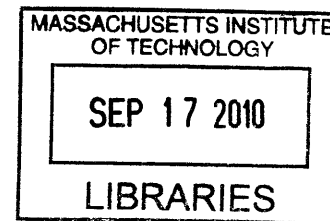


Church Housing A Symbol of Hospitality

by

Elizabeth S. Kwack



ARCHIVES

SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AS AN OPTIONAL THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ART AND DESIGN
AT THE
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

JUNE 2002

Signature of Author: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Elizabeth S. Kwack", written over a horizontal line.

Department of Architecture
May 20, 2002

Certified by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John E. Fernandez", written over a horizontal line.

John E. Fernandez
Assistant Professor
Thesis Advisor

Accepted by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Stanford Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

Stanford Anderson
Head, Department of Architecture

Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality - Romans 12:13

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:8-9

Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you.

They have told the church about your love.

You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans.

We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth. - 3 John 5-8



Mr. Archer: Please keep this in your file.
W.H.N.

May 26, 1948

Bloomfield Council
Attention Councilman Alvin E. Wenger
109 Lexington Avenue
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Honorable Sirs:

I have been asked by our Board of Trustees to write you regarding a tract of town-owned property which we are interested in securing to add to our present land at High Street and West Passaic Avenue.

The lots we have in mind are the three in your Block 1440, lots nos. 60, 1, and 2. The dimensions of lots nos. 60 and 1 total 112.13' on West Passaic Avenue and extend back 139.36' and 121.45' with a total rear line of 100.35'. Lot 2, facing Phil Place, is 50' x 100' x 50.11' x 100.33'. I believe these are the dimensions on your plan book in your assessor's office.

For these lots we have agreed to bid the total sum of ONE THOUSAND and FIFTY SEVEN DOLLARS (\$1,500.00).

We realize that this offer is slightly less than the assessed valuation which you have set for this land, but we are asking that you kindly meet in Council conference on this bid and consider if you can agree as to this minimum price for advertising and subsequent bidding in the open Council meeting.

We believe that as a church we are rendering a public service to the community. Our only reason for existence is for service to the town and community. Providing a building and leadership for the Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Red Cross, and many other social welfare organizations and programs, and our ministry to persons of all races, creeds, and color who are willing to receive our ministry merits, we believe, special consideration in the sale of this land. Anything that aids the church enhances the opportunity that the church has to serve the community.

We appreciate the fine leadership and service you are giving the town of Bloomfield.

Very truly yours,

William H. Hoobe, Minister

May 26, 1945

I have been asked by our Board of Trustees to write to you regarding a tract of town-owned property which we are interested in securing...

The dimensions of lots nos. 60 and 1 total 112.18' on West Passaic Avenue and extend back 129.38' and 121.48' with a total rear line of 103.33'. Lot 2, facing Phil Place, is 50' x 100' x 50.11' x 103.33'...the dimensions on your plan book in your assessor's office.

For these lots we have agreed to bid the total sum of ONE THOUSAND and FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$1,500.00)

We believe that as a church we are rendering a public service to the community. Our only reason for existence is for service to the town and community... Anything that aids the church enhances the opportunity that the church has to serve the community.

William H. Neebe, Minister

Church Housing

A Symbol of Hospitality



This project is located in Bloomfield, NJ. Less than fifteen miles from New York City, the Township of Bloomfield was first settled by the Dutch in 1691 and later by the English in 1719. In 1812, the State of New Jersey finally incorporated Bloomfield as a township. Until then, it had been a parish of the city of Newark. The Township took its name from the Bloomfield Presbyterian Church. This church was named for General Joseph Bloomfield, the fourth Governor of New Jersey and the first Governor to be born in New Jersey.

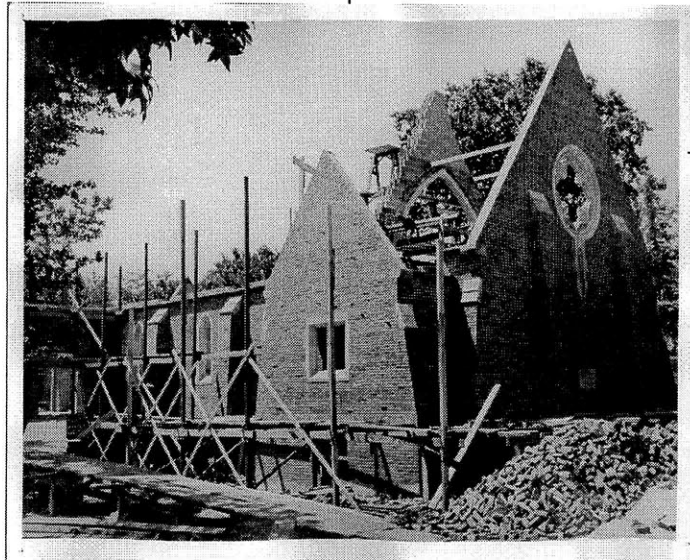
Bloomfield prides itself on its rich historical background. In 1830, a town resident David Oakes established a woolen mill. This mill prospered and provided employment for hundreds of immigrants and among its various materials, uniforms for the Union Army in the Civil War. In addition, the Township housed many military leaders including General George Washington during the American Revolution. Moreover, the community's Green functioned as a military training ground during the war. Today, it remains among the most attractive features of Bloomfield. The Township Green and its surrounding buildings, including the Oakes' mansion, which is now used as a performing arts center, have been recognized as a historic district.



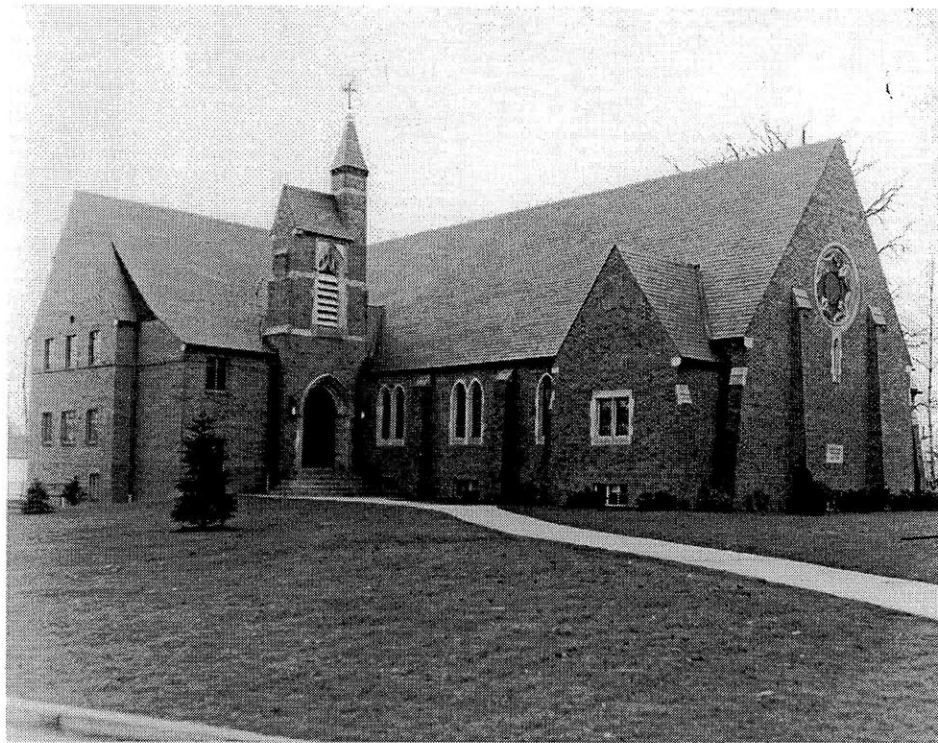
In 1945, the Bethany United Presbyterian Church purchased a tract of property from the Township of Bloomfield. Like Bloomfield, this church has a meaningful history. Though the construction of the church building itself began in 1945, the church as a congregation became established years earlier. Its original meeting place was a local storefront just up the street of the now existing church. In 1947, the Bethany congregation marched down the street to its present location. It was a very ceremonial event that marked years of planning, prayer, hard work, and the faith of church leaders and members alike. In expressing the church's interest in obtaining the land, Reverend William H. Neebe, on behalf of Bethany's Board of Trustees wrote to the Bloomfield Town Council,



"We believe that as a church we are rendering a public service to the community. Our only reason for existence is for service to the town and community...Anything that aids the church enhances the opportunity that the church has to serve the community."









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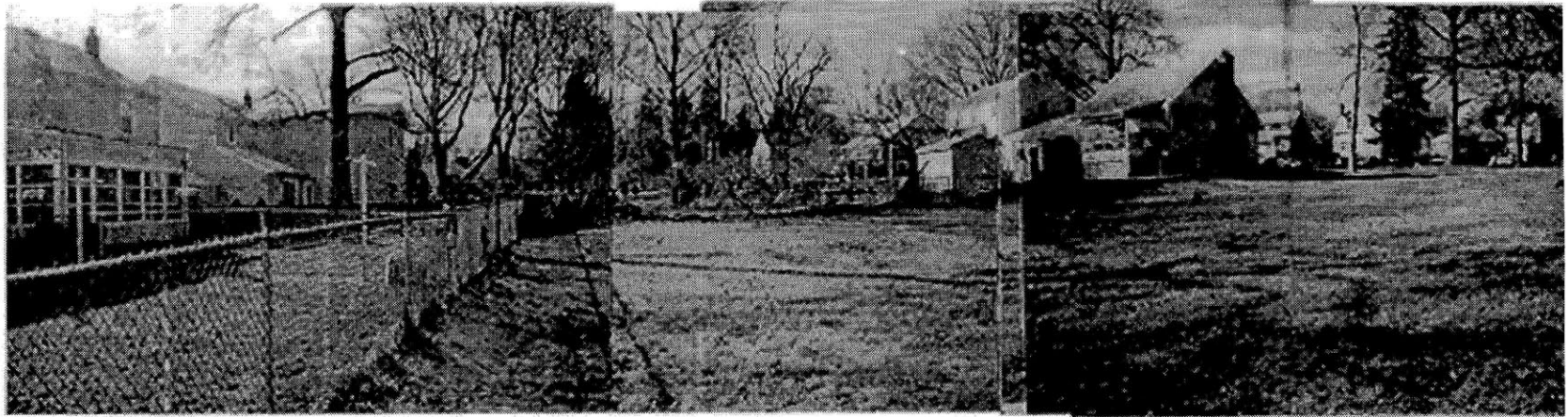
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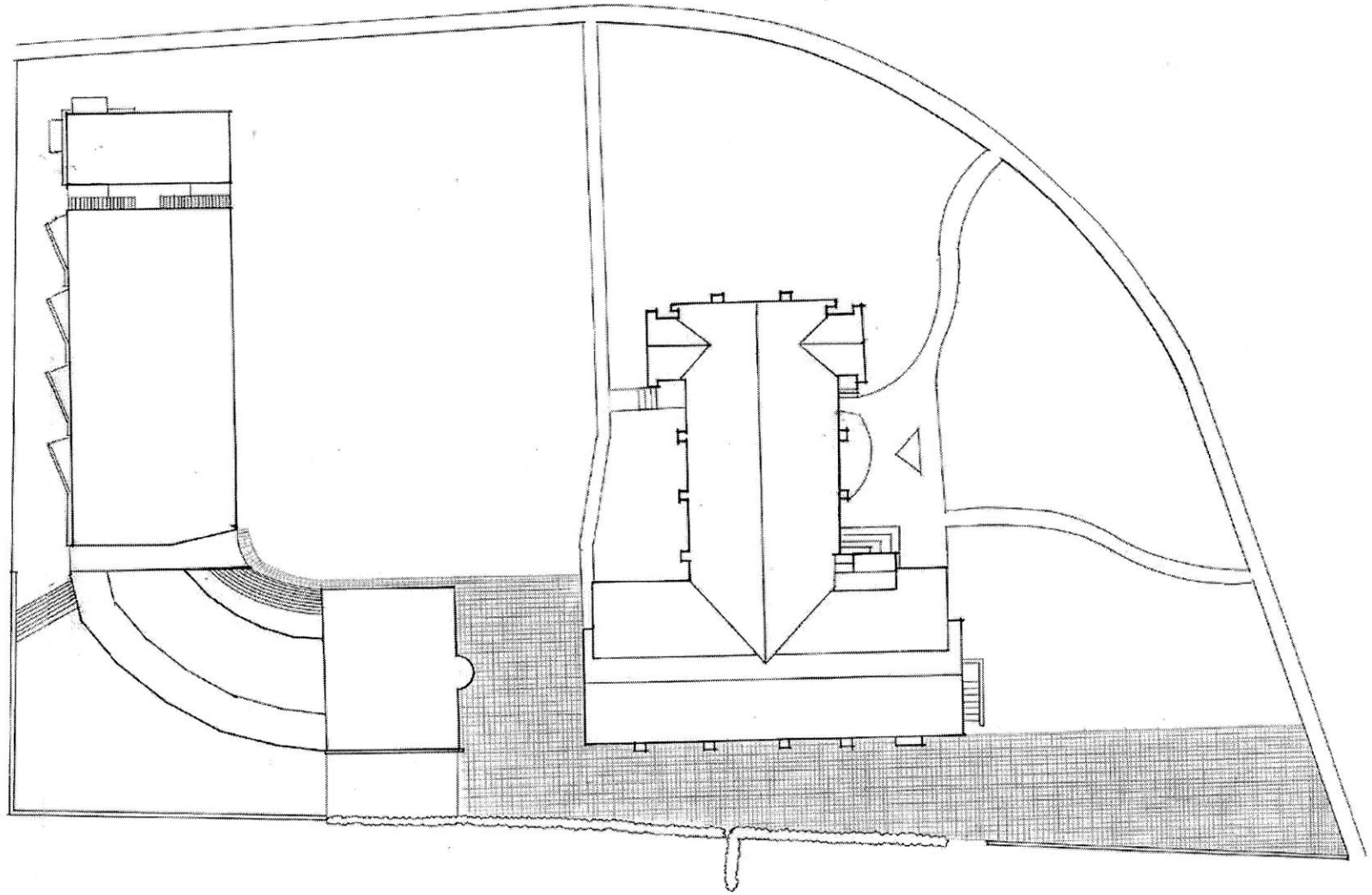
Nearly sixty years after its inception, Bethany Church maintains service to the community as its commission. While the property it secured was never developed, the church's desire to employ this land to contribute to its community remains unchanged. The current head pastor of the church dedicates his ministry to the hospitality aspect of Christianity and shares the vision of the church's founding leaders. Consequently, he has proposed to erect a housing complex on the church property. The complex is intended for both the church's congregation as well as its greater community. It will mainly serve as a place of retreat and meditation and will offer housing during any conferences held at the church.

As requested by the church, the complex should provide temporary housing facilities for as many individuals as space allows for, as well as an apartment for the supervisor of the facilities. It may be an extension of the present church or exist independently from it, both structurally and programmatically. The project will also require landscape design and possibly a driveway that will supply some parking space.

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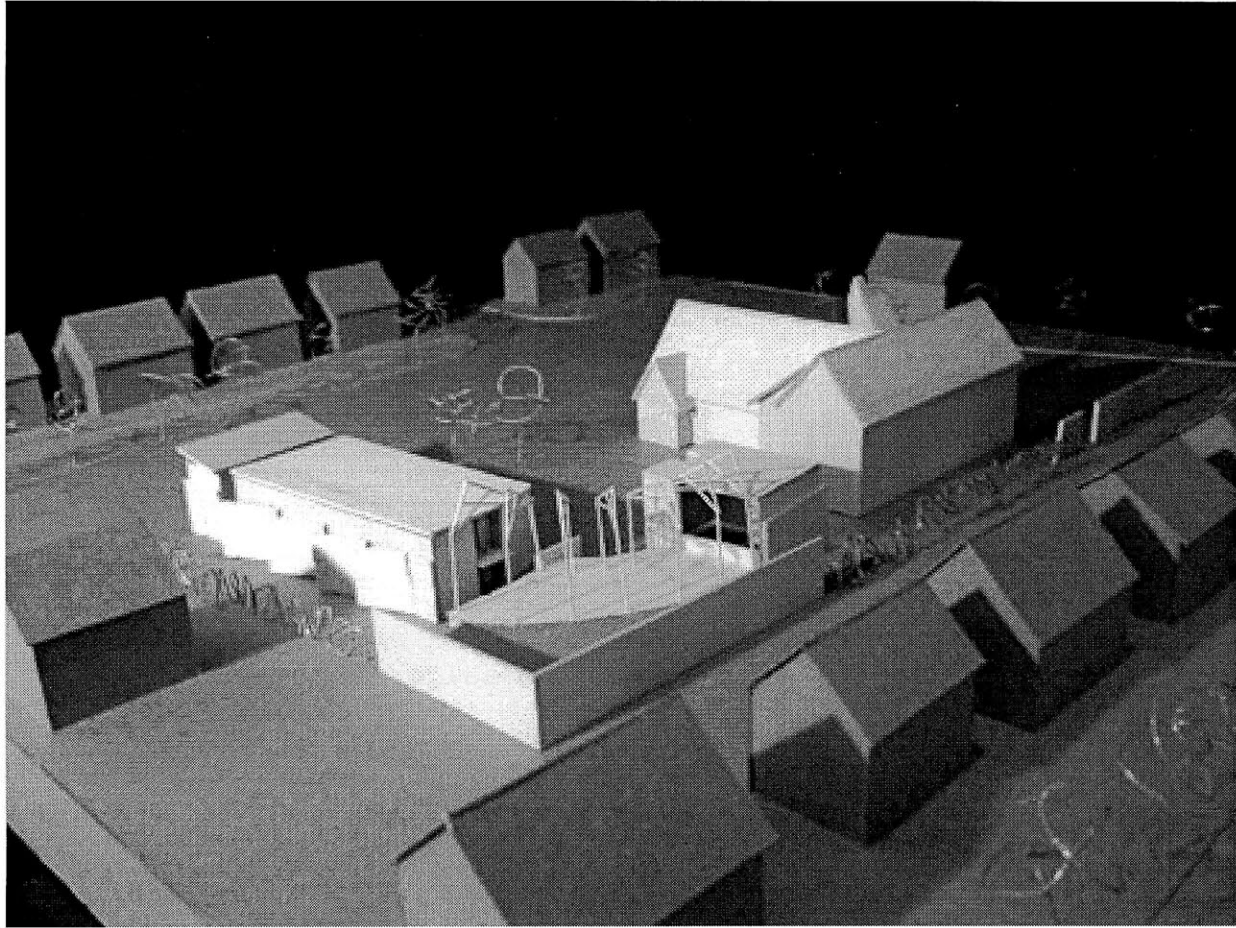






The underlying concept of this project is the idea of an arm that extends out to community. This concept came about after thoroughly researching the history of Bethany Church and considering the primary concerns of the church's ministry, which regards the church's role in extending hospitality to its community. This arm-like housing complex is an extension of the church that reaches out to the community and protects the church and its property.

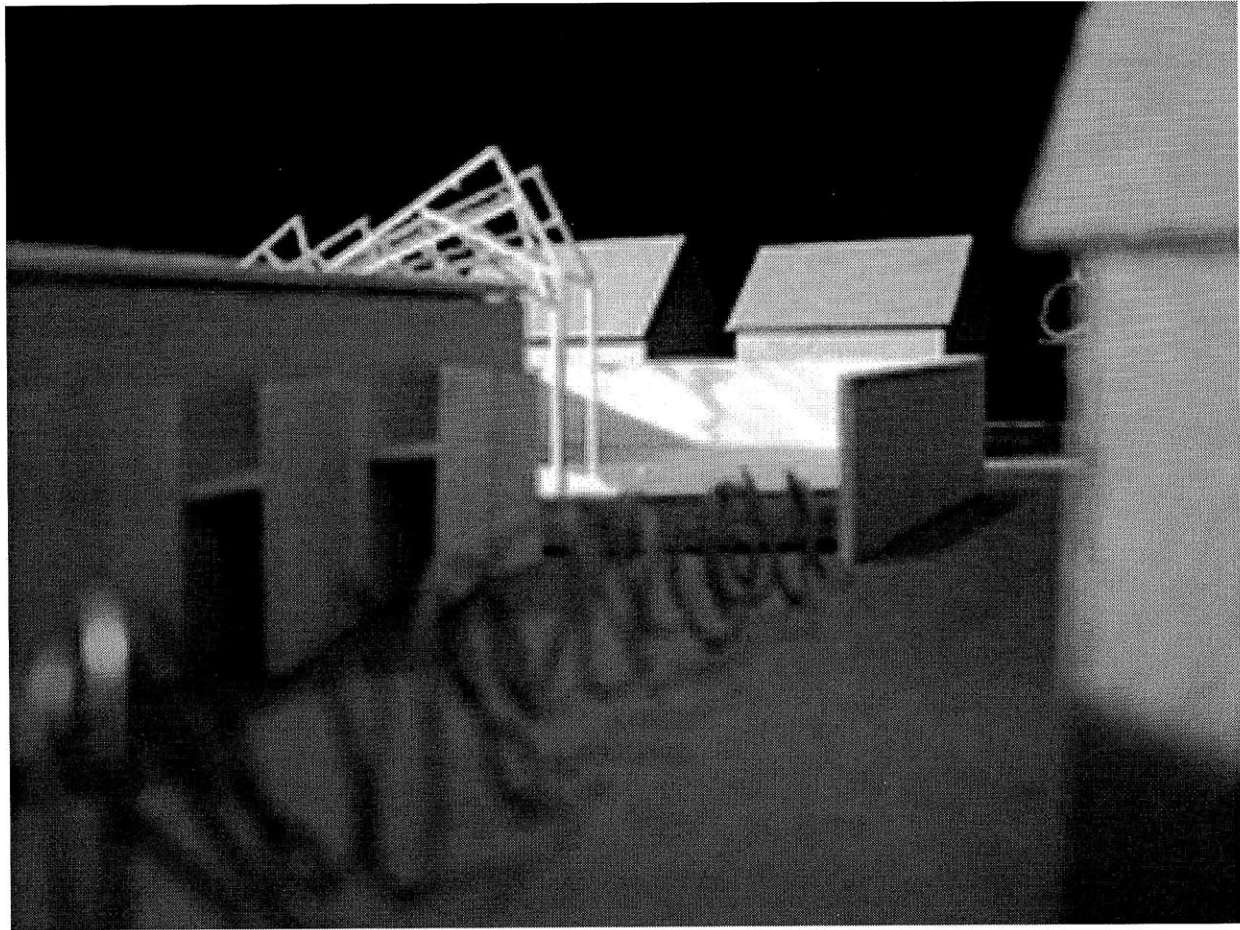
The form of the building and site planning that resulted from this concept was found to be very successful. While capturing the site and providing a boundary for the otherwise undefined lot, the space enclosing form of the building allows the church to continue its use of the open lawn for outdoor events.



The project has two major components: the building and a wall. The building also has various components. There are two masses of housing, one of which contains the temporary facilities. The other is the apartment for the supervisor of facilities. These two parts are connected by a hemi-circular communal space. This space is the cafeteria and can also be used as a general public space. It is the intermediary space between the two more massive housing blocks.

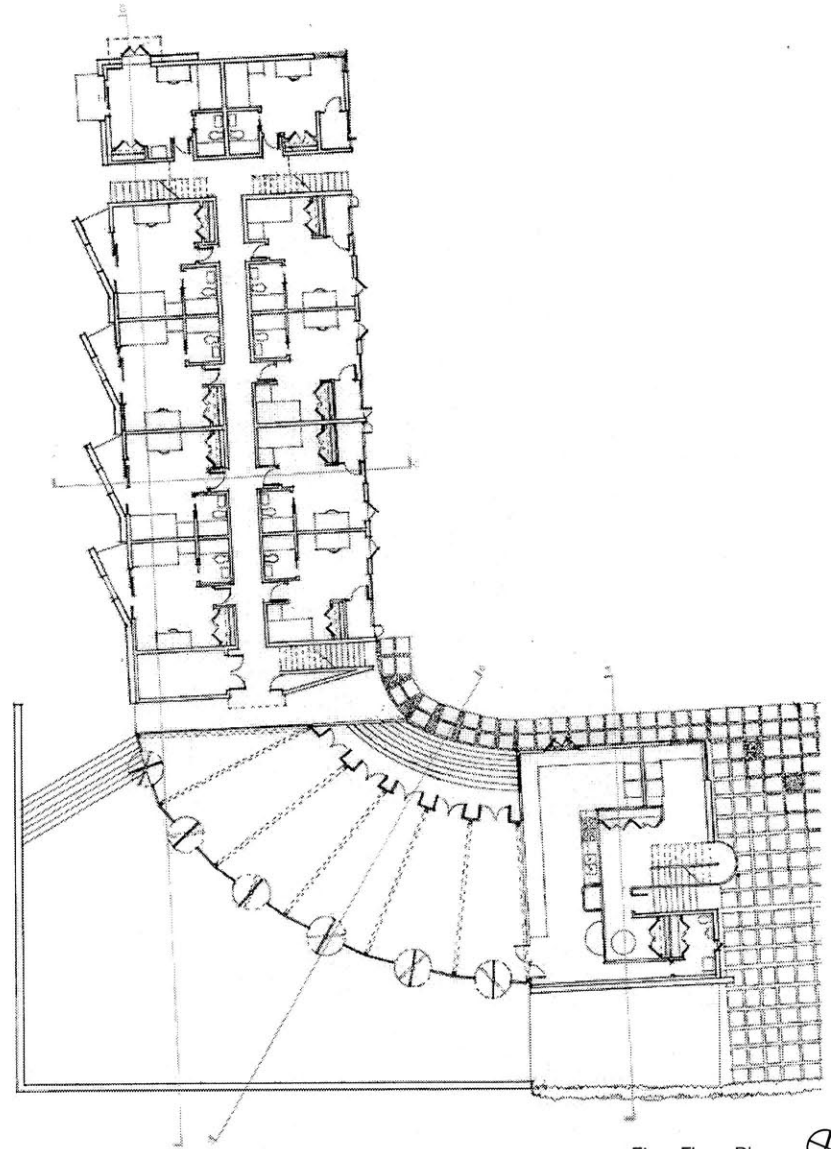
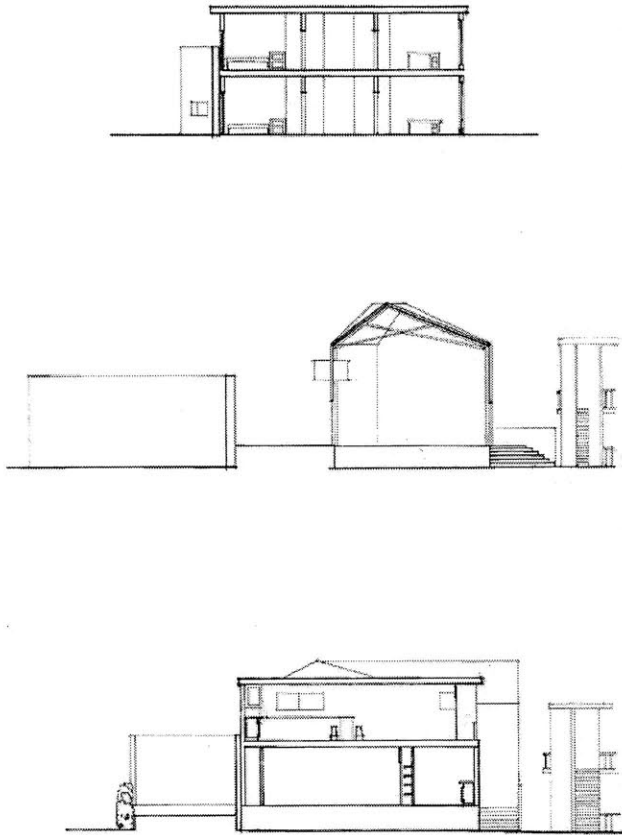


The wall serves the purpose of defining the site and articulates the idea of extension. It is an extension of the brick church and a brick wall that already exists on the southeast corner of the church property. It begins with the pre-existing wall, which becomes the wall of the church, and completes itself as part of the new housing complex. The wall physically wraps around the new building to create a physical and visual act of capturing the site. When it reaches the hemi-circular portion of the building, it departs from the building, forming a definite southwest corner. This space between the wall and the building is a more private outdoor space that can be used as a reading or meditation garden. It offers an outdoor space without the exposure of the great lawn. When the wall reaches the second housing block, it returns to the building. However, this time, the wall performs differently. Not only is it an extension of the original brick wall and church, it also begins to peel away from the building, folding outwards, extending out to the community, and then finally wraps around the northwest corner of the building.





At Harvard University's Carpenter Center, the ramp of the building has a railing that is at times, solid and concrete, and at others, open and metal. Depending on the material of the railing, there is a clear sense of being part of the building or outside of it. Like this railing of the Carpenter Center, the wall of this project clearly marks what is "inside" and what is "outside" of the site. At the moments where the wall is attached to the building, for instance, the west side where the wall begins to peel away from the building, one would sense a feeling of being outside of the site boundaries when walking along the building. However, when behind the cafeteria, between the wall and building, one would still be protected by the wall and thus, feel "inside" or more part of the building, even though it is an outdoor space.



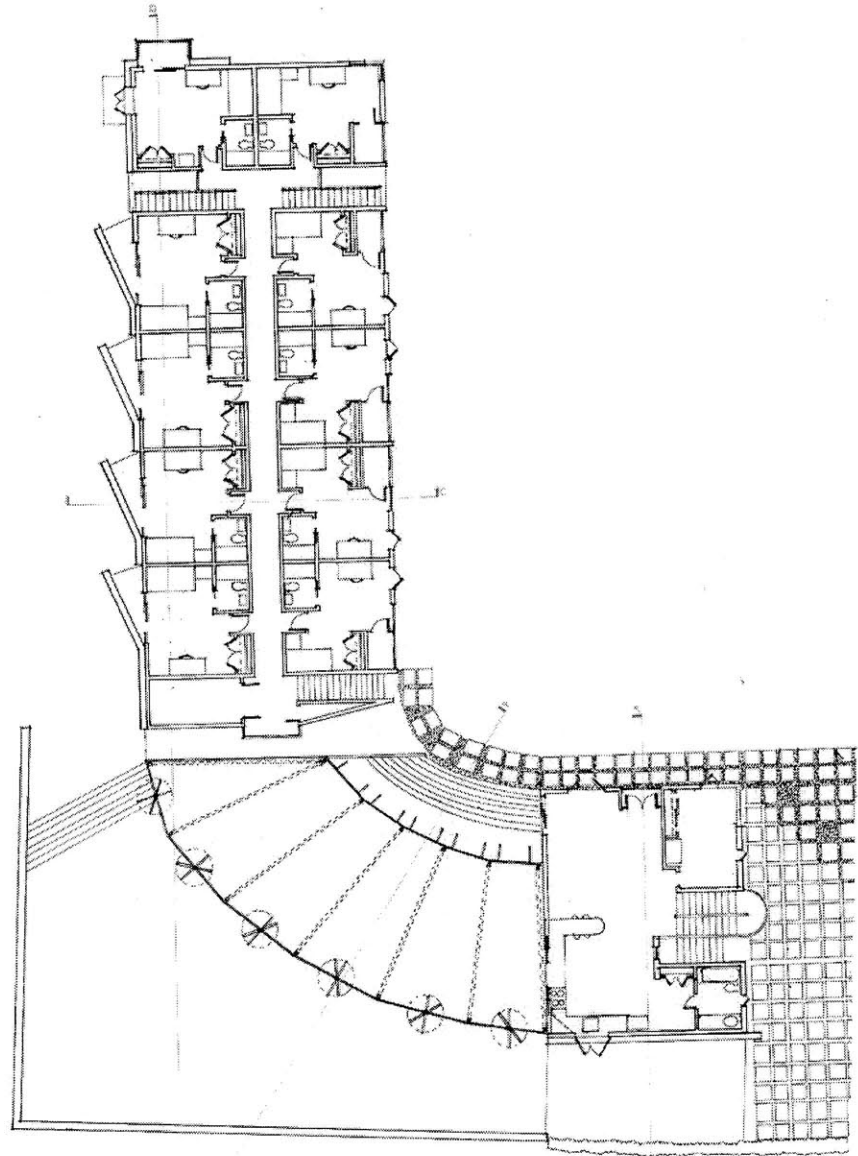
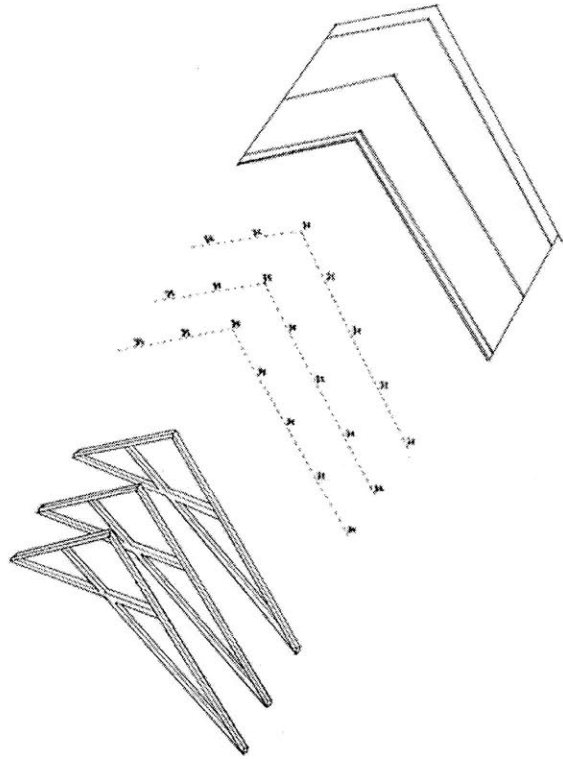
First Floor Plan 



The first floor consists of 10 housing units, each with its own bathroom, the cafeteria, kitchen and laundry facilities for the cafeteria, as well as laundry facilities for the supervisor of the facilities. The kitchen has sliding glass panels that open to the steps of the cafeteria outside.

The side of the building that faces the green has balconies that carve into the building. This interlocking of spaces creates a stronger connection between the two spaces. The side of the building opposite the green has balconies that extend from the building. This extending of balconies is allowed by the peeling away of the brick wall, and follows the concept of reaching out to the community.

A gap in the building exists between the cafeteria and temporary housing units. This gap meets circulatory needs. It provides access to both the housing facilities and the quiet outdoor space behind the cafeteria. Coming through the gap, towards the green and church, the gap changes in width. It opens up to the lawn. The width of the opening was determined by key features of the church: the steeple and altar. The angles of the opening are on axis with these features.



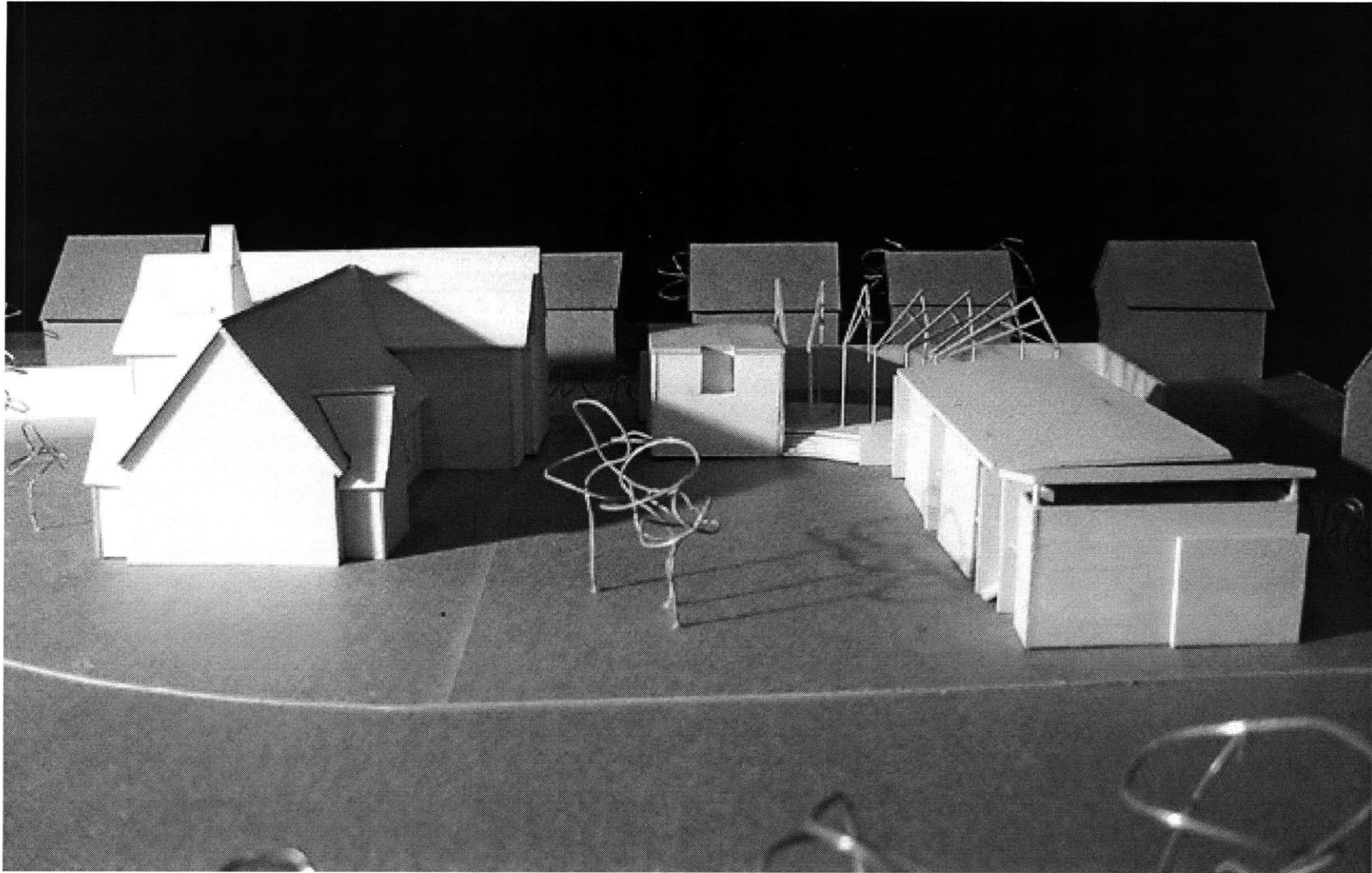
Second Floor Plan 

The second floor plan consists of 10 single units, each with its own bathroom and the apartment for the facilities supervisor. The kitchen of the apartment overlooks into the cafeteria below and, like the kitchen below, has sliding glass panels that allow direct communication between the two spaces.

The cafeteria is a glass structure. The side facing the green is transparent glass that has a series of French doors that open out to the lawn. The side facing south is translucent glass, which folds over to create a roof. This wall has revolving doors and panels that open up to the outdoor space behind the cafeteria.

The glass is structural and is held together through pin connections. The axonometric drawing of the roof structure explains the assembly of the roof. The glass roof is held up through pin connections that are fixed to a truss system. The trusses are simple scissor trusses that rest on 8"x 8" square columns. Both truss and column are made of laminated timber. The truss system is designed to span the entire distance of the cafeteria in order to eliminate columns within the space.

The form of this cafeteria portion of the building was not as successful as the rest of the project. The curved form results in awkward geometries that are difficult to resolve. The possibility for this part of the building to be a rectangular portion that encompassed the existing cafeteria and outdoor area behind it was suggested.



The design of this project is sensitive to the strong sense of the frontality of the north side of the site, which faces the street. It is easy to perceive the north elevations of the building as “sides” when they are considered in relation to the church. However, to address the street side of the site, these “sides” had to be treated as “fronts”. This treatment of the building, specifically, the ways in which the balcony of the supervisor’s apartment and rose window that sits on the north face of the church and the square geometries of the supervisor’s apartment and brick wall that wraps around the building all relate to each other, was also found to be successful.

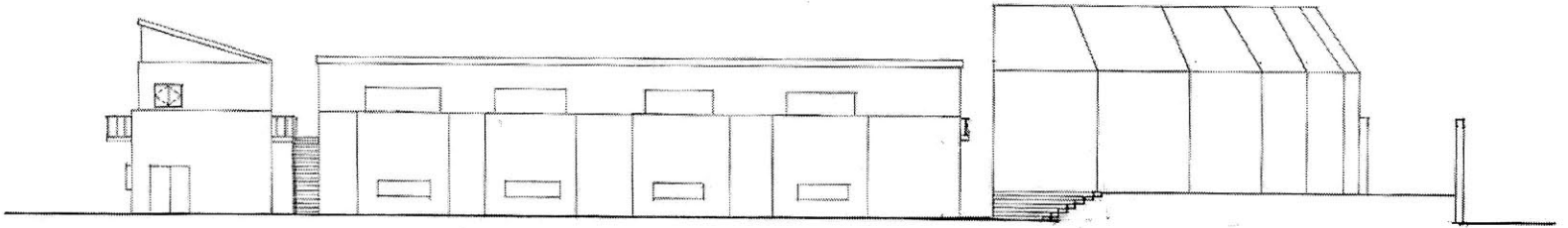
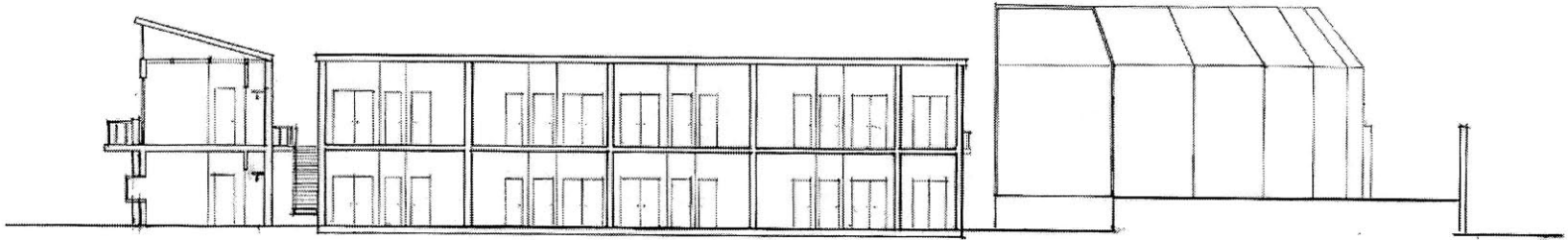


The use of material is another successful component of this project. The brick wall, while serving as an extension of the church and as a boundary, also serves as a reminder of the church. While the view of the rooms facing the lawn have direct view of the church, the rooms on the opposite side of the building face the street and the sides of homes. The use of brick allows for the mental connection between the wall that is “protecting” the building and the church that is protecting one’s soul.

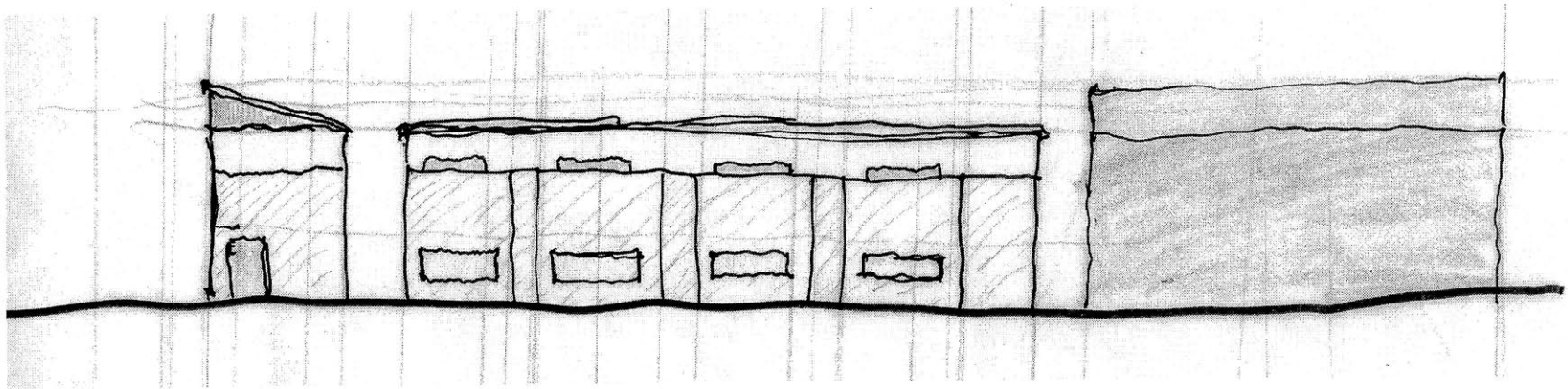
The remainder of the building is clad with wood panels. Wood was chosen for its color, its contrast to brick, its aesthetic appearance, and also because it is a common cladding material for the area.

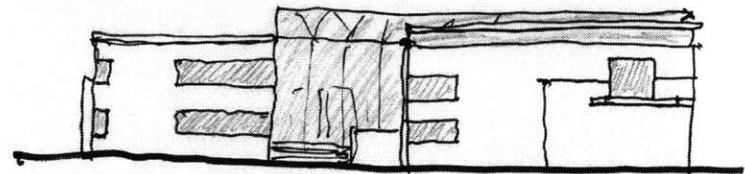
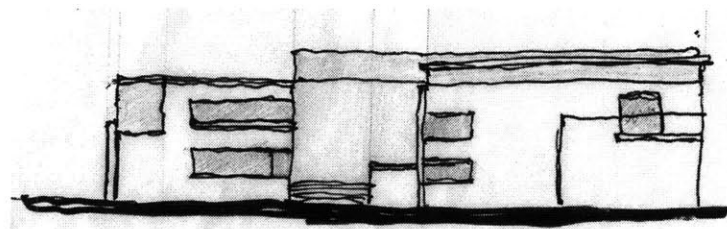
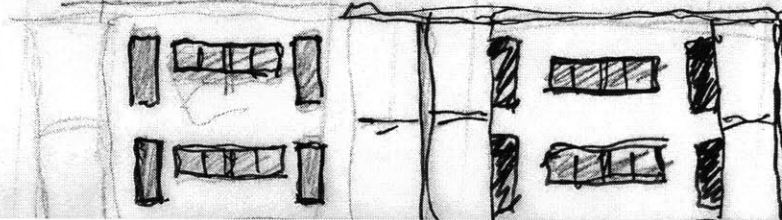
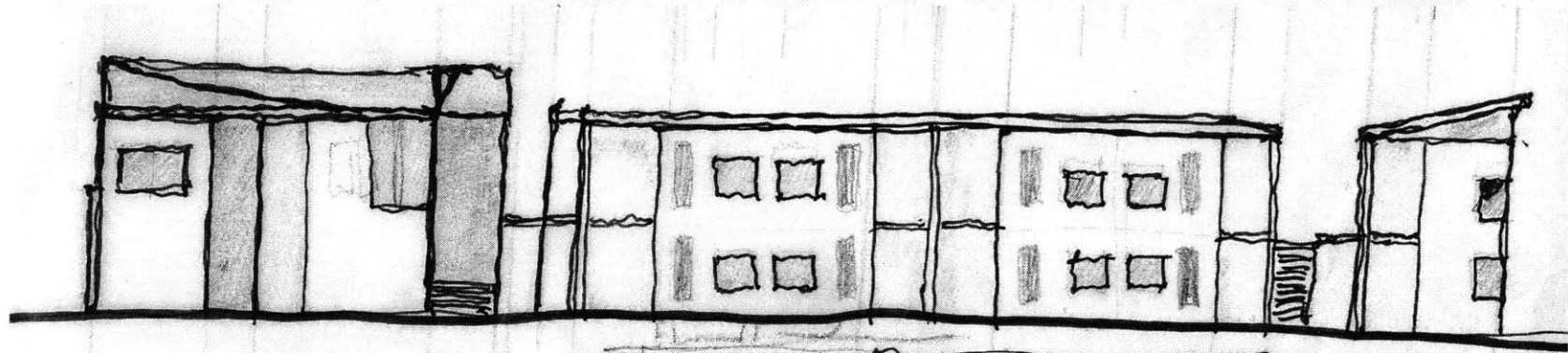
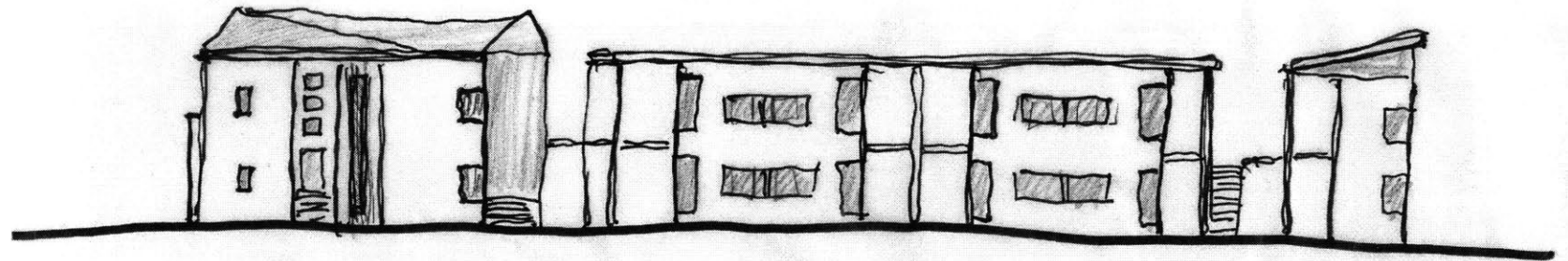
Slate, the roof material of the church, is assigned as a hardscape material. Blocks of slate on pebbles and rocks create a surface that can act as a driveway, parking space, patio, or walking surface that is much more pleasant than a harsh asphalt driveway. This Stephen Holl building provides a good example of the experience of this type of hardscape.

Introducing a building so large in comparison to the scale of its surroundings is a difficult task, especially when the surroundings are so well and deeply established as this neighborhood that surrounds the church. However, the use of materials that already exist on the site and its surroundings creates a native and appropriate language in which a building can be introduced.

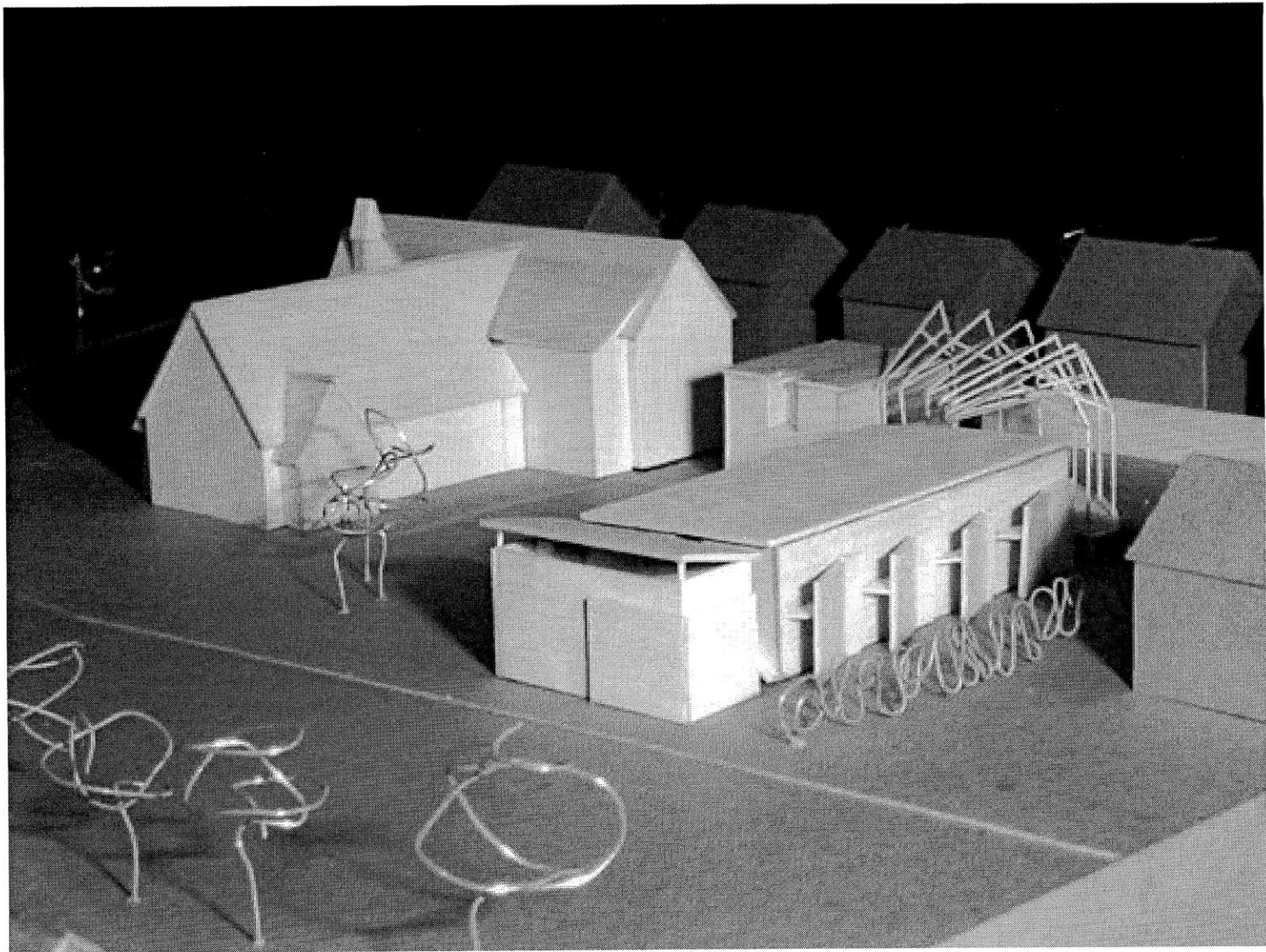


West Elevation





Elevation sketches.





Church Housing

A Symbol of Hospitality

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Rev. Paul Huh for providing me (and also trusting me!!) with this great project. This has been an incredible learning experience, but I am even more thankful to have had the opportunity to offer something to the church and community.

Thank you to my advisor John E. Fernandez. I really feel lucky to have gotten a chance to work with you and learn from you. This project could not have developed so quickly and in the way that it did had it not been for your insight and advice. You are really REALLY good not just at what you do (Architecture, duh) but at teaching as well =). Thank you for all your time and efforts in helping me not only with this project, but also in teaching me about design in general and in helping me learn about myself and the way that I work.

Thank you to Renee Caso (yammie) in Headquarters for all your understanding and support. Not everyone understands a student's needs and we (students) really appreciate everything you have done/do for us.

And of course, thank you to my family!!! Mommy, I know you were really stressed out about this but I am done now! =) Thanks Daddy and everyone else (SBH, S(K)JK, KEK, KRK, and KJ-the burner saved me a LOT of time printing!)