

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

519



cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.

Arlington

Address 418 Massachusetts AvenueHistoric Name Henry Swan HouseOriginal DwellingPresent Funeral HomeOwnership: ☒ Private individual
Private organizationPublicOriginal owner Henry Swan

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1888Source Town AtlasStyle Queen Anne/Shingle StyleArchitect UnknownExterior wall fabric Shingle/ClapboardOutbuildings NoneMajor alterations (with dates) ca. 1930stucco single-story additionMoved No Date N/AApprox. acreage Less than one acreSetting The Henry Swan House occupies a
corner lot at the edge of the Town Center.Recorded by Betsy FriedbergOrganization Mass. Historical CommissionDate 1/85

UTM: 19/323020/4697720

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

Although this house was used as a funeral home as early as 1916, most of its original detail, both interior and exterior, has been preserved. The beveled glass windows in doors, stained glass windows, Italian tile fireplaces, and mahogany paneled doors and woodwork remain in excellent condition. Particularly distinctive are the open veranda along the front and side, the polygonal corner tower, and the lion-headed console supports of the second story on the east side. The single-story stucco addition on the west side of the building was added by L. Brooks Saville in the early 1930s. The Swan House remains an exceptionally handsome example of the many late 19th century mansions that once graced Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge and Arlington.

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

The Swan House was built by Henry Swan, a member of an old family in Arlington and a merchant who sold poultry and wild game at Faneuil Hall Market in Boston. Swan was also an active member of the community, serving at various times as selectmen and school committee member.

Prominently located near the Town Center, the Swan House represents the increasing sophistication and suburbanization of Arlington's residents. At the time of the building's completion, the Arlington Advocate noted on its front page: "The beautiful home occupies a sightly situation and is an ornament to the street. It is heated by steam and is fitted with all modern conveniences. It has a large hall and roomy staircase...quaint and pleasant in design" (November 9, 1888). It was also located directly next to public transportation routes.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Henry Swan House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. As a sophisticated example of Arlington's late 19th century mansions, it fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

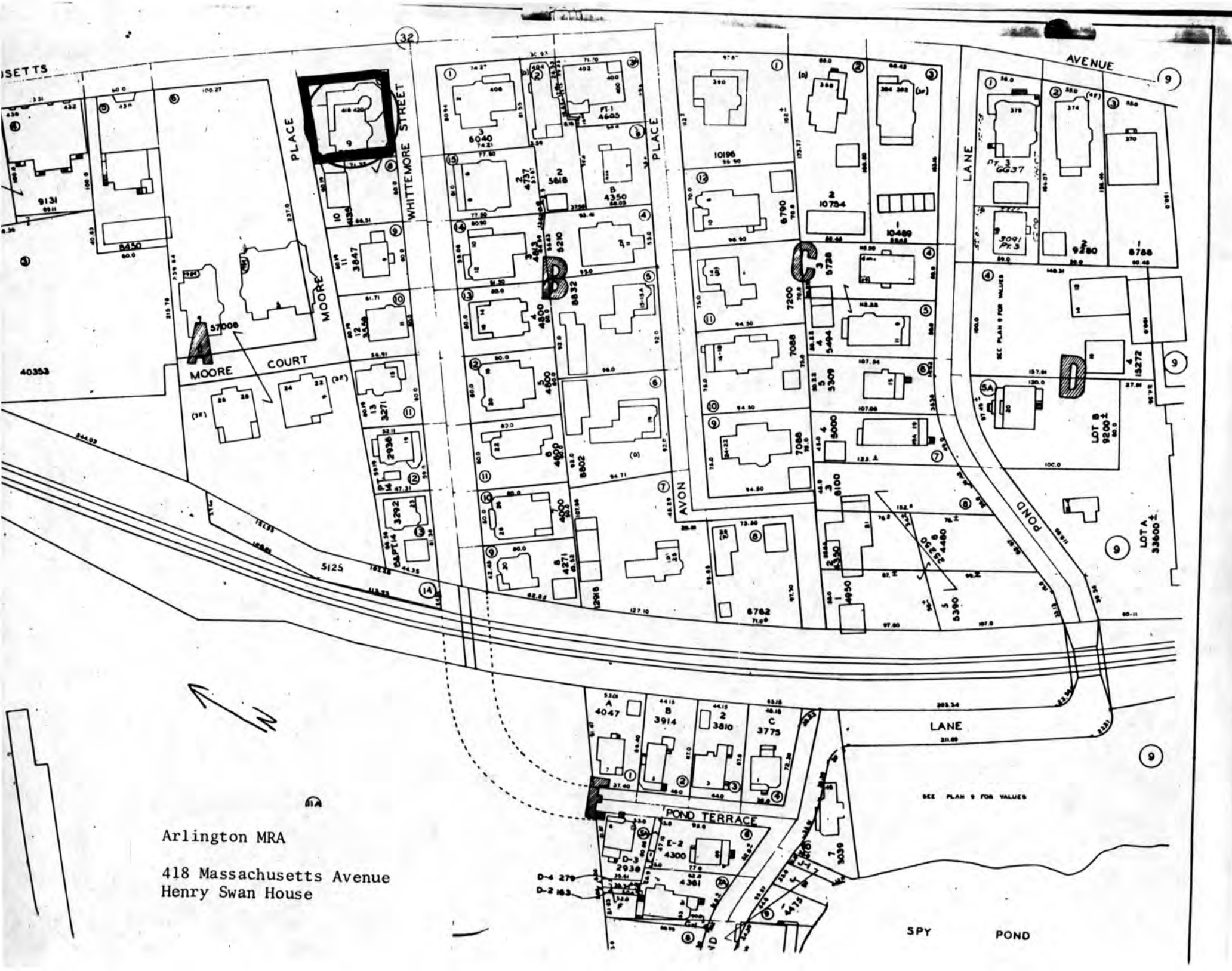
BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Parker's History of Arlington
Arlington Advocate, November 9, 1888, p.1.

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Arlington MRA

418 Massachusetts Avenue
Henry Swan House



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Swan, Henry, House (Arlington MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. MAR 6 1985

Fed. Reg. Date:

Date Due: 4/4/85 - 4/20/85

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 4-18-85

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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved

date _____

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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

Please provide scale for map.

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____

Date _____

4/15/85

Phone: _____

FORM B - BUILDING

Area

Form no.

519

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

PHOTO (3x3" 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.

See attached map.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg
Organization Mass. Historical Commission
Date 1/85

Town Arlington
Address 418 Massachusetts Avenue
Historic Name Henry Swan House
Use: Original Dwelling
Present Funeral Home
Ownership: ☒ Private individual
Private organization _____
Public _____
Original owner Henry Swan

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1888
Source Town Atlas
Style Queen Anne/Shingle Style
Architect Unknown
Exterior wall fabric Shingle/Clapboard
Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) ca. 1930
stucco single-story addition

Moved No Date N/A
Approx. acreage Less than one acre
Setting The Henry Swan House occupies a
corner lot at the edge of the Town Center.

UTM: 19/323020/4697720

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Although this house was used as a funeral home as early as 1916, most of its original detail, both interior and exterior, has been preserved. The beveled glass windows in doors, stained glass windows, Italian tile fireplaces, and mahogany paneled doors and woodwork remain in excellent condition. Particularly distinctive are the open veranda along the front and side, the polygonal corner tower, and the lion-headed console supports of the second story on the east side. The single-story stucco addition on the west side of the building was added by L. Brooks Saville in the early 1930s. The Swan House remains an exceptional handsome example of the many late 19th century mansions that once graced Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge and Arlington.

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

The Swan House was built by Henry Swan, a member of an old family in Arlington and a merchant who sold poultry and wild game at Faneuil Hall Market in Boston. Swan was also an active member of the community, serving at various times as selectmen and school committee member.

Prominently located near the Town Center, the Swan House represents the increasing sophistication and suburbanization of Arlington's residents. At the time of the building's completion, the Arlington Advocate noted on its front page: "The beautiful home occupies a sightly situation and is an ornament to the street. It is heated by steam and is fitted with all modern conveniences. It has a large hall and roomy staircase...quaint and pleasant in design" (November 9, 1888). It was also located directly next to public transportation routes.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Henry Swan House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. As a sophisticated example of Arlington's late 19th century mansions, it fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Parker's History of Arlington
Arlington Advocate, November 9, 1888, p.1.

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

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Arlington Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Russell Common

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

42. Shattuck, Ralph W., House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

43. Sterling-Cutter, Ella
Mahalla, House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

44. Swadkins, Thomas, House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

45. Swan, Henry, House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

46. Symmes, Jr., Stephen, House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

47. Taylor-Dallin House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

48. Wayside Inn

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 9/27/85

Attest

49. Whittemore House

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

50. Winn Farm

Entered in the
National Register

for
Keeper

Melora Byers 4/18/85

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ref #
85002688

Swan, Henry, House (Arlington MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 3/6/85
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 9/28/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-27-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the
National Register

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Swan, Henry, House

Arlington MRA, MA

