

ARLINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3507 COLUMBIA PIKE
ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA, 22204

HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION FORM
JANUARY 2014

**ARLINGTON COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Arlington Presbyterian Church
Other names: N/A

2. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Street and Number: 3507 Columbia Pike
County: Arlington
State, Zip Code: Virginia, 22204

3. TYPE OF PROPERTY

A. Ownership of Property

☒ Private
☐ Public
☐ local
☐ state
☐ Federal

B. Category of Property

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

C. Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text"/>	buildings
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	sites
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	structures
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	objects
<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text"/>	Total

D. Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

Yes No

4. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic Functions: Place of Worship; Education

Current Functions: Place of Worship; Education

5. DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

Site: Arlington Presbyterian Church is located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Columbia Pike and South Lincoln Street in the neighborhood of Alcovia Heights, Arlington County, Virginia (see map in Figure 57). The church's property includes the entire block of South Lincoln Street between Columbia Pike and 9th Street South. Setback approximately 45' feet, the southern half of the building is separated from the roadways by grass lawns. A concrete pedestrian path leads from the sidewalk on South Lincoln Street to the steeple and main entrance. The building is surrounded by: 1) a large parking lot for the congregants to the west; 2) single-family dwellings to the northwest; and 3) a 100' x 40' playground for the daycare facility to the north (Figure 56).

Architectural Description: Designed in the Colonial Revival style, Arlington Presbyterian Church was constructed in three distinct phases resulting in an L-shaped building with a rear ell (Figures 39-42). The original gable-end church with a full-height portico supported by Doric columns was completed in 1931. This three-bay wide and five-pile deep section of the existing building has a tile structural system faced with local, uncoursed, rough-cut stone. The building is capped with an asphalt shingle roof. The windows on the east and west elevations are predominately nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood-sash with fixed six-light side lights and a decorative fanlight. On the original façade of the main church fronting Columbia Pike, the lantern and spire were demolished and the portico enclosed with masonry faced with matching uncoursed, rough-cut stone in 1950 (Figures 1-4, 14-15).

As part of the 1950 renovation, Arlington Presbyterian Church constructed the existing steeple (tower, lantern and spire) on the northeastern corner of the original building and a rear two-story gable addition flanked by flat roof sections to its east and west. The steeple's tower has a concrete block structural system faced with uncoursed, rough-cut stone cladding on all exposed elevations (Figure 5). The south elevation is pierced by double-leaf wood doors with a five-light transom (Figure 6). The louvered wood lantern supports the copper sheathed spire. The west half of the two-story rear addition remains extant. Five bays wide, the flat roof section of the addition consists of a parged concrete block structural system (Figure 13). Only the second-story of the rear gable addition is visible; it has a ribbon of four-light hopper windows directly below the cornice.

The last period of construction for Arlington Presbyterian Church was completed in 1961. The church added: 1) a gable-roof addition, adjoining the steeple, that extends eastward towards South Lincoln Street (resulting in the building's L-shaped plan); and 2) a hipped-roof addition that extended to the north (rear) of the building (Figures 7, 9-12). The gable addition was designed to match the 1931 building. The addition features a concrete block structural system faced with uncoursed, rough-cut stone cladding. Fenestration primarily consists of eight-over-eight, double-hung, wood-sash windows with a splayed arch stone lintel and sill. A double-leaf, twelve-light, wood door protected by a flared standing seam metal roof supported by wood posts accesses the basement on the east elevation (Figure 8).

The hipped-roof addition to the north differs from the rest of the building in regards to materials and form (Figures 7, 9-12). The concrete block structural system is clad with a seven-course American brick bond veneer. The walls are pieced primarily by six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with concrete lintels and sills. The hipped roof is pierced by a total of seven gable dormers, primarily holding six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash

windows; the north slope of the roof contains a wider gable dormer with a ribbon of three double-hung windows. Matching the entry on the gable-roof addition, two entryways protected by flared standing seam metal roofs access the basement on the north and west elevations. In the southwest corner of the addition, a small, two-story flat-roof block projects from the main elevation; its west elevation is pierced by a set of double-leaf wood doors protected by an asphalt-shingle shed roof (Figure 11).

See also Figures 16-18 for views of the current interior.

Materials:	Foundation:	Concrete
	Walls:	Tile block and concrete block faced with stone and brick
	Roof:	Asphalt Shingles
	Windows:	8/8, 6/6, double-hung wood sash
	Doors:	Single-leaf and double-leaf wood doors

6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A. Applicable Designation Criteria as described in Section 11.2.4.A of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance:

Arlington Presbyterian Church meets four (potentially five) of the eleven designation criteria as listed in Section 11.2.4.A, Establishment of Historic Districts. See Section J of this report for a detailed description.

B. Statement of Significance

The Colonial Revival-inspired Arlington Presbyterian Church was built in 1931 in the Alcova Heights neighborhood of Arlington County and fronts Columbia Pike. The evolution of the building over time, including its renovations and additions, reflects the burgeoning population increase throughout Arlington County, while continuing the design aesthetic of the original building. The decision of Adolph Thelander (the first architect of the church) to utilize stone cladding as the primary building material, was a rare choice in the County's religious architecture. Presently, 74 places of worship exist in Arlington and only nine of the buildings utilize stone as the primary cladding material. Arlington Presbyterian Church is the second oldest of the nine remaining stone churches, the oldest extant church in the Alcova Heights neighborhood, as well as the oldest extant church building on Columbia Pike. This roadway has been a key transportation corridor of goods, services, and residents since the early-nineteenth century.

Arlington Presbyterian Church's significance relates to its cultural and historical value, specifically its association with persons who made important contributions to the development of Arlington County. Active in both their civic and religious duties, many of the founding and early congregants were prominent members of Arlington County who contributed to the development of the region and local community. As these congregants lack commemoration outside of Arlington Presbyterian Church, this building serves as a tangible link between the current congregants and the community's individual and collective memory. As religious buildings in particular provide a sense of continuity, orientation, and place within a community, Arlington

Presbyterian Church continues to serve as a cultural marker, a cornerstone of Alcova Heights, and a center of neighborhood and charitable services.

C. Periods of Significance

1908; 1931; 1950; 1961

D. Significant Dates

See "Periods of Significance" dates above.

E. Significant Persons

* See Section H of this report for detailed biographies of the individuals listed below. The list is only a sampling of congregants who have had an impact both at the church and in Arlington County. Additional research would likely result in more persons of interest.

Mary F. Gray (congregant)
Miles Cleveland and Kate Munson (congregants)
Henry Clay and Kate Virginia Corbett (congregants)
Thomas Jarobe and Margaret Anna De Lashmutt (congregants)
Walter Ker, Grace K., and Ethel Handy (congregants)
Bessie Allender (congregant)
Ronda Allen Gilliam (congregant)

F. Cultural/Social Affiliation

Place of worship in Arlington County

G. Architect/Builder

* See Section H of this report for detailed biographies of the individuals listed below.

Adolph E. Thelander (architect) – Designed 1931 church
Anthony B. Ferrara (architect) – Designed 1950 renovation/remodel
John Wishart McLeod (architect) – Designed 1950 renovation/remodel
Joseph Saunders and Associates (architect) – Designed 1961 addition

H. Narrative

Origins of Alcova Heights

The present-day neighborhood of Alcova Heights is composed of two estates known as Spring Hill Farm and the Van Voast Farm. In 1915, the Columbia Land Company purchased the 142-acre Spring Hill Farm from Thomas Gray and Edward P. Schwartz. Four year later, in 1919, the land company purchased the Van Voast Farm.¹ The company, however, dissolved and on January 14, 1920,

¹ Arlington County Deed Records, "Columbia Land Co. to Alcova Improvement Company," January 14, 1920, Liber 169, Folio 167-168, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

transferred its holdings to the Alcova Improvement Company with Judge Joseph Cloyd Bryars as president. Bryars quickly subdivided the land into lots measuring 50 feet by 100 feet.² Alcova Heights was advertised as Virginia's ideal suburb with proximity to the streetcar line offering "two [street]car lines, 20 minute service, and two splendid highways to the city, [and] one concrete boulevard now building."³ An advertisement in the *Evening Star* stated the following:

Alcova Heights is half a mile west of the wireless towers fronting the Columbia Turnpike and the Glebe road, almost on level with the top of the Washington Monument and in sight of the Capitol building, 3½ miles from the White House. This property is now being sold for LESS THAN ITS REAL VALUE AND LOWER THAN ANY OTHER PROPERTY AROUND WASHINGTON. In addition to this important fact, it is the best appearing property in Virginia and has more advantages. Four 60-ft. avenues, 200 arbor vitae lawn trees on each side of the avenues, 15 houses and bungalows built and contracted for, over 100 homes sites already sold. ALCOVA HEIGHTS combine the conveniences of the city with the luxuries of the county. BUNGALOWS BUILT TO ORDER. The "Home in a garden" idea will be artistically developed at ALCOVA HEIGHTS. Sufficient ground for fruits, flowers, berries, melons, vines, vegetables and chickens will be sold with every home. Our proposition is this: Select your building site. We will give you clear title at once. Select your home from our designs and for five hundred dollars cash we will build your house.⁴

Prior to 1936, approximately 107 buildings were constructed in Alcova Heights.⁵ Similar to many other communities in Arlington County, the majority of the dwellings constructed in the 1920s were bungalows with Craftsman-styled architectural details.⁶ While the Great Depression slowed construction, the growth of the Federal government and increase in number of employees under the New Deal programs created a housing shortage that necessitated the rapid construction of single-family dwellings. Between 1936 and 1959, approximately 255 buildings were constructed in Alcova Heights. During this period, Arlington's burgeoning population preferred the Colonial Revival style.⁷ While earlier advertisements for Alcova Heights highlighted the bungalow form, advertisements in 1937 offered a choice of architectural options:

DESIRABLE BUILDING LOTS ON improved streets; \$500 each, to settle on estates.
5-room bungalow.....\$5,960
6-room Colonial style.....\$6,450
8-room modern residence.....\$7,500⁸

Developers and architects embraced the Colonial Revival style to meet the housing demands of Arlington County, resulting in a repetition of form/style that was differentiated with varying

² EHT Traceries, *Second Phase of an Architectural Survey in Arlington County, Virginia*, Arlington County (1997), 61-62.

³ "Alcova Heights," *Evening Star*, April 25, 1920, NewsBank.

⁴ "Alcova Heights," *Evening Star*, May 1, 1920, NewsBank.

⁵ The 107 buildings were recorded in a 1997 reconnaissance-level survey. The survey report did not indicate the number of demolitions in the neighborhood. EHT Traceries, *Second Phase of an Architectural Survey in Arlington County, Virginia* (1997), 7.

⁶ EHT Traceries, *Second Phase of an Architectural Survey in Arlington County, Virginia* (1997), 62.

⁷ EHT Traceries, *An Architectural Survey Update in Arlington County, Virginia, Phase IV* (2013), 35-46.

⁸ "Desirable Building Lots," *Evening Star*, June 6, 1937, NewsBank.

architectural details. The architectural integrity of the Alcova Heights neighborhood remains relatively intact. From the houses built between 1936 and 1959, only 44 buildings were demolished or substantially altered, representing a loss of only 16 percent of the building stock. As a result, Alcova Heights remains representative of the stylistic trends and residential development of Arlington County in the early- to mid-twentieth-century.

Arlington Presbyterian Church and Alcova Heights

Arlington Presbyterian Church is an important aspect of the development of Alcova Heights. As an early-twentieth century neighborhood, the presence of easily accessible churches and schools was an amenity many individuals sought and/or established in such new residential communities. One of five places of worship in Alcova Heights, Arlington Presbyterian Church is the oldest church building and one of the oldest congregations in the neighborhood.

Arlington Presbyterian Church, Columbia Pike, and Religious Buildings

Incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1810, the Columbia Turnpike Company built Columbia Pike to facilitate transportation of materials to and from Washington, D.C. Columbia Pike quickly became one of the most important corridors within the County, resulting in increased settlement along the roadway. Arlington Presbyterian Church was one of only four churches built along the thoroughfare.

The Chapel of Ease of Arlington Plantation, the predecessor of Trinity Episcopal Church, is recognized as one of the first places of worship in Arlington County. The small chapel was built by George Washington Parke Custis ca. 1825. Union soldiers burned the building at the onset of the Civil War, resulting in temporary housing of the congregation elsewhere. In 1877, the congregation built a small church on the north side of Columbia Pike; this building was moved in 1902 to the present-day location of Trinity Episcopal Church at the northeast corner of Columbia Pike and South Wayne Street. The extant church was designed by local architect William Max Haussman, Sr., and dedicated on May 12, 1957.⁹

The Methodist Episcopal Church at Arlington Heights, commonly known as Hunter's Chapel, was located on Columbia Pike at the northeast corner of its intersection with present-day Glebe Road.¹⁰ Built ca. 1860, the church, however, was occupied by Union soldiers and demolished in the summer/fall of 1862. Without a chapel, the congregation worshipped in members' homes before holding services at the Columbia School House. In 1894, the congregation established a church at the intersection of Columbia Pike and South Walter Reed Drive; however, the church (then named Arlington United Methodist Church) left Columbia Pike for their present-day location in Alcova Heights in 1947.¹¹

⁹ Trinity Episcopal Church, "History and Mission," <http://www.trinitychurcharlington.org> (accessed January 10, 2014).

¹⁰ Reports of the Committees of the Senate, "On the memorial of the board of trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Arlington Heights, commonly known as Hunter's Chapel," in *Report of the Committees of the Senate of the United States for the First Session for the Forty-Third Congress, 1873-'74* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1874), 197.

¹¹ Arlington Methodist Church, "Serving South Arlington Past, Present, & Future!," <http://www.arlingtonumc.com> (accessed January 10, 2014).

Founded in 1903, St. John's Baptist Church held services at Odd Fellows Hall on Columbia Pike until sufficient capital was accumulated for the construction of a new place of worship. Judge Winston Brook, a carpenter and member of the congregation, was chosen to erect the church at the intersection of Columbia Pike and South Scott Street. The building was dedicated in 1908. The original church, however, was demolished in 2004 and replaced with a new building.

Arlington Presbyterian Church started on Columbia Pike as a mission church and was formally established in 1908. After utilizing a temporary building for three years, the congregation built its first church on the north side of Columbia Pike, to the west of South Monroe Street. The present-day church was built at the intersection of South Lincoln Street and Columbia Pike in 1931. For the majority of the first half of the twentieth century, four churches (Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, and Baptist) fronted Columbia Pike within 1½ miles of each other, providing the necessary places of worship required by the growing citizenry of south Arlington. Only three churches, however, remain on the Pike as Arlington United Methodist Church relocated to Alcova Heights in 1947. The Arlington Presbyterian Church building is the oldest of these remaining three churches; the present-day buildings of Trinity Episcopal Church and St. John's Baptist Church were constructed in 1957 and 2004, respectively. Arlington Presbyterian Church is significant as a representation of the development of Columbia Pike, its link to the establishment of religious institutions in the County, and as the oldest remaining church on one of the County's earliest and most traversed roadways.

Arlington Presbyterian Church's Design Characteristics

Arlington Presbyterian Church is the oldest church building on Columbia Pike. The church's form, setback, stone-faced façade and tower, and copper steeple distinguish the building from its surrounding, more contemporary built environment, and serves as a way finder for nearby residents.

Arlington Presbyterian Church also is distinctive for its use of stone cladding. There currently are 74 places of worship in Arlington County. Only nine of the religious buildings utilize stone in their construction.¹² Moreover, Arlington Presbyterian Church is the second oldest of the nine stone churches; the remaining seven churches were all constructed after 1940. As a result, Arlington Presbyterian Church's stone walls, present on all sections of the main façade, are a rare visual feature in religious architecture in Arlington County (Figures 43-45).

View shed Analysis of Church from Columbia Pike

A view shed analysis determined that views of Arlington Presbyterian Church are limited to within a close proximity to the building when traveling from the east or west on Columbia Pike. The lack of visibility from greater distances is due to the relocation of the steeple and the grade of the land, but is primarily caused by surrounding new higher construction.

¹² The churches include: Wilson Boulevard Baptist Church (1923), Arlington Presbyterian Church (1931), Mt. Olive Baptist Church (1940), Mt. Vernon Baptist Church (1941), Community Methodist Church (1941), Arlington Church of Christ (1942), Bethel United Church of Christ (1943), Clarendon Presbyterian Church (1947), and St. Michael's Episcopal Church (1948). For information regarding the number of places of worship in Arlington County, contact Arlington County's GIS Mapping Center.

Arlington Presbyterian Church and Arlington County

Reflection of Settlement Patterns

Arlington Presbyterian Church, particularly its building evolution, is representative of settlement patterns in Arlington County. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the population of Arlington County was dispersed with concentrations of dwellings along Columbia Pike and near present-day Ballston. In the 1890s, the establishment of transportation improvements, most importantly electric streetcars, allowed residents of Arlington County to commute easily into the District of Columbia. Real estate operators quickly promoted new neighborhoods that would serve as commuter suburbs to the city, and allow individuals to enjoy the benefits of both country and city living. Between 1900 and 1910, the population of Arlington County increased nearly 60 percent from 6,430 to 10,231.¹³ The increase in population led the congregants of the First Presbyterian Church in Ballston, Arlington County, to call for the establishment of a mission church on Columbia Pike. The mission church, subsequently formally established as Arlington Presbyterian Church, initially served the residents living in the southern half of Arlington County.

In the second quarter of the twentieth century, the widespread use of the automobile and construction of better roads led to the further subdivision of Arlington County. Developers lauded Alcova Heights for its ease of access by multiple means of transportation. During this period, many of the residents who moved to Arlington County were employed under the New Deal programs and later part of the expanding Federal presence established during World War II. In Alcova Heights, approximately 25 percent of its buildings were constructed before 1936 and 75 percent were built between 1936 and 1959.¹⁴

As Arlington's population increased, Arlington Presbyterian Church expanded to better service the neighborhood. In 1919, an addition was placed on the first formal church building (1911); however, the building burned in 1924. When Arlington Presbyterian Church hired Adolph Thelander to design its new building in 1930, the population of Arlington County was 26,615. Twenty years later, in 1950, the population of Arlington County reached 135,449, an increase of 408 percent.¹⁵ The church did not take into consideration such a dramatic and sudden increase, thereby rendering the original design unsuitable for their congregation. Utilizing and building upon Thelander's design concept, additions were made to the church in 1949 and 1961 to accommodate increased membership and offer improved services to the greater community.

Neighborhood Services in Arlington County

Religious buildings such as Arlington Presbyterian Church have an important role in providing centers of worship and neighborhood services. Over the course of its history, Arlington Presbyterian Church has functioned as a church, school, educational facility, clothing bank, Arlington Development Center (adults with severe disabilities), meeting space for the community, and daycare facility.¹⁶

¹³ University of Virginia, "Historical Census Browser," <http://www.mapserver.lib.virginia.edu> (accessed January 12, 2014).

¹⁴ Of the 75 percent of buildings built between 1936 and 1959 in Alcova Heights, approximately 15 percent were either demolished or substantially altered. EHT Traceries, *An Architectural Survey Update in Arlington County, Virginia, Phase IV* (2013), 7; EHT Traceries, *Second Phase of an Architectural Survey in Arlington County, Virginia*, Arlington County (1997), 62.

¹⁵ For all census data see, University of Virginia, "Historical Census Browser," <http://www.mapserver.lib.virginia.edu> (accessed January 12, 2014).

¹⁶ Timeline provided by Arlington Presbyterian Church.

Overview – Evolution of Arlington Presbyterian Church

Early Origins of Arlington Presbyterian Church (1905-1924)

At the turn of the twentieth century, the closest Presbyterian church to those residing near Columbia Pike was located over two miles away in Ballston at the Ballston Presbyterian Church (also known as the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria County). As Columbia Pike became more populated, influential parishioners sought to establish a second congregation in Arlington County (then named Alexandria County).¹⁷ As a result, Miles C. Munson—one of the early leaders of Arlington Presbyterian Church—started a Sunday school at his home (Figure 46).¹⁸ Moving towards the goal of creating a new church building, on July 12, 1905, Mary E. Young, the widow of William N. Young and recognized as one of the founding members of the church, and Charles Gilbert Gaddis and Elizabeth Gaddis, the niece and nephew of William N. Young, conveyed .25-acres to the trustees of the Second Presbyterian Church of Arlington County, Virginia (Figure 46). The original trustees of Arlington Presbyterian Church listed in the land records include Thomas J. De Lashmutt, Thomas R. Gray, D.A. Potter, T.T. Burke, and Dr. Henry C. Corbett.¹⁹

The Presbyterian Church encouraged well-established congregations to support the expansion of the church by means of assisting with the creation and funding of satellite churches or “mission churches.”²⁰ Reverend William Jasper Young, Pastor of Ballston Presbyterian Church, assisted in the formation of a mission church on Columbia Pike in 1906.²¹ Services were briefly held at Arlington United Methodist Church on Columbia Pike.²² The following year, the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria County, Ballston, received \$500 to erect a house of worship for its “Arlington Chapel” congregation from the Board of Church Erection Fund of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.²³ Church parishioners also held fundraisers for the aspiring church including a minstrel show at the Masonic Hall, Columbia School House.²⁴ Church histories propose that the first building was not completed until the later part of 1909, but secondary resources (newspaper articles and other reports) suggest an earlier date of construction. In all likelihood, the first Arlington Presbyterian Church building on the .25-acre lot was completed before the formal organization of the congregation in 1908 (Figure 19).²⁵

¹⁷ In 1920, Virginia’s General Assembly voted to incorporate Alexandria County as Arlington County, Virginia. For the purposes of this report, only the term Arlington County will be used to avoid confusion. Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

¹⁸ Numerous articles from the *Washington Post* and *Evening Star* and church histories state the church started as a Sunday school at Munson’s home on Columbia Pike.

¹⁹ Charles and Elizabeth Gaddis, who resided in Montana, have no apparent direct ties to Arlington Presbyterian Church other than their familial relationship to Mary E. Young. Arlington County Deed Records, “Mary E. Young to T.J. De Lashmutt, et al,” July 12, 1905, Liber 111, Folio 465-466, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

²⁰ Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

²¹ Church historians state that Reverend Young utilized a Methodist Church on Columbia Pike to preach on Sunday afternoons. Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

²² Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

²³ The original \$500 mortgage was repaid in full on July 13, 1911. Arlington County Deed Records, “F. Presbyterian Church in trust to the Board of Church E. Fund,” May 31, 1907, Liber 114, Folio 520-523, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division; Arlington County Deed Records, “Arlington Presbyterian Church in trust to the B. of the Church E.F.,” July 13, 1911, Liber 129, Folio 298-301, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

²⁴ “Clarendon News,” *Evening Star*, November 25, 1907,

²⁵ The May 4, 1908, *Evening Star* article reports the congregation meeting at the church. “Ordination and Installation,” *Evening Star*, May, 14, 1908, Newsbank.

In 1908, several members of the Ballston Presbyterian Church petitioned the Presbytery of Washington City (Washington, D.C.) to create and formally recognize the Arlington Presbyterian Church of Alexandria County in order to replace the two-year old mission. The Presbytery formed a committee of three reverends and two church elders to evaluate the proposal.²⁶ With the assurance of a strong congregation, the Presbytery of Washington City voted to formally organize the new church.²⁷ Church elders, deacons, treasurers, and other official positions were installed and 21 charter members recognized.²⁸ The following month, Reverend James H. DePue was installed as the first pastor. According to the *Washington Star*:

An audience that filled the room and left many standing at the door gathered at the Arlington Presbyterian Church Tuesday night on the occasion of the ordination of Reverend James H. DePue and his installation as pastor of the church.... At the conclusion of the exercises the members of the presbytery and friends were entertained with refreshments by the ladies of the church. Arlington Church is the infant of Washington city presbytery, having been organized April 21, and enters on its new career in this growing field with bright prospects of success.²⁹

The *Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America* offers insight into the early history of Arlington Presbyterian Church. In 1906, Ballston Presbyterian Church had approximately 171 communicants (members who received Holy Communion).³⁰ After the founding of Arlington Presbyterian Church in 1908, Ballston Presbyterian Church communicants dropped to 114, a decrease of 33 percent. These members likely moved to Arlington Presbyterian Church, which documented 77 communicants in its first year.³¹

Mary E. Young, who donated the land for the original church building, continued to support the establishment of the congregation. On June 17, 1909, after her marriage to Thomas S. Gray, a trustee of the newly formed church, she (along with the Gaddis family) conveyed an additional 0.317-acre parcel adjacent to the church's 0.25-acre parcel.³² Later that year, the trustees of the

²⁶ The three reverends and two elders were J.T. Kelly, J.N. Nourse, and W.T. Thompson, and Harry K. Simpson and L.C. Williamson. "To Install Pastors: Plans Made by Presbyter of Washington City," *Evening Star*, March 23, 1908, Newsbank.

²⁷ The following individuals were charged with the organization of the church at the Presbytery of Washington City: Reverend T.E. Davis, Reverend George Robinson, Reverend George M. Cummings, Elder L.C. Williamson, and Elder O.O. Spicer. The Reverends were further assisted by Reverend James J. DePue, and Dr. E.N. Kirby. "New Church at Arlington," *Evening Star*, April 15, 1908, Newsbank; "New Church at Arlington, Va.," *Evening Star*, April 23, 1908, Newsbank; Washington City Presbytery, "Records of Washington City Presbytery, October 7, 1901 to October 27, 1908," (1908), 360-362, Library of Congress, Manuscript Reading Room.

²⁸ The following officers were ordained and installed: Elders, M.C. Munson, H.C. Corbett, and Thomas J. De Lashmutt; Deacon, W.W. Middleton; Trustees, W.C. Wibert, T.T. Burke, S.P. Wright, T.R. Gray, and E.F. Burner; Treasurer, T.R. Gray; Sunday-school superintendent, W.W. Middleton. "New Church in Arlington: Two-year-old Mission Organized into Presbyterian Congregation," *Washington Post*, April 23, 1908, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

²⁹ "Ordination and Installation," *Evening Star*, May, 14, 1908, Newsbank.

³⁰ Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, *Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*, Vol. 41, (Philadelphia: Office of the General Assembly, 1906), 415.

³¹ Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, *Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America*, Vol. 43, (Philadelphia: Office of the General Assembly, 1908), 477.

³² Previous histories failed to account for the earlier acquisition of land and mistakenly identify the June 17, 1917, deed record as the earliest land record for Arlington Presbyterian Church. Arlington County Deed Records, "Mary E. (Young) Gray et al to Arlington Presbyterian Church," June 17, 1909, Liber 120, Folio

church borrowed \$2,500 in order to assist with the construction of a manse (minister's house) on the newly acquired property.³³ Church histories stated that the manse was completed by March 1910.³⁴

Church leaders quickly moved towards the construction of a more formal church to replace its first building. On January 31, 1911, Arlington Presbyterian Church borrowed an additional \$1,000 from the Board of Church Erection Fund of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America to assist with the construction of the building.³⁵ In May of 1911, the congregation dedicated the new Arlington Presbyterian Church (Figures 20-21). Costing \$5,000 to construct, the church featured a side-steeple plan and large central pointed-arch window with tracery. The *Evening Star* noted that "...together with the new manse adjoining, it is one of the best properties in the suburban section of Virginia."³⁶ Under the leadership of Reverend J.H. DePue, Arlington Presbyterian Church had taken a prominent place in the Presbytery of Washington City.³⁷ Reverend DePue served as the pastor of Arlington Presbyterian Church until 1912. On June 5, 1912, Reverend Robert Robinson was elected Pastor. After the resignation of Reverend Robinson, Arlington Presbyterian Church was served by "stated supply" ministers into the mid-1920s.³⁸

The Arlington Presbyterian Church congregation was an active part of the developing local community in the early-twentieth century. Church histories contend that the congregation was involved in numerous programs/organizations, including, but not limited to: Westminster Club, Women's Missionary Society, Junior Missionary Band, Church Extension Society, Pastor's Aid Society, Junior Mission, and Christian Life and Work Association.³⁹

In 1919, the needs of the growing congregation resulted in the construction of an addition. According to church records:

The new addition, about 30x40 feet, could seat 80 and was connected to the original building by large double doors. The older section was now used as a Church School and a multi-purpose room. Inside the addition a pulpit with three high-back chairs rested on a small chance platform, with the organ on the right. A bell tower graced its exterior, otherwise a simple, frame structure blending into the original.⁴⁰

583-584, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

³³ Arlington Presbyterian Church trustees included: W.C. Wibirt, Thomas Burke, Enoch F. Burner, and Clarence Brown. Arlington County Deed Records, "Arlington Presbyterian Church Trustees to Merton E. Church," September 25, 1909, Liber 121, Folio 378-380, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

³⁴ Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

³⁵ Arlington County Deed Records, "Arlington Presbyterian Church in trust to the B[oard]. of the Church E[rection].F[und].," January 31, 1911, Liber 127, Folio 262-265, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

³⁶ "New Suburban Presbyterian Church," *Evening Star*, May 27, 1911, Newsbank.

³⁷ Ruling elders at the time were Thomas J. De Lashmutt, Dr. H.C. Corbett, Thomas T. Gray, M.C. Munson, and F.A.G. Handy. *Evening Star*, "New Suburban Presbyterian Church," *Evening Star*, May 27, 1911, Newsbank.

³⁸ A stated supply is a minister appointed by the presbytery to perform the functions of a pastor in a church which is not seeking an installed pastor. The relation extends for a period not to exceed twelve months at a time. Joan S. Gray, *Presbyterian Polity for Church Officers* (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 1999), 82. For information regarding the "short supply" ministers at Arlington Presbyterian Church, see the *Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America* for the years 1914 to 1921.

³⁹ Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

⁴⁰ Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

Arlington Presbyterian Church, 3507 Columbia Pike, 1924-1947

Five years after completing the building campaign, on December 20, 1924, the original Arlington Presbyterian Church was destroyed in a fire caused by an overheated furnace. The *Washington Post* reported the damage to be estimated at \$20,000.⁴¹ The congregation had recently completed interior decorations.⁴² The church quickly set forth plans to construct a new church. Led by Reverend Edward Shelling, church officials stated that a new stone edifice to cost at least \$40,000 would start construction in 1925; however, planning, designing, and funding construction caused significant delays.⁴³

Church officials moved forward with plans by purchasing a location for the new church.⁴⁴ On May 1, 1925, trustees of Arlington Presbyterian Church purchased Lots 1 and 2 in Block 2 of the Alcova Heights subdivision where the present church stands.⁴⁵ The address for this property later became 3507 Columbia Pike. For the short term, the congregation accepted an offer of a “prefabricated wooden chapel building” from the Presbytery of Washington City, which the parishioners improved with a foundation and basement.⁴⁶ Called the “Little Chapel,” the wood-framed building measured 30’x42’ (Figure 22).⁴⁷ After the construction of the new church, the chapel continued to be utilized by the congregation for its pre-school and other classes.⁴⁸

Under the leadership of Reverend Walter F. Wolf, Arlington Presbyterian Church contracted noted local architect Adolph F. Thelander to design the new church.⁴⁹ The *Washington Post* included a description of the proposed church and drawing by the architect (the exterior of the constructed church is congruent with the drawing) (Figure 23):

The new structure will be of local stone and will seat 300 people when completed. The auditorium will be of the clear-story, long-axis type, with a central aisle leading to the pulpit. On the left of the pulpit will be the pastor’s study and on the right the

⁴¹ “Arlington Church Burns to Ground; Loss Put at \$20,000,” *Washington Post*, December 22, 1924, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁴² “Arlington Church Burns to Ground; Loss Put at \$20,000,” *Washington Post*, December 22, 1924, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁴³ Church leaders at the time included: Elders, Thomas J. De Lashmutt, Dr. H.C. Corbett, Walter K. Handy, Charles Howell; and Trustees, John Craig, William House, and John C. Garner. “40,000 Arlington Edifice to replace Destroyed Church,” *Washington Post*, December 24, 1924, Proquest Historical Newspapers; “New Church Planned: Arlington Presbyterian Trustees and Elders Announce Project,” *Evening Star*, December 29, 1924, Newsbank.

⁴⁴ Arlington Presbyterian Church sold their previous land holdings to Ted F. and Gertrude D. Bell on April 29, 1927. Arlington County Deed Records, “John M. Craig, et als, Trustees to Ted F. Bell et ux,” April 29, 1927, Liber 260, Folio 190-192, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

⁴⁵ W.H. and J.J. Crow purchased the land in Alcova Heights from the Columbia Land Company, Inc. in 1921. Arlington County Deed Records, “W.H. Crow et ux et al to John H. Craig et al Trs.,” May 1, 1925, Liber 220, Folio 27, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division; Arlington County Deed Records, “Columbia Land Company, Inc. to W.H. Crow,” December 29, 1921, Liber 179, Folio 439-449, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division; Arlington County Deed Records, “Columbia Land Company, Inc. to J.J. Crow,” December 29, 1921, Liber 179, Folio 440-441, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

⁴⁶ The Presbytery of Washington paid \$2,238 for the portable church building, of which the Arlington Presbyterian Church paid \$638 and \$1,000 to erect. In addition, Arlington Presbyterian Church paid the expenses to erect the chapel. Presbytery of Washington, *Presbyterian of Washington City* Vol. 1, (Washington, D.C.: Presbytery of Washington City, 1923-1927), 249, Library of Congress, Manuscript Division.

⁴⁷ Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

⁴⁸ Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

⁴⁹ “Church to Erect New Structure,” *Evening Star*, July, 4, 1930, Newsbank.

choir loft. The interior will be lighted from windows on each side and a large window at the rear. The Sunday School will be temporarily housed in the basement, which will be fitting to care for present needs. The basement will also serve as a dining room, with kitchen facilities.⁵⁰

William Dawson, a local Arlington County contractor, completed the church for \$16,415.⁵¹ In order to assist with financing construction, the church received a \$5,000 loan and a \$1,000 grant from the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.⁵² On October 12, 1930, Arlington Presbyterian Church broke ground on the new building.⁵³ Two months later, the congregation gathered for the laying of the cornerstone. Reverend William F. Wolfe used the same gavel used in the laying of the corner stone of the United States Capitol Building.⁵⁴ On April 19, 1931, the new Arlington Presbyterian Church was dedicated. Services were performed by Reverend Cleland B. McAfee, former moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States.⁵⁵

Oriented towards Columbia Pike, the Colonial Revival-styled church had a typical center-steeple plan. The structural tile building was faced with a stone veneer and capped with a front-gable roof covered with slate shingles.⁵⁶ A three-quarter width, full-height portico supported by six Doric columns adorned the façade. The design of the façade relied on center-orientated elements including the stair, porch, entry doors, belfry, and spire. This organization, combined with the portico and gable roof, led the viewer's attention to the steeple that pulled the façade skyward.⁵⁷ The remaining elevations were less ornate and had limited fenestration (Figures 24-26; see Figure 28 for an interior view).

The interior of the church was described by Reverend Robert A. Harris as follows:

Inside, a rope dropped into the vestibule from the salvaged bell [in the belfry]. A small pastor's study and the stairway to the basement flanked the vestibule.... The sanctuary could seat 196, with additional space for 40. The pews faced a raised chancel with a wooden front rail and the pulpit in the center. The organ console was

⁵⁰ "Arlington Church Will Be Enlarged," *Washington Post*, August 10, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁵¹ "Ground is Broken for County Church; Presbyterian Structure for Arlington Will Cost \$20,000," *Washington Post*, October 13, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers; Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

⁵² Arlington County Deed Records, "John W. Craig et al Trustees to H. Bruce Green et al. Trustees," February 25, 1931, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division; Arlington County Deed Records, "The Trustees of the Presbyterian Church of Arlington to the Board of National Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America," March 6, 1931, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

⁵³ "Ground is Broken for County Church; Presbyterian Structure for Arlington Will Cost \$20,000," *Washington Post*, October 13, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁵⁴ "Corner Stone Laid for County Church," *Washington Post*, December 1, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁵⁵ The following individuals served as officers of the church: Dr. H.C. Corbett, Thomas J. De Lashmutt, C.H. Howell, Walter K. Handy, and J.M. Craig, deacons; J.M. Craig, Julian E. Tapp, E.A. Conner, Dan Adams, W. W. House, and J.L. Petrie, trustees; Walter K. Handy, superintendent of the Sunday School; Miss Maragaret Polwart, organist; and W.W. House, choir director. "Arlington Church Will Be Dedicated," *Washington Post*, April 13, 1931, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁵⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Arlington County," Vol. 1 (1936): 221.

⁵⁷ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular: Buildings and Interiors* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2009), 267-276.

to the front left of the congregation at the level of the pews and the pipes were to the rear of the choir. Behind the pulpit were three tiers, where a 25-member choir sat facing the congregation.

Downstairs were the kitchen, a serving counter, the boiler room, two lavatories and an open area used for meetings, dinner and Church school. Curtains and screens were used to separate classes in this area. In later years a central plywood folding door was added to partition the open space into two long rooms.⁵⁸

The “Little Chapel” remained at the rear of the property and served as the location of the Sunday school.⁵⁹

Prior to the completion of the new church, the congregation consisted of 86 members and 29 Sabbath-school members in 1930. At this time, Alcova Heights remained relatively sparsely populated with a large percentage of vacant lots. Only one other church, Arlington Baptist Church, was located in the neighborhood.⁶⁰

Arlington County, including Alcova Heights, however, experienced a period of dramatic growth in the late-1930s and 1940s. The population expansion resulted from an influx of civil servants and military workers to the Washington, D.C. region. These new residents sought houses in Arlington County, which was quickly recognized as one of the most advantageously located residential sections in the area.⁶¹ The remaining vacant lots in Alcova Heights were quickly thereafter developed.⁶²

Compared to 1930, in 1940, Arlington Presbyterian Church had 244 members and 155 Sabbath-school members, an increase of 183 percent and 434 percent, respectively.⁶³ As supported by church histories, the sustained growth of the church occurred not only due to the County’s population growth, but from the dedication and enthusiasm of Reverend Walter F. Wolf (Figure 27). He was instrumental in the development and expansion of education services, initiating a Young People’s Sunday School and a Men’s Sunday School.⁶⁴

In the 1940s, other religious buildings and congregations were constructed in Alcova Heights to support the expanding community. Arlington Presbyterian Church, however, is the oldest remaining church in the neighborhood. Located at 714 South Monroe Street, the extant Arlington Baptist Church was constructed in 1941; the character defining steeple was not added until ca.

⁵⁸ Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

⁵⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, “Arlington County,” Vol. 1 (1936): 221.

⁶⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, “Arlington County,” Vol. 1 (1936): 221.

⁶¹ “Arlington Seen as Good Home Investment,” *Washington Post*, September 29, 1940, Proquest Historical Newspapers; “Arlington, Va., Shows Prosperous, Unprecedented Growth,” *Washington Post*, November 5, 1939, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁶² The development of the neighborhood and infill of the empty lots is evident when comparing the 1936 and 1959 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

⁶³ Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, *Minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America* Vol. 2 (Philadelphia: Office of the General Assembly, 1940), 422.

⁶⁴ Robert A. Harris, Jr., “Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church,” (July 1985).

1956.⁶⁵ The Arlington United Methodist Church sited at 716 South Glebe Road was built in 1945. The Seventh Day Adventist Church located at 3425 9th Street South was constructed ca. 1949.⁶⁶ Coinciding with the growth of the community, Arlington Presbyterian Church continued to add new members. By the late-1940s, the number of worshipers increased to 725. The church school facilities quickly became overcrowded. As a result, a planning committee formed to determine the church's needs and financing possibilities, inquiring into both relocation and renovation of the existing building. In November of 1945, the committee decided to "confine our future considerations to the expansion of the present Church building."⁶⁷

Arlington Presbyterian Church, 3507 Columbia Pike, 1947-1959

On October 26, 1947, Arlington Presbyterian Church prepared to open a \$55,000 building fund drive to construct an addition to the existing building.⁶⁸ The architecture firm of McLeod and Ferrara completed plans for the renovation of the existing church (Figure 29).⁶⁹ As the proposed building exceeded Arlington Presbyterian Church's financial threshold, the architects eliminated elements of the design.⁷⁰ Arlington Presbyterian Church accepted Cowles Construction Company's bid of \$99,987 to construct the building. In order to finance the project, the trustees supplemented the \$37,000 received in pledges with a \$75,000 loan from the Alexandria National Bank.⁷¹ Ground breaking ceremonies were planned for June 26, 1949, and the church was vacated on July 5, 1949.⁷² During construction, church services and Sunday school were held at Thomas Jefferson High School.

The plans called for the construction of a new steeple and an addition to the north elevation of the existing building. The one-story addition with basement had a concrete block structural system. The walls were parged and capped with a center gable roof flanked by flat roofs (Figure 51). Alterations to the existing building consisted of the demolition of the following elements (Figures 30-34): 1) existing lantern, belfry, and spire; 2) portico columns, stair, entry, and vestibule; and 3) rear elevation. In order to enclose the portico, new footings and concrete block walls faced with matching stone veneer were constructed to enclose the portico. A new steeple and entrance was constructed in the northeast corner of the building. The steeple consisted of a reinforced concrete

⁶⁵ "Arlington Baptist Breaks Ground at Rites Sunday," *Washington Post*, March 24, 1956, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁶⁶ Information provided by examining historic aerials, Arlington County House Cards, and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.

⁶⁷ Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

⁶⁸ "Presbyterian Church to Open \$55,000 Drive in Arlington Today," *Evening Star*, October 26, 1947, Newsbank.

⁶⁹ The proposed rendering of the church in the *Evening Star* displayed the following realized design elements: 1) infill of the Colonial Revival-styled portico; 2) demolition of the existing lantern, exposed belfry, and metal spire; 3) reorientation of the building's primary entrance to the east (side) elevation; and 4) the addition of a new steeple with a square tower, louvered lantern, and metal steeple. "Drive for \$132,000 is Being Conducted for Addition to Church in Arlington," *Evening Star*, December 27, 1947, Newsbank.

⁷⁰ The design included a more ornate and larger rear addition in favor of the addition constructed. The proposed church would have cost \$132,000 to construct. "Drive for \$132,000 is Being Conducted For Addition to Church in Arlington," *Evening Star*, December 27, 1947, Newsbank.

⁷¹ Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985); Arlington County Deed Records, "Ward H. Fisher, James J. Lukford, John G. Shope, D.W. Louthenheiser, S.T. Hitchcock, H.W. Brasse, Wm. J. Martson, and Claude M. Hirst, trustees of Arlington Presbyterian Church, in trust to Alexandria National Bank of Alexandria, Virginia," November 10, 1949, Liber 903, Folio 196, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division;

⁷² For further description, "Presbyterians Plan Addition Start Sunday," *Washington Post*, June 25, 1949, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "Ground to be Broken Tomorrow in Arlington for Church Buildings," *Evening Star*, June 25, 1949, Newsbank.

masonry tower faced with stone, a wood-framed lantern, and a copper spire. An addition was placed on the rear of the building to increase its capacity and better serve the congregation. As part of the renovation, an entire new chancel was moved to the location of the enclosed portico on the south (front) elevation. The pews were reversed to face the new altar. Other interior spaces were improved as well.⁷³

The church's building subcommittee stated the following information:

After construction was begun, it was discovered that the old structure was dangerously weak in certain respects. We were obliged to build new reinforced concrete columns into the existing exterior walls from new footings below the basement floor to the roof trusses and similar beams for the entire length of the old walls. The roof trusses were strengthened with center rods and lower splice plates bolted. Purlins were reinforced with steel channels and the entire structure braced with new diagonal bracing. To complete the remodeling the entire Nave was furred and plastered, new lighting and heating systems installed and the floors refinished. On the exterior of the old building we provided new roofing, repaired flashings, replaced gutters and downspouts and repainted all the trim. Portions of the foundation walls were waterproofed.⁷⁴

Arlington Presbyterian Church's building committee reported the following space improvements:

1. Usable floor space increased from 4,200 to 9,500 square feet, a gain of 126 percent.
2. Nave pew seating space increased from 196 to 294, on the basis of 7 persons per pew.
3. By opening the modern fold doors, the Junior Assembly room provides the Nave overflow seating for 120 persons. With these doors closed, this room will seat 80 persons for separate assembly use.
4. Four new classrooms for Junior and Senior Departments.
5. New pastor's study, church office, supply closet and clock rooms located near the entrance vestibule.
6. New beginner's department classroom with space for 60 of this age.
7. Basement social hall enlarged to seating capacity of 270 for assembly and 180 for banquet use. With temporary partitions, increased space accommodates remaining Church School classes.
8. New choir [robing] room is space for future dressing rooms when social hall stage is provided.
9. Revised kitchen enlarged and modernized for efficient use in service of any type meal to a large group.

⁷³ In the lower levels, the existing kitchen, furnace room, and toilets were demolished and the old pipe columns replaced. The existing concrete floor was leveled, new asphalt tile added, and baseboard heating system installed. The ceiling was plastered and new fluorescent lighting added. Building Subcommittee, "Report on Church Building, Arlington Presbyterian Church," January 1951, Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

⁷⁴ Building Subcommittee, "Report on Church Building, Arlington Presbyterian Church," January 1951, Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

10. Toilet rooms and boiler rooms as revised are suitable for future Stage 2 addition.⁷⁵

Services resumed in the new building on May 21, 1950. On August 26, 1950, the enlarged church was dedicated by the Arlington Presbyterian Church's former minister Reverend Walter F. Wolf, who led the construction effort, but left the congregation prior to the completion of the church in 1949, and Reverend Howard F. Gebhart.⁷⁶ The construction efforts also resulted in the removal of the "Little Chapel" that was utilized by the church since 1925 (see Figure 35 for a site plan ca. 1950).⁷⁷

Arlington Presbyterian Church continued to expand membership in the 1950s. As stated by church histories, membership increased from 750 in 1953 to 900 in 1957. A 1953 report stated that the church school had 450 students enrolled and 35 teachers. Constrained by financial realities, the recently renovated church failed to adequately serve the education needs of the school.⁷⁸ Similar to previous building campaigns, in 1957, planning committees were appointed to study the needs of the congregation.

Arlington Presbyterian Church, 3507 Columbia Pike, 1959-1984

After arriving at a list of requirements, the congregation set forth with purchasing additional land and initiated a building campaign to raise funds.⁷⁹ On March 7, 1959, the *Washington Post* reported that the church completed a building fund drive for \$150,000 and exceeded the goal by \$1,691.⁸⁰ The congregation hired Joseph Saunders and Associates, Architects, to design the Christian Education and Activities Extension and remodel the administrative offices, and M. L. Whitlow and Company to construct the building (Figure 36).⁸¹ The following year, ground breaking ceremonies were held for a \$151,000 Christian education building (Figure 37).⁸² Construction of the education addition was completed in April of 1961.

Joseph Saunders and Associates designed a large L-shaped addition on the northeast corner of the church.⁸³ The two-story addition consisted of a concrete block structural system. The side-gable block of the addition readily visible from Columbia Pike extended eastward from the tower on the northeast corner of the church (Figures 3-7).⁸⁴ Matching the building (constructed in 1930) and tower (constructed in 1950), the new side-gable addition was faced in stone. As a result, the church appeared as a cohesive building from the street. Elements distinguishing the new construction from

⁷⁵ Building Subcommittee, "Report on Church Building, Arlington Presbyterian Church," January 1951, Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

⁷⁶ Reverend Wolf vacated the position to become the minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.

⁷⁷ Church histories state that the Little Chapel was purchased by a private owner and moved to 3511 9th Street South. Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

⁷⁸ Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

⁷⁹ Timeline provided by Arlington Presbyterian Church; "Arlington Church Drive Over \$150,000," *Washington Post*, March 7, 1959, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁸⁰ "Arlington Church Drive Over \$150,000," *Washington Post*, March 7, 1959, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁸¹ "Architect Chosen," *The Bridge* 1 No. 6 (1960) 1-3.

⁸² "Seventh-Day Adventists Open Church School," *Washington Post*, September 10, 1960, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

⁸³ "Architect Chosen," *The Bridge* 1 No. 6 (1960) 1-3; Rendering by Joseph Saunders & Associates held at Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

⁸⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Arlington County," Vol. 1 (1936 updated to 1962): 220.

previous building periods included the design of the windows, particularly the number of lights and concrete lintels with keystones and sills.

A larger hipped-roof addition extending to the north of the existing building differentiated itself in form and materials (Figures 10, 38). The concrete block structural system was clad with five-course, American-bond brick veneer and capped with a hipped roof of asphalt shingles. Three gable dormers with a single six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash window pierced both the east and west slopes of the roof. A similar single larger gable dormer with a ribbon of three six-over-six, double-hung wood-sash windows pierced the north slope of the roof. These design elements continue to recall the Colonial Revival period, but are distinguishable from yet complementary to the older sections of the church.

Dedication of the new Christian Education and Activities building and remodeled sanctuary occurred on April 29, 1962 (Figure 38). The delay resulted from the completion of the remodeling to the chancel. Guests for the dedication included: Reverend Walter W. Wolf of Cincinnati, Ohio (former pastor); Dr. Arthur M. Romig, Clerk and General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Washington City; and Reverend Robert McKibben, Director of Christian Education for the Synod of Baltimore.⁸⁵

The dedication pamphlet provided the following information:

The Church building is in excellent condition. The Christian Education and Activities Extension is "brand new," and the oldest portions have been recently renovated throughout.... New sanctuary carpeting in rich cardinal blends with Spanish Red dossal hanging of the chancel, the pale-pink wall treatment, and the pink brocade hangings of the Chapel. The Celtic Cross and the Communion table are the focal center of Worship in the Sanctuary.

The Education and Activities Extension ties in architecturally with the Worship Center. The exterior is brick, that complements the field stone of the Church proper. The Extension combines functional efficiency with appropriate décor. A suite of three administrative offices is located conveniently near a main entrance. There are sixteen activity rooms serving multiple purposes. They include conventional class rooms, library, nursery, and lounges. The Westminster Lounge, a cozy parlor off the Chapel, serves also as a Bride's Room; and the larger Geneva Lounge serves groups up to 50 to 75. All rooms are tastefully and functionally furnished, including reproductions of religious paintings by old masters.⁸⁶

Shortly after the completion of the Education and Activities Extension, membership of the school and church started to precipitously decline.⁸⁷ Between 1961 and 1980, membership declined from 869 to 292, a decrease of 66 percent.⁸⁸ While membership decreased, the church continued to provide services to the community and have many accomplishments. In 1969, Arlington Presbyterian Church was occupied by Arlington Adult Development Center, an organization assisting adults with severe disabilities; the organization remained at Arlington Presbyterian Church until 1986. The following year, in 1970, the highly successful clothing bank was named in

⁸⁵ The Bridge "Dedication Day," *The Bridge* 3 No.5, (April 25, 1962): 1.

⁸⁶ Arlington Presbyterian Church, "Service of Dedication," 1962, Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

⁸⁷ Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

⁸⁸ Timeline provided by Arlington Presbyterian Church.

honor of Ronda Gilliam, who was instrumental in starting the campaign earlier the same year. After Arlington Adult Development Center vacated the building, Fun Shine Preschool started to offer weekday daycare in 1984.⁸⁹ The church has continued its notable charitable services and outreach with the community.

Other minor alterations have occurred at Arlington Presbyterian Church. In 1968, the older sections of the church (1931 and 1950) were re-roofed. The church, who owns close to one-and-one-quarter acres of land, constructed an 18,500-square foot parking lot to the west of the building in 1974. The same year, Arlington Presbyterian Church remodeled the Chancel in memory of Larry Gates. The congregation hired local contractor Jim Dixon and completed the following improvements:

Moving the organ to the front and center of the Chancel, lowering it approximately 18 inches in the floor, building 2 steps down to it, a trap door covering the steps, and a trap door to the back of the organ. After the organ is lowered it will be about 3 inches higher than the modesty rail which is already in place. There will be three-level risers built providing a total of 16 inches in height. Room will be provided on the risers for the candle-holders and flower stands. Pews will be arranged on the risers for seating. An aisle about 15 inches wide will be left in the center behind the organ, to the flower stand below the cross. A carpet will cover the risers.⁹⁰

In 1984, Fun Shine Preschool moved into the education wing. Arlington Presbyterian Church provided equipment and fenced the rear yard at this time. Today, in addition to religious services at the church, the Fun Shine Preschool continues to be housed in the Education and Activities Building.

Select Congregants Who Significantly Contributed to the Development of Arlington County

Arlington Presbyterian Church is associated with individuals who made significant contributions to Arlington County. Many of the congregants, including but not limited to the Munson, Corbett, De Lashmutt, Gray, and Handy families, were prominent members of Arlington County and the Presbyterian faith. Many of the congregants resided on Columbia Pike and desired a congregation in closer proximity to their dwellings. Active in the church as deacons, trustees, and elders, members of these notable families dedicated themselves to the success of Arlington Presbyterian Church and the surrounding community, thereby positively contributing to the overall development of the local neighborhood and greater region. These founders were civic minded individuals who assisted in the development of the County, including but not limited to: the removal of illicit gambling, improvement of public roads, advancement of education, and establishment of the County's public health services. Later congregants, such as Ronda Gilliam, played a critical role in the breakdown of segregation and the establishment of one of the longest running clothing banks in Arlington County. In addition to the congregants, the original architect of the building, Adolph Thelander, was involved with the development of Arlington County's built environment in the 1930s. Research conducted to date suggests that Arlington Presbyterian Church was Thelander's only religious building erected in Arlington.

As these congregants lack commemoration outside of Arlington Presbyterian Church, the church building may be viewed as a link between the current congregants and the community's individual

⁸⁹ Timeline provided by Arlington Presbyterian Church.

⁹⁰ "A New Look Upfront" *The Bridge* XIV, No. 15 (September 30, 1974).

and collective memory. In this light, Arlington Presbyterian Church serves as a social and cultural marker of Alcoa Heights amid the rapid changes to the community over the last 75 years, and is still recognized for its neighborhood and charitable services.⁹¹

For these reasons, Arlington Presbyterian Church serves as a commemorative reminder of the individuals who made the establishment and success of this church possible. Moreover, these members of the church cited in this report do not have individual historic properties to commemorate their service. Collectively, however, Arlington Presbyterian Church is a reflection of their success and their service to the advancement and development of Arlington County.

Selected Important Persons

Miles Cleveland Munson and Kate Virginia Munson

Miles C. Munson was born in Leicester County, New York, on January 21, 1831.⁹² Munson's parents, Timothy B. and Nancy Munson, moved the family to Fairfax County, Virginia, to a property known as Munson's Hill (ca. 1852) and established a successful nursery.⁹³ Miles C. Munson became an agent of an insurance company, a position he held from 1854 to 1861.⁹⁴ In 1857, Miles C. Munson married Kate Munson (nee Newton).⁹⁵ The couple had two sons, Reginald and Charles, and four daughters, Virginia, Lillian, Anna, and Catherine.⁹⁶ The daughters married into affluent Alexandria County families, including Dr. H.C. Corbett, Kinley McMillan, T.J. De Lashmutt, and W. W. Middleton. During the Civil War, he lived in Washington, D.C. and was employed with the Sixth Auditor's Office of the Treasury Department. At the end of the war, he returned to Alexandria County.⁹⁷ He remained employed by the Federal government for 47 years.⁹⁸

Miles and Kate Munson were instrumental in the establishment of both the First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria County (later renamed Ballston Presbyterian Church) and Arlington Presbyterian Church. In 1889, Miles Munson (Kate V. Munson is listed as a complainant) led a civil suit on behalf of the First Presbyterian Church congregation to acquire the title of two acres conveyed to the congregation.⁹⁹ In 1905, the Munsons established a Sunday school for children at their home on Columbia Pike, thereby moving towards the goal of starting a new congregation on the thoroughfare.¹⁰⁰ The Munsons remained active members of Arlington Presbyterian Church; Miles Munson served as an elder within the Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years.¹⁰¹

⁹¹ Diane Bathel, *Historic Preservation: Collective Memory and Historic Identity* (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1996), 103-105.

⁹² "Miles C. Munson Dead," *Evening Star*, February 9, 1914, NewsBank.

⁹³ Victorian Society at Falls Church, "Images of America: Victorian Falls Church," (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2007), 2007.

⁹⁴ Mryon Andrews Munson, *The Munson Record* Vol. 1 (New Haven, Connecticut: Munson Association, 1896), 617.

⁹⁵ While less information is available regarding the life and accomplishments of Kate Munson, she is recognized as one of the founding members of the church. Flora Myers Gillentine, *Lineage Book: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, Vol. CXIV (Washington, D.C.: Judd & Detweiler, Inc., 1930), 53.

⁹⁶ "Miles C. Munson Dead," *Evening Star*, February 9, 1914, NewsBank.

⁹⁷ Mryon Andrews Munson, *The Munson Record* Vol. 1 (New Haven, Connecticut: Munson Association, 1896), 617.

⁹⁸ "Miles C. Munson Dead," *Evening Star*, February 9, 1914, NewsBank.

⁹⁹ "Legal," *Alexandria Gazette*, May 14, 1889, Chronicling America.

¹⁰⁰ Munson's 28.37-acre property was located on the north side of Columbia Pike near its present day intersection with South Walter Reed Drive. Howell and Taylor, "Map of Alexandria County Virginia for the

In addition to his dedication in the establishment of Arlington Presbyterian Church, Miles Munson was active in local affairs and politics. Munson was employed at the Sixth Auditor's Office, Post Office Department, for forty-seven years. He was appointed treasurer and served on the Board of Directors for the Arlington Turnpike Company (who had controlling interest in Columbia Pike).¹⁰² Part of a three-member Committee of Resolution for Alexandria County citizens, Munson drafted resolutions denouncing gambling in the County and noted the dereliction of County officials for not prosecuting cases.¹⁰³ Affiliated with the Republican Party, he held local meetings at his residence. For example, he denounced the administration of George H. Rucker, clerk of Alexandria County, and argued against the taxation of assessments.¹⁰⁴

Miles Munson remained a member of Arlington Presbyterian Church and resided at his home on Columbia Pike until his death on February 7, 1914. Kate Munson died in 1921. Both are buried at Oakwood Cemetery in Falls Church, Virginia.¹⁰⁵

Henry Clay Corbett and Kate Virginia Corbett

Henry Clay Corbett, the son of Sewell B. and Jane Ann Corbett (nee Watrous), was born on November 4, 1858.¹⁰⁶ Attracted by the proximity to the nation's capital and the prospect of increasing land values, the couple moved from New York to Virginia in 1849 and started to purchase large parcels of land along Columbia Pike.¹⁰⁷ Sewell Corbett's success led to the settlement of his relatives, who became influential in the development of the County.¹⁰⁸ The 1860 United States Federal Census lists the Corbetts as farmers residing in Virginia with their six children: Emma (21), Charles (18), George (12), Bertha (10), Frederick (5), and Henry C. (2). Henry Clay, the Corbett's youngest surviving son, entered Columbia University Medical School. Corbett graduated as part of the sixty-first class of the university on March 16, 1883, and remained in practice in Arlington County.¹⁰⁹ The following year, he married Virginia Munson, the daughter of Miles C. and Kate Virginia Munson.¹¹⁰ Virginia Munson was born in Fairfax County, Virginia, on February 26, 1861. In 1892, the Corbetts completed their dwelling located on Columbia Pike, directly across from the first Arlington Presbyterian Church. The couple had three children, including Samuel, Ruth, and Lilian Munson.¹¹¹ Virginia Corbett died on September 12, 1937;

Virginia Title Co.," (Washington, D.C.: Howell and Taylor, 1900), Library of Congress, Geography Division.

¹⁰¹ "Miles C. Munson Dead," *Evening Star*, February 9, 1914, NewsBank

¹⁰² "Arlington Turnpike Case: Annual Meeting and Election of Officers," *National Republican*, July 29, 1875, *Chronicling America*; "Arlington Turnpike Company," *National Republican*, July 27, 1877, *Chronicling America*.

¹⁰³ "For Law and Order: Alexandria County Citizens Hold a Mass Meeting," *Evening Star*, February 22, 1887, *Chronicling America*.

¹⁰⁴ "Denounce Tax System," *Washington Herald*, September 20, 1911, *Chronicling America*.

¹⁰⁵ "Miles C. Munson Dead," *Evening Star*, February 9, 1914, NewsBank; "Miles Munson," <http://www.billiongraves.com> (accessed January 10, 2014).

¹⁰⁶ "Henry Clay Corbett," 1860 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed December 27, 2013); Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Arlington Heritage, Vignettes of a Virginia County* (United States: Avenel Books, 1959), 82.

¹⁰⁷ The 1850 United States Federal Census estimates the value of their real estate at \$5,640. "Sewell B Corbett," 1850 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com>. Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Arlington Heritage, Vignettes of a Virginia County* (United States: Avenel Books, 1959), 82.

¹⁰⁸ Frank E. Corbett subdivided the 162-acre Cedar Hill Farm. Originally named Corbett, the neighborhood later became Barcroft. Mildred Handy Ritchie, "Barcroft, Arlington County, Virginia: A Village Metamorphosis," *Arlington Historical Magazine* 6 (1980) 26.

¹⁰⁹ "Columbian Medical Graduates," *Washington Post*, March 16, 1883, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹¹⁰ "Henry C. Corbett," 1900 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com>.

¹¹¹ For more information, see United States Federal Census records between 1900 and 1930.

services were held at Arlington Presbyterian Church.¹¹² Dr. H. C. Corbett continued to practice medicine for another ten years before retiring. He died on October 7, 1955; his funeral services also were held at Arlington Presbyterian Church.

Born and raised in Alexandria County, Dr. H. C. Corbett was an influential resident due to his lineage, occupation, and community activity. For a period of twenty years, likely shortly after his completion of medical school, he was the only practicing physician in the County.¹¹³ In 1888, Dr. H.C. Corbett “has lately built and fitted up a handsome office on Columbia Turnpike, near Arlington Post Office.”¹¹⁴ In an interview, he recalled “how [I] pushed through 10-foot-snow-banks with [my] instruments in saddlebags to deliver squalling infants on ironing tables.”¹¹⁵ Dr. H.C. Corbett was a pioneer in the development of the County’s public health services, assisting in the establishment of Alexandria County’s Board of Health.¹¹⁶ The board was responsible for the containment and control of diseases and improvement of sanitation, investigating potential outbreaks of small pox and other such contagions.¹¹⁷ In addition to his medical activity, he had other financial ventures and served on numerous commissions and boards. He was President of the Arlington Lumber Company, Inc., located in Rosslyn, and Superintendent of the Falls Church Electric Railway.¹¹⁸ As President of Arlington Civic Association, he lobbied for new schools, improved roads, and other community benefits.¹¹⁹ He served on Alexandria County’s Board of Trade, and was on Committees for Transportation and Entertainment.¹²⁰ Dr. H.C. Corbett was a member of the freemasons, Columbia Lodge No. 285, and the Excelsior Lodge, No. 4.¹²¹ As part of Arlington County’s centennial celebration (100 years since Arlington was returned to Virginia by the District of Columbia) in 1946, Dr. H.C. Corbett was recognized as one of eleven “old timers” who were a part of the County’s incredible growth.¹²²

Dr. Corbett and Virginia Corbett were invested in the establishment and development of the Presbyterian Church in Arlington County. In 1895, Corbett assisted in the establishment of the First Presbyterian Church of Ballston, Virginia, where he served as a deacon.¹²³ Along with Miles C.

¹¹² “Mrs. Corbett Expires at 76 at Virginia Home,” *Washington Post*, September 12, 1937, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹¹³ “Old-Timers Are Honored in Arlington,” *Washington Post*, September 1, 1946, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹¹⁴ “County Items,” *Alexandria Gazette*, August 8, 1888, Chronicling America.

¹¹⁵ “Dr. Corbett; Early County Health Aide,” *Washington Post*, October 8, 1955, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹¹⁶ “Dr. Corbett; Early County Health Aide,” *Washington Post*, October 8, 1955, Proquest Historical Newspapers; Nan and Ross Netherton, *Arlington County in Virginia: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, Virginia: Donning Company, 1987, 135; R.L. Polk & Co., *Polk’s Medical Register and Directory of North America* (New York: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, 1915), 1691.

¹¹⁷ “Changes Sought in Alexandria County,” *Washington Times*, January 30, 1914, Chronicling America.

¹¹⁸ State Corporation Commission, *Fifth Annual Report of the State Corporation Commission of Virginia for the Year Ending December 31, 1907* (Richmond, Virginia: Davis Bottom, 1908), 434; “Latest News from the Border of Virginia,” *Washington Times*, April 24, 1904, Chronicling America.

¹¹⁹ “Arlington County Citizens Society Reelects Corbett,” *Washington Post*, April 30, 1925, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹²⁰ Evening Star, “To Benefit Schools,” *Evening Star*, September 1, 1906, Chronicling America; “Fight Broad Tire Bill,” *Washington Herald*, February 3, 1907, Chronicling America.

¹²¹ “Excelsior Lodge No. 4,” *National Republican*, May 6, 1876, Chronicling America; “Died: Corbett, Henry Clay,” *Washington Post*, October 10, 1955, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹²² “Old-Timers Are Honored in Arlington,” *Washington Post*, September 1, 1946, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹²³ “County Items,” *Alexandria Gazette*, July 6, 1895, Chronicling America.

Munson and Mary F. Young (later Gray), Corbett proceeded to have an instrumental role in the development of Arlington Presbyterian Church. He is listed as one of the first trustees of the church and later elected a church elder. Outside of the Arlington Presbyterian Church, Corbett was an active religious leader, serving as President of Sunday School Workers of Alexandria County.¹²⁴ While little information is known regarding Virginia Corbett's contributions to the congregation, her obituary noted that she was a highly active member of the church.¹²⁵

Bessie Allender

Recognized as a founder of Arlington Presbyterian Church in church histories, Bessie Allender was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 23, 1877. She was the daughter of John and Jennie Allender.¹²⁶ John Allender, a farmer, moved his family to Arlington County and became reverend of Arlington Methodist Church in the late-1890s.¹²⁷ The 1900 United States Federal Census listed Bessie Allender as a seamstress. After the death of her father in 1903, she assisted in the establishment of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The 1910 United States Federal Census listed her owning her own residence. Enoch F. Burner (a fellow founder of Arlington Presbyterian Church) resided at the residence as well. Between 1910 and 1920, Allender left Arlington County and moved to Montgomery County, Maryland, where she lived until her death in 1932.¹²⁸

Mary F. Gray

Mary F. Bailey, also known as Mamie Bailey, was born in August of 1863.¹²⁹ She was the daughter of Harvey and Sarah Elizabeth Bailey of Bailey's Crossroads. Mary F. Bailey married William N. Young on December 11, 1884.¹³⁰ The Youngs owned a 142.75-acre farm on the north side of Columbia Pike encompassing the majority of present-day Alcova Heights.¹³¹ In 1902, William N. Young had died and his will probated. Mary F. Young received a portion of his estate.¹³² Mary F. Young married Thomas R. Gray in 1908.¹³³ Gray had been the overseer of her husband's property.¹³⁴ Mary F. Gray died on December 23, 1932.¹³⁵

Mary F. Young was elected as Vice-President of the Presbyterian Church Club, an auxiliary association of Ballston Presbyterian Church (First Presbyterian Church of Alexandria County), in order to discuss needed improvements to the congregation's properties in 1904.¹³⁶ In 1905 and 1909, Mary Young/Gray conveyed land to the trustees of Arlington Presbyterian Church to provide

¹²⁴ "Church Workers Attend Meeting," *Washington Times*, October 13, 1907, Chronicling America.

¹²⁵ "Mrs. Corbett Expires at 76 at Virginia Home," *Washington Post*, September 12, 1937, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹²⁶ "Bessie Allender," 1910 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com>.

¹²⁷ "A Good Man Gone," *Barcroft News*, October 26, 1903, <http://www.bscl.org> (accessed December 20, 2013).

¹²⁸ "Bessie W. Allender," Find A Grave Index, <http://www.ancestry.com>.

¹²⁹ "Mamy F. Gray," 1910 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com>.

¹³⁰ "Society," *Evening Star*, December 12, 1884, NewsBank.

¹³¹ Howell and Taylor, "Map of Alexandria County Virginia for the Virginia Title Co.," (Washington, D.C.: Howell and Taylor, 1900), Library of Congress, Geography Division.

¹³² Arlington County Deed Records, "Mary F. Young (Gray) et al to Arlington Presbyterian Church," June 17, 1909, Liber 120, Folio 583-584.

¹³³ "Marriage Licenses," *Evening Star*, November 12, 1908, Newsbank.

¹³⁴ Eleanor Lee Templeman, *Arlington Heritage: Vignettes of a Virginia County* (New York: Avenel Books, 1960), 88.

¹³⁵ "Gray, Mary Frances," *Evening Star*, December 25, 1932, Newsbank.

¹³⁶ "Church Club Formed," *Evening Star*, May 23, 1904, Newsbank.

the location for a church and later a manse.¹³⁷ Thereby, she became one of the most critical individuals in regards to the establishment of the congregation and the creation of an additional place of worship in this section of the County.

Walter Ker Handy, Grace K. Handy, and Ethel Handy

Born on October 14, 1876, in Richmond, Virginia, Walter Ker Handy was the child of Major Frederick A. and Leila C. Handy. He graduated from the Bliss Electrical School, studied electrical engineering at George Washington University, and business at Rittenhouse Academy. In 1903, at 27 years old, he gained employment at the Potomac Electric Power Company, Washington, D.C., where he worked until retirement. Five years later, in 1908, Walter Handy married Grace Brightwell Kerfoot. Grace Kerfoot was born in Berryville, Virginia, but raised in Herndon, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. Shortly after the couple's marriage, the Handys moved to Arlington County, Virginia, and had three children, Mildred Lelia, Walter Ker, Jr., and Anne Elizabeth. Grace Handy died on February 18, 1924. Walter Handy later married Ethel Morrison in 1933. Born on September 2, 1884, Ethel Morrison was the daughter of Reverend Robert Morrison of Fulton, Missouri. The couple remained married until her death in 1957. Walter Handy died ten years later on April 9, 1967.¹³⁸

After moving to Barcroft, Arlington County, Virginia, in 1908, Grace and Walter Handy became members of Arlington Presbyterian Church. Church histories recognize the Handys' involvement as crucial to the formation and success of the burgeoning congregation. Elected a church elder in 1914, Walter Handy taught Bible classes and was Arlington Presbyterian Church's Sunday School Superintendent. He remained in this position for more than 40 years. Progressively minded, Handy supported a rejected appeal to establish women as pastors and ruling elders by the Washington City Presbytery.¹³⁹ In 1972, the Crossroads Bible Class and Arlington Presbyterian Church posthumously dedicated "The Walter K. Handy Memorial Chapel" in his memory.¹⁴⁰

Outside of Arlington Presbyterian Church, Walter Handy remained active in Arlington County and the region's religious organizations. His accomplishments included: 1) lay preacher at several Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. churches; 2) organizer and elected Superintendent of the Religious Education of Arlington County Sunday School Association; 3) President of Religious Education Group; 4) Chairman of Washington Federation of Churches; and 5) served on the Executive Committee of the Virginia Council of Churches.¹⁴¹

¹³⁷ "Mary E. (Young) Gray et al to Arlington Presbyterian Church," June 17, 1909, Liber 120, Folio 583-584, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division; Arlington County Deed Records, "Mary E. Young to T.J. De Lashmutt, et al," July 12, 1905, Liber 111, Folio 465-466, Arlington County Court House, Land Records Division.

¹³⁸ Isaac W.K. Handy, "Walter Ker Handy (1876-1967)," in *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and the Kindred* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan, 1992), 663-665; "Wal[t]er K. Handy, Executive at Pepco," *Washington Post*, April 11, 1967, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹³⁹ "Women as Pastors Refused by Church," *Washington Post*, February 11, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁴⁰ The bronze plaque remains in the church.

¹⁴¹ Isaac W.K. Handy, "Walter Ker Handy (1876-1967)," in *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and the Kindred* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan, 1992), 663-665; "Arlington County Elects President of Sunday Schools," *Washington Post*, September 13, 1926, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "Arlington County Elects President of Sunday Schools," *Washington Post*, September 13, 1926, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "Arlington-Fairfax Council is Formed," *Washington Post*, October 13, 1931, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

Other than his religious activities, Walter Handy was a key political and social figure in Arlington County. The Handys established and were charter members of the Barcroft School and Civic League. He was elected the league's first chairman in 1909 and later made an honorary life-time member.¹⁴² In the 1920s, Handy put forth a road improvement program approved by Arlington County's Good Roads Commission. This initiative called for 20 miles of new road within the County, including the paving of the last section of Columbia Pike (western section 1-mile from County line).¹⁴³ Handy also served on the Arlington County Chamber of Commerce.¹⁴⁴

Handy was the founder and first president of the Washington Society for the Blind, Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director of the National Society of the Blind, and a member of the board of directors of the National Library for the Blind.¹⁴⁵ In this capacity, he lobbied Congress and played a role in the passage of the 1936 Randolph-Sheppard Act. The act provided blind persons with remunerative employment, increased economic opportunities, and encouraged economic sufficiency by means of operating vending machines in Federal buildings.¹⁴⁶ His other appointments and memberships included serving as the President of the Lions Club of Washington, D.C., and Master of Potomac Lodge No. 5, Free Masons, Washington, D.C.¹⁴⁷

In 1931, Ethel Handy (nee Morrison), the daughter of a reverend, attended Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, and attended Presbyterian Assembly's Training School, Richmond, Virginia. She dedicated herself to the study of the Bible in multiple languages and taught for a number of years in numerous states. In 1931, she moved to Arlington County, Virginia, to fulfill the position of Religious Education Teacher for Arlington and Fairfax counties. After her marriage to Walter Handy, she joined Arlington Presbyterian Church where she taught Sunday School, managed the Vacation Bible School, and formed a weekly pray group at her home.¹⁴⁸ Known for her interdenominational work, she was the founder and first president of the Arlington County Council of Church Women in 1944.¹⁴⁹ Ethel Handy later became an honorary member of the Board of National Mission of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.¹⁵⁰ In 1958, Arlington Presbyterian Church's Women's Organization raised money to posthumously dedicate a prayer room in Arlington Hospital to her.

¹⁴² "Barcroft Citizens Unite," *Washington Post*, July 31, 1909, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁴³ "Arlington District to get New Roads in Building Program," *Washington Post*, September 7, 1924, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁴⁴ "Arlington County Chamber to Elect," *Washington Post*, February 10, 1929, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁴⁵ Handy's older sister, Gertrude, was born blind. Isaac W.K. Handy, "Walter Ker Handy (1876-1967)," in *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and the Kindred* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan, 1992), 663-665.

¹⁴⁶ U.S. Department of Education, "Randolph Shepard Vending Facility Program," *U.S. Department of Education*, <http://www.ed.gov> (accessed December 23, 2013).

¹⁴⁷ Isaac W.K. Handy, "Walter Ker Handy (1876-1967)," in *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and the Kindred* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan, 1992), 663-665; "Handy Installed Lions Club Head," *Washington Post*, June 3, 1937, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁴⁸ Isaac W.K. Handy, "Walter Ker Handy (1876-1967)," in *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and the Kindred* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan, 1992), 663-665.

¹⁴⁹ "Churchwomen Elects Mrs. Handy to Presidency," *Washington Post*, April 13, 1944, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁵⁰ Isaac W.K. Handy, "Walter Ker Handy (1876-1967)," in *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and the Kindred* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan, 1992), 663-665.

Ronda Allen Gilliam

Ronda Allen Gilliam was born on March 31, 1906, in Shoals Township, Surry County, North Carolina. He was the son of Anthony S. and Cora Nora Victoria Gilliam (nee Jarvis) who operated and later owned a farm.¹⁵¹ He was raised in Shoals County and attended school at Tuskegee Institute. The 1920 United States Federal Census listed Ronda Gilliam as working on the family farm.¹⁵² In 1930, he had moved with his brother to Guilford, Greensboro, North Carolina, where he was employed as a waiter at a hotel.¹⁵³ Gilliam moved to Washington, D.C. and gained employment at the National Archives in 1936.¹⁵⁴ Six years later, in 1942, he enlisted in the United States Army at Fort Myer, Virginia.¹⁵⁵ After World War II, he received a bachelor's degree from Allen University, in South Carolina in 1947, and then attended Catholic University of America for postgraduate studies. As a result of his education, the National Archives appointed him supervisor of the Historical Archives Section. He retired from government service in 1957 and remained in Arlington County, Virginia, until he died at the Veterans Administration Hospital in 1970.

In the 1950s, Ronda Gilliam was a member of the 15th Street Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C. for seven years. During this period, he served on the church's Board of Trustees.¹⁵⁶ In 1960, he became the first African American member of Arlington Presbyterian Church. While the Presbyterian Church called for desegregation as part of the national level platform, issues of race continued to contribute to tensions on the local level.¹⁵⁷ Church histories state that his admittance led to heated debate and departure of members due to a portion of the localities' resistance towards desegregation.¹⁵⁸ Only the previous year, on February 2, 1959, Ronald Deskins, Michael Jones, Lance Newman, and Gloria Thompson, had integrated Arlington County's and Virginia's public schools.¹⁵⁹ Gilliam's acceptance at Arlington Presbyterian Church, therefore, represents an important and early step forward in race relations and equality in Arlington County.

At Arlington Presbyterian Church, Gilliam was an active member of the congregation. He attended Sunday School classes, served as an Elder of the Session, and later as Elder Commissioner to Washington City Presbytery. Gilliam's devotion to the community and his charitable nature were exemplified with his work with the Outreach Committee and Food and Clothing for the poor, later renamed the "Ronda A. Gilliam Clothing Bank" in his honor. Other organizations he belonged to included: Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, the Laymen's League of Arlington, the D.C. Friends of Liberia,

¹⁵¹ Anthony S. Gilliam died on March 20, 1910, when Ronda Gilliam was only four years old. "A S Gilliams," North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909-1975, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed December 23, 2013); "Allen R Gilliam," 1910 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed December 23, 2013).

¹⁵² "Ronda A Gilliam," 1920 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed December 23, 2013).

¹⁵³ "A Ronda Gilliam," 1930 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed December 23, 2013).

¹⁵⁴ "Founder of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter Passes," *The Sphinx* 57 No. 1 (Spring 1971): 30.

¹⁵⁵ "Ronda A Gilliam," U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1936-1946, <http://www.ancestry.com> (accessed December 23, 2013).

¹⁵⁶ "Founder of Theta Rho Lambda Chapter Passes," *The Sphinx* 57 No. 1 (Spring 1971): 30.

¹⁵⁷ Bradley J. Longfield, *Presbyterians and American Culture: A History* (Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013), 193-195.

¹⁵⁸ Timeline provided by Arlington Presbyterian Church.

¹⁵⁹ Theresa Vargas, "Back to the Scene of the Color Line," *Washington Post*, February 26, 2009, <http://www.washingtonpost.com> (accessed January 16, 2014).

and the Arlington View Civic Association. He received meritorious recognition from the Arlington View Civic Association, the Boy Scouts of America, and Florida Avenue Baptist Church.¹⁶⁰

Architects of Arlington Presbyterian Church

Adolph F. Thelander, Architect of Arlington Presbyterian Church

Architect of record for Arlington Presbyterian Church, Thelander was the son of John A. and Ida Thelander, and born in Darling, Minnesota, in 1899.¹⁶¹ The Thelanders emigrated from Sweden in 1886 and purchased farmland. Adolph Thelander was one of nine children.¹⁶² He attended and graduated from the University of Minnesota, College of Architecture and Engineering in the early-1920s. Thelander married Edna M. McGroarty in 1922.¹⁶³ In the mid-1920s, Thelander moved to the District of Columbia. Building permit records document his first completed project in the District of Columbia in 1927. The following year, Thelander was listed in the *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* as residing in the District of Columbia for the first time.¹⁶⁴ In 1930, the Thelanders moved to their new house in Country Club Hills, Arlington, Virginia. The couple, however, divorced in 1932.¹⁶⁵ The 1940 United States Federal Census lists Thelander and his new wife, Ellen Agatha Thelander (nee Brown), residing in Falls Church. Due to a lack of subsequent records, Thelander likely left Northern Virginia in the early-1940s. He died in Brevard, Florida, on October 11, 1976.

Thelander primarily worked in Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. In Arlington County, he designed multitudes of single family dwellings, prepared plans for the County's first modern apartment house in Clarendon, and opened his own office which had an aggressive building schedule.¹⁶⁶ In 1931, Thelander stated the following regarding the state of development in Arlington County:

With the rapid completion of the new Arlington Memorial Bridge and work already having started on the construction of the Lee Boulevard there appears nothing that can prevent a big building boom in Arlington County.... The most urgent need in Arlington County today is an adequate county-wide sewerage system and under the new form of county government the officials can do no better thing for the future of the county than to proceed and formulate a plan whereby the county can have an adequate county-wide sewerage system.¹⁶⁷

Thelander was involved with numerous residential developments in Arlington, including Country Club Hills (1930), where he constructed his home.¹⁶⁸ He later designed additions and alterations to the Army and Navy Country Club. When he joined the firm of Shannon & Luchs (primarily based in

¹⁶⁰ "Ronda A. Gilliam, 64, Ex-Archives Official," *Washington Post*, December 22, 1970, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁶¹ "Adolph F. Felender," 1900 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com>.

¹⁶² "Adolph F. Thelander," 1900 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com>.

¹⁶³ "Adolph E. Thelander," 1930 United States Federal Census, <http://www.ancestry.com>.

¹⁶⁴ *Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia* R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers Washington DC 1928, 1603

¹⁶⁵ Adolph Thelander remarried in the 1930s. "Reno Divorce is Sought by Mrs. A.F. Thelander," *Washington Post*, June 18, 1932, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁶⁶ "Supervisors Plan Special Jail Levy," *Washington Post*, April 10, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "Apartment is Started," *Washington Post*, June 12, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁶⁷ "Ceding of Section Opposed by Smith," *Washington Post*, May 6, 1931, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁶⁸ "Home Designed and Owned by Architect," *Washington Post*, May 18, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

the District of Columbia and Maryland) in 1932, Thelander was accredited with designing more than 200 single-family dwellings costing between \$10,000 and \$60,000.¹⁶⁹ In 1939, he joined Merwin Ardeen Mace's development company. Mace was of Arlington County's most prolific builders, responsible for the construction of more than 4,000 homes and 1,000 apartment units in Northern Virginia, including the neighborhood of Dominion Hills. As Vice President of Mace Properties, Inc., Thelander designed the single-family developments at Westmont (1938) and Westover (1938-1939).¹⁷⁰

In addition to his contribution to Arlington's built environment, Thelander served in numerous positions due to his expertise and interest. In the early-1930s, he served on Arlington County's Board of Tax Equalization, School Improvement Association, Building Code Commission, and as the School Board Building Inspector.¹⁷¹ He was the President of the Arlington Rotary Club and Vice President of the Arlington County Bicentennial Council.¹⁷²

While Adolph Thelander had no direct ties to Arlington Presbyterian Church, his first wife, Edna Mundy, had a long connection with the local Presbytery. Edna married her first husband Charles N. McGroarty, Jr., in 1906. His parents, Charles, Sr. and and Evangeline Tweed McGroarty, were active and prominent members of the Falls Church Presbyterian Church.¹⁷³ Edna remained an active member of the church after the death of Charles N. McGroarty, Jr., in 1922 and her marriage to Thelander. This association likely led to Thelander's selection as architect of the Sunday School addition to Falls Church Presbyterian Church in 1928 and selection as trustee the following year.¹⁷⁴ In 1930, the trustees of Arlington Presbyterian Church selected Thelander to design the new church likely due to their knowledge of Thelander's local projects and his association with the Presbytery. Records suggest that Arlington Presbyterian Church is Thelander's sole religious building in Arlington County.¹⁷⁵

McLeod and Ferrara, Designed 1950 Alterations to Arlington Presbyterian Church

Organized in Washington, D.C, in 1946, the firm of McLeod and Ferrara specialized in religious and educational buildings. The architects designed more than 100 school buildings in the United States. Notable non-religious works included: 1) Halie Selassie University Kennedy Memorial Library, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; 2) United States Embassy, Brasilia 3) George Mason Jr.-Sr. High School, Falls Church, Virginia; 4) Salem Avenue Elementary School and Hagerstown High School, Hagerstown, Maryland; 5) Bethesda Jr. High School, Bethesda, Maryland; 6) Tuckahoe Elementary School, Arlington, Virginia; and 7) Abingdon Elementary School, Arlington, Virginia.

¹⁶⁹ "Thelander Joins Shannon & Luchs," *Washington Post*, October 22, 1932, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "Shannon and Luchs to Combine Units," *Washington Post*, October 23, 1932, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁷⁰ "Low Costs and New Products: An Experiment in Steel, Concrete, and Heat," *Architectural Forum* 71 (November 1939): 403-405; "Mace Receives FHA Commitment," *Washington Post*, April 9, 1939, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁷¹ "Supervisors Plan Special Jail Levy," *Washington Post*, April 10, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "Arlington Supervisors Hold Up Bills of Board of Tax Equalization," *Washington Post*, August 31, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "Arlington County Tax Board," *Washington Post*, August 5, 1930, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁷² "1932 Celebration Council Formed," *Washington Post*, May 21, 1929, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁷³ Ella C. Belz, *Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 1873-1973* (1976), 100.

¹⁷⁴ Ella C. Belz, *Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 1873-1973* (1976), 94. "Suburban News," *Evening Star*, May 21, 1929, Newsbank.

¹⁷⁵ Newspaper research on Chronicling America, Newsbank, and Proquest Historical Newspapers failed to uncover any other church buildings designed by Thelander in Arlington or Northern Virginia.

Religious buildings completed by McLeod and Ferrara included: 1) McGuire Air Force Base Chapel, New Jersey; 2) Dover Air Force Base Chapel, Delaware 3) St. Peters Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C.; 4) Greenbelt Community Church, Greenbelt, Maryland; 5) Christian Community Presbyterian Church, Bowie, Maryland; 6) McLean Baptist Church, McLean, Virginia; 7) Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, Takoma Park, Maryland; 8) Baptist Church of Wheaton, Wheaton, Maryland; 9) Northminster Presbyterian Church, Washington, D.C.; 10) Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C.; and 11) First Presbyterian Church, Arlington, Virginia.¹⁷⁶ McLeod and Ferrara simultaneously designed the new First (Ballston) Presbyterian Church and the renovations to Arlington Presbyterian Church in the late-1940s.¹⁷⁷

Anthony B. Ferrara

Anthony Ferrara was born in Italy on August 8, 1903.¹⁷⁸ The Ferrara family immigrated to the United States and lived in New Jersey. Ferrara studied at the Pratt Institute (Brooklyn, New York) from 1923-1925, Columbia University (New York, New York) from 1926-1927, and Beaux Arts Institute of Design (New York, New York) from 1928-1929.¹⁷⁹ Ferrara served as an architectural draftsman for Guilbert & Betelle (Newark, New Jersey) from 1927-1930, an architect for the Board of Education (Newark, New Jersey) from 1930 to 1931, held a number of positions of short duration from 1931 to 1935, and was an associate architect for C. Godfrey Poggi (Elizabeth, New Jersey) from 1935 to 1937. In partnership with John Wishart McLeod, Ferrara established the firm McLeod and Ferrara, in Elizabeth, New Jersey. The firm remained in practice from 1938 to 1941 when both McLeod and Ferrara moved to Takoma Park, Maryland. The two architects joined the Office of the Architect for the Pentagon Building (Washington, D.C.) from 1941 to 1943, and then gained employment with the War Production Board (Washington, D.C.) from 1943-1945.

At the end of World War II, McLeod and Ferrara reestablished their own firm under the name McLeod and Ferrara, Architects, Washington, D.C.¹⁸⁰ Ferrara and McLeod specialized in school and religious design. Ferrara, however, focused on the design of religious architecture. He authored the article "A Guide for Planning the Presbyterian Church."¹⁸¹ In this article, Ferrara detailed the basic tenets of the religion and the design requirements and considerations when planning a Presbyterian church, including the design of associated religious education buildings.¹⁸² The architecture firm was later renamed McLeod, Ferrara & Ensign. Ferrara remained with the firm until it closed in the mid-1980s. In addition to writing a number of scholarly publications, he was a

¹⁷⁶ "McLean Baptist Church Started in 1906," *Evening Star*, October 21, 1950, NewsBank; "Church Will Dedicate Building Today," *Evening Star*, August 5, 1950, NewsBank; "Takoma Park Presbyterian Church to Lay Cornerstone," *Evening Star*, June 24, 1950, NewsBank; "Church Unit Dedicated," *Washington Post*, March 21, 1955, Proquest historical Newspapers; "Presbyterian Church Holds Ground Breaking on Sunday," *Washington Post*, April 24, 1954, Proquest Historical Newspapers; "A Healthy State of Architecture," *Washington Post*, May 9, 1959, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁷⁷ "New First Presbyterian Church is Proposed for Arlington; Ground Will Be Broken for the First Unit This Spring," *Evening Star*, March 27, 1948, NewsBank.

¹⁷⁸ American Institute of Architects, "Application for Membership, Anthony Ferrara," Application No. 367, September 18, 1945, 2.

¹⁷⁹ American Institute of Architects, *American Architects Directory* (New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1970), 272.

¹⁸⁰ American Institute of Architects, "Application for Membership, John Wishart McLeod," Application No. 368, August 22, 1945, 2.

¹⁸¹ Anthony Ferrara, "A Guide for Planning the Presbyterian Church," *AIA Journal* 39 No. 4 (April 1963): 95-99.

¹⁸² Anthony Ferrara, "A Guide for Planning the Presbyterian Church," *AIA Journal* 39 No. 4 (April 1963): 98-99.

member of the American Institute of Architects, Recording Secretary of the Church Architectural Guild, and Member of the Washington Building Congress. He died on March 21, 1993.¹⁸³

John Wishart McLeod

John Wishart McLeod was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on March 24, 1908. He completed a year of high school in Newcastle, England, before immigrating to Elizabeth, New Jersey, in 1923. McLeod studied at the Beaux Arts Institute of Design (New York, New York) from 1927 to 1930, New York University (New York, New York) from 1931 to 1932, Columbia University (New York, New York) from 1932 to 1933, and returned to complete his studies at New York University from 1933 to 1934.¹⁸⁴ He served as Chief Draftsman for C. Godfrey Poggi (Elizabeth, New Jersey) between 1930 and 1940.

In coordination with Anthony Ferrara, McLeod established the firm McLeod and Ferrara, in Elizabeth, New Jersey in 1938. The firm closed in 1941 when the architects left for Takoma Park, Maryland. McLeod and Ferrara joined the Office of the Architect for the Pentagon Building (Washington, D.C.) from 1941 to 1943, and then gained employment with the War Production Board (Washington, D.C.) from 1943-1945. During the design phase of the Pentagon, McLeod prepared many of the exterior and interior renderings for both study purposes and public use.

At the end of World War II, McLeod and Ferrara reestablished their firm under the name McLeod and Ferrara, Architects, Washington, D.C.¹⁸⁵ The firm specialized in school and religious design. McLeod focused on the designs of school buildings, writing over ten publications (books and articles) focusing on the subject. Over the course of his career, he served on many committees and boards, including but not limited to: 1) member of the US Delegation to UNESCO International Conferences on school building programs; 2) president of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter, American Institute of Architects; 3) chairman of National Committee on School Buildings; 4) Montgomery County Board of Education Architects' Advisory Committee; 5) co-chairman of Office of Civil Defense Advisory Committee on the design and construction of public fallout shelters; and 6) member of the National Council on Schoolhouse Construction. McLeod retired from the firm in 1977. He died on January 23, 1997.¹⁸⁶

Joseph Saunders and Associates. Completed 1961 School Addition to Arlington Presbyterian Church

Joseph Henry Saunders was born in Richmond, Virginia, on September 11, 1914, and raised in Newport News, Virginia. He first studied architecture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1934. He then proceeded to attend Harvard University where he obtained his Master of Science degree. Between 1937 and 1941, Saunders became involved with several Virginia firms, including serving as a draftsman for William, Collie & Pipino (Newport News, Virginia), Basketville & Son (Richmond, Virginia), and Milton L. Grigg (Charlottesville, Virginia). He

¹⁸³ For more information on the life and works of Ferrara see, "Anthony B. Ferrara," *Washington Post*, March 23, 1993, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

¹⁸⁴ American Institute of Architects, "Nomination for Fellowship, John Wishart McLeod," Application No. 743, October 12, 1959, 2.

¹⁸⁵ American Institute of Architects, "Application for Membership, John Wishart McLeod," Application No. 368, August 22, 1945, 2.

¹⁸⁶ American Institute of Architects, "Nomination for Fellowship, John Wishart McLeod," Application No. 743, October 12, 1959, 2-6. "Obituary: McLeod, John Wishart," *Washington Post*, February 2, 1997, Proquest Historical Newspapers.

also worked for Gropius & Breur (Cambridge, Massachusetts) and Burge & Stevens (Atlanta, Georgia).¹⁸⁷

In 1942, Saunders established his own architectural practice in Alexandria, Virginia. Saunders and his firm were responsible for the design of several building types, including churches, offices, shopping centers, schools, motels, single-family dwellings, and public housing. A sample of projects include: 1) James Bland Homes, Alexandria, Virginia; 2) Samuel Madden Homes, Alexandria, Virginia; 3) Church of St. Clement, Alexandria, Virginia; 4) Piedmont Sanatorium, Burkeville, Virginia; 5) Catawba Sanatorium, Roanoke, Virginia; and 6) Office Building, 3801 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Saunders also prepared the original master plan for George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Saunders merged his practice with other architects starting in the 1960s, forming Saunders, Pearson & Partners. Saunders continued to work until his retirement in 1985; he died later that year.¹⁸⁸

I. Significant Features

The most significant features of Arlington Presbyterian Church are its: 1) historic, cultural, and heritage value; 2) use of stone as a building material; and 3) association with individuals significant to the development of both the church and Arlington County.

J. Designation Criteria

Arlington Presbyterian Church meets Designation Criteria B, D, H, and K as listed in Section 11.2.4.A of the Arlington County Zoning Ordinance. In addition, the property potentially meets Criterion A.

B: The property has character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the county, state, or nation.

Arlington Presbyterian Church is significant as part of the developmental history of Columbia Pike (one of Arlington County's most significant historic roadways), its representation of the expansion of Arlington County's population in the mid-twentieth century, and its cultural and heritage value as a center of worship and the neighborhood services it provided.

D: The property is associated with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the county, state, or nation.

Arlington Presbyterian Church is associated with individuals who made significant contributions to Arlington County. Significant persons include, but are not limited to, the Corbetts, De Lashmutts, Grays,

¹⁸⁷ American Institute of Architects, *American Architects Directory* (New York: R.R. Bowker Company, 1962), 614.

¹⁸⁸ Boyd Sipe and Kimberly Snyder, "Documentary Study and Archeological Resource Assessment for the James Bland Homes, City of Alexandria, Virginia," WSSI Project #21548.02, DHR 2008-0694, <http://www.alexandriava.gov>.

Handys, Bessie Allender, and Ronda Allen Gilliam. These dedicated church leaders were civic minded individuals who assisted in a wide breadth of initiatives. Arlington Presbyterian Church was the central point of these citizen's contributions and as such serves as a collective memorial to these families who lack singular historic sites and memorials.

H: The property has a distinctive location, or singular physical characteristics that make it an established or familiar visual feature.

Arlington Presbyterian Church is the oldest building of three extant places of worship on Columbia Pike. The church's form, materials, setback, and design distinguish it from surrounding contemporary architecture. In addition, the church is only one of nine religious buildings in Arlington County to utilize stone as a primary building material.

K: The property is suitable for preservation or restoration.

Arlington Presbyterian Church is suitable for preservation as it continues to convey its periods of construction. On the exterior, the façade retains its integrity of design, workmanship, and materials from the original period of construction as designed by Adolph Thelander in 1931, and as augmented by McLeod and Ferrara in 1950. These elements include:

- Front-gable roof with wood cornice.
- Uncoursed stone faced masonry walls.
- Stone faced tower, louvered wood lantern, and copper sheathed spire.
- Original nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood sash windows with fixed six-light side lights and a decorative fanlight transom.
- Original arched stone lintels.
- Double-leaf wood doors with a five-light transom.
- Colonial Revival styled entry surround.

While the original portico, tower, and spire were demolished and documented in the historic record, these aspects of the building existed for a short period of time, only 19 years between 1931 and 1949. In contrast, the enclosed portico and extant steeple constructed in 1950, account for over 77 percent of the building's 83-year existence and still retain their integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

A: The property is listed or is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

A formal determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places has not been completed yet for the Alcova Heights neighborhood.

If the neighborhood is determined eligible for the National Register in the future, then the church would be evaluated at that time to determine if it contributes to the overall historic district.

7. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 1.52 acres (66,212 sq feet)
RPC Number: 23040009

Arlington Presbyterian Church is located at the northwestern corner of Columbia Pike and South Lincoln Street. The property consists of Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, part of 9, 10, and 10-A in Block 2 of the Alcova Heights subdivision (Figure 57).

8. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/title John Liebertz, Historic Preservation Planner
Organization Arlington County Historic Preservation Program & Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board
Date January 2014
Address 2100 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 700
Arlington, Virginia 22201
Telephone 703.228.3830

9. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

See appendices for extensive photographs, maps, and other figures.

10. MAJOR SOURCES CONSULTED

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11. PROPERTY OWNER

Name: Arlington Presbyterian Church Corporation
Address: 3507 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

Appendix One: Current Photographs of Arlington Presbyterian Church



Figure 1: South elevation of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking north from the south side of Columbia Pike. The photograph shows the building's setback from the road and now enclosed front portico.



Figure 2: South and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking northwest from the south side of Columbia Pike.

*All photographs were taken by John Liebertz, Arlington County Historic Preservation Planner, December 2013.



Figure 3: East elevation of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking northwest from the intersection of Columbia Pike and South Lincoln Street. The photograph shows the original 1931 building, 1950 steeple, and 1961 gable-roofed addition.



Figure 4: East elevation of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking west from South Lincoln Street.



Figure 5: South and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking northwest from South Lincoln Street.



Figure 6: Double-leaf wood door with five-light transom and Colonial Revival-styled surround at steeple entrance. This now serves as the church's primary entrance.



Figure 7: North and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church's 1961 addition, looking southwest from South Lincoln Street.



Figure 8: Double-leaf wood door sheltered by a flared standing seam metal roof supported by wood posts. The entrance is located on the east elevation of the 1961 gable roof addition.



Figure 9: East elevation of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking northwest from South Lincoln Street. The photograph shows the 1961 Christian Education and Activities addition.



Figure 10: North and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking southwest from South Lincoln Street. The photograph shows the rear of the 1961 Christian Education and Activities addition.



Figure 11: North and west elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking southeast from church property towards Columbia Pike.



Figure 12: West elevation of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking northeast from church property. The photograph shows the 1961 Christian Education and Activities addition.



Figure 13: West elevation of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking southeast from South Lincoln Street. The photograph shows all three phases of construction and additions.



Figure 14: Typical nine-over-nine, double-hung, wood-sash window with six-light sidelights and decorative fanlight.



Figure 15: South and west elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, looking northeast from the south side of Columbia Pike.



Figure 16: Current interior of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing the nave and chancel. This space was part of the 1931 building; however, the interior organization was altered in 1950.



Figure 17: Current interior view of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing the Walter Ker Handy Memorial Chapel. This space was added to the original building in 1950 and located immediately north of the nave shown in Figure 16.



Figure 18: Current interior view of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing typical classroom space in the Christian Education and Activities addition completed in 1961.

Appendix Two: Historic Photographs of Arlington Presbyterian Church



Figure 19: Church records indicate that the building in the background was the first Arlington Presbyterian Church, ca. 1908.

Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

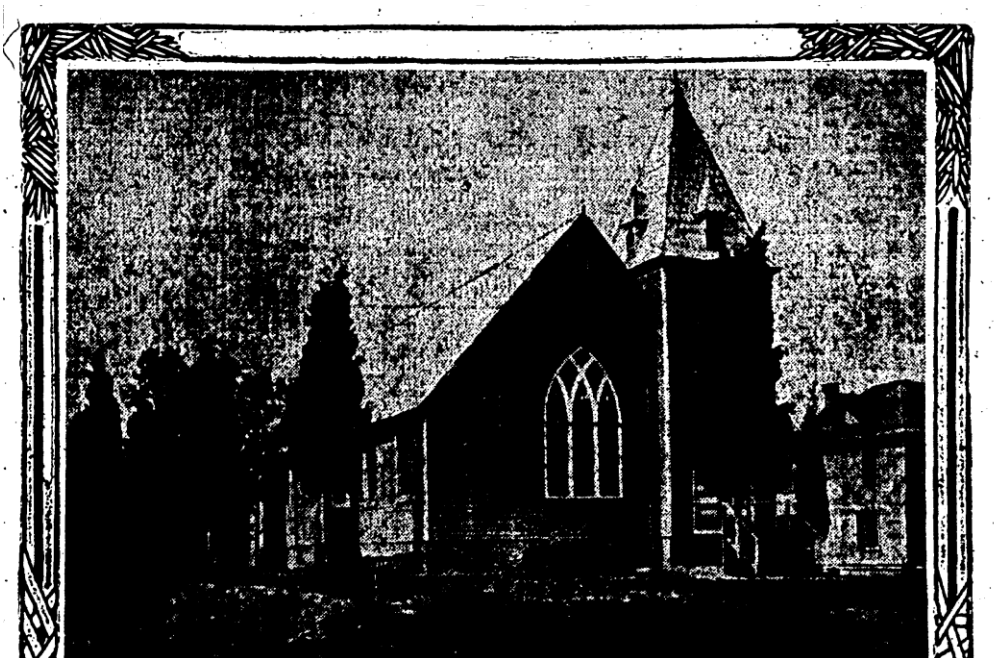


Figure 20: The *Evening Star* documented the construction of the new Arlington Presbyterian Church in 1911. This was the original building on Columbia Pike, west of South Monroe Street.

Source: "New Presbyterian Church," *Evening Star*, May 27, 1911.

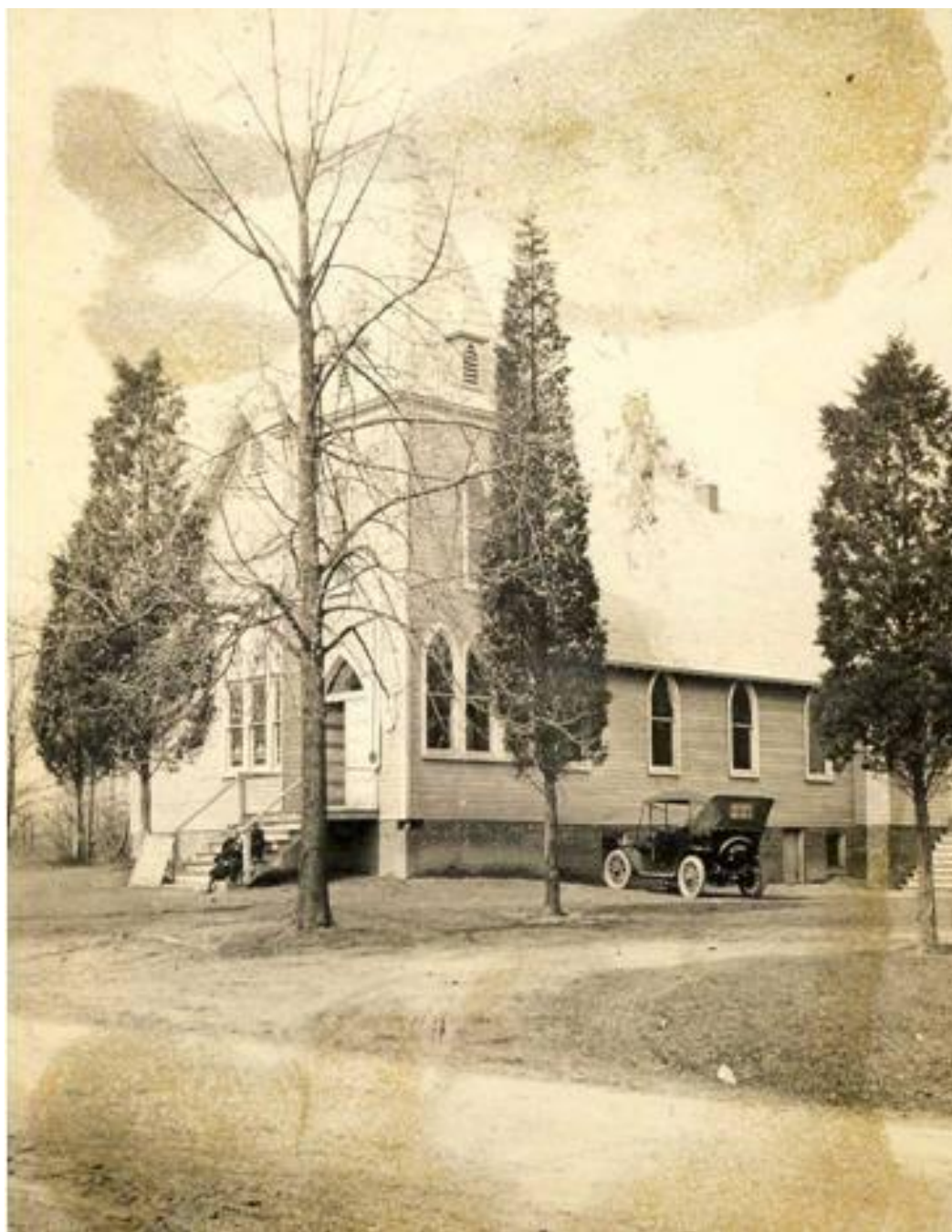
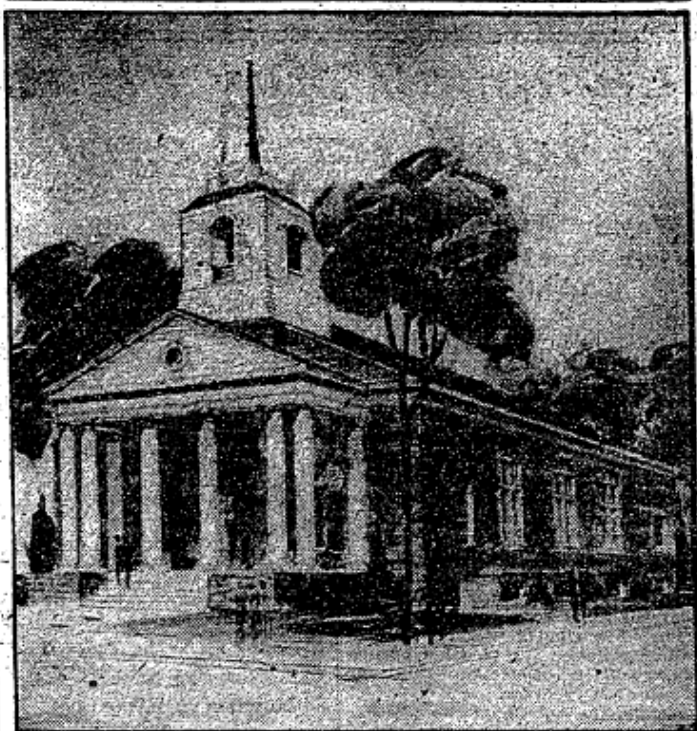


Figure 21: Arlington Presbyterian Church (1911 building).
Source: Arlington Historical Society and William Whitworth Middleton.



Figure 22: The "Little Chapel" served as the temporary church between 1925 and 1931.
Source: Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).



Architect's drawing of proposed new \$20,000, Arlington Presbyterian Church to be erected on Columbia pike, Arlington County.

Figure 23: Adolph F. Thelander's proposed drawing for the new Arlington Presbyterian Church in 1930.

Source: "Proposed Arlington Church," *Washington Post*, August 10, 1930.



Figure 24: Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1931-1950.
Source: Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).



Figure 25: Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1931-1950.
Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.



Figure 26: Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1931-1950.
Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

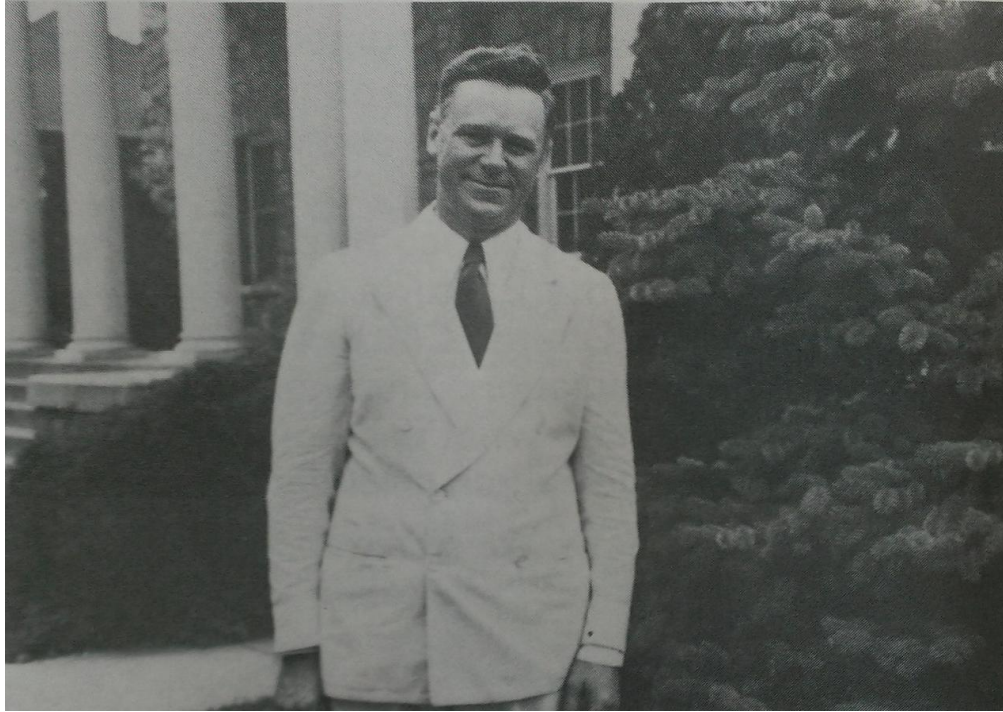


Figure 27: Reverend Walter Wolf standing in front of Arlington Presbyterian Church. Note the original entrance portico and the six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with splayed stone arch lintels.

Source: Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).

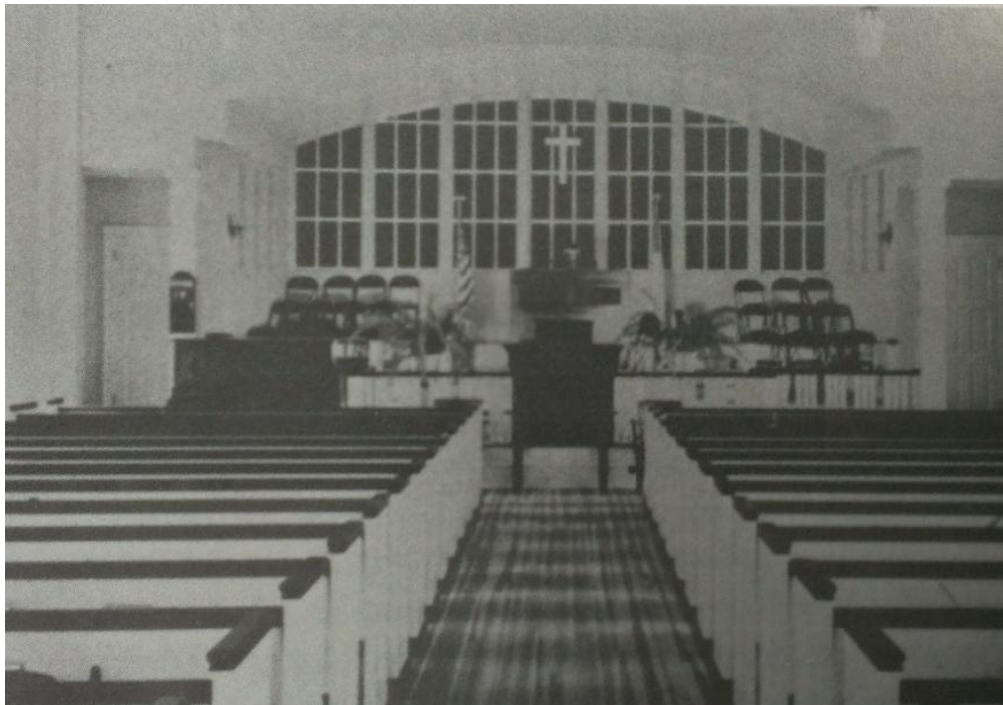
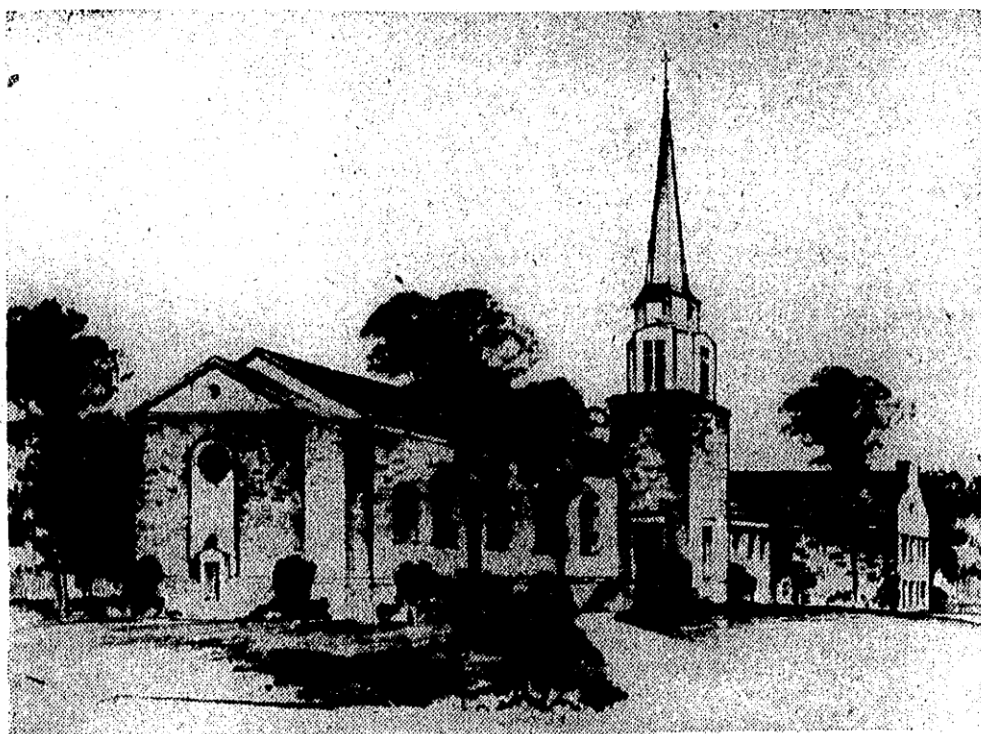


Figure 28: Interior of Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1931-1950. The photographer is looking towards the chancel on the north elevation of the building.

Source: Robert A. Harris, Jr., "Our History: Arlington Presbyterian Church," (July 1985).



Architect's drawing of proposed new Presbyterian Church building at Columbia pike and Lincoln street South, Arlington, Va.

Figure 29: McLeod and Ferrara's proposed drawing for Arlington Presbyterian Church. The drawing shows the enclosure of the portico and construction of the new steeple. The rear additions, however, were not constructed as drawn.

Source: *Evening Star*, December 17, 1947.

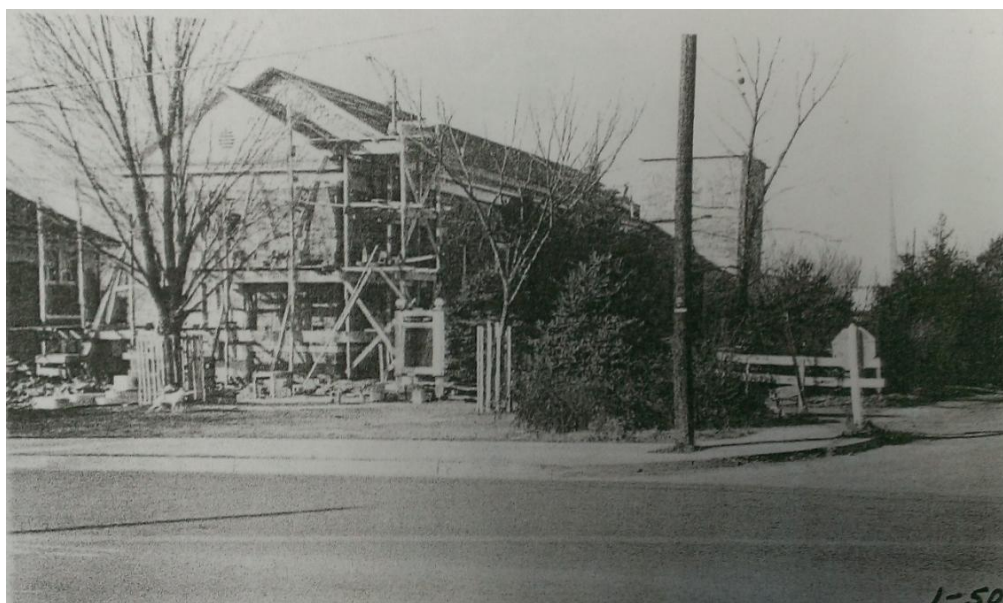


Figure 30: View of south elevation of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing the enclosure of the portico and construction of the tower, ca. 1950.

Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.



Figure 31: View of north and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing the raising of the lantern and spire, ca. 1950.

Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.



Figure 32: View of north and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing the raising of the lantern and spire and other construction efforts, ca. 1950. Note the gable addition to the original church.

Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.



Figure 33: View of north and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing the raising of the lantern and spire and other construction efforts, ca. 1950.

Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.



Figure 34: View of south and east elevations of Arlington Presbyterian Church, showing the lowering of the lantern and spire on the tower, ca. 1950.
Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.

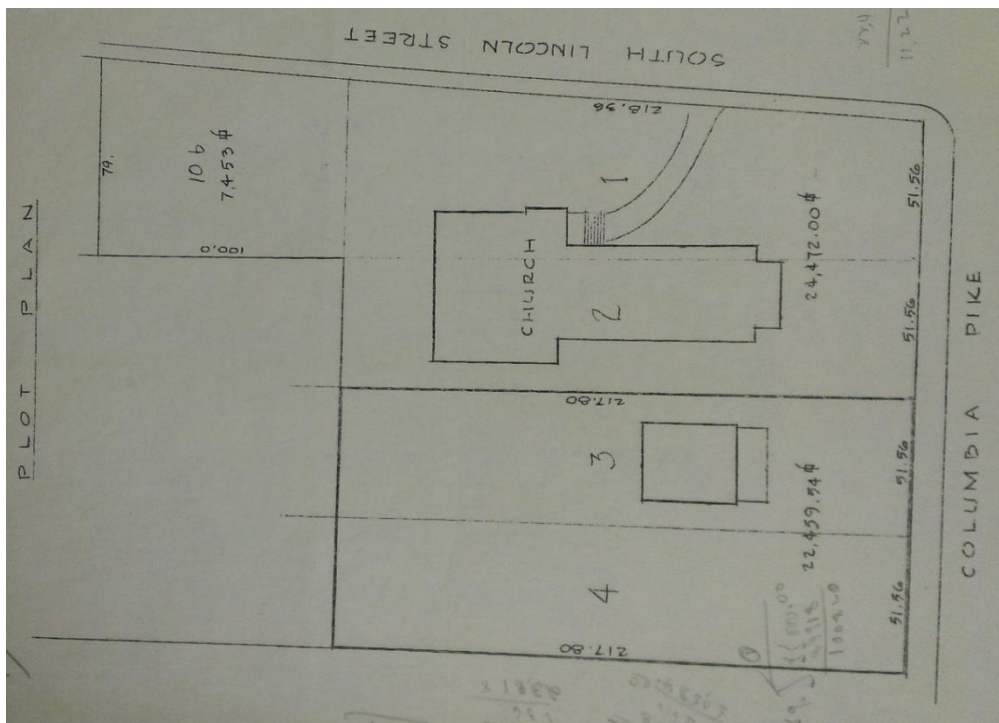


Figure 35: Property site plan showing the completed 1950 renovation to Arlington Presbyterian Church.
Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church.

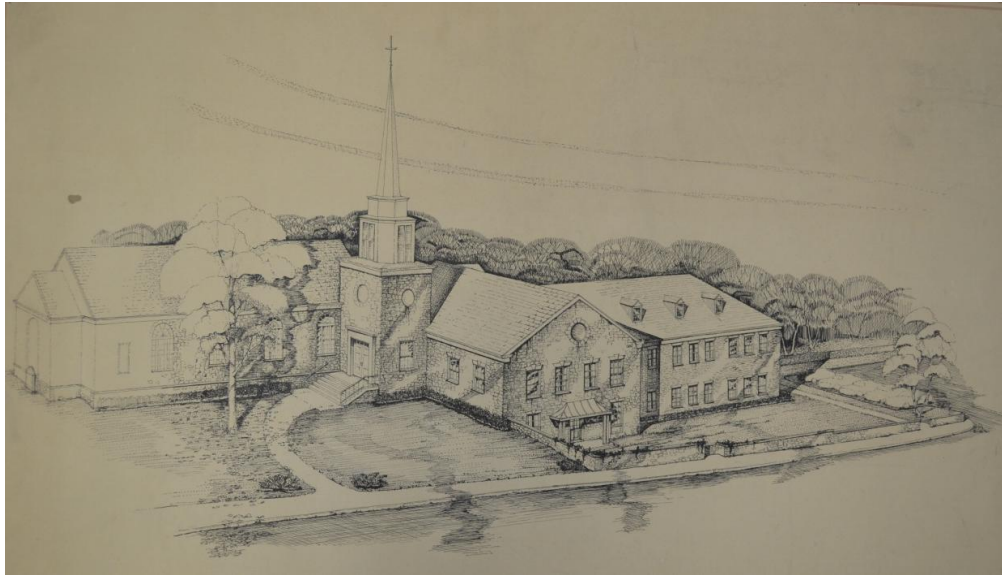


Figure 36: Proposed drawing by Joseph Saunders & Associates, Architects, ca. 1959.
Source: Arlington Presbyterian Church Archives.



Figure 37: Reverend Jay W. Rowen breaks ground on the Christian Education and Activities addition.
Source: *The Bridge*, October 1960.

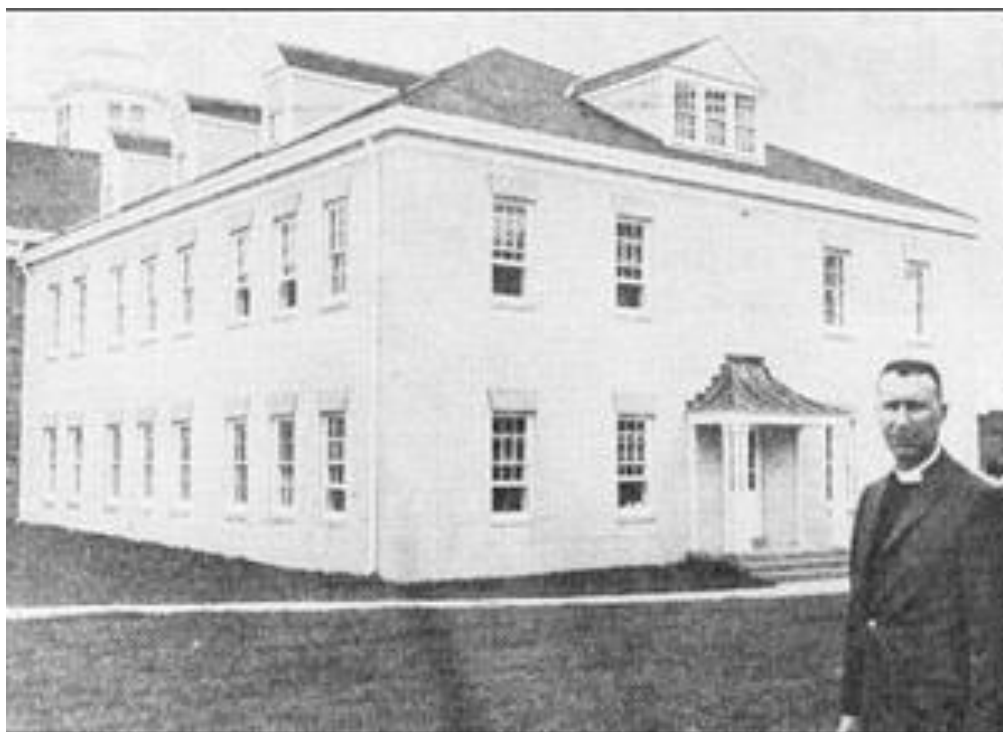


Figure 38: Reverend Jay W. Rowen stands in front of the Christian Education and Activities addition.
Source: *The Bridge*, October 1960.

Appendix Three: Evolution and Materials of Arlington Presbyterian Church

Building Evolution - Front

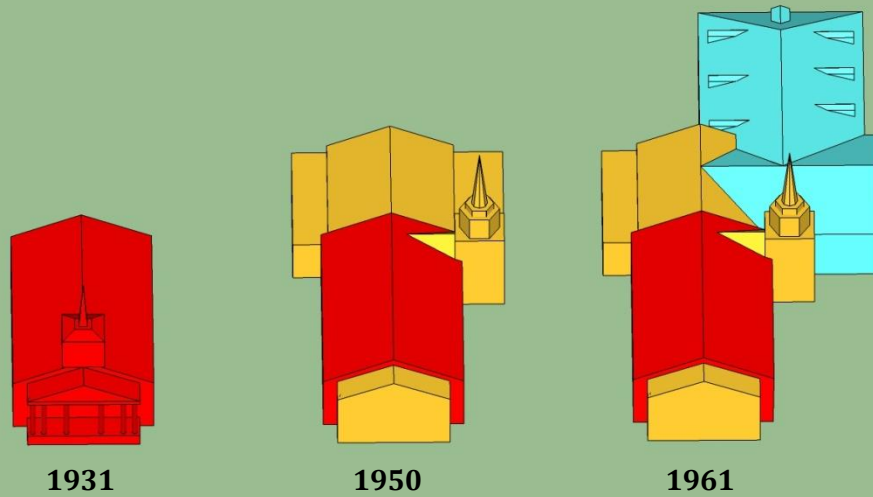


Figure 39: The perspective drawing shows the building evolution of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The red sections were constructed in 1931, the yellow sections in 1950, and the blue sections in 1961.

Building Evolution - Rear

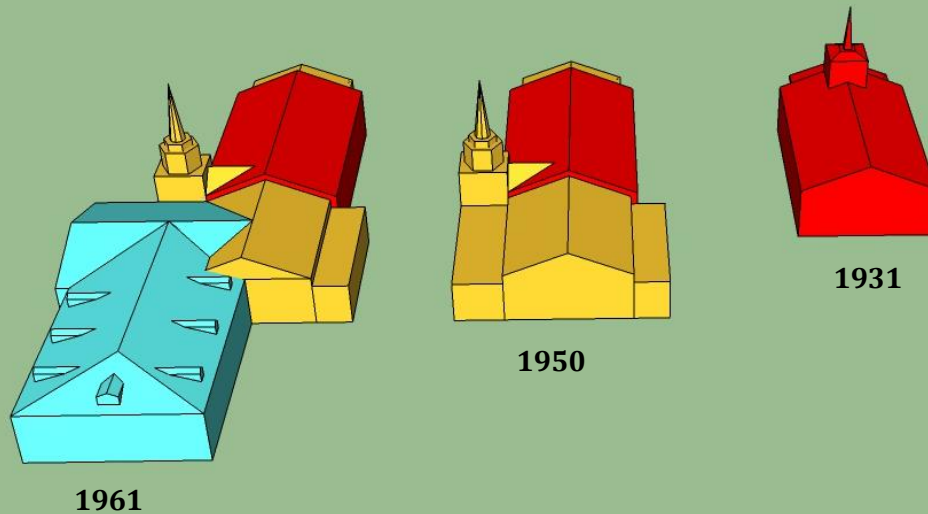


Figure 40: The perspective drawing shows the building evolution of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The red sections were constructed in 1931, the yellow sections in 1950, and the blue sections in 1961.

* All models (not to scale) were created by Arlington County Historic Preservation Staff.

Building Evolution - Front Oblique View

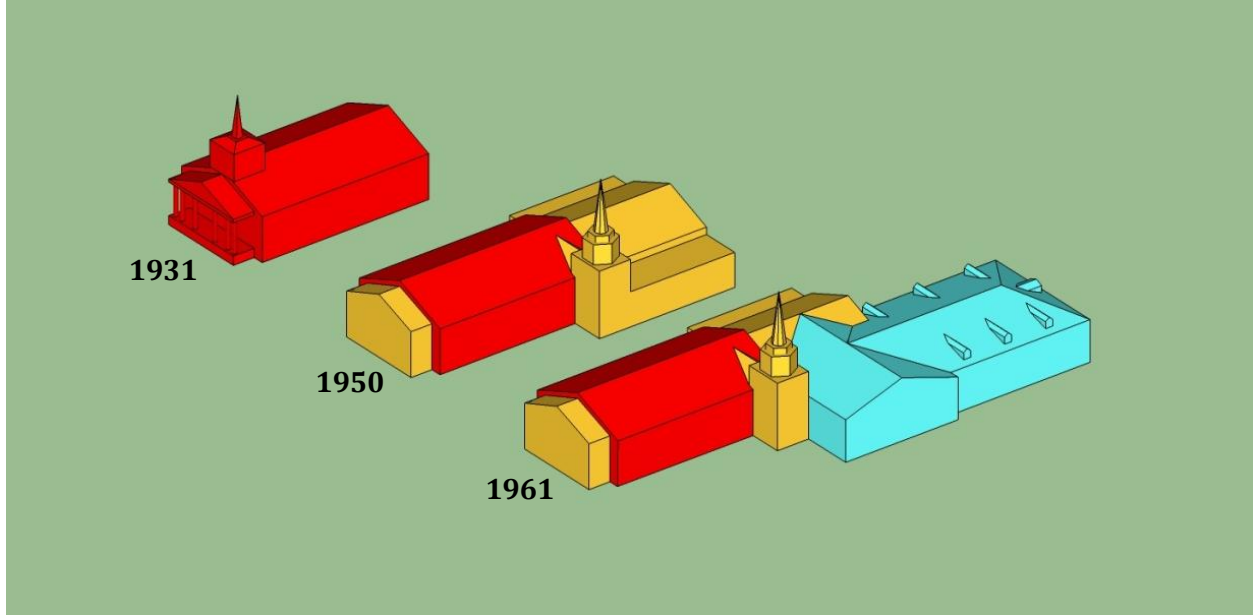


Figure 41: The perspective drawing shows the building evolution of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The red sections were constructed in 1931, the yellow sections in 1950, and the blue sections in 1961.

Building Evolution - Front

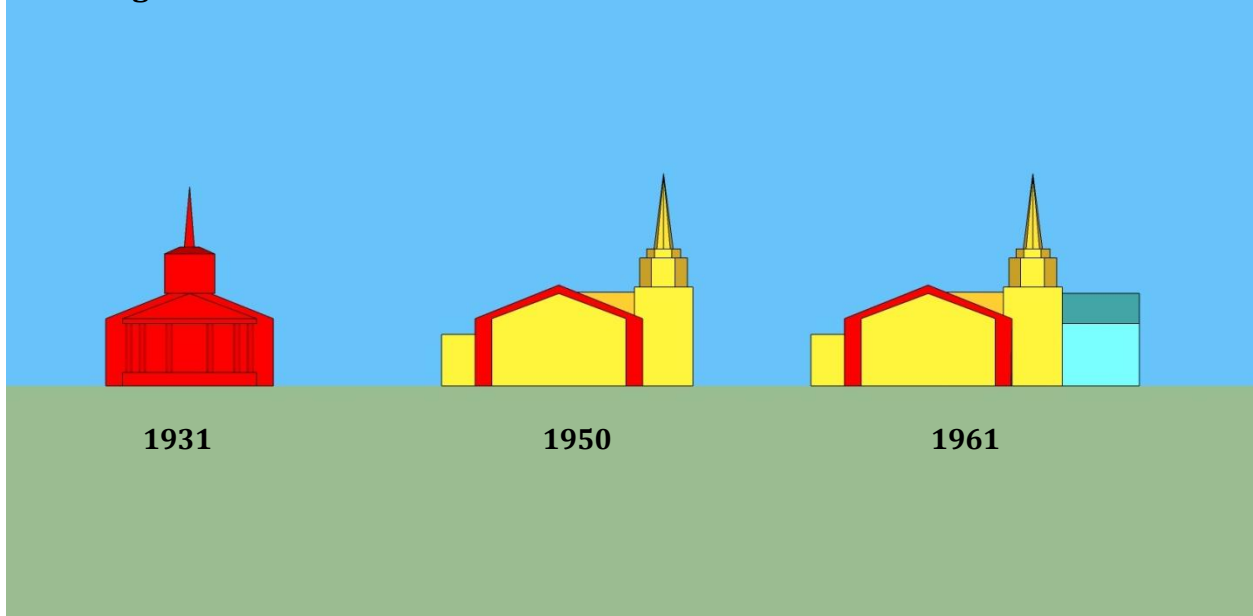


Figure 42: The perspective drawing shows the building evolution of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The red sections were constructed in 1931, the yellow sections in 1950, and the blue sections in 1961.

Materials - Front

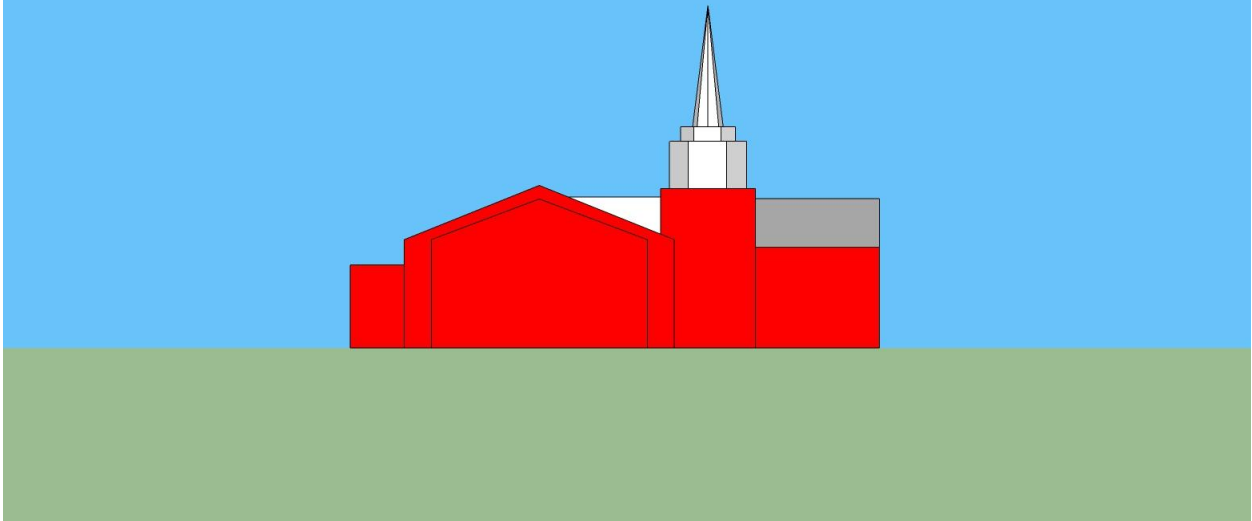


Figure 43: The perspective drawing shows the present-day wall materials of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The walls colored red are stone.

Materials - Front Oblique

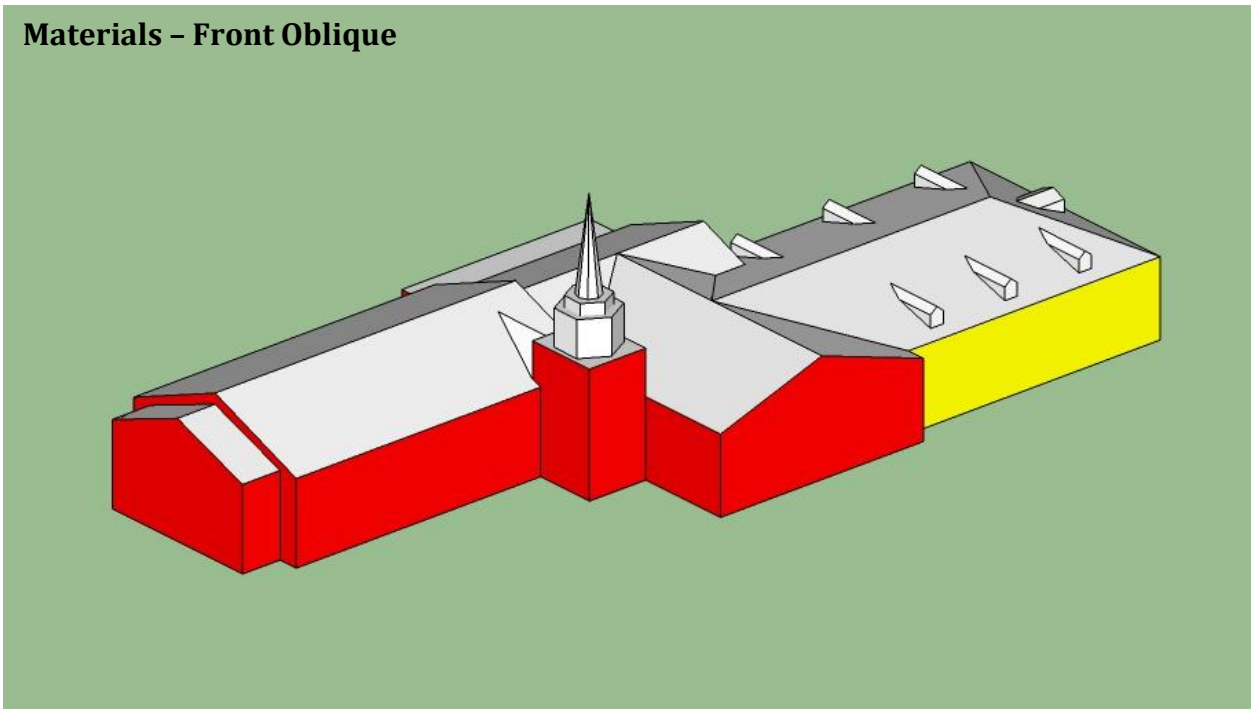


Figure 44: The perspective drawing shows the present-day wall materials of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The walls colored red are stone and yellow are brick.

Materials - Rear Oblique

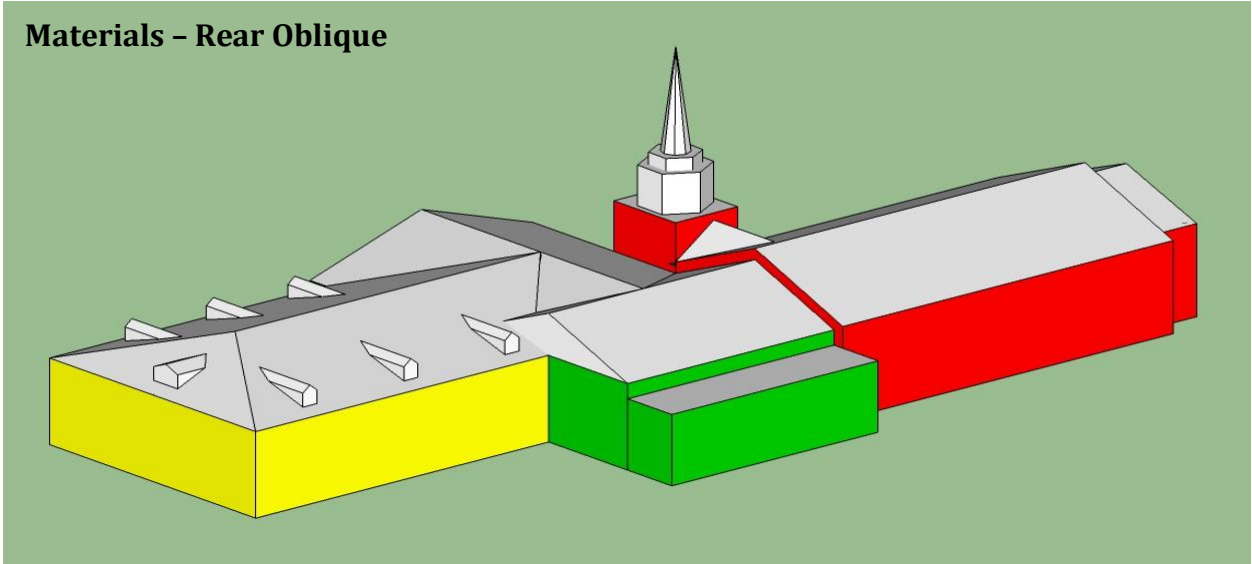


Figure 45: The perspective drawing shows the present-day wall materials of Arlington Presbyterian Church. The walls colored red are stone, yellow walls are brick, and green walls are parged masonry.

Appendix Four: Historic Maps



Figure 46: Howell & Taylor, Map of Alexandria County, Virginia for the Virginia Title Co., 1900. The arrows point to the land holdings of early church leaders, including William A. Young (the first husband of Mary E. Gray), George W. Grey (the second husband of Mary E. Gray), Henry Clay Corbett, and Miles C. Munson.
Source: Library of Congress.

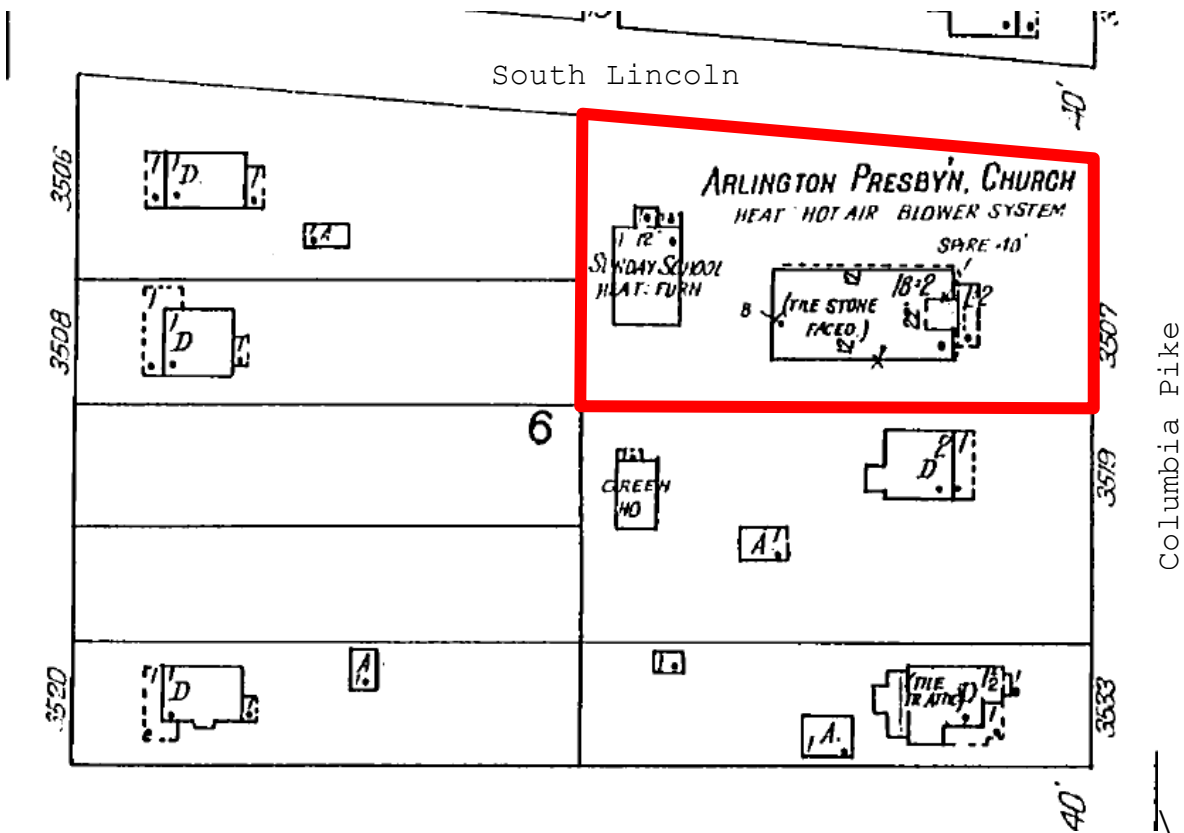


Figure 47: The 1936 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the Arlington Presbyterian Church building completed in 1931. The “Little Chapel” was located to the north of the original building, shown here at the rear of the lot.

Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1936), Arlington County Historic Preservation Office Archives.

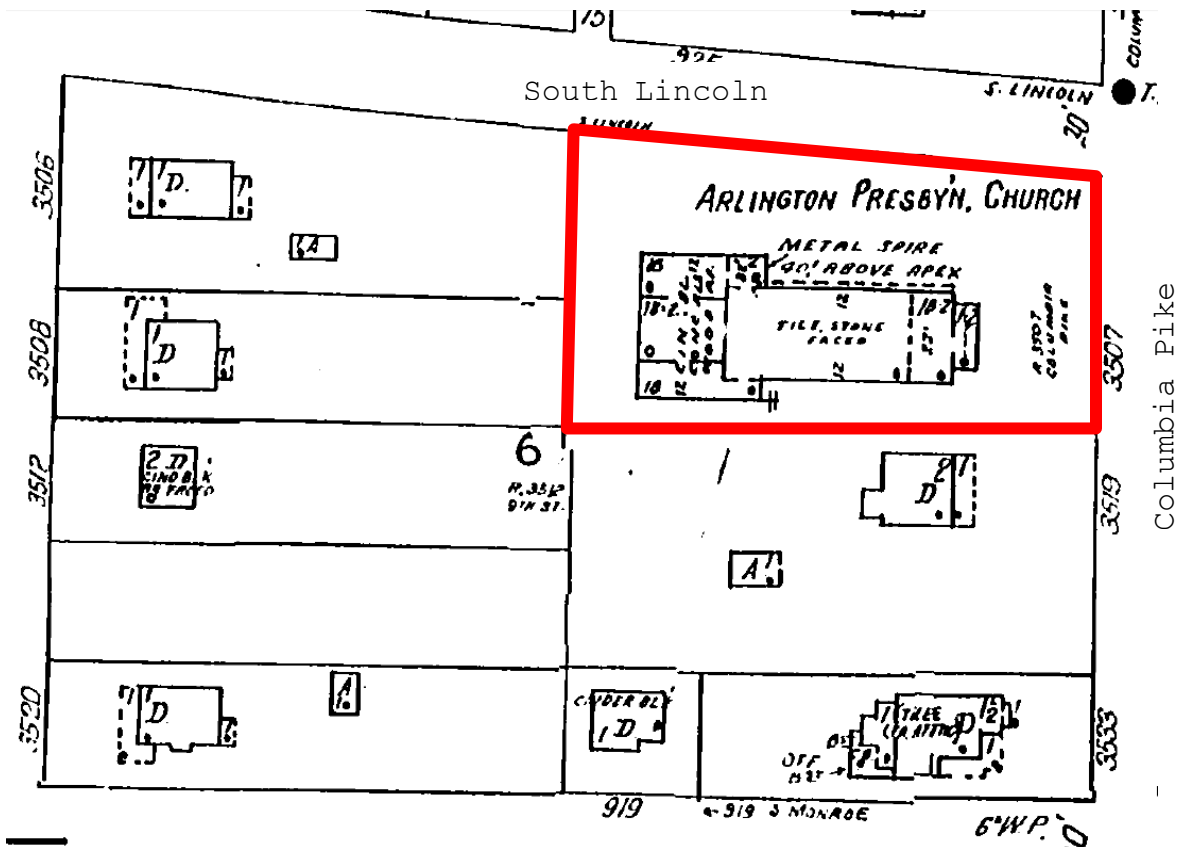


Figure 48: The 1959 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the Arlington Presbyterian Church with the renovation completed in 1950. As part of the renovation, the “Little Chapel” was removed from the site.

Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1959), Arlington County Historic Preservation Office Archives.

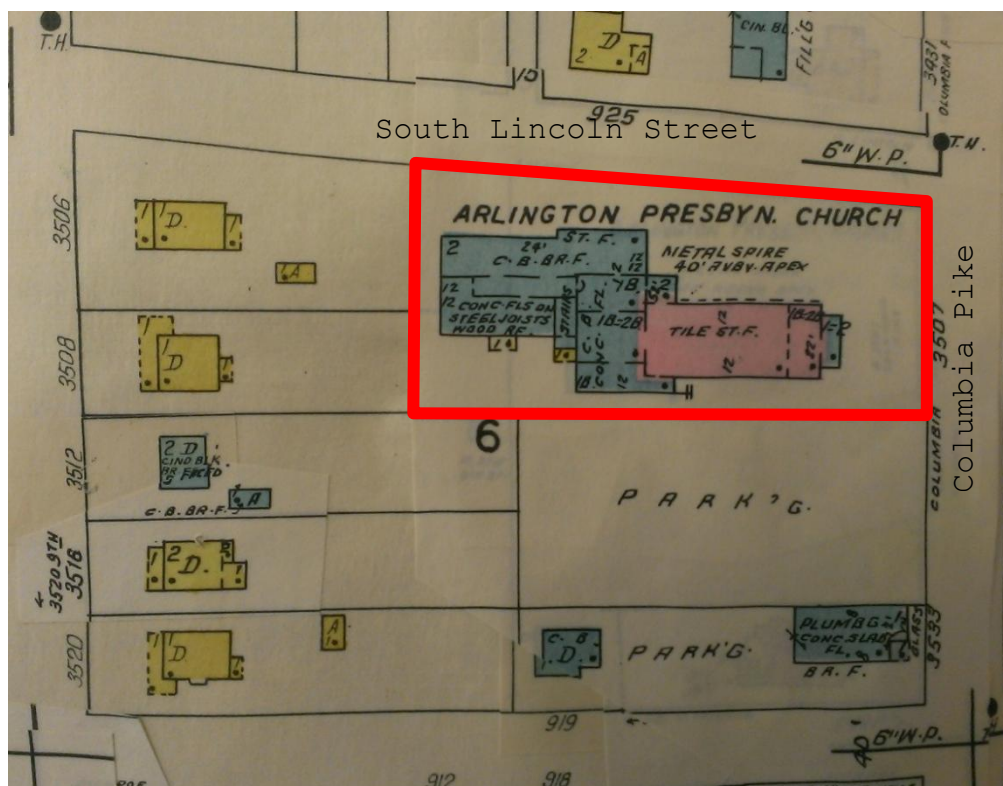


Figure 49: The 1961 update to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map shows the Arlington Presbyterian Church with the renovation completed in 1950. As part of the renovation, the “Little Chapel” was removed from the site.

Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1936 with updates to 1961), Center for Local History, Central Library, Arlington, Virginia.

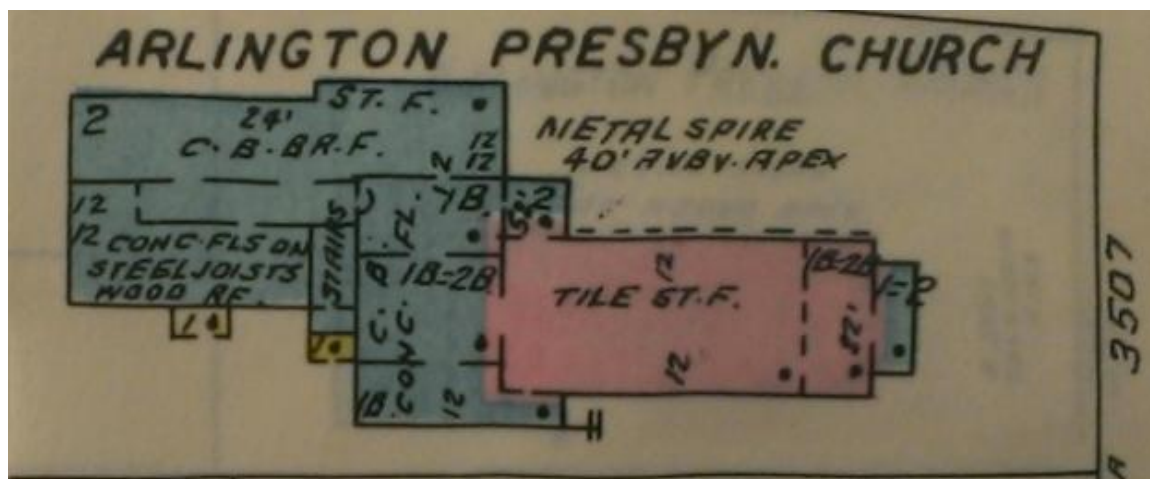
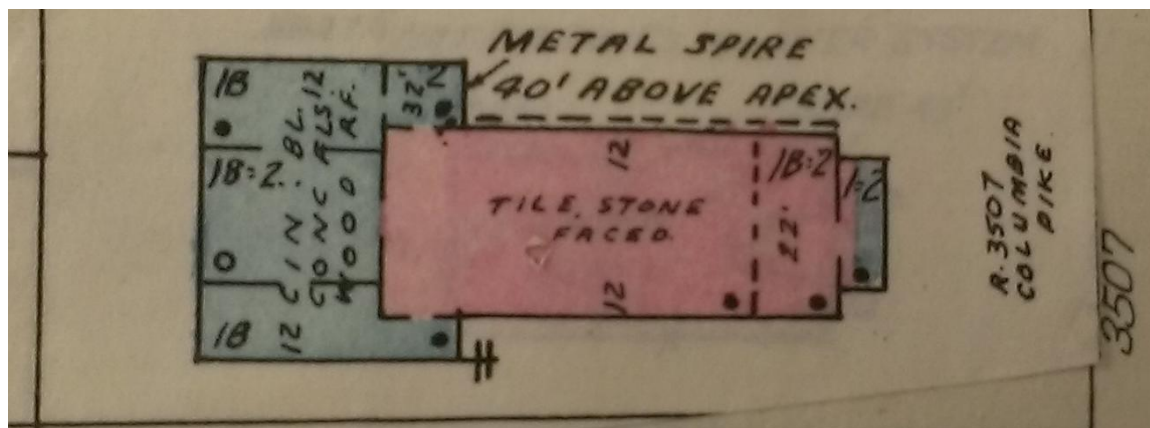
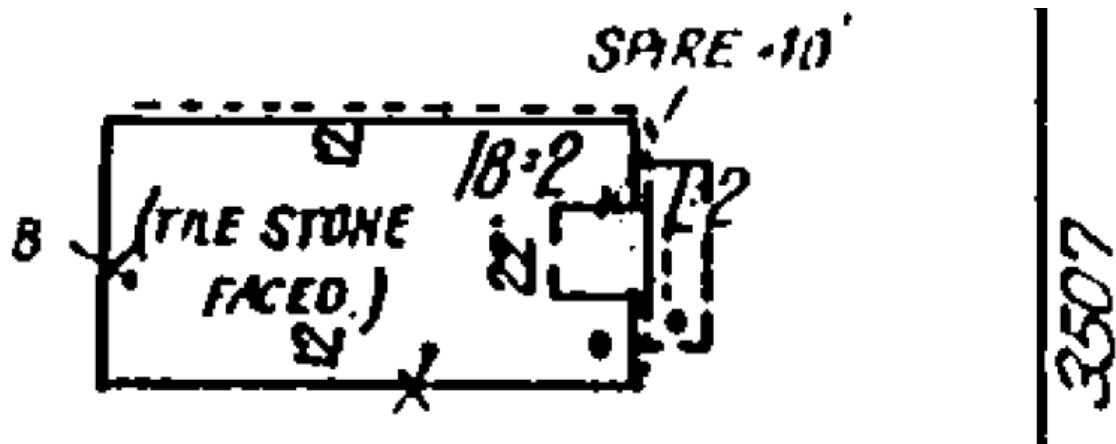


Figure 50: Evolution of Arlington Presbyterian Church as depicted in 1936, 1952, and 1961 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (viewed top to bottom).
 Source: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (1936, 1952 update, and 1961 update), Center for Local History, Central Library, Arlington, Virginia.

Appendix Five: Aerial Photographs of Arlington Presbyterian Church



Figure 51: Aerial of Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1949. The photograph shows the church completed in 1931.

Source: Arlington County GIS, Historic Aerials.



Figure 52: Aerial of Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1956. The photograph shows the renovations completed in 1950. Visible alterations include: 1) demolition of original lantern and spire; 2) construction of new steeple in the northeast corner of the building; and 3) construction of rear addition.

Source: Arlington County GIS, Historic Aerials.



Figure 53: Aerial of Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1956. The photograph shows the 1961 Christian Education and Activities addition at the rear of the lot.
Source: Arlington County GIS, Historic Aerials.



Figure 54: Aerial of Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1974.
Source: Arlington County GIS, Historic Aerials.



Figure 55: Aerial of Arlington Presbyterian Church, 1989.
Source: Arlington County GIS, Historic Aerials.



Figure 56: Aerial of Arlington Presbyterian Church, 2012.
Source: Google Earth.

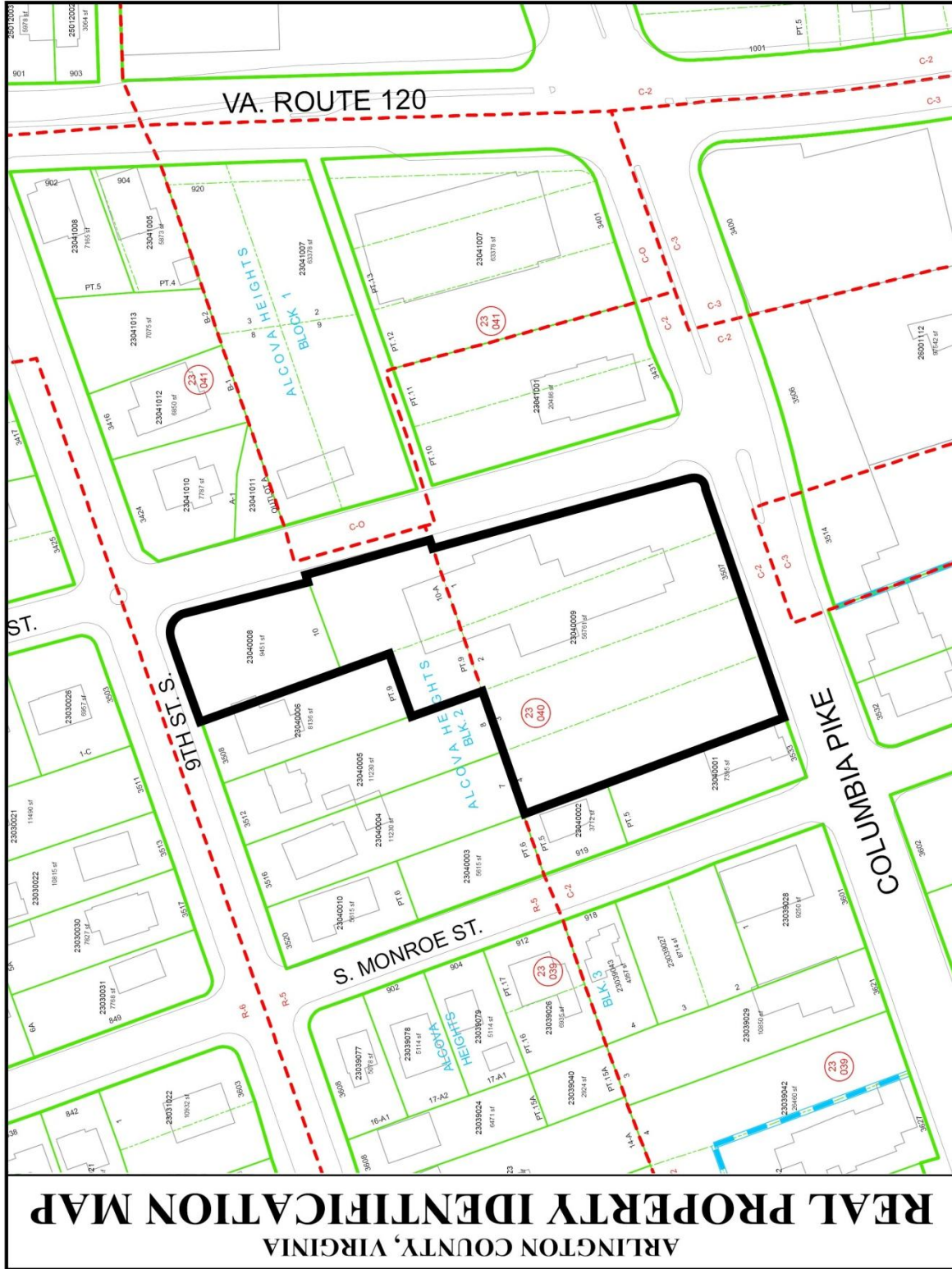


Figure 57: Location of Arlington Presbyterian Church.
Source: Arlington County GIS.