

VLK- 4/28/95 NRHP- 7/28/95

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 11/90)

OMB No. 10024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Barcroft Community House

Other names/site number: St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Barcroft School House/ VDHR File # 00-40

2. Location

Street & Number: 800 South Buchanan Street Not for Publication

City or town: Arlington Vicinity

State: Virginia Code: VA County: Arlington Code: 013 Zip Code: 22204

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 6/16/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
VA DEPT. OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
 entered in the National Register. _____
() see continuation sheet
 determined eligible for the National Register _____
() see continuation sheet
 determined not eligible for the _____
National Register.
 removed from the National Register _____
 other, (explain:)

Barcroft Community House

Arlington County, Virginia

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> Structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> Objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing _____
 N/A _____

Number of contributing Resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
<u>EDUCATION/School</u>	<u>SOCIAL/Civic</u>
<u>RELIGIOUS/Religious Facility</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
<u>LATE 19TH/EARLY 20TH CENTURY</u>	foundation: <u>STONE</u>
<u>AMERICAN MOVEMENT/Craftsman</u>	walls: <u>WOOD/Weatherboard</u>
_____	roof: <u>ASPHALT SHINGLES</u>
_____	other: _____

Narrative Description

Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets

[X] See continuation sheet

Barcroft Community House
Name of Property

Alexandria County, Virginia
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark x in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark x in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

RELIGION

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1908-1925

Significant Dates

1908

1913

1925

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above.

[X] See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia
Section number 8 Page 6

EVOLUTION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION IN ARLINGTON COUNTY

Education in Virginia prior to 1870 was considered a private concern. The upper-class were able to tutor their children at home or send them to private schools located in Alexandria and Georgetown. As a rule, publicly-funded schools were thought to have been established for the poor and orphaned.

In 1870, the Virginia General Assembly adopted an education plan, appointing a State Board of Education to establish free public schools for children of every income level. The Board, in turn, appointed a county superintendent and three trustees for each of the three school districts formed in Arlington County: the Arlington, Jefferson, and Washington districts.⁹

Located on Columbia Pike at Walter Reed Drive, the Columbia School opened in the Arlington district in 1870, and was believed to be the first public school organized in county. Shortly thereafter, two additional public schools were opened: Walker School at Balls Crossroads, and the Arlington School for Coloreds at Freedman's Village. By 1871, the Jefferson and Arlington school districts consisted of three white and two colored schools. The number of schools increased by 1881 to a total of nine schools, all of which had outhouses.¹⁰

Despite the growth within the county and the development of the educational system, no school building had yet to be constructed in the subdivision of Barcroft. The nearest school was the Columbia School, located over a mile away. In 1904, the Glencarlyn School was opened at the end of Fourth Street. The Arlington Board of Education intended the school to accommodate the children of Barcroft; however, the remote location proved to be inaccessible. Eventually the Board selected Carlin Hall, the oldest extant community house in the county, to provide temporary school space for the Barcroft children.¹¹ The October 7, 1907 minutes of the Alexandria County School Board recorded a petition from the Citizens Association of Barcroft for the establishment of a school in their community. The prolonged actions of the Board motivated the citizens, lead by Sidney Marye, to obtain space in the home of Mrs. Amy Fairfax, who agreed to teach the children.

⁹Lois Snyderman and the Couture/Denig Partnership. "Historic Resources Survey: 18 Early-Mid 20th Century School Buildings." (Arlington County, VA: December 1991), p 7.

¹⁰Ibid. p 7.

¹¹Templeman. p 170.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia
Section number 8 Page 7

CONSTRUCTION OF THE BARCROFT COMMUNITY HOUSE

Aided by the Reverend William Pierpoint, a Methodist minister, the Barcroft community had begun to plan for the construction of a civic building as early as 1903. An article in the November 9, 1903 issue of *The Barcroft News* notified citizens of the pending fund-raising efforts for a city hall:

There is a movement on foot to raise a fund for the building of a city hall in Barcroft. Several of our citizens are enthusiastic upon the subject, and a meeting will be held soon in order to formulate plans.

Since no efforts were ever made to raise funds for the construction of a city hall in Barcroft, it is believed that the building mentioned in the article was in fact the Barcroft Community House.¹²

On May 23, 1908, Lots 3 and 4 in Block D were purchased by the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barcroft from Abigail G. Fox. The property consisted of 14,500 square feet, adjacent to the property of Amy Fairfax. Following numerous fund-raising events lead by Sidney Marye, the residents of Barcroft began to erect a small one-room wooden frame church/community building. Concurrent to the construction of the church/community building, the community realized the need for more substantial educational space. Therefore, in the fall of 1908, the School Board leased the newly completed building for \$10 per month from the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barcroft. On November 8, 1908, Miss Beulah Adams was retained as the first teacher for the Barcroft school.

Having commenced with only ten children at the first and second grade level, the school gradually grew to include seven grades. The modest one-room building, commonly referred to as the Barcroft School House, no longer adequately served the community's educational needs and a second room was added to the rear of the original building in 1913. School Board records show that two teachers were regularly employed to teach at the school from December 1913 to September 1925. In 1912, driven by the efforts of Walter K. Handy and fourteen additional residents, a petition was presented to the City of Arlington requesting that electric lines be extended from Columbia to Barcroft. Handy wired the first fourteen Barcroft homes, as well as the Barcroft School House, in 1913 for electricity.

The Barcroft School and Civic League (formerly known as the Citizens Association of Barcroft) was organized by the community at the time the church/community building was being constructed. During the years that the building was leased to the School Board, the League was authorized to

¹²Charlotte Maupin Manning. "History of the Barcroft School and Civic League." (published paper: Barcroft School and Civic League. September 1973), p 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia
Section number 8 Page 8

oversee the maintenance costs of the new building. The League's commitment to the Barcroft School House was extended on August 21, 1914, when the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Barcroft conveyed the one-room building and Lots 3 and 4 on Block D to the Barcroft School and Civic League.¹³ Incorporated on June 8, 1914, the Barcroft School and Civic League was headquartered in the schoolhouse. Every member of the Barcroft School and Civic League was given one share in the incorporated property. Incessantly plagued by financial burdens, the Barcroft School and Civic League conducted several fund-raising campaigns for the purpose of remodeling, maintenance, and payment of taxes. This organization raised money by presenting talent shows, card parties, social evenings, square dances, and lectures.

THE CONTINUED USE OF THE BARCROFT COMMUNITY HOUSE

By 1924 a new brick school building was being constructed at 625 South Wakefield Street. Named the John W. Barcroft Elementary School, the Art Deco style building was designed by Upman and Adams. It was constructed on three acres of property purchased from Walter O'Hara, who was responsible for building several hundreds of houses in Barcroft between 1920 and 1950.¹⁴ Originally consisting of four rooms, the school was opened in 1925 and attended by 65 children.

Despite the relocation of the school, the Barcroft Community House continued to serve as the focal point of the community, providing neighborhood meeting space. Community activities were held in the building throughout the mid-20th century by various organizations, such as the Boys Club; Kiwanis Boys Band; Camp Fire Girls; Girl Scouts; Rod and Reel Club; South Arlington A.A.'s; and the American Legion.

The Community House initially served as the church building for the Methodist Episcopal Church. Continuing to serve as the focal point of religious activity for the community throughout the 20th century, the building has been used by the Barcroft Union Church, Wolverton Bible Class, New Apostolic Church, and St. Paul's Anglican Episcopal Church. The Reverend Pierpoint, minister of the Arlington Methodist Church, served as minister when available. Other ministers who conducted services and supported the community were Maurice E. Derr and Lionel Capers representing the Episcopal Church; W. L. Purier of the Baptist Church; D. E. Day of the Methodist Church; and David Hicks of the Congregationalist Church. The building's continued association with the church allowed students of the Episcopal Theological Seminary to gain preaching experience, as well as provided

¹³Land Records of Arlington County, Liber 144, Folio 59.

¹⁴Arlington County School Board Minutes. Book 1, September 1922-July 1932, passim.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia
Section number 8 Page 9

meeting space for the Barcroft Bible Study groups. The building's continued use as a church ensured its stabilization during the financially difficult 1970s and 1980s.

Although best remembered by the Barcroft and Arlington County communities as the Barcroft School House, the building has served collectively as a church, school, and community meeting place for over eighty years. The continued ownership by the Barcroft School and Civic League throughout the mid-to late 20th century has ensured the utilization of the Community House by the Barcroft community, thus guaranteeing the preservation of the building. Sensitive to the building's historic and architectural significance, the League's 500 members have recently established a tax-free building fund for its restoration. Since December 1982, the building has been leased to the St. Georges Bulgarian Orthodox Church for weekend services, while providing a meeting place during the week for many community groups.

On January 7, 1984, the Arlington County Board designated the Barcroft Community House as a Local Historic District in recognition of its role as an important community resource dating from the early 20th century, when Arlington was undergoing a major transformation from a rural area to a suburban neighborhood. The building is believed to be the only one-room wooden frame school building remaining in Arlington.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET
Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia
Section number 9 Page 10

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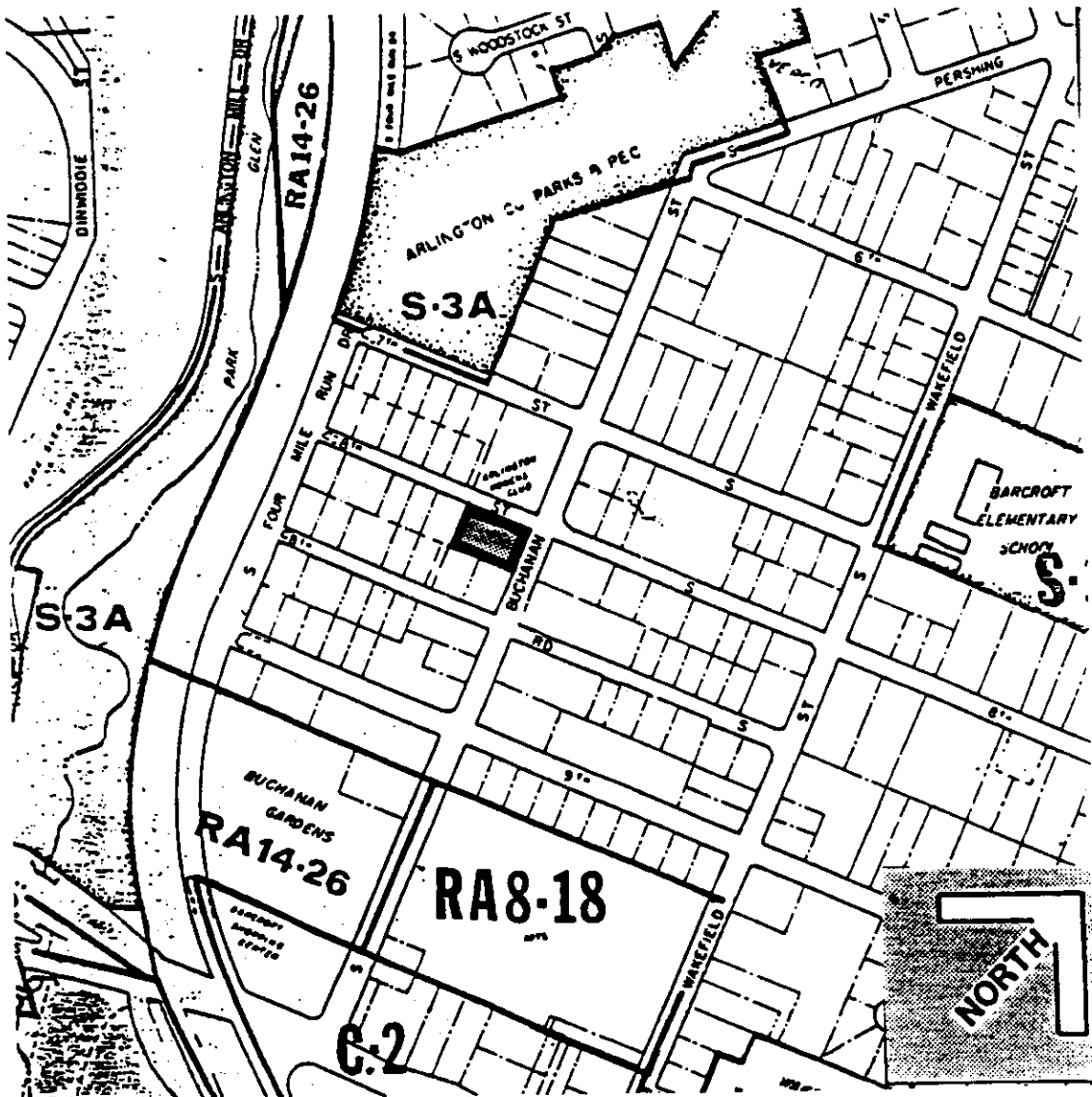
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia
Section number Map Page 11

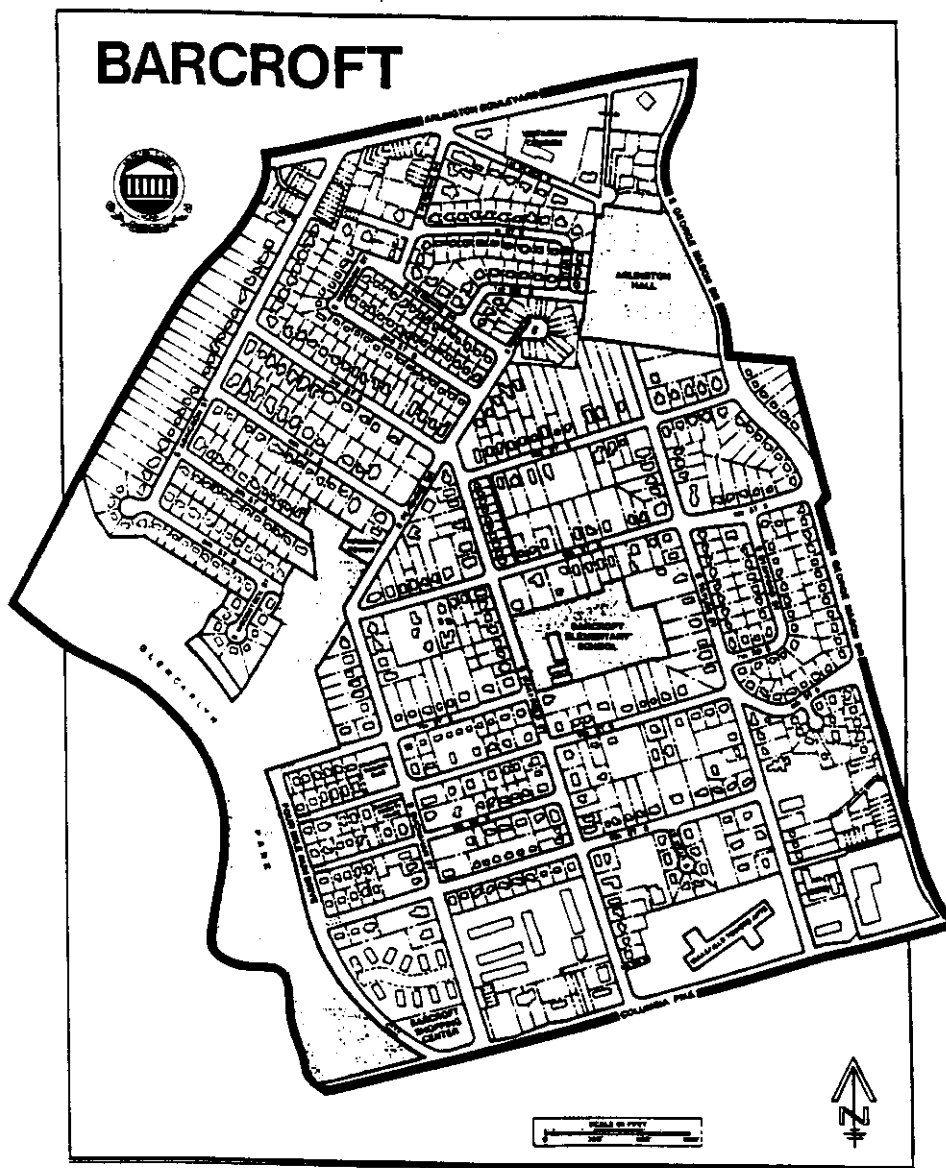


REAL ESTATE ATLAS
BARCROFT COMMUNITY HOUSE
(not to scale)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Barcroft Community House, 800 South Buchanan Street, Arlington, Virginia
Section number Map Page 12



THE BARCROFT NEIGHBORHOOD
JULY 1990

