

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
	430

~~MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
291 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108~~

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116

Town Arlington

Address 3-5 Brattle Street

Historic Name Baptist Society Meeting Hou

Use: Present Two-Family Residence

Original Church

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1790

Source Parker's History of Arlington

Style Federal

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Clapboard covered b
asphalt shingles

Outbuildings Garage

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Rear ell ca. 1850

Moved Yes Date ca. 1915

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting The former meetinghouse is in a
densely settled residential area, a short
distance from Massachusetts Avenue.

UTM: 19/321³⁴⁰450/4697⁶²⁰550

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

Recorded by Betsey Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date 1/85

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Baptist Society Meeting House is a 3½ - story, five-bay Federal-period structure with a double entry. Aside from the additions of chimneys, a porch, and modern siding, the exterior of the gable-end meetinghouse remains in its original condition.

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

Built as the first Baptist Church in Arlington, formerly called Menotomy, this structure was modeled closely after the First Parish's First Meetinghouse (1734), which was then still standing on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant Street. Its ultimate model was the meetinghouse on Lexington Green in Lexington, Massachusetts, visible in engravings of the battle there on April 19, 1775; it was also modeled after the second Concord meetinghouse, likewise visible in representations of the Concord Battle. The Baptist meetinghouse may have been constructed in such an old-fashioned style in order to give the sect, newly separated from the First Parish and the first denomination to do so, an appearance of venerable orthodoxy. Of the four meetinghouses that were standing along Battle Road at the end of the 18th century, only this one survives.

Sold by the Baptists in 1828 upon the completion of their church at the site of the present First Baptist Church, the meetinghouse was converted into a private residence before 1880 and in 1913 was moved to the back of its original lot, "five rods square," and turned to face Brattle Street.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Baptist Society Meetinghouse possesses integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It fulfills criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places as a good example of Federal architecture and as a remnant of the development's of Arlington's first religious denominations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Parker's History of Arlington

Cutter's History of Arlington

Assessor's Records

80210M WV22VCH02ELL2 03110
80 80A1210M 210001
WV22VCH02E12 80 80A1210M 210001
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National 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

Accept Cover Meeting 4/18/85
Date/Signature

- ✓ 1. ^{ARLINGTON} ~~Town~~ Center Historic District (BOUNDARY INCREASE)
BOUNDARY INCREASE Keeper Maureen [Signature] 9/27/85
Attest _____
- ✓ 2. Pierce Farm Historic District Entered in the National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 9/27/85
Attest _____
- ✓ 3. Kensington Park Historic District Entered in the National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 9/27/85
Attest _____
- ✓ 4. Orvis Road Historic District Entered in the National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 9/27/85
Attest _____
- ✓ 5. Allyn House Entered in this National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 9/27/85
Attest _____
- 6. Arlington Coal & Lumber Entered in this National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 4/18/85
Attest _____
- 7. Arlington Gaslight Company Entered in this National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 4/18/85
Attest _____
- 8. Arlington Pumping Station Entered in this National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 4/18/85
Attest _____
- 9. Arlington Reservoir BOUNDARY INCREASE ^{for} Keeper Maureen [Signature] 9/27/85
Attest _____
- 10. Baptist Society Meeting House Entered in this National Register ^{for} Keeper Melores Byers 4/18/85
Attest _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Baptist Society Meeting House (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 Public Acquisition	Status 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"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	
	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

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: _____

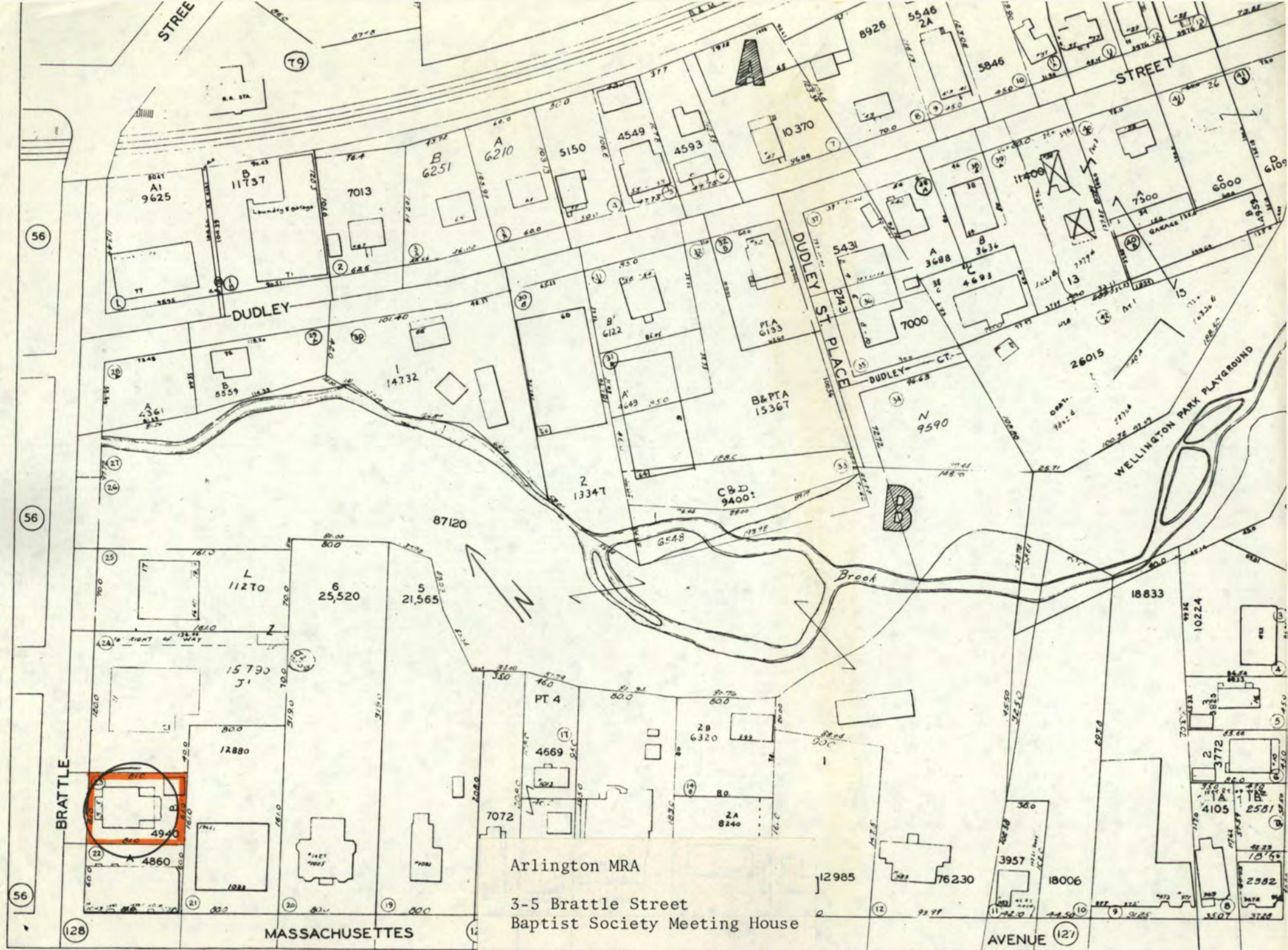


Oldest Surviving Church
3-5 Brattle St
Roll 9 f. 3A.

430

Baptist Society
Meeting House

9750



Arlington MRA
 3-5 Brattle Street
 Baptist Society Meeting House



BLOCK PI