

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

*see attached map*

UTM REFERENCE 19|315640|4692830

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

1544

AUG 21 1989

WALTHAM, MA MRA  
AREA FORM NO.

	44
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NATIONAL REGISTER  
Town

Waltham, Massachusetts

Address 82 Maple Street

Historic Name Beth Eden Baptist Church

Use Present church  
Original church

DESCRIPTION

Date 1888 - 1891

Source Shirley, Lilian S., "Beth Eden Baptist Church", W.P.L. archives

Style Romanesque

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric rubblestone and brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) design substantially the same  
Renovated: after fire in 1908

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage 12,537 sq.ft. <sup>0.3</sup> 69-31-17

Setting Located in densely settled residential area of mid-late 19th century houses.

Recorded by Rupert A.M. Davis Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Hist. Comm.

Date June, 1986

revised by C. Jenkins 3/88

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

Beth Eden Baptist Church possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and associations. It is significant as the oldest extant church on the South Side, reflecting the intense development of the area by the "Watch" in the late 19th century, and the heavily protestant bias of that development. It has also been a strong focus of community activity throughout its history. Finally, it is a good local example of the Romanesque Revival style. The church thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

Designed in a Romanesque Revival style by W.M. Butterfield of Manchester, N.H., Beth Eden was opened for services in 1891. Constructed of brick with a fieldstone course rising to the middle of the 1st floor, the church's distinguishing feature is its steepled belltower, housing a foursided clock flanked by pinnacles. The main entrance, comprised of a large round arch, shelters two doors surrounded by batten board panelling. Romanesque windows with simple tracery flank the entrance. The high peaked roof of the nave is broken by projecting transeptal bays. The interior contains stained glass windows. Only minor design changes were made in a post-fire renovation of 1908.

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

Apparently the oldest extant church in Waltham's South Side neighborhood, Beth Eden Church was formed by members of Waltham's first Baptist Church in 1887. Reorganised by the local Baptist Council in the same year, the congregation purchased land on Maple Street in 1888; and in 1891, the present building was completed, at a cost of \$80,000. While the congregation declined in the 1890's panic, and a fire in 1908 destroyed a large part of the building (rebuilding started immediately with accomodation for an organ in the sanctuary), by its 25th anniversary the membership in Beth Eden (meaning "House of Pleasantness") had reached 500.

During the First World War, eleven memorial chimes, donated by Deacon George Hudson were installed in the tower. First played in December 1916, these bells were heard across the nation on NBC during the Hostage Crisis when they were rung at noontime for 444 days. Before the bells were put in place, a city owned clock was installed in the tower with funds raised by a Citizen's Committee. The clock was electrified in 1962. The first World War also saw Beth Eden serve as a center for eccumenical Red Cross activity. In this century, Beth Eden has remained active a a spiritual force on

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Shirley, Lillian S. "Beth Eden Baptist Church", Shirley, Lillian S., N.D., Waltham Public Library archives  
"Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Beth Eden Baptist Church, Waltham, Mass", 1912, author unknown, Waltham Public Library files.

WALTHAM, MA MRA  
Beth Eden Baptist Church #44  
82 Maple Street

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, Beth Eden Baptist Church, cont.

the South Side. It has been involved with the Waltham council of Churches and the Conference for Church Unity. It supports such groups as the Battered Women's Support Committee, the Seaman's Mission and UNICEF. Recently the vacation Bible school, holding classes in July, has been revived. Changes to the building have included a new roof, a new memorial window and a Casavant organ.



BAPTIST CHURCH -  
From: 1978 Birds-eye-view

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

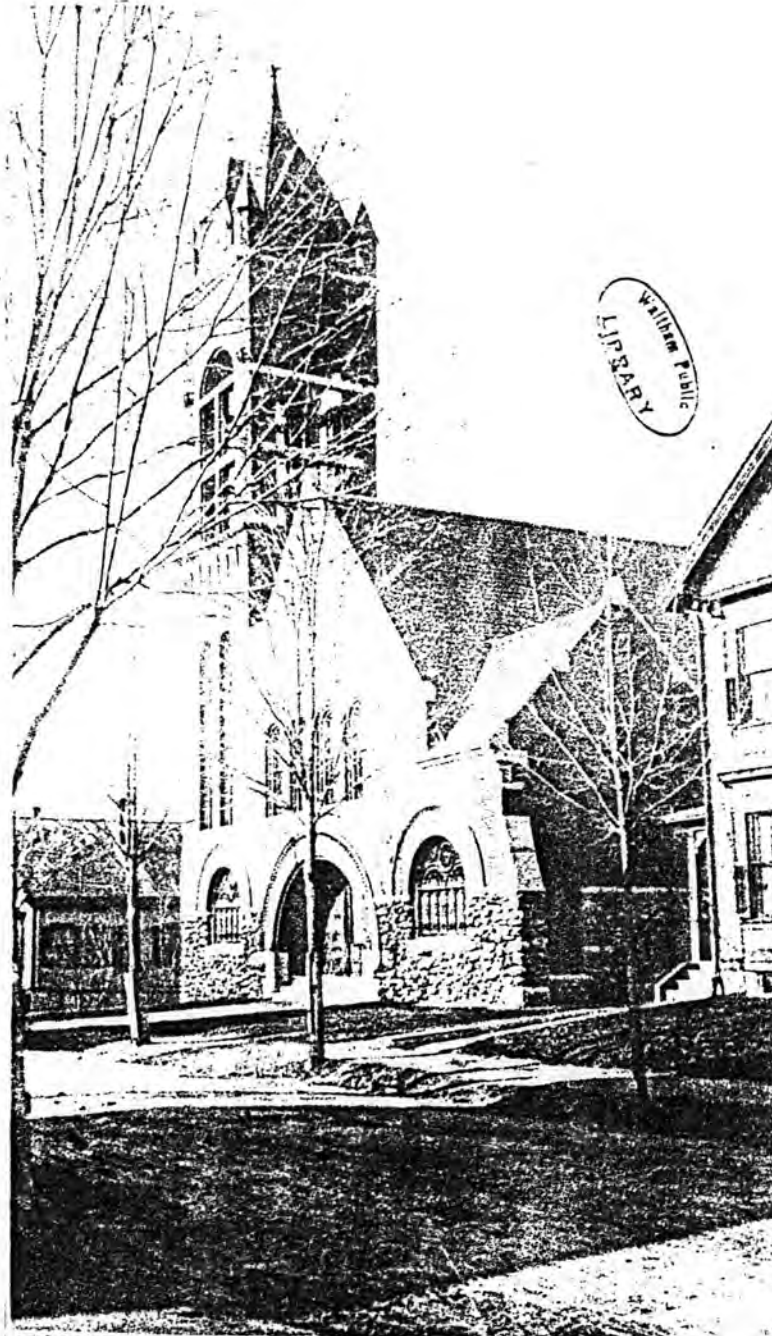
Walham, MA.

Form No:

44

Property Name: 82 Maple St

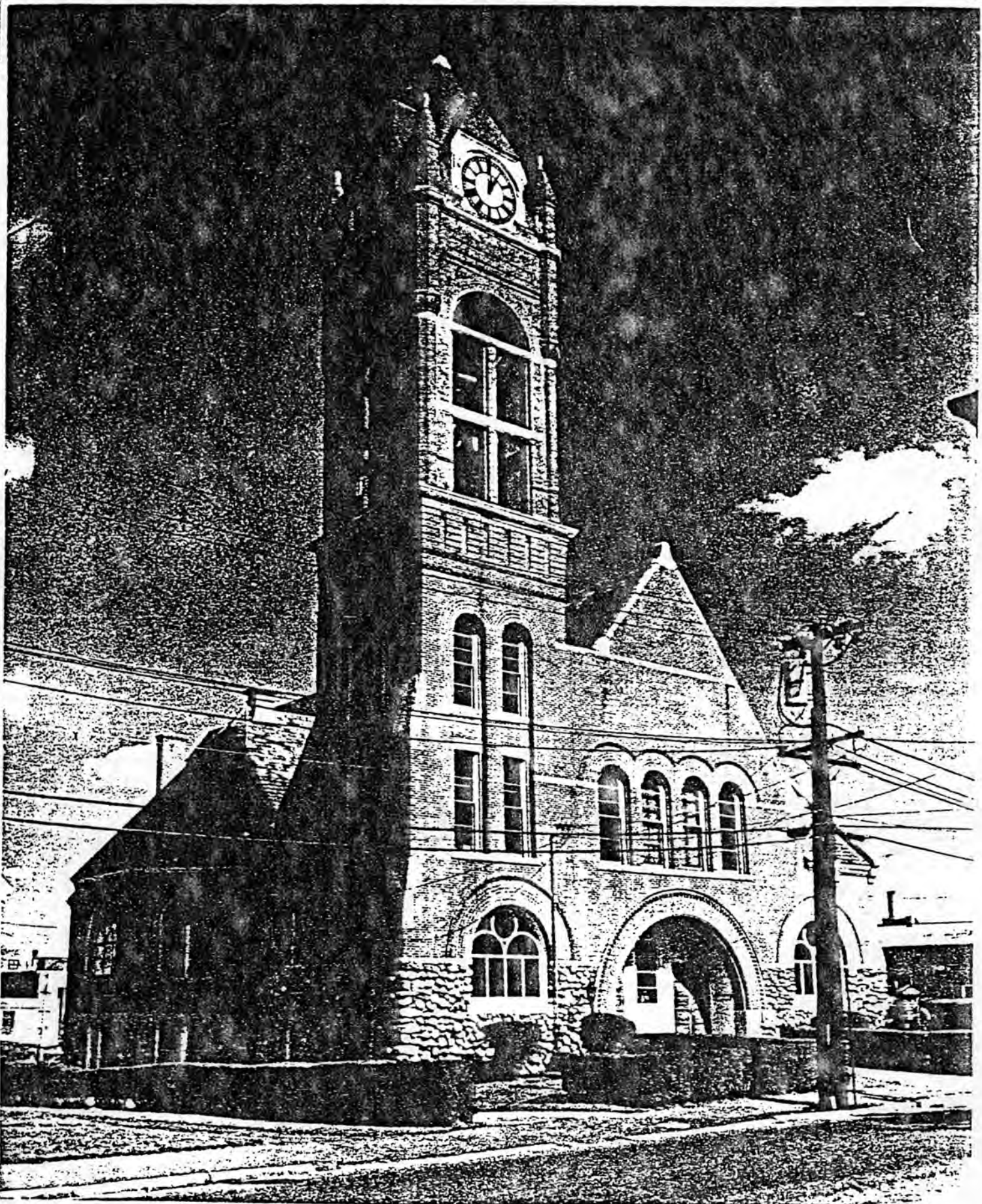
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.



NORTH END BAPTIST CHURCH. 1891.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

Beth Eden Baptist church, undated photo collection Waltham  
Public Library



MHC #44

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 Group

Name Waltham MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
Cover <u>Substantive Review</u>	Keeper <u>151</u> <u>9/28/89</u>
1. American Waltham Watch Company Entered in the Historic District National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
2. American Watch Tool Company Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
3. Andrews, Joseph, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
4. Baker, Charles, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
5. Baker, Charles, Property Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
6. Banks, E. Sybill, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
7. Barnes, Thomas, House <u>Substantive Review</u> <u>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</u>	Keeper <u>Eligible Beth Sarge</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
8. Beard, Josiah, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
9. Beth Eden Baptist Church <u>Substantive Review</u>	Keeper <u>Beth Sarge</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____
10. Boston Manufacturing Company Housing (380--410 River St.) Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>9/28/89</u> Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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

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## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001544

Date Listed: 09/28/89

Beth Eden Baptist 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 J. Savoy  
Signature of the Keeper

9/28/89  
Date of Action

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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 NAME: Beth Eden Baptist Church

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

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: 89001544

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:

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

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y  N  see attached SLR  Y  N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



© STEVEN GYURINA

Beth Eden Baptist Church

WAC #44

82 Maple St  
Waltham, MA WPA



Beth Eden Baptist Church

© STEVEN GYURINA

MITC # 44  
Waltham, MA MRA  
82 Maple St.



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Beth Eden Baptist Church

MHC #44

Waldham, MA. MRA →  
82 Maple St.



Beth Eden Baptist Church

MC # 44

Waltham, MA - MRA - 82 Maple St

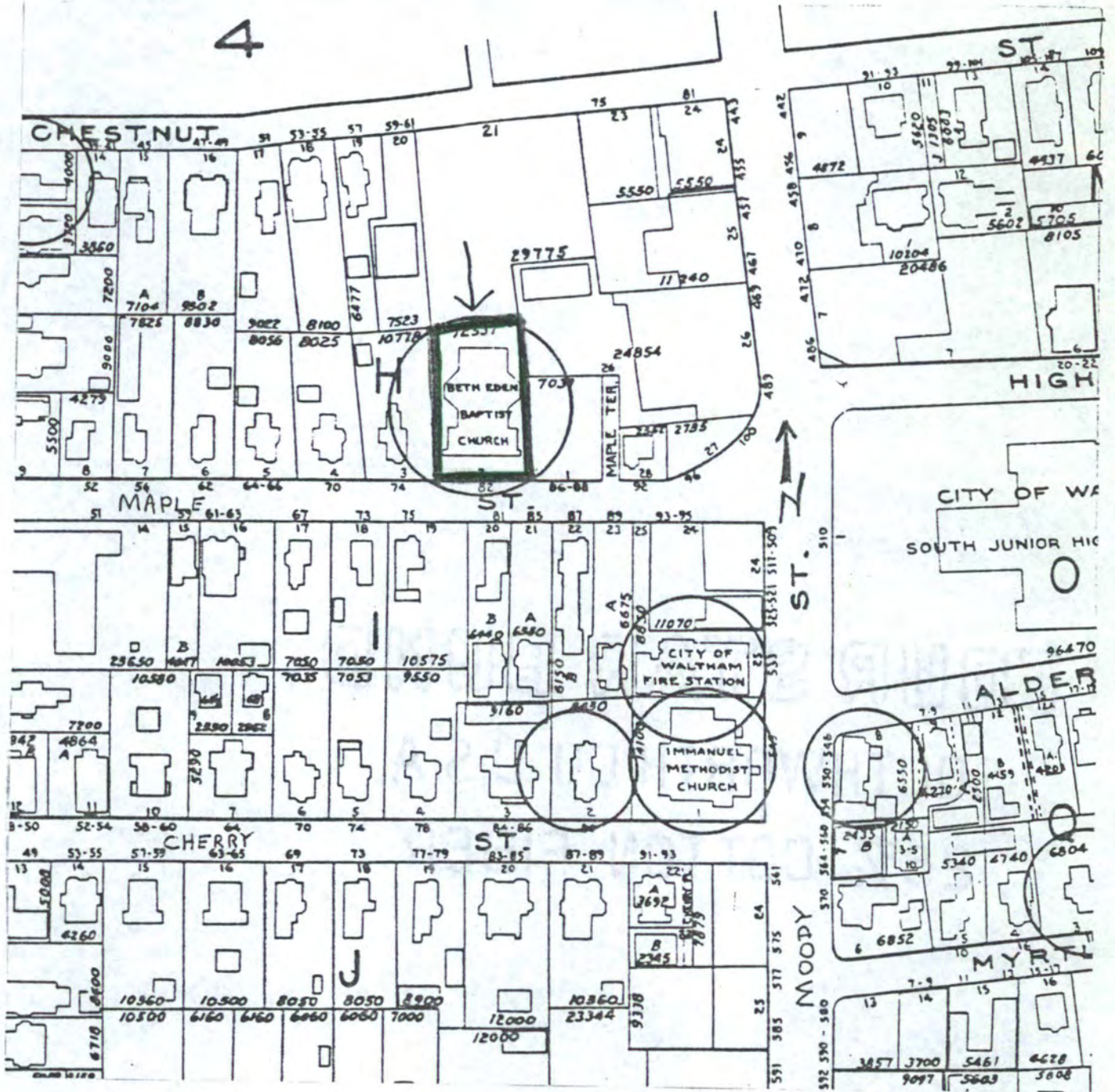
STEVEN GYURINA ©

WALTHAM, MA MRA

Beth Eden Baptist Church #44  
82 Maple Street  
1" = 100'  
1975; updated to 1987  
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #69-31-17





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

Waltham, Massachusetts MRA  
 82 Maple Street  
 Beth Eden Baptist Church  
 5-H-2

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301