

AUG 21 1989

1546

AREA

FORM NO.

107

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Town Waltham, Massachusetts

Address 750 Main Street

Historic Name Christ Episcopal  
Church

Use Present church

Original church

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1897 - 1898

Source C.B. Fuller Jr., "History of  
Christ Episcopal Church"

Style English Country Gothic

Architect Peabody and Stearns

Exterior Wall Fabric wood shingle  
local fieldstone

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates)

contributing additions - 1923

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 33,191 sq.ft. 0.76 A 59-21-3

Setting Situated on well landscaped

lot with flower bordered path leading

to main entrance. Across the street  
from Georgian Revival Waltham Public  
Library (1915).Recorded by Rupert A.M. Davis  
Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Photo (3"x 3" or 3"x5", black and  
white) Indicate address of  
property on back of photo.  
Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing  
property's location in relation to  
nearest cross streets and/or  
geographical features. Indicate  
all buildings between inventoried  
property and nearest intersection(s).  
Indicate north

UTM REFERENCE 19/315 500/4693710

USGS QUADRANGLE LEXINGTON

SCALE 1:25,000

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The significance of Christ Episcopal Church is threefold. First and foremost, Christ Episcopal Church has served the spiritual, cultural and social needs of Waltham's Episcopalians and others since its founding in 1849. Architecturally, this church represents a major ecclesiastical work by the leading late 19th/early 20th c. Boston architectural firm - Peabody and Stearns. This builder-constructed church represents the most original and adventurous interpretation of the English Country Gothic style in the Boston area. In addition, it contains several superb stain glass windows by Louis

(cont)

**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE** Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

Designed by the well known Boston firm of Peabody and Stearns, the present church was erected in 1897 with John A. Dodge as chief contractor. With the connected parish house, the grouping of the buildings is meant "to resemble what might be found in an English country town". The materials for the Church and Parish house are field stone or rubble and timber with slate roofs. The stone was a gift of Robert Treat Paine from his estate in Waltham. The style is English Country Gothic. The final cost for both the church and parish house was \$84,897.11.

Robert S. Peabody (1845-1917) and John G. Stearns (1843-1917) formed the well known Boston firm of Peabody and Stearns (1870-1917). Peabody studied in England and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. Stearns attended the Lawrence Scientific School in Cambridge and then entered the Boston office of

(cont)

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE** Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

Established as a mission church in 1849 by the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Massachusetts, Christ Church began in a small wooden Gothic building (designed by Joseph Billings) on Central Street. The first rector was the Reverend Thomas Fales of St. Paul's Church, Brunswick, Maine. Under his pastorate, a rectory was established west of the church and a separate mission church, the Church of the Ascension, was consecrated, becoming an independent church in 1885.

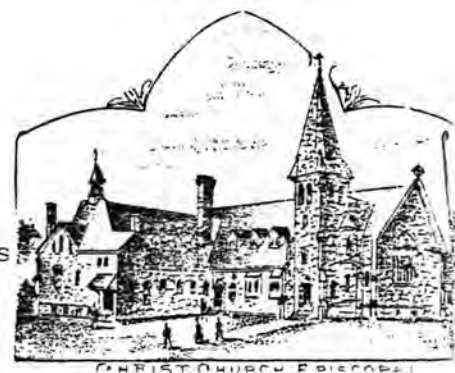
Christ Church was enlarged 1860, and again in 1875 when a chapel was added. The celebrated Philips Brooks of Trinity Church, Boston had preached at Christ Church on May 31st, 1874. The Reverend Fales resigned in 1890 on his 50th anniversary as a priest. He was replaced by the Reverend Herbert N. Cunningham of Watertown, Connecticut.

In 1891, Robert Treat Paine offered \$2,000 towards a new lot and new church. In 1892, the parish bought the present site on Main Street. In 1895, the Reverend Hurbert W. Wells of Grace Church New York City became the rector. When the old church building was sold in 1895, services were held in Maynard Hall. In 1895, a builing committee was appointed, which resulted in selection of Peabody and Stearns, architects, to build a new

(cont)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Please see attached sheet for bibliography and/or references



NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA, Christ Episcopal Church, continued

Comfort Tiffany and Charles Connick. Christ Episcopal Church possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Ware and Van Brunt. The firm was responsible for such Boston buildings as the old Exchange Building (53 State Street) and the Customs House Tower, and in Gothic Style, the Providence Railroad Station (now demolished).

The heavily buttressed tower of rubblestone has a broach spire and is attached to the side of the west end of the nave, which possesses aisle columns and arched trusses with a wooden roof. In 1923, the chancel was altered and the altar enlarged. The parish house which connects to the chancel or east end of the church is distinguished by its uncut fieldstone walls, prominent bargeboarded gables and decorated dormers. The porch of the street door is supported by brackets, carved in the form of angelic faces with feathered wings stretching behind them.

The church contains a number of windows by the celebrated Connick Studios of Boston including, the Great West Window given by Will and Louise Nichols. The central theme of the Great West Window is devoted to the Holy Family. A wealth of symbolism of local industry is introduced through the two field and circular medallions. There is the lathe, the Metz car, the watch escapement, the gear pump, the bicycle wheel, the spindle and shuttle, and the foundry. Other windows by this firm include the clerestory narthex and transom windows. Charles J. Connick (1875-1946), an important early 20th century stained glass artist based in Boston experimented with medieval techniques at his studio on Harcourt Street. He received many awards. His most famous work is the Great West Rose Window at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Locally he worked with Ralph Adams Cram at All Saints Ashmont, Dorchester; designed windows for the Cowley Father's Monastery in Cambridge; All Saint's Church in Brookline, and Blessed Sacrament in Jamaica Plain, among others.

There is also a Tiffany window depicting the Nativity. Louis C. Tiffany (1848-1933) was the son of Charles L. Tiffany, owner of the famous New York Jewellery Store. Having enrolled at the National Academy of Design in New York, he also studied painting with George Inness of the Hudson river School and the luminist painter George Colman. By the end of the 1870's, he had turned to making of stained and opalescent glass. He quickly became well known and in 1882, was asked to redecorate the White House. Besides his secular work, he provided windows for many churches in New York and elsewhere. Locally, examples of windows from the Tiffany Studios may be seen at the Arlington Street Church (Boston), the Church of the Covenant (Boston), the Church of our Savior (Brookline), and the Theodore Parker Church in West Roxbury.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued

church, whose cornerstone was laid on June 9, 1897 by Bishop William Lawrence. Consecrated by the same Bishop in 1902, the new church also included a parish house named for the first Rector Thomas Fales. The Reverend Francis E. Webster, Rector of the Church of the Ascension, became Rector in 1900. A new rectory built at 768 Main Street was occupied in 1919. This was later sold to the United States for a post office and a new rectory purchased.

(cont)



HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued

1898 saw the start of publication of the parish magazine - the Waltham Churchman, still being published today. Between the wars the parish had many active groups including the Sir Galahad Club for Boys, the Women's Auxiliary, an Altar Guild and the Red Cross. In 1930, the Reverend Webster resigned to be replaced by the Reverend George O. Ekwall. In 1960, the Reverend Ekwall became Archdeacon of the Northern Archdeaconry of the Diocese of Massachusetts. He was replaced by Reverend John S. Cromier, rector of St. Andrews Church, Meriden, Connecticut. In 1971, the Reverend William R. Mawhinney of St. Mark's Church, Westford, became rector. Christ Church continues its active role in the community, having been a founding member of the Waltham Conference of Church Unity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Charles River Museum Files.

"1974-1975 Marks the 125th Anniversary Year of Christ Episcopal Church"

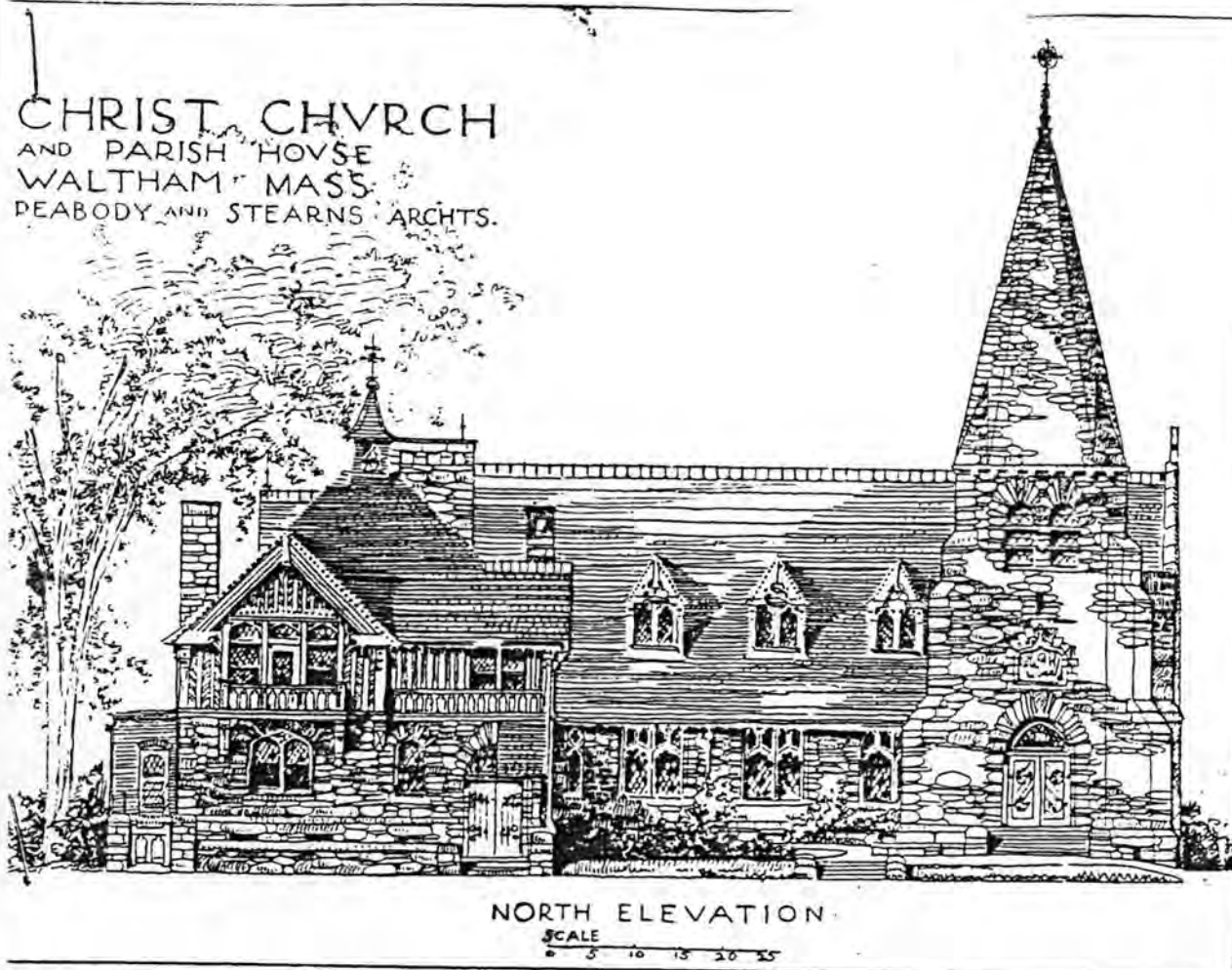
"This is Your Church", Christ Church, 750 Main Street. Pamphlet, early 1970's

The Edison Electric Illuminating Company, "Waltham", 1909, Waltham Historical Society files.

SPNEA photo files.

Fuller, Charles B. Jr., "History of Christ Episcopal Church, 1964.

Sturm, James and Chotas, James: "Stained Glass from Medieval Times to the Present", Dutton, Inc. NY 1982.



FROM: Christ Church, Waltham, MA.  
Scrapbook collection: Waltham Public Library

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

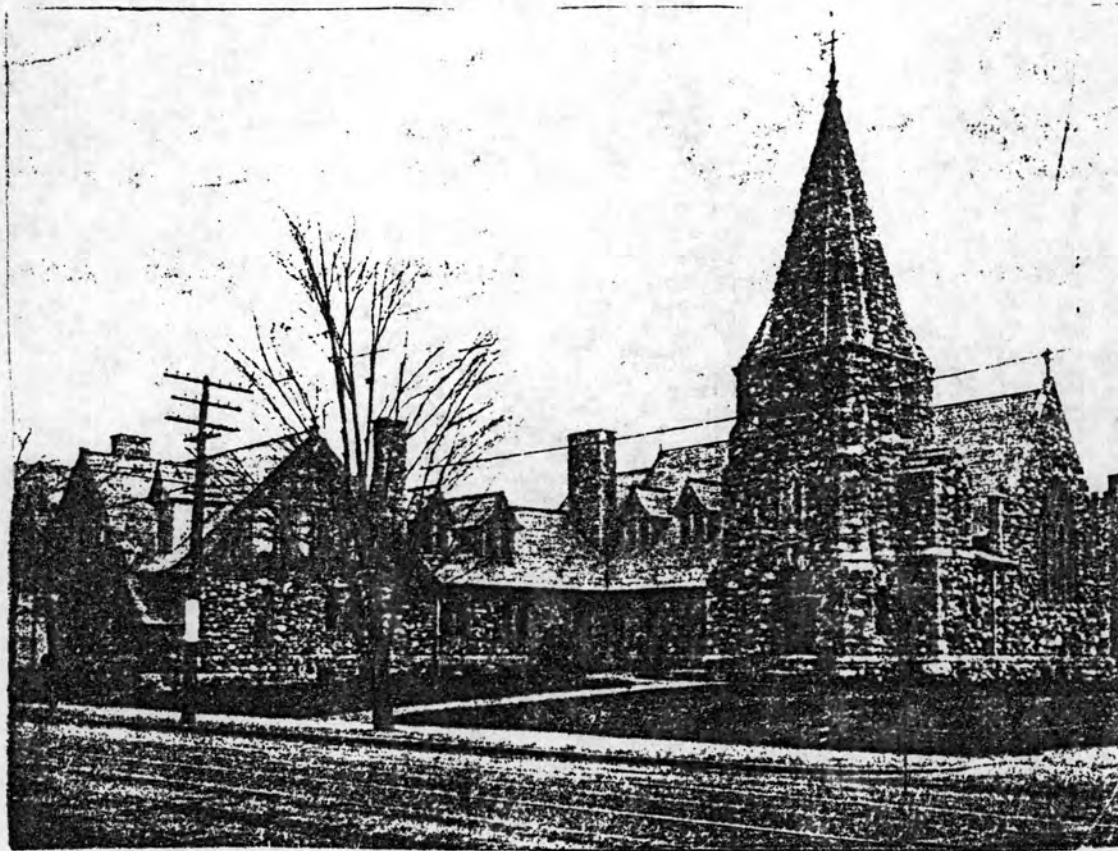
WALTHAM, MA

Form No:

107

Property Name: Christ church  
750 MAIN ST

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



CHRIST CHURCH, WALTHAM

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

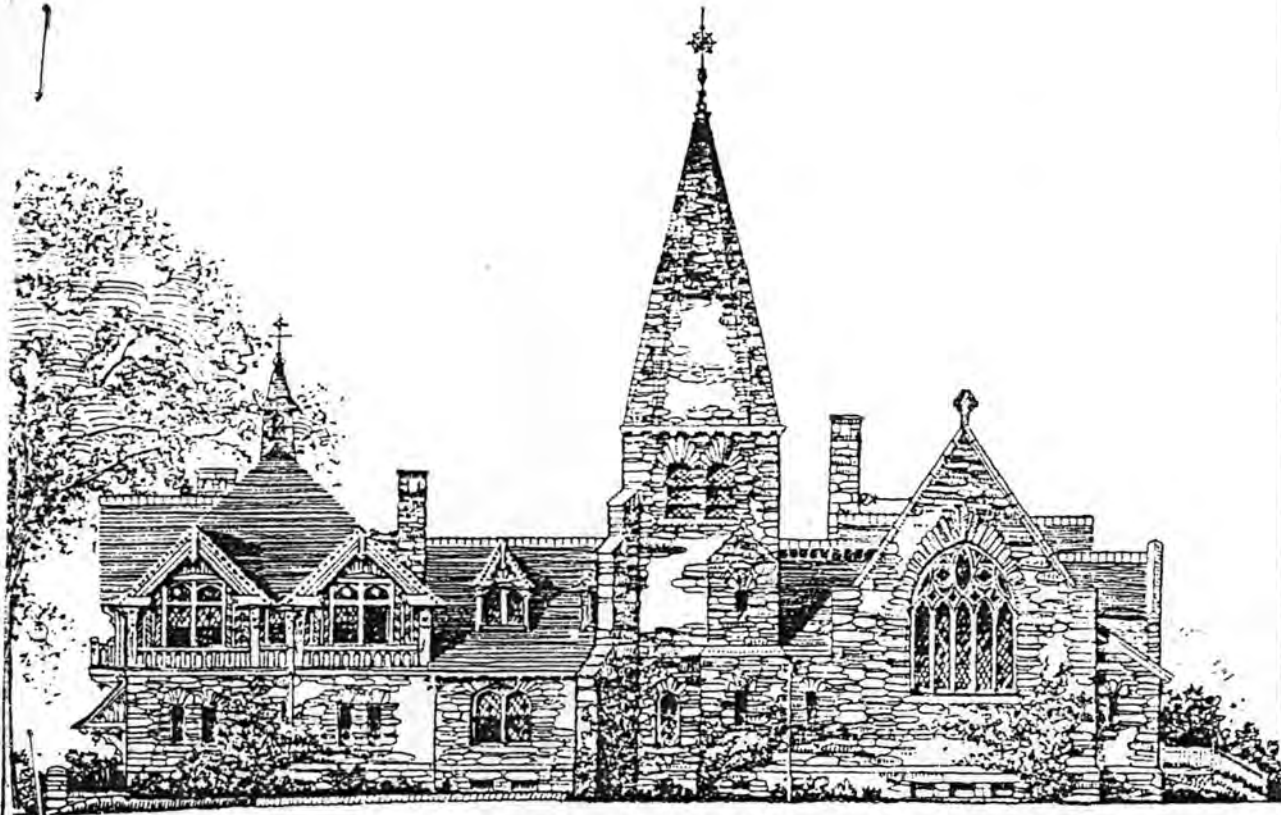
Waltham, MA.

Form No:

107

Property Name: Christ Church  
750 Main St.

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



WEST ELEVATION

SCALE  
0 5 10 15 20 25

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

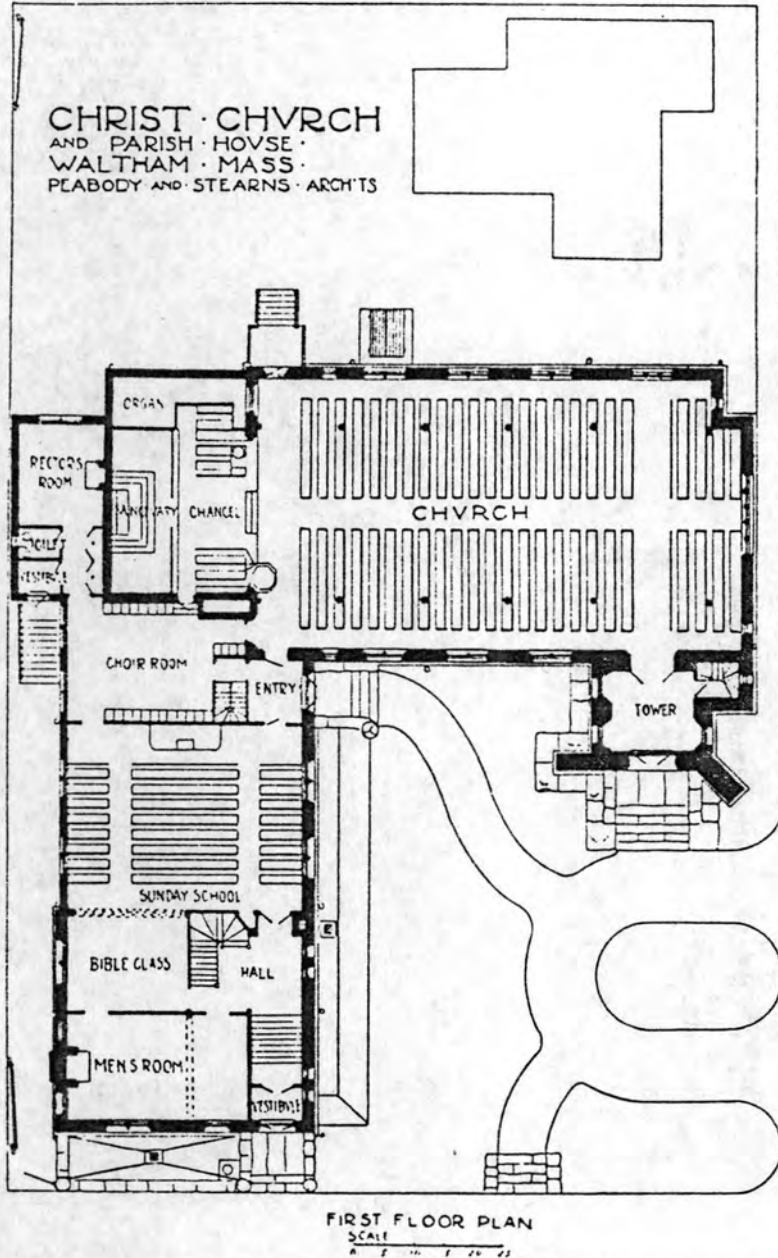
Waltham, MA.

Form No:

107

Property Name: Christ Church  
750 Main St

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



Staple to Inventory form at bottom



# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Waltham, MA.

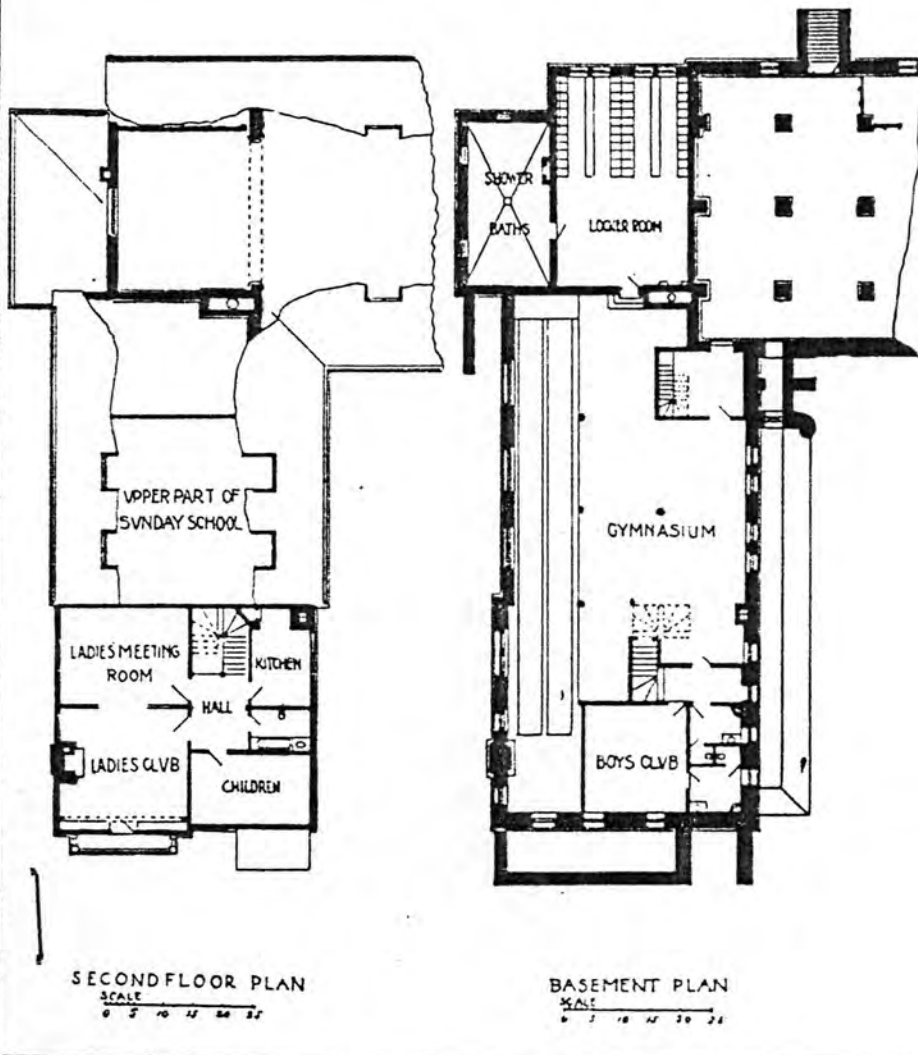
Form No:

102

Property Name: Christ Church  
750 MAIN ST

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

## CHRIST CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE WALTHAM, MASS. PEABODY AND STEARNS ARCHTS



Staple to Inventory form at bottom



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Waltham MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Boston Manufacturing Company Housing  
(153--165 River St.) Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
12. Brigham House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
13. Building at 202--204 Charles Street  
Entered in the National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
14. Buttrick, Francis, House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- See 15. Buttrick, Francis, Library Substantive Review Keeper Betty Savage 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
16. Byam, Charles, House Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
17. Central Square Historic District  
Entered in the National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
18. Charles Street Workers' Housing  
Historic District Entered in the  
National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- See 19. Christ Episcopal Church Substantive Review Keeper Betty Savage 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
20. Clough, Benjamin F., House  
Entered in the National Register Keeper Helene Byers 9/28/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001546

Date Listed: 09/28/89

Christ Episcopal Church  
Property Name

Middlesex  
County

MA  
State

Waltham MRA  
Multiple Name

-----  
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.

*for* Beth L. Savage  
Signature of the Keeper

9/28/89  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Criteria considerations

Criteria exception A is applicable for the property's religious function.

This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, Acting National Register Director, MASHPO, by telephone.

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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 Christ Episcopal Church  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Waltham MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001546

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 9/28/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Highly sophisticated ecclesiastical design of prominent architectural firm Peabody + Stearns. The Church also includes several stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C  
REVIEWER Seward  
DISCIPLINE Architectural History  
DATE 9/28/89

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y see attached SLR Y

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CLASSIFICATION

☐ count      ☐ resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

☐ historic      ☐ current

---

DESCRIPTION

☐ architectural classification  
☐ materials  
☐ descriptive text

---

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

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

---

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

☐ acreage      ☐ verbal boundary description  
☐ UTMs      ☐ boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

☐ sketch maps      ☐ USGS maps      ☐ photographs      ☐ presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_





Form #107

750 Main St.

MAZ #107

Waltham, MA MAZ

Christ Episcopal Church



Christ Episcopal Church

MHC #107

250 Main St

Waltham MA MRA



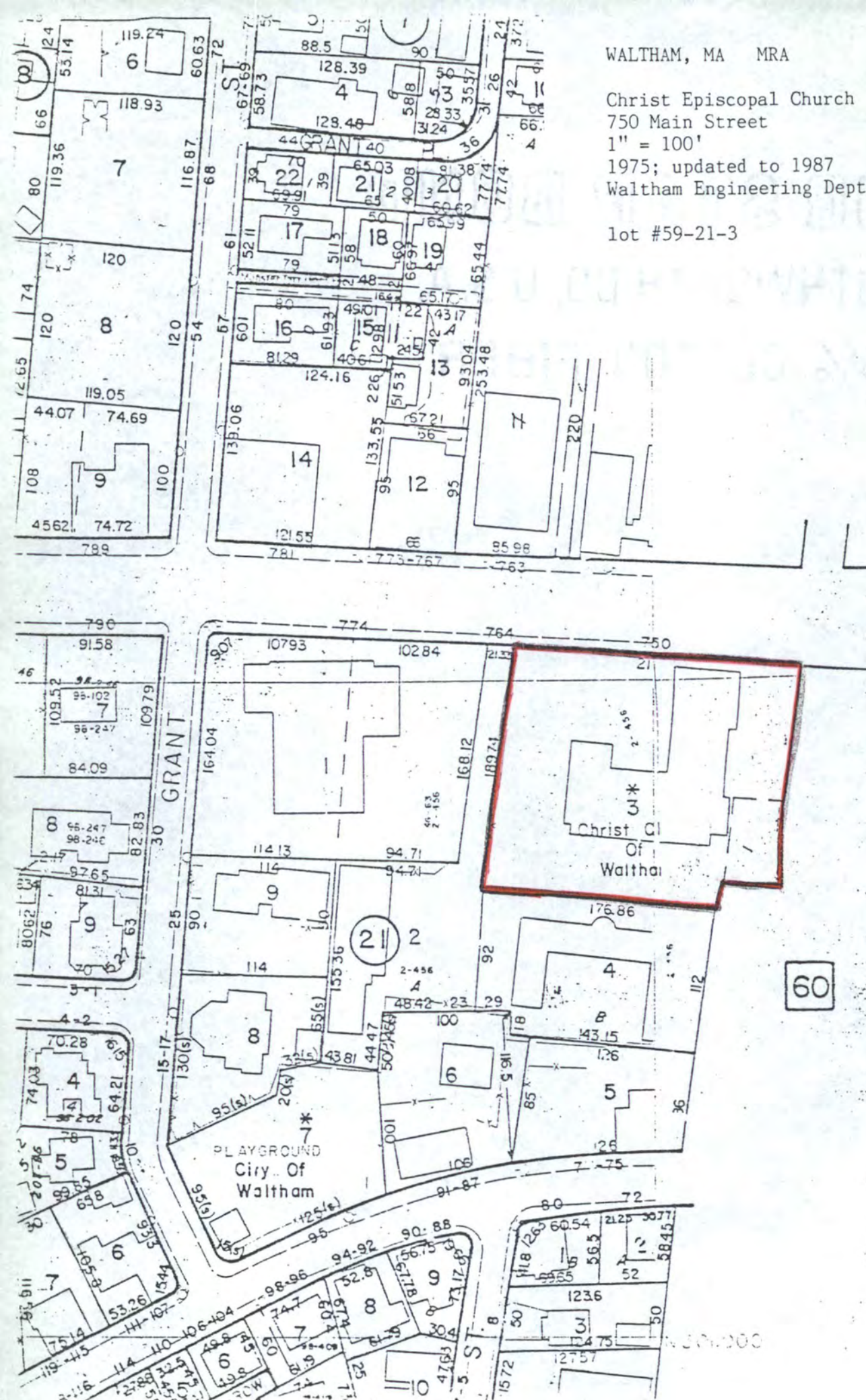


Christ Episcopal Church

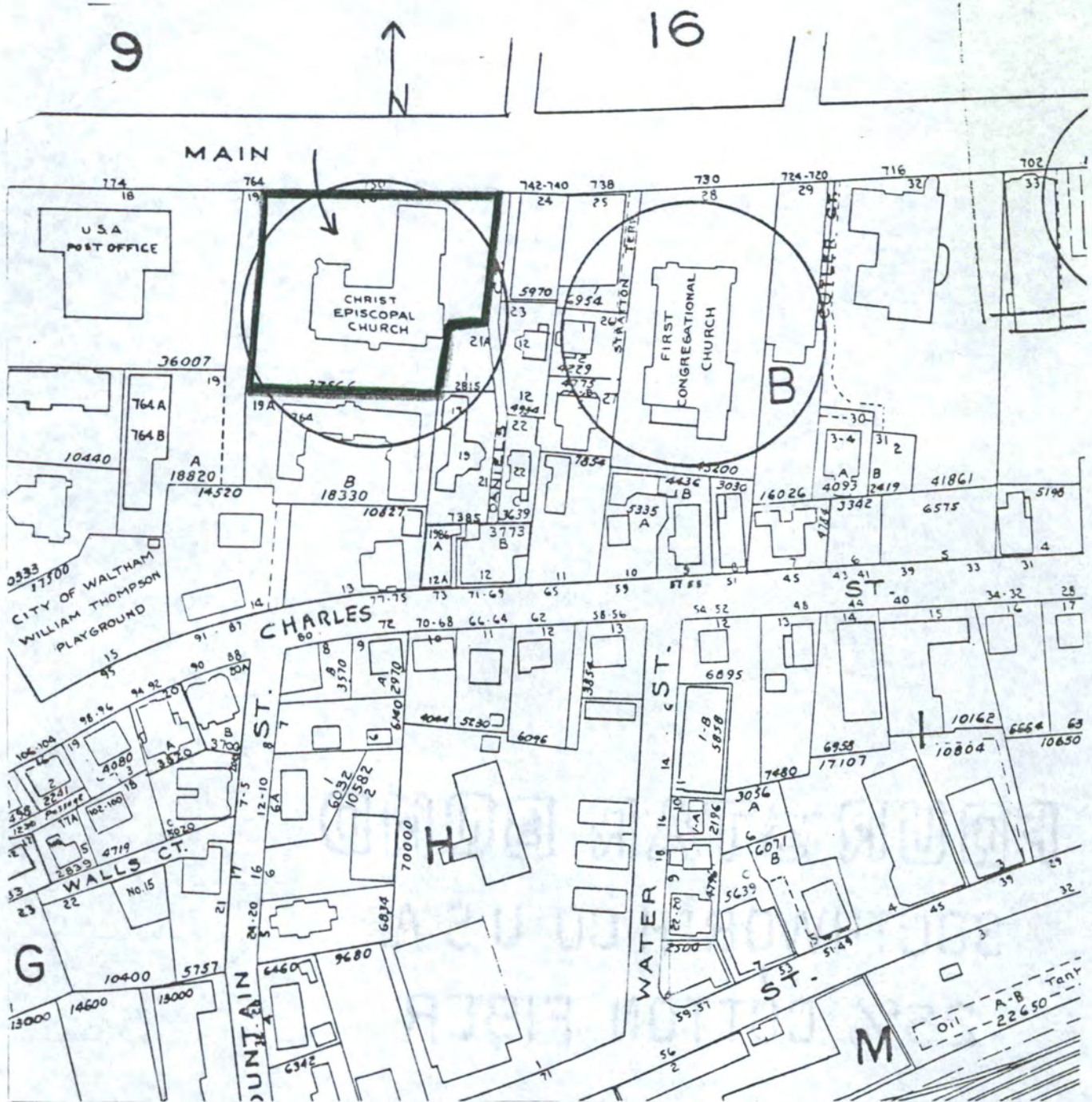
MHC #107

250 Main St  
Waltham, MA MRA

lot #59-21-3







1970 Atlas, City of Waltham  
 Compiled by the Waltham  
 Engineering Division  
 Scale: 1 inch = 140 feet

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA  
 750 Main Street  
 Christ Episcopal Church  
 15-B-20

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301