." The large three-paneled, Gothic-arched southern window facing Curve Street was dedicated in 1898 and centers on a relatively rare African theme: "Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch."

Both windows are attributed to the studios of prominent Bostonian stained glass maker George W. Spence. As completed in 1898, a diagonal central aisle connected the main door in the southeast corner tower with the altar in the northwest corner. The altar was moved to its current location under the southern stained glass window during a 1976 renovation and reorientation of the worship space. The main aisle was moved to the center of the church.

The two-story, front-gabled, Queen Anne house at 28 Curve Street (Photo #5) (ca. 1895) is the best-preserved example of a group of six homes with similar construction dates. They include the Weeks-Turner House at number 25 Curve Street (Photo #6) and the houses at numbers 31 (Photo #4), 37, 41, and 49 Curve Street. 28 Curve Street has an asymmetrical front facade, with a projecting gabled bay that continues the line of the eastern roof but sweeps lower on the western side. The ground floor is dominated by a full-width porch, which was added between 1929 and 1946 and wraps around the northwest corner, supported by turned posts. Paired 2/2 windows on the second floor are topped by an attic window in the gable peak. The inverted northwest corner of the second floor has paired square windows. The western elevation shows evidence that windows have been altered, but also features a fine staircase window between floors in the northern end. The brick chimney

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 7 Page 4

rises from the ridgeline near the rear. Later 20th-century alterations include some combination windows. The wooden trim, largely original windows, and the exterior wood-shingle wall cladding – plain on the first and second floors, with a square-butt shingle pattern between the two floors and in the gable peak on the attic level – is representative of the original architectural character of the several almost identical, now mostly vinyl-sided houses nearby. Of this group, only number 31 Curve Street also retains its similarly patterned wooden shingles.

With the exception of asbestos shingling, the Italianate-Style house at 46 Curve Street (Photo #2) (ca. 1880) retains much of its original architectural character. This end-gable house has a projecting first-floor bay, emphatic cornice returns, and handsome door-hood supported by scrolled brackets with pendants. Neighborhood tradition maintains this house was moved to its current location around the turn of the century from its original site on the grounds of the Carroll School on West Newton Hill. Another notable residence is the Barry House at 18-20 Curve Street (Photo #7) (ca. 1870), which is one of the oldest structures in the neighborhood and has served as Myrtle Baptist's parish house since the mid 1960s. This aluminum-sided, two-story, side-gabled house, with three bays and a center chimney, was divided into a two-family house sometime after 1949. A shed-roofed porch occupies the eastern two-thirds of the front facade.

Most of the remaining houses on Curve Street are typical examples of somewhat altered, late 19th- and early 20th- century workers' housing. Number 8 Curve Street (ca. 1895) is a narrow 2½-story, two-bay, front-gabled house with its main entrance through a semi-enclosed hipped-roof porch on the three-bay northeastern side wall. The two-story, three-bay, hipped-roof house next door at 12 Curve Street (Photo #10) (ca. 1899) has been expanded at its southwest corner since 1946. Later 20th-century alterations include a small, enclosed, front-gabled porch at the northern bay, a three-sided oriel window at the center bay, and fieldstone-patterned synthetic siding along the first floor of the front facade. The narrow Victorian Eclectic two-story, two-bay, front-gabled McGraw-Weeks House across the road at 9 Curve Street (Photo #12), built by John G. McCraw, features a cross-gabled side ell at the rear of the west side. A partially enclosed porch built between 1929 and 1946 covers the front entry, and two front windows have been cut down and replaced by sliding 1/1 casements.

The neighborhood's other two Victorian Eclectic houses are quite similar to each other. The Eugene Lomax House at 11 Curve Street (Photo #11) (ca 1900) is a broad, 1½-story, two-bay, front-gabled structure with its main entrance in a small enclosed porch on the northern side wall. This wall is almost two full stories high, while the southern side wall rises only one story. A three-sided, one-story bay projects from the southern half of the front wall, and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 7 Page 5

a single gabled dormer punctuates its steeply slanting southern roof. The similarly proportioned front-gabled side entry house next door at 15 Curve Street (Photo #9) (ca. 1900) has two one-story two-sided bays projecting from its front wall and a full shed dormer on the southern slope of its roof.

Other houses on this street include the vinyl-sided, two-story, end-gabled house at 34-36 Curve Street (ca. 1900), with its large two-story, Neo-Colonial Revival rear addition (ca. 1985). 45 Curve Street (Photo #3) (ca. 1895) is a 2½-story side-gabled house with two gabled front dormers and an enclosed full-length, hipped-roof porch. 53 Curve Street (Photo #1) (ca. 1895) is a narrow two-story, front-gabled house with its main entry under a full-length hipped-roof porch along the northern side wall. Next door on the corner at 39-41 Auburn Street (ca. 1886) stands a substantially altered two-story, hipped-roof, two family house.

Prospect Street

The district's most eclectic collection of residential buildings lines either side of the northern end of Prospect Street. According to neighborhood tradition, the Second Empire-style house at 15-29 Prospect Street (Photo #18), built ca. 1865 and formerly single-family, was moved to this neighborhood at the turn of the century from an unknown location on West Newton Hill. City directories and insurance maps show it was at its current location and used for multiple-family housing by 1905. A condominium conversion in 1989 added a block of five new units to the rear of the property, which are not visible from the street. The restored three-bay, wood clapboard exterior, scrolled cornice brackets, segmented arch dormers, and octagonal cupola make this one of the most high-style buildings in the neighborhood.

The two duplexes at 9-11 Prospect Street (Photo #14) (ca. 1892) and 10-12 Prospect Street (Photo #15) are structurally identical, with symmetrical four-bay facades. On the first floor, projecting three-sided bay window extensions flank the two separate, centrally placed front doors. Interior chimneys pierce either end of each of the two-story structures' hipped roofs. The two-story house at 13 Prospect Street (ca. 1886), originally a narrow front-gabled structure, was expanded to the north with a two-story, hipped-roof addition with two dormers by 1895. The front porch, which now is almost entirely enclosed, was in place by 1949 and wraps around the northeast corner and continues along the northern wall approximately one bay. At 14-16-18 Prospect Street (Photo #17) is the district's only triple-decker (ca. 1907), with a broad, full-height, three-window bay projecting from the southern half of the facade. A half-width, first floor porch and a one-room addition beneath the

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 7 Page 6

projecting bay contrast with the unadorned two stories above. The narrow 2½-story front-gabled Napoleon Holmes House at 3 Prospect Street (Photo #13) (ca. 1898) retains some Colonial Revival detailing, visible in the pedimented roof dormer on the Curve Street facade and the round single-story Doric columns of the inset corner porch.

Outbuildings

Throughout the neighborhood are a few small wood and metal utility sheds, several post World War II garages (including a three-bay structure behind 46 Curve Street), and a few modest and somewhat deteriorated one- and two-bay wooden garages, such as those at 25 Curve Street (ca. 1929) and 31 Curve Street (ca. 1931).

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites are known in the district, sites may exist. Two sites are recorded in the general area (within one mile); both sites are located on riverine terraces bordering the Charles River. Environmental characteristics of the district prior to historic development represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage, proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of Native sites. The district is located on a level to moderately sloping stream terrace at the northwestern foot of West Newton Hill bordering Cheese Cake Brook and related marshy areas. During the late 19th century marshy areas had been filled and the brook was placed in buried culvert. The entire district lies within the Charles River drainage. Land within the district was subdivided into quarter-acre parcels that were almost completely developed with residential and commercial structures by 1907. Given the above information, the potential for locating significant ancient Native American resources within the district is low. Alterations to the natural landscape and dense urban development would have destroyed any ancient resources located within the district.

A high potential exists for the recovery of historic archaeological resources in the district; however, many specific resources remain to be identified and accurately located. Residential sites followed by lesser numbers of religious and commercial sites may characterize most potential archaeological resources in the district. Additional historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate residential sites that predate the development of the district in the late 19th century. Structural evidence of outbuildings, barns, stables, and evidence of occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may exist at residential archaeological sites and with extant residential homes in the district.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 7 Page 7

Structural evidence of the original Myrtle Baptist Church (1874) may exist in the vicinity of the existing church structure. The original church burned in 1897 and was rebuilt by 1898. Archaeological evidence of barns, stables, outbuildings, and occupational-related features may exist related to the original church and its replacement. Archaeological research may also determine whether portions of the original church were incorporated into the existing structure. Structural evidence may also survive from Mount Zion, a storefront revivalist church (now demolished), originally located at 1441 Washington Street.

Historical evidence also indicates cottage-type industries survived well into the 20th century. Structural evidence from residential buildings, outbuildings, and detailed analysis of artifacts and the contents of occupational related features may contribute evidence of cottage industries conducted at various locations within the district. Historical evidence indicates that in the 1930s, Myrtle Baptist's pastor worked in his family broom making trade to supplement his income. The Ford broom-making business first operated in the Ford home on Washington Street before moving to a specialized facility on Hicks Street. Both locations were demolished for Turnpike construction. Other potential cottage-type industries within the district included bakeshops, employment agencies, and laundry facilities.

(end)



Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

ETHNIC HISTORY: Black

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1874-1963

Significant Dates

1874 – founding of church

1897-1898 – church burned and rebuilt

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

George W Spence studios (stained glass)

J.G. McGraw

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Myrtle Baptist Church, Jackson Homestead Archive

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance

For over 130 years, the Myrtle Baptist Church neighborhood surrounding the church on Curve Street has been the center of Newton's African-American community. Established in the 1870s and known by its inhabitants as "The Village" within the village of West Newton, about half of Newton's largest and only surviving historically African-American community was lost to Massachusetts Turnpike construction in the 1960s. The same families have owned several of the 28 remaining properties for almost a century. The district's period of significance ranges from the grading of Curve Street ca.1870 to 1963, when construction of the Boston Extension of the Massachusetts Turnpike resulted in the loss of 21 homes along the northern border of "The Village." This neighborhood retains its developmental pattern for which it achieves significance along its southern edge as a predominantly African-American community largely inhabited by descendants of many of the original families.

The Myrtle Baptist Church neighborhood is locally significant as the only remaining historically African American community in the City of Newton. This area is also significant at the state level as one of the few surviving neighborhoods in Massachusetts largely built by and for its original African American residents and inhabited by many of their descendants through the present day. The district retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. As a primarily residential neighborhood displaying the physical development of an African-American community since the 1870s, the district fulfills National Register significance criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The district meets criterion C for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction of a neighborhood, which remains a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The non-native history of this area began with settlement by English immigrants in the mid 17th century, when the region was a lightly populated and primarily agricultural district of forests, meadows, and swamps. A small 18th-century rural community grew up around Newton's second parish meeting house (established 1764) near the road linking the lower Charles River basin to the east with the town of Natick to the west. Increased early 19th-century stagecoach traffic along the route of this road, today's Washington Street, fostered further growth. The opening of the Boston & Worcester Railroad tracks through West Newton in 1834 spurred a speculation boom and its population doubled within two decades. The growing commuter suburb became home to several prominent social reformers, such as educator Horace Mann and transcendentalists Nathaniel Hawthorne and Theodore Parker.

While West Newton Hill was filled with grand homes of the well-to-do, the flats north and westward were built up in solid working-class housing, predominantly for Irish laborers who arrived with the first train crews. One of the larger local employers was the Boston & Albany Railroad depot, whose yards gradually replaced the former marsh directly across the railroad tracks from the Myrtle Baptist

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 8 Page 2

neighborhood. The depot, freight yards, coal sheds, lumberyards, and warehouses all provided jobs for laborers.

In the 1860s and 1870s, a small but growing number of African-American families worshipped in West Newton at the First Baptist Church on Washington Street (now known as Lincoln Park Baptist Church). Prominent abolitionists and progressive whites, such as Nathaniel T. Allen, also worshipped there. Allen, whose National Register-listed house and school still stand nearby at 35 Webster Street, founded the progressive West Newton English and Classical School, which accepted and educated many local African American children. In 1874, with an interest in pursuing their own traditions of worship and amid a flurry of debate and correspondence involving such luminaries as William Lloyd Garrison, African American congregants left First Baptist to found their own church. Constructed on land provided by First Baptist's deacon, David C. Sanger, a local builder and landowner, Myrtle Baptist Church was designed and built by its own members in 1875.

The first pastor of the church, Reverend Edmund Kelly, was a circuit preacher from New Bedford associated with the founding of African-American churches in Roxbury, Haverhill, Newport, and New York. The founders of Myrtle Baptist Church included recent neighborhood landowners Thomas and Martha Johnson, who had relocated to West Newton from Boston. Lymus and Elizabeth Hicks, Charles and Sarah Simms, Henrietta Rose, Jane Brewer, Henry Jones, Samuel Scott, John Patterson, Fred Johnson, and John Grimes also became landowners. Neighborhood tradition maintains that most of First Baptist's African-American parishioners lived in Boston before founding Myrtle Baptist and moving to West Newton.

Myrtle Baptist Church quickly became the focal point for a rapidly developing African-American community. Job opportunities at the nearby Boston & Albany Depot drew many new residents. In addition, West Newton's reputation as a liberal stronghold, its leadership in the abolitionist movement, and its reported status as a stop on the Underground Railroad attracted many African-Americans to the area. African-Americans from Boston's West End, Charlestown, and from as far away as the Upper South and the Carolinas moved to the Myrtle Baptist neighborhood and built homes. Many of these homes were built along Curve and Prospect Streets on land bought from Deacon Sanger shortly before Myrtle Baptist's founding. Several new streets (mostly obliterated by the Turnpike) were laid out on adjoining parcels, including Virginia Street and streets named for Frederick Douglas and the prominent African-American Hicks and Simms families.

The church was rebuilt by its congregants following a fire (believed to have been caused by sparks from the adjacent railroad) on September 23, 1897. The neighborhood residents who built the church laid the cornerstone on April 17, 1898 and the congregation dedicated the completed church over four days, from November 13-16, 1898. During this year of church reconstruction, the number of formal congregation members doubled with the addition of 88 new members. Among the congregation's new

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 8 Page 3

possessions were two stained-glass windows in the church, purchased from the Spence and Bell firm in Boston's Scollay Square. George W. Spence headed the firm from 1895 to 1933 and received commissions for stained glass from nearly 120 churches and a like number of residences and public buildings, primarily in New England, New York, and Pennsylvania. Local tradition maintains congregation members packed the new windows in straw and brought them from Boston in a wagon bed. More than 400 people attended the September 25, 1898, dedication ceremony for the larger of the two windows, "Philip Baptizing the Ethiopian Eunuch." The church's estimated construction cost was \$5,500. Fifty families gave \$20 each, and a special collection gathered \$600. Church elders report that a newspaper publisher in Boston, who lived in the nearby Newton village of Auburndale, donated the balance. No architects are listed in the accounts.

Like many 19th-century urban churches, Myrtle Baptist never had its own burying ground. Rather, neighborhood families have traditionally owned plots in the Newton Cemetery located in Newton Centre about two miles southeast on Walnut Street. Neighborhood elders report that family preference, rather than discriminatory practices, has caused most African-American burials in the cemetery to be near one another toward the southern edge of the graveyard near Beacon Street.

Many properties have been owned and occupied by African-Americans since the parcels were first laid out in the late 19th century. A carpenter named John McCraw, for example, who appears on the 1910 Census as 'Mulatto' and working as a Janitor, was on the building committee for the second Myrtle Baptist Church in 1897-1898 and was purportedly its architect. He had purchased the empty house lot at 9 Curve Street by 1895 and most likely built the house at that address, which appears in city directories from that year. This narrow two-story, front-gabled house still stands on the site today. McCraw also worked as a sexton at the Second Congregational Church of Newton, and he was in fact a janitor at the Barnard School in addition to his other professional and church-related activities. McCraw served as treasurer of Myrtle Baptist in 1905, and by 1909 as a deacon. By 1915, McCraw and one of his sons left the neighborhood and moved to Virginia.

By 1917, another African-American man, George Weeks, owned this property at 9 Curve Street. His family continued to live there through the 1970s. The Lomax family, whose occupations in city directories include laborer, driver, and machinist, owned a similar house next door at 11 Curve Street. It first appeared on insurance maps in 1907, listing its occupant as Wm. E. Lomax, carrier. In a pattern common throughout the neighborhood, the Lomax family had several African-American boarders, including Albert Addison, a helper, who was living there in 1913. City directories show that F.C. Kendall briefly owned the house in 1917, but Eugene A. Lomax, a driver, lived there in 1919. In 1927, the house was quite full: Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lomax; Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Furr, and Eugene A. Lomax's son, machinist William E. Lomax. In 1929, the owner is listed as L. Lomax (presumably Eugene's wife Lorena). Eugene and William continued to live there through 1936, and Eugene through 1941 and 1949. By 1917, family member Maria Lomax owned her own home at 41 Curve Street. According to neighbors, E. A. Lomax, Sr., and his wife Lorena were part of a family that lived in the neighborhood

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

before the founding of Myrtle Baptist Church. He was the first African American graduate of Newton High School and he was a member of the Myrtle Baptist Church building committee (1897-1898).

According to city directories, George Weeks' brother, coachman James Weeks, lived next to the church at 25 Curve Street and owned the house on that lot. The 1½ story front-gabled house first appears on insurance maps in 1895, owned by Mary Cross. Residents at that address in that year include James Weeks and the laborer Albert Addison (who city directories list as living at the Lomax house at 11 Curve Street in 1913) and his wife Mary. By the next insurance map in 1907, James Weeks is listed as the property owner. In 1938, Hollie Turner, a widow and mother of 12, purchased the house, which is currently owned and occupied by her son, William Turner. Another of Hollie Turner's sons, Samuel Turner, also grew up here and in 1968 became the first African-American principal in the Newton public school system. Prior to graduating from Boston University in 1955, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., preached regularly at the church next door before joining the Turner family for dinner.

This pattern of African-American homeownership and tenancy, of addresses of often interrelated families shifting within the crowded neighborhood and of several families simultaneously occupying the same single-family house, can be seen repeatedly throughout the community. While the almost entirely African-American Myrtle Baptist Church district has always been distinct from the surrounding neighborhoods, the residential boundaries between it and the surrounding white communities have, at times, been blurred. One of the district's oldest houses stands at 18-20 Curve Street, directly across from the church. Thomas Galvin owned and occupied the house in 1874, and in 1875, Dennis Barry, a white housepainter, bought the property. His family owned and occupied the house until Myrtle Baptist Church bought the property for its parish house in the mid 1960s. Irish and other white ethnic laborers sometimes lived in the neighborhood as boarders, and several properties periodically have had white owners, especially towards the southeastern end of Prospect Street. Number 15 Prospect Street, for example, had been owned by white landlords over the years and contained three apartments occupied by both white and African-American families, until the African-American Jefferson family bought the property in 1948.

The only building historically associated with the Myrtle Baptist neighborhood still standing on Washington Street is the two-story Greek Revival building at #1479, which has housed the community's principle undertaker since the 1930s. (Note: Because of demolition and new construction, 1479 Washington St. is now separated from the core of the neighborhood and is thus excluded from the present nomination.) In 1936, the building was owned by a white funeral director, Thomas J. Lyones, who served the needs of the African American congregation at Myrtle Baptist and who occupied the building through the end of the 1940s. Today, the building is the white-owned Blackington, Conroy and Harris Funeral Home, which continues to serve the local African American community. Originally built as a residence in the 1840s, city directories show that during the 1870s and 1880s the building housed a wide cross-section of the neighborhood. Laborer Charles Simms and his wife Sarah Simms were among the original founders of Myrtle Baptist. Louisa Addison, a freed slave from Maryland who migrated to

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA**

Section number 8 Page 5

West Newton in 1849 when there were fewer than ten blacks living in the area, lived at this address. Church deacon George Haywood, a cook, lived here in the 1890s.

The neighborhood fostered a number of locally important African-American groups and organizations. In 1921, a group of women founded the Daughters of Myrtle, organized around the motto "to support the church and community spiritually and financially whenever and wherever possible." This group not only facilitated church functions but assisted in the education of neighborhood children and organized outings and social events which provided important forums for discussing issues of African-American social, political, and economic advancement. The neighborhood also gave rise to recreational organizations such as the local baseball team, the West Newton Colored Giants.

Insurance maps from the 1930s and 1940s label this neighborhood the "Negro Section." At two public meetings in 2000, church elders reported how the redlining practices of the local real estate industry restricted opportunities for black homeownership to the neighborhood surrounding Myrtle Baptist. African-American residents referred to this area as "The Village," while many in the surrounding white communities called it "The Nigger Village." The neighborhood remained at the center of Newton's African-American community through the 1950s and 1960s, as community residents continued the district's activist tradition as leading proponents of citywide initiatives in housing, education, and social services.

Before World War II, the Village housed its highest population of nearly 60 African-American families who worshipped at Myrtle Baptist Church as well as a (now demolished) revivalist storefront church at 1441 Washington Street known as Mt. Zion. While many worked for the nearby railroad or as domestics and laborers in the surrounding white neighborhoods, other Village residents were self-employed entrepreneurs in their own right. In the 1930s, Myrtle Baptist's pastor, Reverend Louis E. Ford, drew on his family broom-making trade to supplement his income. His thriving business operated from his home on Washington Street before moving to a purpose-built structure on Hicks Street (both demolished for Turnpike construction). District resident Martha Johnson ran a bakeshop and an employment agency. Christine Moore also ran an employment agency and a laundry on Washington Street.

After numerous legal battles and consideration of alternative routes, construction of the Boston Extension of the Massachusetts Turnpike began on March 5, 1962. The chosen alignment ran through three Newton village centers along the existing Boston & Albany Railroad bed and was slated to remove 340 families from their homes. In addition to the Myrtle Baptist Church neighborhood in West Newton, the village centers of Newton Corner, Auburndale, and the north section of Newtonville were demolished.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

This alignment presented a huge challenge to residents of the Village, who learned they would lose up to 21 homes to the new highway and potentially their Myrtle Baptist Church congregation. In addition, many African American-oriented businesses on Washington Street were slated for, and were, demolished, such as the railroad buildings (including an H.H. Richardson-designed train station), an automobile dealership, the local fire station, and a Chinese-owned laundromat. Small shops that held plumbers, carpenters, blacksmiths, shoemakers, tailors, and merchants also were demolished, as was the green oval of Lincoln Park opposite Myrtle Baptist's parent church across Washington Street.

Fears of not finding affordable housing in the neighborhood and losing their congregation galvanized the parishioners, who, with the City of Newton, waged a two-pronged political and legal battle to protect their property rights and their neighborhood. The Turnpike authorities heard the concerns of the Village residents and gave those who lost their homes the opportunity to obtain new housing wherever they chose. For most displaced neighborhood residents, however, finding equitably priced housing meant leaving Newton.

In a meeting held at Myrtle Baptist Church in the early spring of 1962, sponsored by the Newton Fair Housing Practices Committee, the plight of African-American residents in this neighborhood was acknowledged. A passage from a letter of agreement signed by Newton Mayor Gibbs and the Turnpike Authority was read to the 130 residents in attendance: "The Authority will, upon the requests in writing of the owners of any of the thirty-two houses now occupied by Negro families situated within the limits of its proposed taking and in the area from Robinwood Road to the proposed West Newton interchange, replace such houses by moving the same, together with their auxiliary buildings if any, or by furnishing other houses of equal utility and quality on other land in the same general vicinity to be furnished by the Authority at its expense, on lots conforming to the City of Newton zoning ordinances as the same may be varied by the Newton Zoning Board of Appeals, and to convey titles to the lots to which such houses shall be removed to the owners of such houses, provided that such request shall be made within ninety days of the date of taking" (*The Newton Graphic*, 4/5/62).

The Newton Fair Housing Practices Committee, organized in response to the Turnpike project, was charged with the task of relocating Myrtle Baptist neighborhood families who did not wish to move their homes but wanted to stay elsewhere in Newton. Though no data has been found to indicate where these families found housing, the committee told them there were 50 other African American families living in Newton outside of the Curve Street area (*The Newton Graphic*, 4/5/62).

Ironically, the loss of the northern portion of the Village and its many homes and businesses made the Myrtle Baptist Church congregation more cohesive than ever. In the late 1960s, Myrtle Baptist parishioners formed what later became the Newton Fair Housing Committee, which sought to open nursing, police, and fire department jobs to African Americans. The political action group African American Citizens of Newton stemmed from this Committee in response to a racial incident in the 1970s. Displaced Villagers, their descendants, relatives, and friends from other counties and outlying

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 8 Page 7

towns continued to worship with their former neighbors at Myrtle Street Baptist Church. As of 1994, approximately 60% of parishioners were from outside of Newton.

Additional important aspects of the neighborhood's significance date from after 1950, especially regarding African American "firsts" in the city of Newton. In 1957, neighborhood resident Samuel Turner became Newton's first African-American public school teacher, and later the city's first African-American public school principal. Matthew Jefferson, who also lived in the neighborhood, was elected the city's first African-American alderman in 1968, and became the first African-American president of the Board of Aldermen in 1978. Also in the 1950s, Martin Luther King, Jr., frequently preached at Myrtle Baptist Church while a student in Boston. The church remains central to the religious and social life of the neighborhood. Former district residents such as the Turner and Jefferson families, as well as extended family members who have moved away, continue to return to Myrtle Baptist for Sunday services and special events.

In the decades following the Civil War, the earliest African-American residents anchored the Village by their founding of Myrtle Baptist Church in 1874. The crowded neighborhood provided Newton's small African-American community with virtually their only opportunity for home ownership. More than providing homes and a space for worship, the church and the houses in the surrounding streets provided space for workshops, social spaces, and educational facilities for locally significant African-American residents for well over 100 years. The neighborhood fostered a number of groups and institutions to serve as conduits for the social, economic, and political advancement of Newton's African-American citizens. Today the district remains an almost entirely African American community surrounded by and sharply delineated within a larger, almost entirely white neighborhood.

Archaeological Significance

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute important evidence related to the early settlement of Newton and the later 19th-century growth of Newton's African-American community. Historical research, combined with archaeological survey and testing, may locate evidence of settlement that predates African-American settlement in the last quarter of the 19th century.

Extant buildings and detailed analysis of archaeological resources may contribute important information related to the influence of African-American culture on the social, cultural and economic characteristics of residents living in the district and the architectural characteristics of residential buildings. Many African Americans who moved to the Myrtle Baptist neighborhood and built homes had relocated from Boston's West End, Charlestown, and more distant locales, including the Upper South and the Carolinas. Detailed analysis of the contents of occupational-

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 8 Page 8

related features (trash pits, privies, wells) may identify cultural artifacts and macro-fossil evidence that indicate associations with 19th-century African-American culture, West African culture, or the American South. The contents of occupational-related features may contain evidence of social, cultural, and economic characteristics associated with Southern and Northern blacks that contrasts sharply with the more English or Anglo-dominated characteristics represented by other objects in the features. In addition to material artifacts, evidence of dietary habits and pathologies may also exist.

Historical and archaeological studies may also contribute important evidence that geographical and cultural distinctions within and between the African-American and Anglo community influenced architectural characteristics and styles of residential buildings in the district. African Americans who moved to the district from the areas noted above built most homes in the district. Individual African-American homes or groups of homes in the Myrtle Baptist Church neighborhood may contain architectural characteristics that resemble similar characteristics identified with African-American homes in the American South or in West Africa.

(end)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographic References

Maps: Beers (1874), Hopkins (1874), Atlas (1886), Bromley (1907), Bromley (1917), Barnes & Beal (1929), Sanborn (1931-1949), City Assessors' Atlas (1946), all archived at the Jackson Homestead city museum in Newton.

City Directories

African American Past: Celebrating 120 Years at Myrtle Baptist Church. Exhibit at the Jackson Homestead, Newton, 1994.

Beitler, Wayne and Orwig, Tim. Study Report, Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood, Newton, Massachusetts. Boston University Preservation Studies Program, 1990.

Evans, Helen, and Jefferson, Lillie B. "The Growth of the African American Community." *Newton Centennial 1873-1973.*

Hill, Deidre. *The Daughters of Myrtle Baptist Church.* Paper written for the Scholar in Residence Program sponsored by the Newton Historical Society at the Jackson Homestead.

Myrtle Baptist Church: Celebrating 124 Years of God's Blessings. Includes the most recent version of "Under the Myrtle Tree: Where Love Abides," by church historian Lillie Jefferson. June 6, 1998.

Newton Graphic 24 Sept. 1897-18 Nov. 1898 *Newton journal* 24 Sept. 1897-18 Nov. 1898

Newton's 19th Century Architecture: West Newton. Department of Planning and Development, Newton Historical Commission, 1978.

Pappano, Laura. "A Church Serves as Home with a History of Mission," *Boston Sunday Globe West Weekly*, July 10, 1994, pp. 1, 4.

Smith, S. F. *History of Newton, Massachusetts.* Boston: American Logotype, 1880.

Tuscher, Vin. "Unique Community Heads for Obscurity." *Newton Tab* October 28, 1999, p. 28

(end)

MyrtleBaptistChurchNeighborhoodHD
Name of Property

Middlesex, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 6.5 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19	315720	4690480	3. 19	315800	4690260
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2. 19	316060	4690500	4. 19	315600	4690240
Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

— See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Trudeau, Katy Hax Holmes, City of Newton, Wayne Beitler, Timothy Orwig, Betsy Friedberg, NR Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 2008

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number 10 Page 1

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood Historic District are outlined on the enclosed "Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood Proposed Historic District" map, dated May 26, 2006. The enclosed map is based on City of Newton GIS Property Tax Assessment Parcel Maps (current as of May 2006). Lines follow property boundaries.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The District has been the center of religious, social, cultural, and often political activities for the city's African- American population for almost 130 years. The unique characteristics of the historic properties in the district define its boundaries, which African-American residents historically owned or occupied. These properties are principally located on Curve and Prospect Streets. The larger, historically white residential neighborhoods fronting Washington and Auburn Streets form the district's boundary on the east and south sides. This includes the white-ethnic religious institutional complex surrounding Saint Bernard's Roman Catholic Church on Washington Street. The Massachusetts Turnpike now forms the northern boundary (the construction for which half the neighborhood was demolished in 1963). Properties fronting Curve Street on the west side form its western boundary.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number photos Page 1

Photographs

Photographer: Paul Trudeau

Date: April 2006

Negative location: Office of Planning & Development, Newton City Hall

#1: 53 Curve Street

Description of View: south and east facades, looking west

#2: 46 Curve Street

Description of View: west and south facades, looking east

#3: 45 Curve Street

Description of View: south and east facades, looking east

#4: 31 Curve Street

Description of View: south and east facades, looking east

#5: 28 Curve Street

Description of View: west and north facades, looking east

#6: 25 Curve Street

Description of View: east and north facades, looking west

#7: 20 Curve Street

Description of View: west and north facades, look southwest

#8: Myrtle Baptist Church, 21 Curve Street

Description of View: east façade, looking west

#9: 15 Curve Street

Description of View: southeast façade, looking northwest

#10: 12 Curve Street

Description of View: northwest and southwest facades, looking northeast

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD
Newton (Middlesex), MA

Section number photos Page 2

#11: 11 Curve Street

Description of View: southeast and northeast facades, looking northwest

#12: 9 Curve Street

Description of View: southeast and northeast facades, looking northeast

#13: 3 Prospect Street

Description of View: southeast and northeast facades, looking northwest

#14: 9-11 Prospect Street

Description of View: southeast and northeast facades, looking northwest

#15: 10-12 Prospect Street

Description of View: southwest and southeast facades, looking north

#16: 14-18 Prospect Street

Description of View: southwest façade, looking northeast

#17: 15-29 Prospect Street

Description of View: southeast and northeast facades, looking northwest

(end)

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood (West) Newton, Massachusetts District Data Sheet							
INV	ASSESSORS #	STREET & STREET NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	STATUS	RESOURCE
	33006-0047	39/41 Auburn Street	House	c.1886	No Style	C	B
			Garage			NC	B
NWT.6129	33003-0007	8 Curve Street	House	c.1895	No Style	C	B
NWT.6130	33006-0058	9 Curve Street	McGraw-Weeks Hou	c.1895	Victorian Eclectic	C	B
NWT.6131	33006-0057	11 Curve Street	Eugene Lomax Hou	c.1900	Victorian Eclectic	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
NWT.6132	33003-0006	12 Curve Street	House	c.1899	No Style	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
NWT.6133	33006-0056	15 Curve Street	House	c.1900	Victorian Eclectic	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
NWT.6134	33003-0005	18/20 Curve Street	Barry House/Myrtle Baptist Church Parsonage	c.1870	No Style	C	B
NWT.1796	33006-0055	21 Curve Street	Myrtle Baptist Churc	1898	No Style	C	B
NWT.6135	33006-0054	25 Curve Street	Weeks-Turner Hou	c.1895	Queen Anne/alt.	C	B
			Garage	c.1929	No Style	C	B
NWT.1725	33003-0004	28 Curve Street	House	c.1895	Queen Anne	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
NWT.6136	33006-0053	31 Curve Street	House	c.1895	Queen Anne	C	B
			Garage	c.1931	No Style	C	B
NWT.6137	33003-0003	34/36 Curve Street	House	c.1900	No Style	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
NWT.6138	33006-0052	37 Curve Street	House	c.1895	Queen Anne/alt.	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
	33003-0002A	40 Curve Street	House	1956	Cape	NC	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
	33003-0051	41 Curve Street	House	c.1895	Queen Anne/alt.	C	B
			Garage	c.1950	No Style	NC	B
	33006-0050	45 Curve Street	House	c.1895	No Style	C	B
	33003-0002	46 Curve Street	House	c.1880	Italianate	C	B
			Garage	c.1950	No Style	NC	B

INV	ASSESSORS #	STREET & STREET NAME	HISTORIC NAME	YEAR	STYLE	STATUS	RESOURCE
	33006-0048	53 Curve Street	House	c.1895	No Style	C	B
			Utility Shed				
	33004-0008	Hicks Street	Empty Lot/Parking			Vacant	
	33004-0007	25 Prospect Place	Empty Lot/Parking			Vacant	
NWT.6139	33006-0060	3 Prospect Street	Napoleon Holmes H	c.1898	Colonial Revival	C	B
	33003-0008	9/11 Prospect Street	House	c.1892	No Style	C	B
NWT.6140	33004-0011	10/12 Prospect Street	House	c.1892	No Style	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
	33003-0009	13 Prospect Street	House	c.1886	No Style	C	B
			Utility Shed			NC	B
	33004-0010	14/16/18 Propsect Street	House	c.1907	Three Decker/Victoria Eclectic/alt.	C	B
NWT.1791	Condominiums	15-29 Prospect Street	House	c.1865	Second Empire	C	B
	33003-0010	Unit 15					
	33003-0010A	Unit 17					
	33003-0010B	Unit 19					
	33003-0010D	Unit 23					
	33003-0010E	Unit 25					
	33003-0010F	Unit 27					
	33003-0010G	Unit 29					
	33003-0010C	21 Prospect St Unit 21					
		Contributing	Noncontributing				
Total Buildings			26	13			
The majority of the noncontributing resources are small modest structures such as utility sheds of recent construction.							
	Dec-00						Page 3



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08001178

Date Listed: 12/11/2008

Property Name: Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood Historic District

Multiple Name:

County: Middlesex

State: MA

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patricia Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

12/11/2008
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to amend the Criteria and Area of Significance under which the property is nominated. The property is nominated under Criterion A and C, but architectural significance under Criterion C is not justified. In the Statement of Significance (Section 8, p. 1) it is noted that "the district meets Criterion C for its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction of a neighborhood, which remains a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." While this statement repeats part of the National Register Criteria for Evaluation's definition of a historic district, the nomination does not provide an evaluation of why the collection of buildings in the district are considered architecturally significant. The historic district is listed in the National Register for historic importance under Criterion A, and Criterion C and Architecture as an area of significance are deleted.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE Newton MRA (AD)
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/28/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/04/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/11/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001178

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/11/2008 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER Patricia Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 12/11/2008

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS. ^{MA3}



53 Curve St.

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD

Newton (Middlesex), MA

Tradeau photo 2006

PHOTO #1



46 Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD.
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA Trudeau photo 2006

PHOTO # 2



45 Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA Trudeau photo 2006

PHOTO # 3



31 Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA Trudeau photo 2006

PHOTO # 4



28 Curve St
MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX), MA Trudeau photo 2006

Photo # 5



25 Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD District
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA Trudeau photo 2006

PHOTO # 6



20 Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HTD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA Trudeau photo 2006

PHOTO # 7



Myrtle Baptist Church 21 Curve St.
MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO # 8

Trudeau photo 2006



15. Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD

NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA Trudeau photo 2006

PHOTO # 9



12 Curve st.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD DIST

NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO # 10

Trudeau photo 2006



11 Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD LTD

NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA Trudreau photo

PHOTO # 11

2006



9 Curve St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO #12

Trudeau photo 2006



3 Prospect St. ^{rear}

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO # 13

Trudeau photo 2006



9-11 Prospect St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO # 14

Trudeau photo 2006



10-12 Prospect St.

MYRLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD IHD

NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO # 15

Trudeau photo
2006



14-18 Prospect St.

MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD LTD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO # 16

Trudeau photo 2006



15-29 Prospect St.

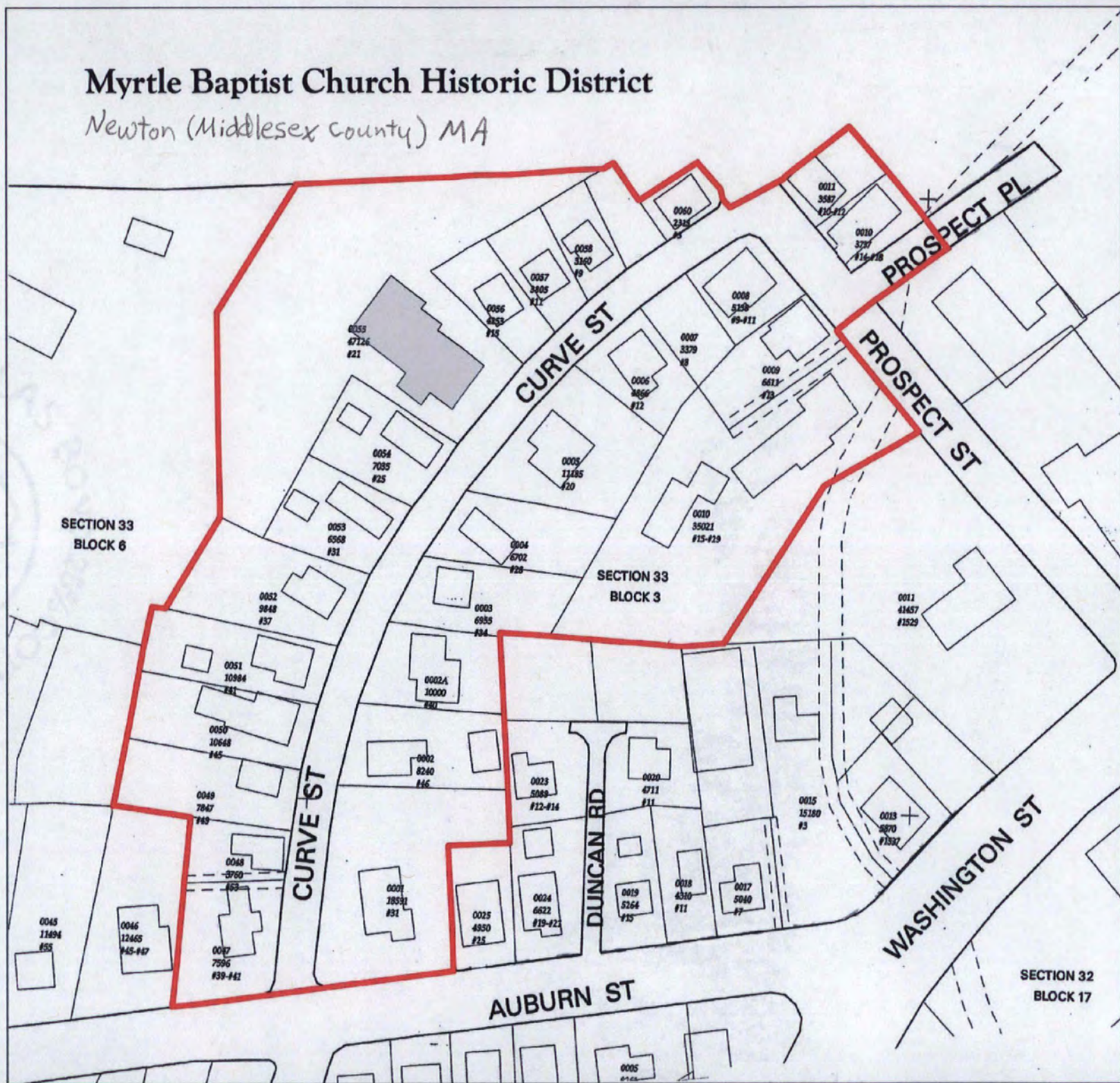
MYRTLE BAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON (MIDDLESEX) MA

PHOTO #17

TRUDEAU PHOTO 2006

Myrtle Baptist Church Historic District

Newton (Middlesex county) MA





7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works.

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies.

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987. Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:50,000-scale maps dated 1970.

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1982) and 13272 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, maintained since 1927 North American Datum.

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. There may be private buildings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS

DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	GN	MAG	1	2	3
1	3.2808	10°	15°	1	2	3
2	6.5617	10°	15°	4	5	
3	9.8425	10°	15°	6	7	8
4	13.1234	10°	15°			
5	16.4042	10°	15°			
6	19.6850	10°	15°			
7	22.9659	10°	15°			
8	26.2467	10°	15°			
9	29.5275	10°	15°			
10	32.8084	10°	15°			

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GN) and magnetic declination (MAG) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.



Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: Interstate, U. S., State
- Railroad, standard gage, narrow gage
- Bridges: drawbridge
- Footbridge, overpass, underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House, barn, church, school, large structure
- Boundary:
 - National, with monument
 - State
 - County, parish
 - Civil township, precinct, district
 - Incorporated city, village, town
 - National or State reservation; small park
 - Land grant with monument; land section corner
 - U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section
 - Range, township, section line: location approximate
 - Fence or field line
 - Power transmission line, located tower
 - Dam: dam with lock
 - Cemetery: grave
 - Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
 - Well: water well; spring
 - Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
 - Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
 - Contours: index, intermediate, supplementary; depression
 - Distorted surface: strip mine, levee, sand
 - Soundings: depth curve
 - Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
 - Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
 - Submerged mark; mark, survey
 - Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
 - Scrub; mangrove
 - Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

MIRTLBAPTIST CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD HD
NEWTON, MA

ZONE 19

1. 315720
4690480

2. 316060
4690500

3. 315800
4690260

4. 315600
4690240



SCALE 1:25 000

1 CENTIMETER ON THE MAP REPRESENTS 250 METERS ON THE GROUND

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth

October 14, 2008

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Myrtle Baptist Church Neighborhood HD, Newton (Middlesex), MA
[Newton MRA]

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of Newton were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Brian Lever, Katie Hax Holmes, Newton Planning & Development
John C. Rodman, Newton Historical Commission
Mayor David B. Cohen, City of Newton