

## 6. HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Arlington honors its heritage and embraces the modern culture and artistic vision of its residents. The many historic buildings, structures, landscapes, and other resources in Arlington stand as tangible, physical reminders of the town's development over the past three and one-half centuries. From Arlington's pivotal role in the events that precipitated the Revolutionary War to the legacy of such generous benefactors as the Robbins family, Arlington has much to celebrate – and much to preserve. Many participants in the master plan process say that Arlington's unique past presents economic development opportunities, notably for tourism and the arts.

### Historic & Cultural Resource Goals

- *Maintain, protect, preserve, and promote historic and diverse cultural resources in all neighborhoods.*
- *Provide attractive, well-maintained spaces for residents to meet, play and grow.*
- *Promote arts and cultural activities for all ages.*

#### A. Historic Buildings

Arlington has many buildings rendered in the architectural styles popular during the past 300 years, including Georgian, Federal, and Greek Revival styles from the early eighteenth century, the Second Empire, Gothic Revival, and Italianate styles fashionable in the mid-nineteenth century; the Romanesque, Queen Anne, and Shingle Styles of the late nineteenth century; and the Revival styles of the early- to mid-twentieth century. These styles are represented in “high-style” architect-designed buildings and more modest “vernacular” versions constructed by local builders, and they are rendered on a variety of building forms, including residential, commercial, religious, institutional, industrial, and governmental buildings.

**Residential Buildings.** Arlington's residential architecture is striking due to the diversity of its historic housing stock, both in terms of styles represented and building form and scale. In many instances, Arlington's neighborhoods present an architectural history lesson as one travels down the tree-lined streets. Particularly in the earlier neighborhoods, houses of different styles sit side by side. In later neighborhoods, there is more visual consistency of single architectural styles and building forms, such as the repetitive form and architectural ornamentation of steep-gabled English Revival homes. Interspersed among single and multi-family homes, particularly along and near Massachusetts Avenue and other major transportation routes, are early twentieth century brick apartment buildings elaborately detailed with Classical and Renaissance Revival style ornamentation.

**Civic Buildings.** The Town owns an impressive collection of architecturally and historically significant buildings, including a town hall, public library, school buildings, and police and fire stations, as well several historic houses. Most of the Town's civic buildings were constructed in the early twentieth century as Arlington transitioned to a suburban community. While the Town continues to use most of these buildings for their original intended use, it has converted several to

new uses while respecting the architectural integrity of each structure. With few exceptions, these buildings are well-preserved, demonstrating Arlington’s commitment to its heritage. The Town has been a good steward, undertaking interior and exterior restoration projects on many of its historic properties.

**Civic Block.** Located on Massachusetts Avenue in the heart of Arlington Center, the Civic Block contains three iconic civic institutions – the Robbins Library, the Robbins Memorial Town Hall, and the Whittemore-Robbins House – all interconnected by the landscaped grounds and brick walkways of the Winfield-Robbins Memorial Garden. The civic block represents the generosity of the Robbins Family, who donated funds for construction of these impressive landmarks.

- **Robbins Library**\*<sup>1</sup> (1892), 700 Massachusetts Avenue. Designed by Cabot, Everett, and Mead in the Italian Renaissance style, the impressive edifice of the Robbins Memorial Library was reputed to be modeled after the Cancelleria Palace in Rome. This grand building is constructed of Ohio sandstone ashlar with elaborate architectural embellishment, including six three-story arched windows, a limestone and marble portico, and a grand central rotunda.<sup>2</sup> The building’s interior features an ornately detailed Reading Room. The building was modified with several additions (1930 and 1994) and the Town recently replaced the original slate roof.
- **Robbins Memorial Town Hall**\* (1913), 730 Massachusetts Avenue. Designed in the Classical Revival style by architect R. Clipston Sturgis, the sandstone Town Hall complements the Library located directory to the east. Town Hall’s three-bay façade features a central pavilion with projecting arcaded entrance porch flanked by two projecting pavilions accentuated by rusticated limestone and ashlar panels. Balustrades crown both the entrance porch and roof cornice, and an ornate cupola capped by a pineapple tops the gable roof. Arlington restored the building’s auditorium several years ago and held a series of celebrations last year marking Town Hall’s 100th anniversary. The Town received a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF) grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for its restoration efforts, requiring the building to be protected by a preservation restriction.
- **Whittemore-Robbins House**\* (1795), at 670R Massachusetts Avenue. Located at the rear of the Civic Block is the Federal style Whittemore-Robbins mansion. This three-story wood frame home features front and rear porches and a hipped roof crowned with an ornate cupola. In 1890, the building was rotated and moved back from Massachusetts Avenue to allow for the construction of the Robbins Memorial Library. The building served as home for the Robbins family until 1931, when they donated it to the Town. From 1976 to 1993, the Arlington Historical Commission (AHC) worked to restore the building’s public rooms as a museum. Today, the building serves as a museum, meeting space, and function facility. The AHC and the Arlington Youth Consultation Center maintain offices in the building.

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<sup>1</sup> The Arlington Historical Commission (AHC) has documented many historic resources on historic resource inventory forms. Unless noted otherwise, the inventory forms are the main source of historic and architectural information in this plan. Resources with an inventory form are noted by an asterisk (\*).

<sup>2</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission, Form A – Area: Town Center Historic District.

**Fire Stations.** Arlington’s historic fire stations were designed by architect George Ernest Robinson in the Georgian Revival style. The Central Fire Station\* (1926) at 1 Monument Park in Arlington Center is a red brick and stone station and one of the first octagonal fire stations in the United States. Its unique design allowed fire trucks to emerge simultaneously from six different directions.<sup>3</sup> The building’s tower, originally designed to hang fire hoses to dry, continues to serve as a visual landmark in Arlington Center.

Robinson also designed the Highland Hose House\* (1928) at 1007 Massachusetts Avenue to imitate features found on several of Boston’s most iconic eighteenth and early nineteenth century buildings. Its stepped gable ends and rounded windows are reminiscent of the Old State House, while its cupola and gilded grasshopper weathervane imitate Faneuil Hall. The building’s interior is architecturally and historically significant, with woodwork created by the Theodore Schwamb Co. The hose house was the company’s first commission after it converted its milling and cabinetry operation from piano case manufacturing to architectural woodworking. The lobby contains a Cyrus E. Dallin bronze relief of one of Arlington’s former fire chiefs. The Town recently completed a LEED certified renovation of the building, including exterior repairs and interior renovations.<sup>4</sup>

**Arlington Police Station\*** (1927). The police station at 7 Central Street is a Classical Revival building designed by architect Charles Greely Loring. The building is located within the Arlington Center Historic District, which is both a National Register and local historic district.

Other Town-owned historic buildings include the Mount Pleasant Cemetery Chapel\* (1930), a Gothic Revival chapel designed by the architectural firm of Gay & Proctor, and the Jefferson Cutter House\*, which is discussed later in this Chapter in the section on Museums.

**Municipal Building Reuse.** While most of Arlington’s government buildings continue to serve their original civic capacity, the Town converted several historic buildings to new uses, including two former schools and one former library.

- The former **Centre School** (1894), Arlington’s first high school, now serves as the Arlington Senior Center. Designed by Hartwell and Richardson, the red brick and brownstone school building is elaborately detailed with a slate hipped roof and turreted dormers and an arched entrance highlighted with brownstone relief panels.<sup>5</sup> The Town completed restoration work on the Senior Center last year.
- The former Colonial Revival style brick and stone **Parmenter School\*** (1927) at 17 Irving Street was designed by architect Charles Greely Loring, who also designed the Arlington Police Station. The Town closed the school in the 1980s and now leases the building to several community groups.

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<sup>3</sup> Corridor Management Plan: “Battle Road Scenic Byways: Road to Revolution”, 57.

<sup>4</sup> Town of Arlington Annual Town Report, 2012

<sup>5</sup> Vision 2020 *Map of Arlington*

- The former **Vittoria C. Dallin Branch Library** (1938) at 85 Park Avenue is now home to Arlington Cable Station Studios. This building was designed by Arlington architect William Proctor.<sup>6</sup>

**Other Government Buildings.** Arlington’s U. S. Post Office\* (1936) is located at 10 Court Street in Arlington Center. Constructed as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, this red brick building is designed in the Art Deco style. The building’s lobby features a Federal Art Project mural “Purchase and Use of the Soil” by artist William A. Palmer. Completed in 1938, the mural depicts the Squaw Sachem transferring the land of Menotomy to the English Settlers in 1635.<sup>7</sup>

**Historic Commercial Districts.** Massachusetts Avenue is Arlington’s primary commercial corridor and the “spine” of the town. It is steeped in history as the site of battle during the eve of the Revolutionary War on April 19, 1775. Portions of Massachusetts Avenue received state designation as the Battle Road Scenic Byway in 2006 and await consideration as a National Scenic Byway. In Arlington, Massachusetts Avenue contains a varied collection of early to mid-twentieth century buildings including single-story commercial blocks, multi-story mixed use commercial buildings, and Classical Revival masonry apartment buildings interspersed with earlier wood-frame houses. Arlington’s three commercial districts, Arlington Heights, Arlington Center, and East Arlington are located along Mass. Avenue.

**Churches.** Arlington’s religious structures represent the various architectural styles associated with ecclesiastical design over the past several centuries, including a modest eighteenth century Federal style meetinghouse, elaborately detailed Greek Revival/Italianate and Stick Style churches, a romantic stone Gothic Revival Chapel, and several large masonry Neo Gothic Revival churches. The AHC has documented seventeen of Arlington’s churches, chapels, and parish halls on historic resources inventory forms. Six are located within a local historic district and seven are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One building, the Pleasant Street Congregational Church, is further protected by a preservation restriction because it received MPPF funds for exterior restoration work.<sup>8</sup>

**Museums.** The Arlington Historical Society (AHS) operates the Jason Russell House & Smith Museum at 7 Jason Street in Arlington Center. Built in 1740, the house was the site of fighting on the first day of the American Revolution and still bears several bullet holes from the battle. The museum houses the Society’s collection of artifacts, manuscripts and other Arlington memorabilia, and displays artifacts from the Russell family, who lived in the house until 1896. The property also includes an herb garden maintained by the Arlington Garden Club. In 1980, the AHS constructed an addition to the Russell House for archival and exhibit space. Other museums include:

- The **Jefferson Cutter House & Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum**, 1 Whittemore Park. Located on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street in Arlington Center, the Cutter House and Dallin Museum are owned by the Town of Arlington. The property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Federal style Jefferson Cutter House was built ca. 1830 for the

<sup>6</sup> Duffy, Richard, *Then & Now: Arlington*, 70.

<sup>7</sup> [www.oldschwambmill.org](http://www.oldschwambmill.org)

<sup>8</sup> List of Grant Recipients, Massachusetts Historical Commission website, <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc>

owner of a local woodworking mill. The building features an ornate entrance with fluted pilasters and sidelights. It was originally located further west on Massachusetts Avenue. In 1989, the Town worked with the owner to relocate the building to a plot of land in Arlington Center.<sup>9</sup> Afterward, the Town restored the house and developed the land in front as a public park, leaving the railroad tracks exposed with interpretive signage. Today, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce leases space on the second floor and the Town leases the first floor rooms for meeting and exhibition space.

- In 1995, Town Meeting established the **Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum** to collect, preserve, protect, and exhibit the works of the celebrated American sculptor Cyrus Dallin. The museum is managed by a non-profit organization that operates four gallery spaces and an archive, and offers community programming.
- **Old Schwamb Mill.** The Old Schwamb Mill museum honors the industrial legacy of the Mill Brook and one of the early mills established on its waterway. The Schwamb Mill site, located at the “Foot of the Rocks,” was originally developed for a grist and saw mill in ca. 1864. At this spot on the brook, a system of pond, dam, mill and mill race were laid out. Today, the impression of the original mill pond is still visible as a grassy park near Bow Street. Mill Brook was also the site of the first mill (1637) in Menotomy, which was located further east in Cooke’s Hollow. Today, a bronze tablet in Cooke’s Hollow Park commemorates the site of the earliest mill.

## B. Historic Landscapes

**Designed Landscapes.** The Winfield-Robbins Memorial Garden (1913) was laid out as part of the Town Hall construction project in 1913. The original garden design included the Cyrus Dallin sculpture, *the Menotomy Indian*. In 1939, Olmsted Associates redesigned the garden in a more natural design with a rubble rock base for the Indian sculpture, flowering trees and bushes, winding brick paths, a circular fountain and a pool, and a masonry garden wall surrounding the grounds. The Town has prepared a master plan of the gardens and completed repairs to the garden’s sandstone and limestone wall in the fall of 2012. The Friends of Town Hall Gardens has also undertaken some restoration work in the gardens.<sup>10</sup>

The small grass park at the Jefferson Cutter House is located at Massachusetts Avenue and Mystic Street. Created when the Cutter House was moved in the 1990s, the park is Arlington Center’s only public green space. The irregularly shaped parcel is intersected by a small section of exposed railroad tracks. The grounds also contain several mature trees, park benches, and interpretive signage. Arlington uses the park to host exhibits and events throughout the year.

**Heritage Landscapes.** Heritage landscapes are created by human interaction with the land. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) operates the Historic Landscape Inventory Program, which completed a Heritage Landscape Study for communities in the

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<sup>9</sup> Laskowski, Nicole, “Jefferson Cutter House hits milestone”, posted December 4, 2009, Wicked Local Arlington, [www.wickedlocal.com/arlington/news](http://www.wickedlocal.com/arlington/news)

<sup>10</sup> Arlington Open Space and Recreation Plan 2006, 91.

Freedom’s Way Heritage Area, including Arlington, several years ago. This report identified 63 heritage landscapes in Arlington and highlighted six for future study. One of the priority landscapes was the Mill Brook, which travels from the Great Meadows to the Mystic Lakes. The Mill Brook has deep historical and cultural roots dating back to the 1600s. Originally called Vine Brook and later Sucker Brook, the two and one-half mile Mill Brook has an elevation drop of more than 160 feet, which provided water power significant enough to power small industrial ventures along its banks. During this industrial period, a series of mill ponds and dams lined the Brook. Today, after decades of reconfiguration and development, much of the brook is culverted with only limited portions of the waterway still exposed. The Town is committed to preserving the natural and historic legacy of the Brook and is exploring opportunities to open and restore the waterway where possible. The Town has completed two planning studies on the Mill Brook, with the most recent report completed in 2010. The Mill Brook Linear Park Report provides an historical overview of the brook, land characteristics and issues, and an analysis on current conditions, challenges, and opportunities.

**C. Other Historic Resources**

**Historic Structures.** Arlington has documented twenty-eight structures on historic inventory forms (Appendix 1).<sup>11</sup> The structures include bridges, a dam, several parks, landscapes, and conservation lands, and an early twentieth century parkway. Many of the structures are owned by state agencies as part of regional transportation and water systems. The Arlington Reservoir Standpipe\* (1921) occupies the crest of one of Arlington’s highest hills. Arlington architect Frederic F. Low designed the 85-ft. tall tower based on the ruins of a Greek temple visited by the Robbins Sisters, who donated funds for the structure.<sup>12</sup> The standpipe consists of a steel tank surrounded by a granite shell with twenty-four limestone columns, a decorative cornice, and concrete dome roof. The structure was listed on the National Register in 1985.<sup>13</sup>

**Historic Objects.** Arlington’s documented historic objects span more than 200 years (Table 6.1). Due to the town’s association with nationally renowned sculptor Cyrus E. Dallin (1861-1944), who lived in Arlington for over 40 years, Arlington has twenty-four pieces of his sculpture, including the *Menotomy Indian Hunter*, the *Robbins Memorial Flagstaff*, and *My Boys* in the Robbins Library. In the 1990s, Arlington completed a conservation project to preserve these resources. Other documented sculptures include the late twentieth century Uncle Sam monument in Arlington Center, designed by sculptor Theodore Barbarossa of Belmont.<sup>14</sup>

Name	Date	Location
Milestone	1790	Appleton Street
The Guardian Angel Rock	1920	Claremont Avenue
Robbins Memorial Flagstaff	1913	Mass. Avenue
Arlington Civil War Memorial	1886	Mass. Avenue
Menotomy Indian Hunter	1911	Mass. Avenue
Uncle Sam Memorial Sculpture	1976	Mass. Avenue
Source: MACRIS, accessed August 26, 2013.		

<sup>11</sup> See Appendix.

<sup>12</sup> Duffy, *Then & Now: Arlington*, 75.

<sup>13</sup> Louis Berger & Associates, Form F – Structure: Arlington Standpipe, 1984, revised 1989.

<sup>14</sup> Arlington Historical Society, *Menotomy Minuteman Historical Trail*.

Despite appreciation of public art, Arlington has documented only six of its historic markers, sculptures, and objects on inventory forms. Notably missing are most of Dallin's public art pieces, the historical markers along Massachusetts Avenue to commemorate April 17, 1775, and the granite watering trough at the Foot of the Rocks donated by the Robbins Sisters in memory of their brother.<sup>15</sup> Most of these objects are located in Arlington Center.

**Burial Grounds and Cemeteries.** Arlington maintains two public cemeteries: the Old Burying Ground\* on Pleasant Street in Arlington Center and Mount Pleasant Cemetery\* on Medford Street. Established in 1732, the Old Burying Ground\* is Arlington's oldest cemetery.<sup>16</sup> Located behind the First Parish Unitarian Church in Arlington Center, the burial ground includes an impressive collection of early slate markers dating from ca. 1732. The Old Burying Ground is included in the Arlington Center National Register District and protected with a preservation restriction. The Mount Pleasant Cemetery\* (established ca. 1843) is a 62-acre cemetery highlighted by a large entrance gate, stone Chapel\* (1930), Victorian-era marble monuments, and contemporary granite markers. Although still active, the cemetery is almost full and the Town is considering options for continuing interments at the facility.

The Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery\* (1846) on Gardner Street in East Arlington is the only Black Masonic Cemetery in the United States. Today, a monument and small park mark the site where members of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge F & AM, formed in 1776, were buried. Though much of the cemetery has been developed, a 1988 geophysical survey of the site by students of Boston University's Archaeological Department found remains of the original gate and an obelisk. In 1987, after learning about the cemetery, the Arlington Historical Society collaborated with the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Dorchester to form the Prince Hall Mystic Arlington Cemetery Association to preserve and protect the site. The group restored the cemetery with donations from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge and CDBG funds from the Town of Arlington. In 1990, the group rededicated the cemetery and in 1998, the cemetery was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Archaeological Resources.** Arlington has completed several site-specific archeological studies. In addition to the geophysical survey for Prince Hall Cemetery, the Town commissioned archaeological excavations along the shore of Spy Pond when it renovated Spy Pond Field in the early 1990s. Resources uncovered during the project include prehistoric lithic chipping debris and structural remains from the nineteenth and early twentieth century ice industry buildings.<sup>17</sup>

#### D. Cultural Resources

Contemporary art and culture are as integral to Arlington's community identity as its historic resources. Arlington has many residents working in the visual, print, and performing arts fields,

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<sup>15</sup> Town of Arlington website, [http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public\\_documents/ArlingtonMA\\_Rental/ArlingtonMA\\_Whittemore/wrobbinshistory](http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/public_documents/ArlingtonMA_Rental/ArlingtonMA_Whittemore/wrobbinshistory).

<sup>16</sup> The Burying Ground is referred to as "Arlington Old Cemetery" and "First Parish Church Old Burying Ground" on the Historic Resource Inventory Form completed for the site. MHC, [www.mhc-macris.net](http://www.mhc-macris.net).

<sup>17</sup> Open Space and Recreation Plan, 70.

and many local organizations promote and enhance the arts. History and culture tend to be interwoven in Arlington, with the Town's historic buildings providing venues for contemporary theater and musical performances as well as art exhibits and cultural programming.

The Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) provides funding for art and cultural activities, the Robbins Library, which provides a list with links to many of the town's cultural groups in addition to its own cultural programming, and the Committee on Tourism and Economic Development and the Cultural Commission which both seek to coordinate and promote Arlington's various cultural offerings to local residents and the greater region. Arlington's new Economic Development Director will also play a pivotal role in identifying and pursuing opportunities to promote the town's heritage and culture.

**Venues.** Arlington's list of cultural venues is as long as its list of organizations. In addition to the auditoriums at Arlington's Town Hall and High School, the public libraries and private churches, theaters, and community halls provide rehearsal and performance space for dance, choral, and other performing arts groups. In Arlington Center, the renovated Regent Theater and the Arlington Friends of the Drama present live theater and other performance programs. In East Arlington, the Capitol Theater shows feature films and hosts an International Film Festival each year.

**Events.** Arlington's longstanding annual events are a beloved community tradition. These include:

- **Town Day:** held every September on "Uncle Sam's" birthday. Events include a street fair, informational booths sponsored by local organizations, town departments and committees, and local businesses, performances, a picnic, and fireworks.
- **Patriot's Day Parade:** one of the largest local parades in Massachusetts. Parade includes appearances from "William Dawes" and "Paul Revere" in an annual re-creation of their famous ride in 1775. Events also include a road race and battle re-enactments.
- **Independence Day Celebration at Robbins Farm Park:** music, refreshments, and live broadcast of the Boston Pops concert and fireworks on the Esplanade shown on a large screen.
- **Feast of the East:** a street fair sponsored by restaurants, art galleries, and other businesses in the East Arlington neighborhood and business district.
- **Arlington International Film Festival (AIFF):** held every October in different venues throughout Arlington, including the Regent and Capitol Theaters. Event includes film presentations as well as live performances.
- **The Arlington Alive Summer Arts Block Party** is a daylong celebration of the arts in Arlington. Co-hosted by the Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development (ATED) and the Arlington Center for the Arts (ACC) and held at Broadway Place in Arlington Center, the event includes live music, visual arts, theater and dance as well as short films and a family arts area. [www.ArlingtonAliveMA.org](http://www.ArlingtonAliveMA.org)



**Public Art Installations.** In addition to Cyrus Dallin’s public art pieces and the Uncle Sam Statue, Arlington has several public art installations placed in various locations in the community. They include:

- Fox Library Mural
- Boys and Girls Club Scrim Mural
- ACA Mural
- MBTA Mural in Arlington Heights
- Studio 221 Mural
- 11 ceramic mosaic murals created by the Arlington High School art teacher<sup>18</sup>

### **E. Historic & Cultural Resource Planning**

Arlington has several organizations dedicated to preserving the town’s historic resources. They include the Arlington Historical Commission, the Arlington Historic Districts Commission, and the Arlington Preservation Trust, all involved with preservation planning, advocacy, and resource management. A fourth organization, the Arlington Historical Society, is a private non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the town’s heritage. Still other groups, such as the Dallin Museum and the Old Schwamb Mill focus on site-specific preservation. Town boards such as the Cemetery Commission, the Redevelopment Board, and the Conservation Commission also participate in preserving Arlington’s historic character. Many of these boards have overlapping membership and have collaborated on past efforts to preserve and promote the town’s history. While the Historical Commission and Historic Districts Commission do not currently share board members and have limited interaction, these two groups have traditionally maintained a good relationship and share a booth at Town Day each fall.

The Arlington Preservation Fund was established with CDBG funds. The program approved its first loan in 1984 and is now closing its 100th loan. While the average loan is \$30,000, the program has approved larger loans in special circumstances.<sup>19</sup> Today, the program is maintained as a municipal fund managed by an independent, non-profit board that oversees the distribution of funds. The nine-member board includes representatives from the Historical Commission, the Schwamb Mill, the Historical Society, and the Historic District Commissions as well as the Planning Director, an architect, lawyer, real estate professional, and a financial officer. To be eligible for funding, a property must be located within an historic district, inventoried, or otherwise deemed important by the town.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.arlingtonpublicart.blogspot.com>

<sup>19</sup> John Worden, Arlington Preservation Fund, interview with Community Opportunities Group, Inc., August 21, 2013.

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.arlingtonpreservation.org/>

**The Arlington Cultural Council (ACC)** is a seven-member board that supports and encourages the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences through the distribution of grants to local artists, cultural groups, and educators. The ACC is a designated Local Cultural Council (LCC), responsible for distributing the town's annual Massachusetts Cultural Council allocation of grants funds to local art and cultural activities. In addition, the Council is responsible for maintaining banners along Massachusetts Avenue, which include interchangeable space for upcoming events. In 2012, the ACC organized Arlington Alive!, a group meeting held to discuss the arts in Arlington and opportunities for collaborative activities.<sup>21</sup>

The **Arlington Cultural Commission** is a seven-member board chartered to preserve Arlington's cultural and artistic resources and work toward establishing the town as a significant cultural destination through promotion, education, advocacy, and related activities. This group is intended to serve as the umbrella organization for Arlington's numerous and diverse cultural groups.

The **Arlington Public Library** is a cultural institution that promotes the historical, social, and cultural development of the town. The Library maintains two facilities: the Robbins Library in Arlington Center and the Fox Branch Library in East Arlington. Both offer cultural programming and serve as venues for community events and presentations. The Robbins Library's Local History Room maintains a collection of historic books, scrapbooks, annual reports, atlases, photographs, postcards, slides, vertical files, other ephemera documenting the Arlington's history.

The recently established **Arlington Public Art** is a collaboration of the Arlington Center for the Arts and Visions 2020. This group seeks to engage the community and enrich the town's public spaces through the installation of original public art that celebrates Arlington's unique historic, cultural, natural and human resources.

In addition to managing the Dallin collection, the **Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum** sponsors community events and is engaged in educational and cultural activities. The Dallin Museum hosted Art on the Green on the lawn of the Cutter House during Arlington's Town Day. This event highlighted artists and authors from all media. The Museum also offers educational art classes to school children.

The **Arlington Center for the Arts (ACA)** is a non-profit arts facility at the former Gibbs Junior High School in East Arlington. The ACA is a gathering place for local visual, print, and performance artists who lease studio space, as well as a resident theater (Underground Railway Theater).

The **Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development (ATED)** serves as a link between history, art, culture, and economic development. Board members include a Selectmen, the Planning Director, and representatives from the Redevelopment Board, Cultural Council, Historical Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and School Committee. ATED's mission is to promote and develop Arlington as a destination for business, culture, recreation, and entertainment. The group recently co-hosted a Summer Arts Festival, funded in part with a grant from the Cultural Council.

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<sup>21</sup> Eliza Burden, Co-Chair, Arlington Cultural Council, Interview with Community Opportunities Group, Inc., August 1, 2013.

In addition, ATED secured funding from Town Meeting to construct a small interpretative center near the Uncle Sam Monument. Current projects include the development of distinctive directional signage for Arlington's four museums/cultural institutions and other cultural resources and development of a website to promote cultural and economic resources.

## **F. Local Regulations, Policies, and Initiatives**

**Historic Resources Inventory.** Identifying a community's historic resources through a cultural resource inventory forms the basis of historic preservation planning at the local level. To date, Arlington has submitted more than 1,100 properties to MHC's Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets of the Commonwealth. Resources identified in the inventory date from 1695 to 1988. The last inventory effort was in support of expanding the Pleasant Street Historic District.

**National Register Historic District and Individual Listings.** The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been deemed significant in America history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture. Arlington has three multi-property National Register Districts, three National Register Districts encompassing three or less properties, and fifty-seven properties that are individually listed in the National Register (Appendix 2).<sup>22</sup>

**Local Historic Districts.** Arlington has designated seven local historic districts with a combined total of 359 properties (Table 6.2). In a local historic district, building alterations visible from a public way require approval from the Historic Districts Commission. Over time, Arlington has expanded most of these districts due to requests from property owners wishing to have their properties included. All but the Mount Gilboa Historic District are located in Arlington Center and several districts abut another district. Properties in the districts vary in age, style, and level of ornamentation. Photo documentation for each district is now more than fifteen years old, and the Commission hopes to hire an intern to update these forms in the near future. The HDC has adopted design guidelines as an aid to property owners.

**Demolition Delay Bylaw.** Arlington was one of the first communities in Massachusetts to adopt a Demolition Delay Bylaw.<sup>23</sup> In Arlington, any building in the historic structures inventory (available on the AHC website) or deemed significant by the Historical Commission is subject to review under the bylaw. Arlington's bylaw imposes a 12-month delay for any building found preferably preserved by the AHC, allowing the opportunity to work with a property owner to find alternatives to demolition. The AHC has found the bylaw relatively effective when a property owner is willing to work with the Commission. For owners who are not willing to consider an alternative solution, the bylaw only results in a temporary delay before the building is demolished.

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<sup>22</sup> Massachusetts Historical Commission, *State Register of Historic Places* (2012).

<sup>23</sup> Joann Robinson.

**Table 6.2. Local Historic Districts**

Historic District Name	Location	# Properties	Date of Designation
Avon Place	7-29 Avon Place and 390-402 Massachusetts Avenue	12	8/20/1996
Broadway	Bounded by Broadway, Webster, and Mass Avenues	8	9/13/1991
Central Street	Bounded by Central St to east, Mass Ave to south, and railroad tracks to north	17	6/9/1982
Jason - Gray	Jason, Gray, Irving and Ravine Streets	50	5/4/1998
Mount Gilboa - Crescent Hill	Westminster Ave, Crescent Hill Ave, Montague St, and Westmoreland Ave	104	9/13/1991
Pleasant Street	Pleasant St from Swan St to Venner Rd, Academy St, Maple St, Oak Knoll, Pelham Terr, Venner Rd and Wellington St	137	4/26/2006
Russell Street	Roughly bounded by Water, Russell, Mystic, Prescott, and Winslow Sts, and Russell Terrace	31	7/31/1985

Source: State Register of Historic Places 2012

**Preservation Restrictions.** Ten Arlington properties are protected by historic preservation restrictions under M.G.L. c. 184, ss. 31-33, including public and private resources (Table 6.4). A preservation restriction is attached to the deed of a property and it is one of the strongest preservation tools available. All of Arlington’s preservation restrictions run in perpetuity, with no expiration date. Most of the restrictions were put in place when the properties were restored with a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

**Table 6.3. Preservation Restrictions**

Name	Address	Date Established	Expiration Date
Arlington Old Cemetery	730 Massachusetts Ave	5/25/2000	None
Arlington Town Hall Gardens	730 Massachusetts Ave	5/25/2000	None
A. P. Cutter House #2	89 Summer St	12/19/2007	None
Ephraim Cutter House	4 Water St	12/2/1994	None
Jefferson Cutter House	1 Whittemore Park	1/9/1990	None
Old Schwamb Mill	17 Mill Ln and 29 Lowell St at Mill Brook	6/23/1999	None
Pleasant Street Congregational Church	75 Pleasant St	6/1/1999	None
Robbins Memorial Town Hall	730 Mass Ave	2/10/1987	None
Winfred Robbins Memorial Garden	730 Mass Ave	5/25/2000	None
Charles P. Wyman House	50 Wyman St	11/12/1985	None

Source: State Register of Historic Places 2012

**Interpretive Activities.** Arlington has only a limited number of interpretive signs in the community. These include an historical information sign at the exposed railroad tracks in the grass park at the Cutter House. The Town is creating distinctive directional signage for Arlington’s four museums and other cultural resources. In addition, the Town will be constructing a small interpretive center near the Uncle Sam Monument at the entrance to the Minuteman Bikeway.

## HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Appendix 1

Documented Historic Structures		
Name	Date	Location
Mystic Valley Parkway – Beacon Street Island	1920	Beacon Street
Lexington Railroad Bridge over Brattle Road	1900	Brattle Street
Arlington Reservoir Standpipe	1921	Cedar Avenue
Garden of the Guardian Angel Rock	1920	Claremont Avenue
Mystic Valley Parkway – Decatur Street Island	1920	Decatur Street
Mystic Dam	1864	Edgewater Place
Lexington Railroad Bridge over Forest Street	1900	Forest Street
Lexington Railroad Bridge over Grove Street	1900	Grove Street
Menotomy Rocks Park – Hill Pond	1875	Jason Street
Lowell Street Bridge over B & M Railroad	1937	Lowell Street
Winfred Robbins Memorial Garden		730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington Town Hall Gardens		730 Massachusetts Avenue
Lexington Railroad Bridge over Mill Brook	1890	Mill Brook
Lexington Railroad Bridge over Mill Brook	1892	Mill Brook
Mount Gilboa Conservation Land		Mount Gilboa
S. E. Kimball Windmill	1938	225 Mystic Street
Mystic Valley Parkway – Alewife Brook Bridge	1908	
Mystic Valley Parkway – Mystic Lakes Segment	1896	
Mystic Valley Parkway – Central Segment	1905	
Mystic Valley Parkway – Medford Street Rotary	1920	
Mystic Valley Parkway Tree Canopy	1920	
Mystic Valley Parkway West	1913	
Mystic Valley Parkway – Meadow Brook Culvert	1920	
Park Avenue Bridge over B & M Railroad	1900	Park Avenue
Lexington Railroad Bridge over Pond Lane	1930	Pond Lane
Old B & M Railroad Bridge – Lexington Line #4	1934	Route 2
(no historic name)		50R Westmoreland Avenue
Lexington Railroad Bridge over Whittemore Street	1910	Whittemore Street

Source: MACRIS, Accessed August 26, 2013

## HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

### Appendix 2

National Register of Historic Places			
Historic Name	Location	Date Listed	Number of Properties
<b>Historic Districts</b>			
Arlington Center Historic District	Bounded by Mass Ave, Academy, Pleasant, and Maple Sts	7/18/1974	11
Kensington Park Historic District	Roughly bounded by Kensington Pk, Brantwood and Kensington Rds	9/27/1985	44
Orvis Road Historic District	Roughly bounded by Mass Ave, Freeman, Randolph, and Newcomb Sts on Orvis Road	9/27/1985	25
Pierce Farm Historic District	Roughly bounded by Claremont and Oakland Aves	9/27/1985	3
Robbins Memorial Town Hall	730 Mass Ave	7/18/1974	1
Winfred Robbins Memorial Garden	730 Mass Ave	7/18/1974	1
<b>Individual Listings[1]</b>			
Phillip M. Allyn House	94 Oakland Ave	9/29/1985	1
Arlington Coal and Lumber Company	41 Park Ave	4/18/1985	1
Arlington Gaslight Company	Grove Street	4/18/1985	3
Arlington Pumping Station	Brattle Court	4/18/1985	1
Arlington Reservoir Standpipe	Cedar Ave	9/27/1985	1
Baptist Society Meeting House	3-5 Brattle St	4/18/1985	2
Maria Bassett House	8 College Ave	9/27/1985	1
Belcher House	64 Old Mystic St	4/14/1975	1
Butterfield-Whittemore House	54 Mass Ave	3/30/1978	1
Henry Call - Professor George Bartlett House	216 Pleasant St	4/18/1985	1
Calvary Methodist Church	300 Mass Ave	6/23/1983	1
Capitol Theater	202-208 Mass Ave	4/18/1985	1
Chapel of St. Anne	Claremont Ave	4/18/1985	1
Cushman House	104 Bartlett Ave	4/18/1985	1
A. P. Cutter House #2	89 Summer St	4/18/1985	1

National Register of Historic Places			
Historic Name	Location	Date Listed	Number of Properties
Ephraim Cutter House	4 Water St	3/29/1978	1
Gershom Cutter House	1146 Mass Ave	11/12/1999	1
Jefferson Cutter House	1 Whittemore Park	1/23/1992	10
Damon House	275 Broadway	4/18/1985	4
Edmund Dwight House (Winchester/Arlington)	5 Cambridge Street, Winchester	7/5/1989	1
Kimball Farmer House	1173 Mass Ave	4/18/1985	1
First Parish Church Parsonage	232-234 Pleasant St	4/18/1985	3
Greek Orthodox Church	735 Mass Ave	6/23/1983	1
Edward Hall House	187 Pleasant St	4/18/1985	1
Highland Hose House	1007 Mass Ave	4/18/1985	1
Addison Hill House	83 Appleton St	9/27/1985	2
William W. Kimball House	13 Winter St	9/27/1985	2
Locke School	88 Park Ave	4/18/1985	1
Capt. Benjamin Locke House	21 Appleton St	7/21/1978	1
Lt. Benjamin Locke Store	11-13 Lowell St	4/18/1985	2
Milestone	Appleton St and Paul Revere Rd	9/27/1985	1
Old Schwamb Mill	17 Mill Ln and 29 Lowell St	10/7/1971	3
Pleasant Street Congregational Church	75 Pleasant St	6/23/1983	1
Prentiss-Payson House	224-226 Pleasant St	4/18/1985	2
William Prentiss House	252 Gray St	9/27/1985	1
Prince Hall Mystic Cemetery	Gardner Street	11/25/1998	2
William Proctor House	390 Mass Ave	4/18/1985	1
Warren Rawson House	37-49 Park St	4/18/1985	1
Warren W. Rawson Building	68-74 Franklin St	9/27/1985	1
Alfred E. Robindreau House	28 Lafayette St	4/18/1985	2
Robinson-Lewis-Fessenden House	40 Westminster Ave	4/18/1985	1
Robinson House	19 Winter St	4/18/1985	1
Russell Commons	2-10 Park Terr	4/18/1985	1
Jason Russell House	7 Jason St	10/9/1974	1
Ralph W. Shattuck House	274-276 Broadway	9/27/1985	1
Ella Mahalla Cutter House	93 Summer St	4/18/1985	1
Thomas Swadkins House	160 Westminster St	4/18/1985	1

<b>National Register of Historic Places</b>			
<b>Historic Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date Listed</b>	<b>Number of Properties</b>
Henry Swan House	418 Mass Ave	9/27/1985	1
Stephen Symmes Jr. House	215 Crosby St	4/18/1985	1
Jack Taylor-Cyrus Edwin Dallin House	69 Oakland Ave	9/27/1985	1
U.S. Post Office – Arlington Main Branch	10-14 Court St	6/18/1986	1
Wayside Inn	393 Mass Ave	9/27/1985	2
Whittemore- Robbins House	670-672 Mass Ave	7/18/1974	3
Whittemore House	267 Broadway	4/18/1985	2
5 Willow Court	5 Willow Ct	4/18/1985	1
Winn Farm	57 Summer St	4/18/1985	1
5-7 Winter Street	5-7 Winter St	4/18/1985	2
<b>Multiple Property Submission</b>			
Metropolitan Park System of Greater Boston		2/4/2003	8
Mystic Valley Parkway		1/18/2006	
Thematic Resource Area			
Mystic Dam	Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston between Lower and Upper Mystic Lakes	1/18/1990	
Water Supply System of Metropolitan Boston	8 districts and 19 individual properties in 23 towns	1/18/1990	
[1] In some instances, individually-listed National Register (NRIND) properties are also designated within one of Arlington’s local historic districts (LHD).			