

APR 18

## FORM B - BUILDING

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| Area | Form no. |
|      | 309      |

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTO (3x5" or 3x5", black & white)  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

## SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's  
location in relation to nearest  
cross streets and other buildings  
or geographical features.  
Indicate north.

Town Arlington  
Address Grove Street Town Yard  
Historic Name Arlington Gaslight Company  
Use: Original Gas Works  
Present Arlington Dept. of Public Works  
Ownership: ☐ Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Public Town of Arlington  
Original owner Arlington Gas Light Company

## DESCRIPTION:

Date 1914  
Source Mill Brook Valley  
Style Romanesque  
Architect N/A  
Exterior wall fabric Brick  
Outbuildings Two: office and meter building (both mid 20th century).  
Major alterations (with dates) None

Moved No Date N/A  
Approx. acreage 4½ acres  
Setting Town Yard is located near Massachusetts Avenue, in an area of parks and playgrounds that is bisected by the tracks of the Boston & Maine Railroad.

UTM: 321530/4698610

(Staple additional sheets here)

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg  
Organization Mass. Historical Commission  
Date 1/1985

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

Grove Street Town Yard is a complex of several brick and concrete structures, the largest of which is the former power station to the rear of the property. The power station is built in the Romanesque style, with corbelled brick adorning its cornices and smokestack. It is one of Arlington's few industrial buildings, and is a well-preserved example.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

Grove Street Town Yard formerly served as the headquarters for the Arlington Gas Light Company. It was built on the site of the Welch and Griffith saw factory (ca. 1830), the first saw manufactory in the United States, after a 1913 fire. The gas light company used this complex of buildings to manufacture gas for light and fuel--it was Arlington's first such company and fulfilled an urgent need for the expanding community. The property at one time also held a large gas storage tank, built in 1923. On top of the tank was painted the legend "ARLINGTON," in yellow letters 20 feet high and 12 feet wide, and bisected by an arrow pointing north. This was New England's first marker for aerial navigation. In 1975, the tower, no longer in use, was torn down. Today the Arlington Gas Light Company is the headquarters for the Arlington Department of Public Works.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Grove Street Town Yard, formerly a housefold fuel manufactory, is a complex of industrial buildings that retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Arlington Historical Commission, Mill Brook Valley: A Historical and Architectural Survey. Arlington, 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Arlington Multiple Resource Area  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

ARLINGTON

✓ 1. ~~Town~~ Center Historic District (BOUNDARY INCREASE)  
~~MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS~~ Keeper

Attest

Date/Signature

Accept Comm. Meeting 4/18/85  
[Signature] 9/27/85✓ 2. Pierce Farm Historic District Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 9/27/85

✓ 3. Kensington Park Historic District Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 9/27/85

✓ 4. Orvis Road Historic District Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 9/27/85

✓ 5. Allyn House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 9/27/85

6. Arlington Coal & Lumber Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 4/18/85

7. Arlington Gaslight Company Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 4/18/85

8. Arlington Pumping Station Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 4/18/85

9. Arlington Reservoir ~~MIDDLESEX COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS~~ Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 9/27/85

10. Baptist Society Meeting  
House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper

Attest

[Signature] 4/18/85

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Arlington Gaslight Company (Arlington MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR/ 6 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86  
Date Due: 4-4-85 / 4-20-85  
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4-18-85  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- ☐ 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<br>Public Acquisition | Status<br>Accessible | Present Use |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|

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"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
|                                    |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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## 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

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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## 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

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## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Arlington Gaslight Company

Arlington MRA, MA

Address: Grove St. Turn Yard

963M

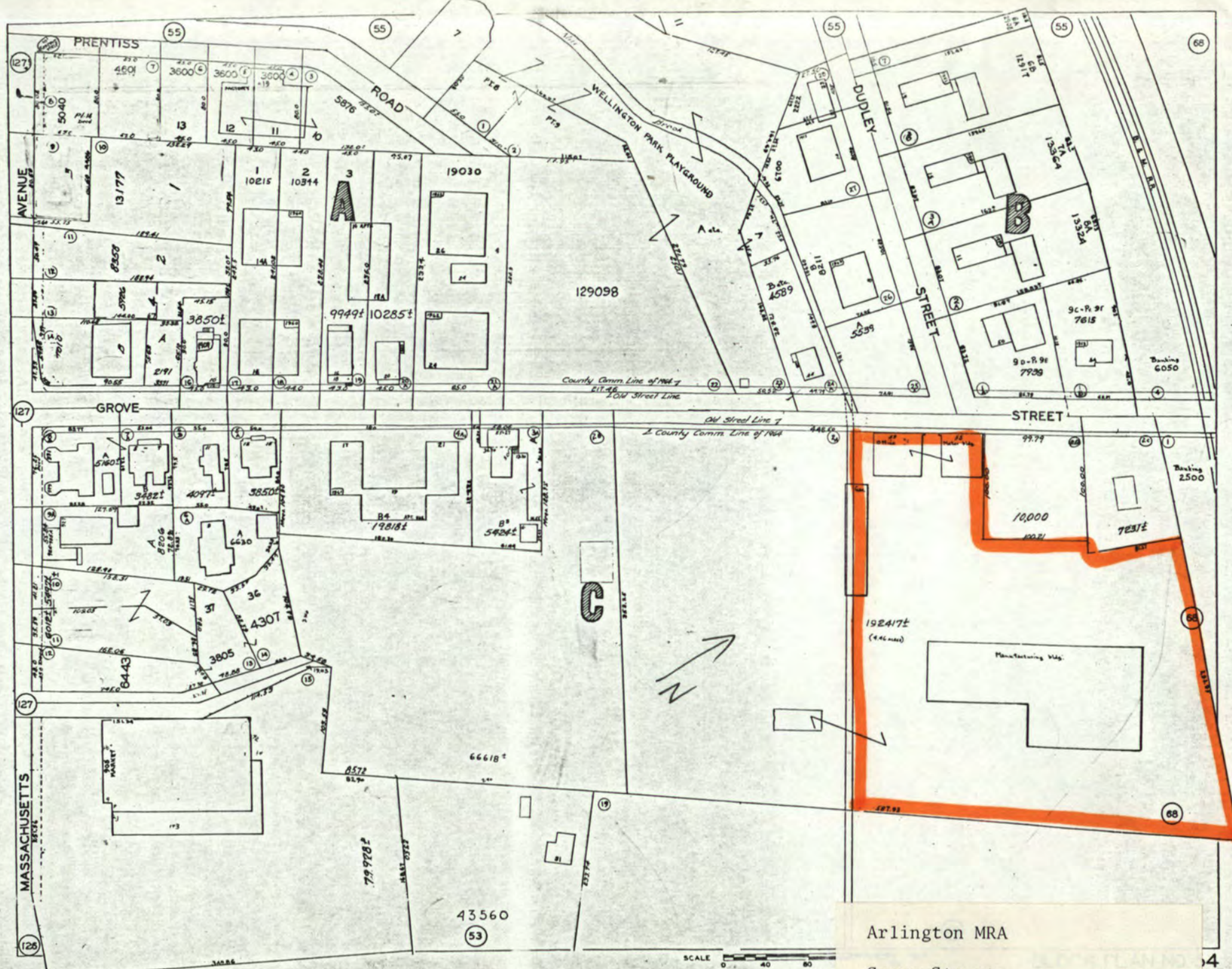


Arlington Gaslight Company

Arlington MRA, MA

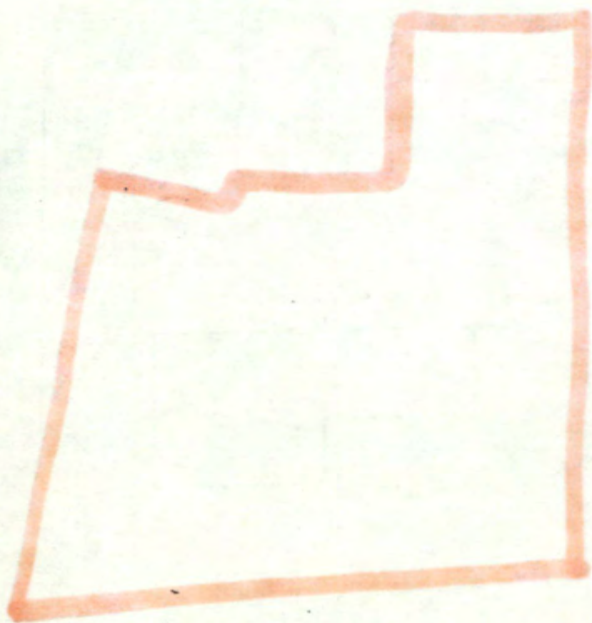
Address: Grove St. Town Yard

963M



Arlington MRA

Grove Street  
Grove Street Yard



Grove St. Town Yard