

Proposed Demolition of MIT Building 44 (51 Vassar Street)



Submitted to the Cambridge Historical Commission
by the MIT Office of Campus Planning

December 10, 2019

RECEIVED

DEC 10 2019

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

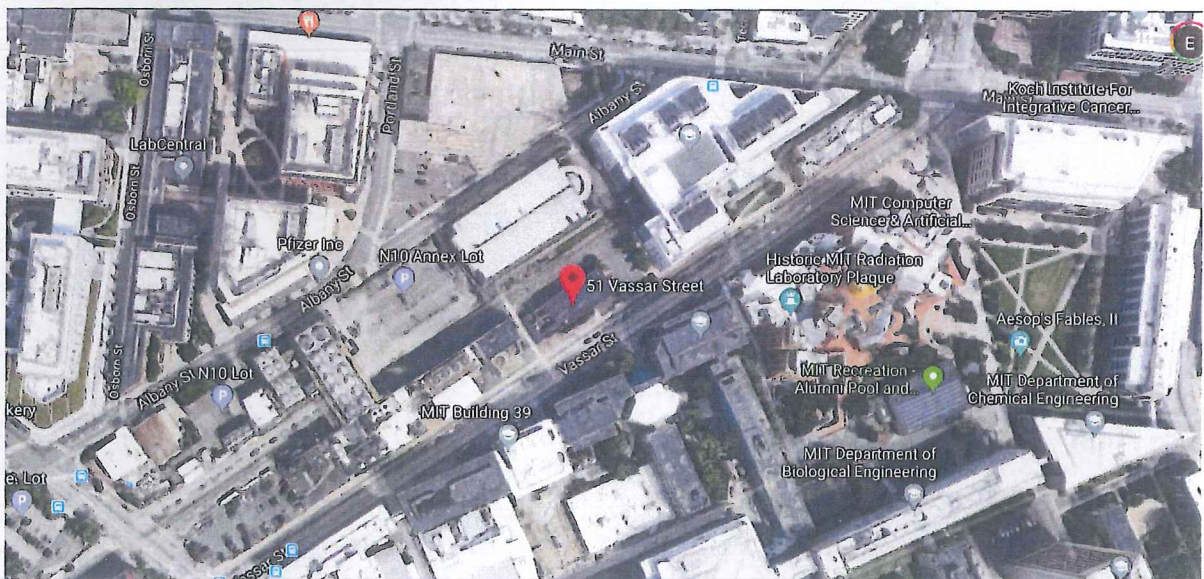
2. Description of Existing Building 44

Existing MIT Building 44 (51 Vassar Street) was built in 1938 for research in Nuclear Physics. It is a brick faced concrete block structure with additions and alterations dating from 1946 and 1962.

The building is listed as being of moderate significance on the MIT Historic Inventory and Assessment. The notable aspects of the existing building are related to the historical significance of the research that took place in the building. The MIT Historic Inventory and Assessment forms are included in the Appendix to this document.

Physical artifacts from notable research projects have been removed from the building and relocated to relevant departments and the MIT museum for preservation and continued access by the MIT community. The new building that is proposed for this site will also include a space to recognize the contributions to research that took place in Building 44.

The remaining occupants of Building 44 were relocated to other spaces on campus in the summer 2019; the building is currently unoccupied.



UTILITY INFORMATION STATEMENT

1. THE SUB-SURFACE UTILITY INFORMATION SHOWN HEREON IS COMPILED BASED ON FIELD SURVEY INFORMATION, RECORD INFORMATION AS SUPPLIED BY THE APPROPRIATE UTILITY COMPANIES, AND PLAN INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE CLIENT. IF ANY, THEREFORE WE CANNOT GUARANTEE THE ACCURACY OF SAID COMPILED SUB-SURFACE INFORMATION TO ANY CERTAIN DEGREE OF STATED TOLERANCE. ONLY PHYSICALLY LOCATED SUB-SURFACE UTILITY FEATURES FALL WITHIN NORMAL STANDARD OF CARE ACCURACIES.
2. THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND PIPES, CONDUITS, AND STRUCTURES HAVE BEEN DETERMINED FROM SAID INFORMATION, AND ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY. COMPILED LOCATIONS OF ANY UNDERGROUND STRUCTURES, NOT VISIBLY OBSERVED AND LOCATED, CAN VARY FROM THEIR ACTUAL LOCATIONS.
3. ADDITIONAL BURIED UTILITIES/STRUCTURES MAY BE ENCOUNTERED.
4. THE STATUS OF UTILITIES, WHETHER ACTIVE, ABANDONED, OR REMOVED, IS AN UNKNOWN CONDITION AS FAR AS OUR COMPILATION OF THIS INFORMATION.
5. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON INDIVIDUALS USING THIS INFORMATION TO UNDERSTAND THAT COMPILING UTILITY INFORMATION IS NOT EXACT, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED UPON VARYING PLAN INFORMATION RECEIVED AND ACTUAL LOCATIONS.
6. THE ACCURACY OF MEASURED UTILITY INVERTS AND PIPE SIZES IS SUBJECT TO FIELD CONDITIONS, THE ABILITY TO MAKE VISUAL OBSERVATIONS, DIRECT ACCESS TO THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS AND OTHER MATTERS.
7. THE PROPER UTILITY ENGINEERING/COMPANY SHOULD BE CONSULTED AND THE ACTUAL LOCATIONS OF SUBSURFACE STRUCTURES SHOULD BE VERIFIED IN THE FIELD (V.I.F.) BEFORE PLANNING FUTURE CONNECTIONS. CONTACT THE DIG SAFE CALL CENTER AT 1-888-344-7233, SEVENTY-TWO HOURS PRIOR TO EXCAVATION, BLASTING, GRADING, AND/OR PAVING.
8. AS OF THE DATE OF THIS PLAN RECORD INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY NITSCHE ENGINEERING FOR THE FOLLOWING UTILITIES: TOWN (CAMBRIDGE ELEC. DEPT. & STREET LIGHTING), OTHER (VERIZON BUSINESS), RAILROAD (CSX)

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LEGEND

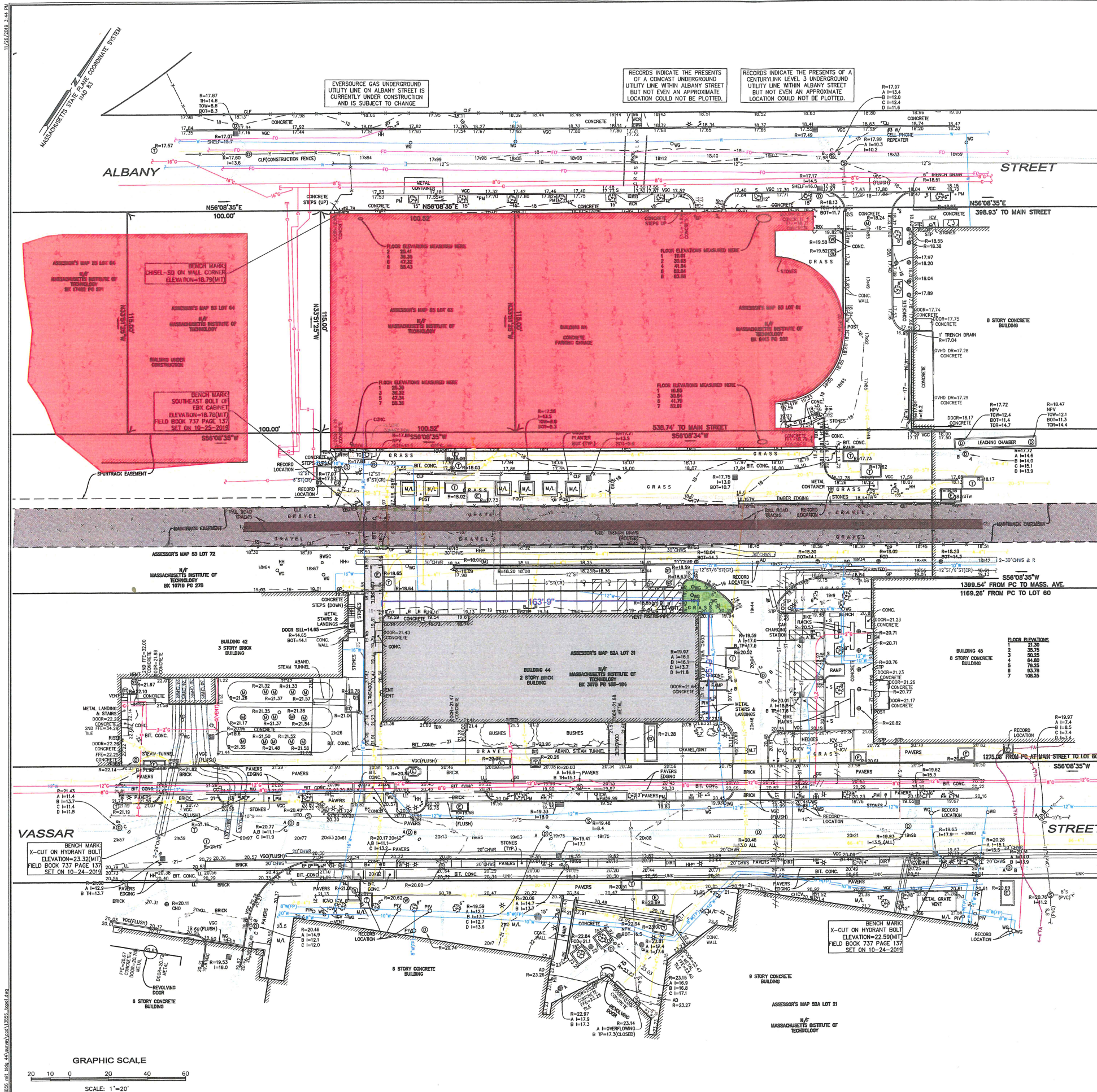
- CATCH BASIN
- CABLE TELEVISION MANHOLE
- DRAIN MANHOLE
- ELECTRIC MANHOLE
- MISCELLANEOUS MANHOLE
- SEWER MANHOLE
- TELEPHONE MANHOLE
- WATER MANHOLE
- STEAM MANHOLE
- GAS GATE
- WATER GATE
- IRRIGATION CONTROL VALVE
- PIV O
- POST INDICATOR VALVE
- STANDPIPE
- VENT
- BOSTON WATER WORKS
- FIRE HYDRANT
- UTILITY POLE
- LIGHT POLE
- LANDSCAPE LIGHT
- HAND HOLE
- TRASH CAN
- ELECTRIC BOX
- BOLLARD
- TELEPHONE CALL BOX
- PARKING METER
- SIGN POST
- DECIDUOUS TREE WITH TRUNK DIAMETER
- HANDICAP PARKING
- SPOT ELEVATION
- CHAIN LINK FENCE
- CONCRETE CURB
- WHEELCHAIR RAMP
- MULCH AND/OR LANDSCAPE
- RIM ELEVATION EQUALS
- INVERT ELEVATION EQUALS
- TOP OF HOOD ELEVATION EQUALS
- NO PIPES VISIBLE
- TOP OF WATER
- TOP OF PIPE
- BOTTOM OF CHAMBER
- FULL OF DIRT/DEBRIS
- TOP OF ROOF/CEILING
- RECORD CONNECTION
- DETECTABLE WARNING PANEL
- TOP OF WALL ELEVATION
- UNDERGROUND CABLE TELEVISION LINE
- UNDERGROUND DRAIN LINE
- UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE
- UNDERGROUND FIBER OPTIC LINE
- UNDERGROUND GAS LINE
- UNDERGROUND SEWER LINE
- UNDERGROUND STEAM LINE
- UNDERGROUND STEAM LINE (ABANDONED)
- UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE LINE
- UNDERGROUND WATER LINE
- OVERHEAD WIRES
- BENCH MARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS
51 VASSAR STREET (BUILDING 44)
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

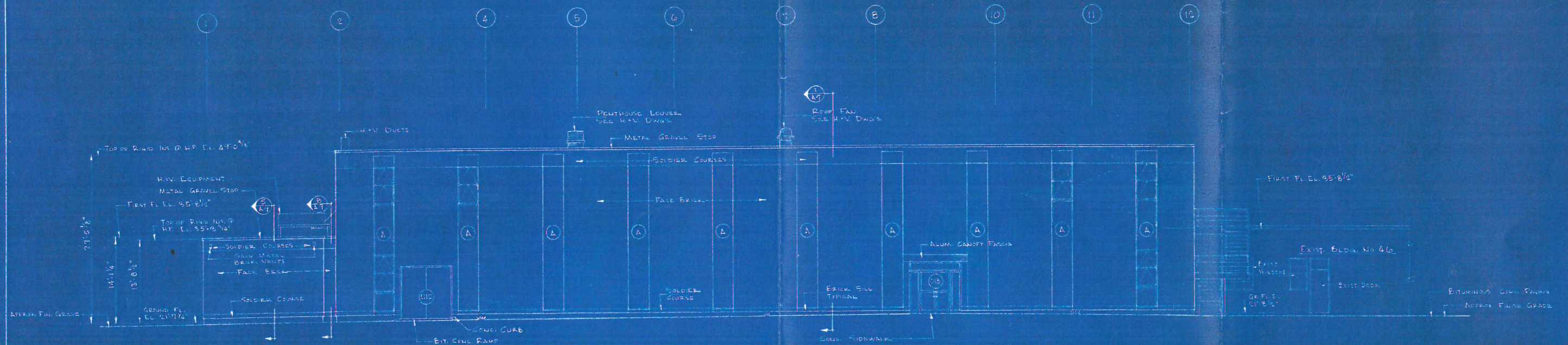
PREPARED FOR:
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
77 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

REV.	UTILITIES FROM BSI PLAN	10/29/19
	COMMENTS	DATE
	REVISIONS	

PROJECT #	13856
FILE	13856_TOPO1.dwg
SCALE	1"=20'
DATE	NOVEMBER 1, 2019
DES./COMP.	JCC
FIELD BOOK	737
DRAFTED BY	CPH
CHECKED BY	



11/04/2019



FRONT ELEVATION

		FRONT ELEVATION		
		ADDITION AND ALTERATIONS TO		SCALE
		BUILDING #44 - CYCLOTRON BUILDING		$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'-0''$
		MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY		PROJECT NO.
		VASSAR ST. CAMBRIDGE, MASS.		60286
				DATE
				FEB 9, 1966
				DRAWING NO.
				A-5
DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	CLEVELAND, VARNNEY & FINE ENGINEERS BOSTON, MASS.	PERRY, CHAW, HENBURN & DEAN CONSULTING ARCHITECTS BOSTON, MASS.	
P.N.A.	J.N.			

3. Proposed Replacement Project **MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing**

The proposed replacement project for the site is the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing.

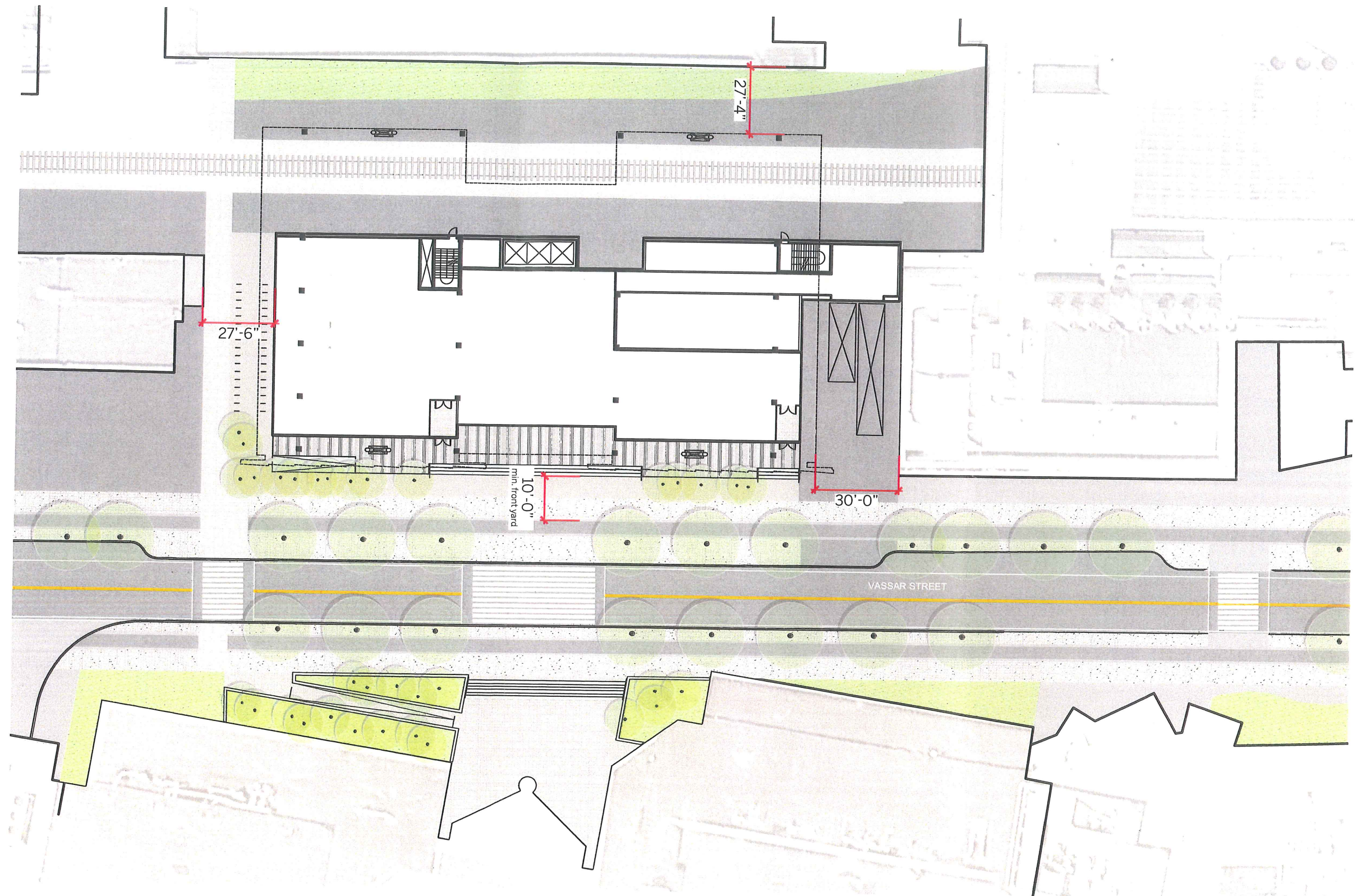
The MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing Building will be an interdisciplinary hub for work in computer science, Artificial Intelligence (AI), data science, and related fields that contribute to the design and use of computing. It will span MIT's five schools with complementary expertise in arts, humanities and social sciences, architecture and urban planning, business management, and data acquisition hardware and physics.

The site was selected for its physical proximity to related departments in Buildings 46 and 32, as well as in the Main Group. The development of this site is an opportunity to activate this portion of Vassar Street with welcoming entries to public ground floor program and improved site and landscape conditions.

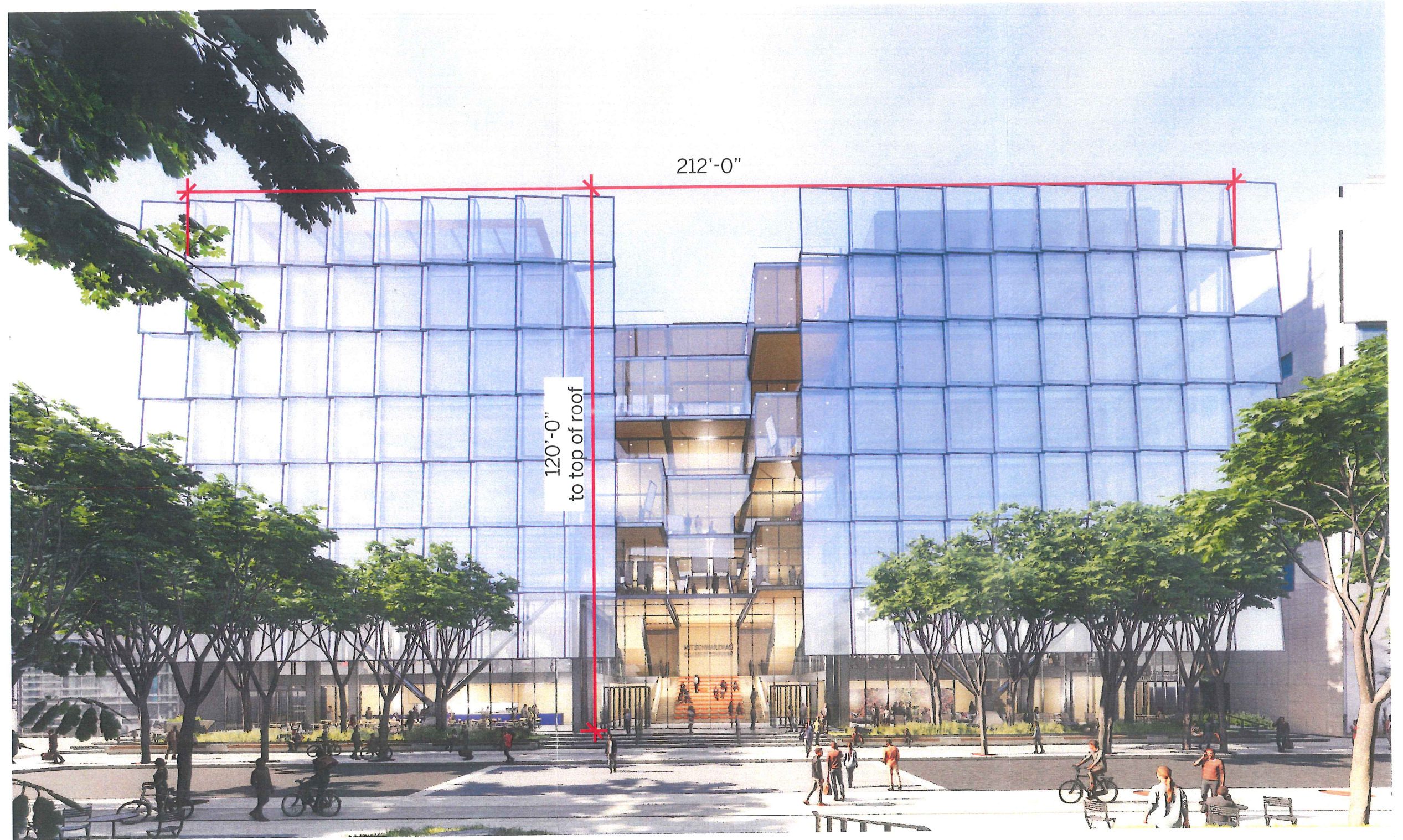
The building is planned to include approximately 165,000 GSF of office, lab and collaborative study space. Fifty faculty and their research groups will be housed in the building.

The design firm of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) was selected by way of a design competition. The project is currently in conceptual design. The target construction start date is Q1 2021, with project completion in Q1 2023.

SITE PLAN



ELEVATION



4. Appendix

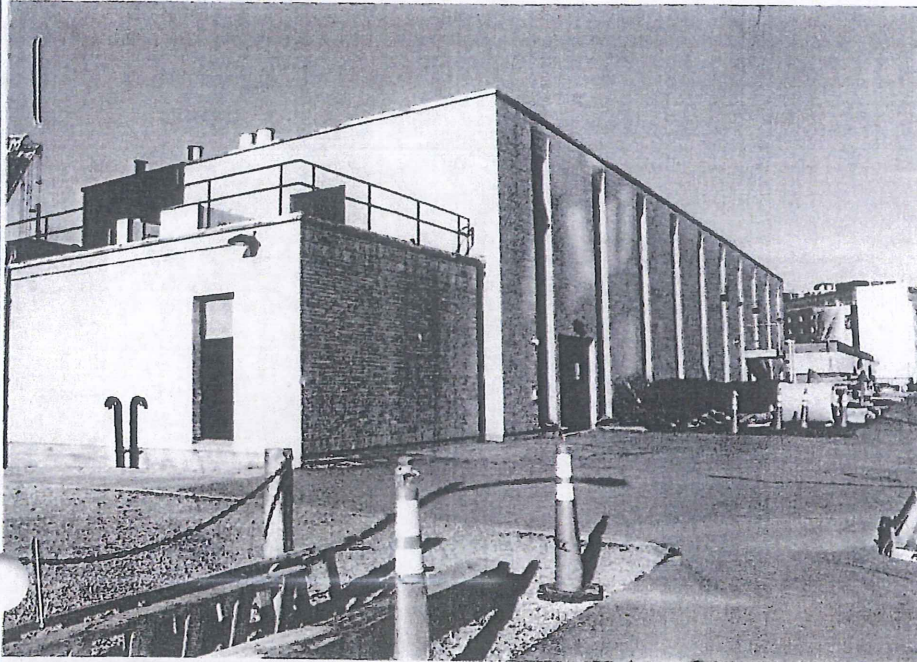
MIT Historic Inventory and Assessment Building 44



Inventory Form - Building

Massachusetts Institute of Technology 77 Massachusetts Avenue Cambridge, Massachusetts	Assessor # n/a	MIT Bldg# 44	Significance Level / Designation No current designation
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Photograph



Historic Name Cyclotron Bldg

Address 51 Vassar Street

Uses: Present academic

Uses: Original industrial

Owner MIT

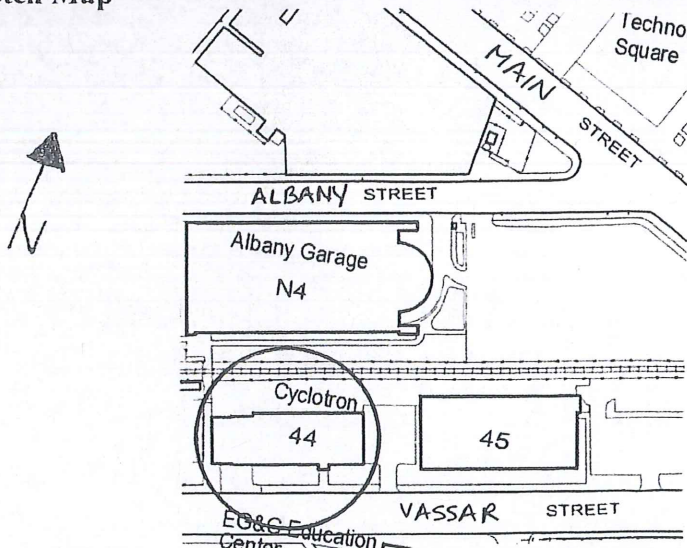
MIT Occupied yes

Date of Construction 1938;
additions 1946

Source Christopher Hail List

Architect/Builder McCreery & Theriault (1938 builder) Perry, Shaw, Hepburn & Dean (1962 alteration)

Sketch Map



Style/Building Type Modern

Primary Exterior Materials
light yellow brick

General Condition good

Major Alterations/Historic Integrity
Perry, Shaw, Hepburn & Dean (1962 alteration)

Approximate Lot Size n/a

Key Site/Setting Features
north side of Vassar Street between Main Street and Mass. Ave., adjacent to Power Plant to west (see form); railroad tracks to rear with modern parking garage beyond

Recorded By Wendy Frontiero and Candace Jenkins,
Preservation Consultants

Organization Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Date (month/year) 1/2002

Property Name Cyclotron Building
Property Address 51 Vassar Street

DESCRIPTION

- Building Construction Systems & Source: Concrete block, brick faced (Sanborn map)
- 3 x 10 bay rectangular plan
- Rises three stories from concrete foundation to flat roof
- Pale yellow brick exterior walls
- Single soldier course at base, four courses at top taking place of a cornice
- Window bays deeply recessed in narrow surrounds that continue through all floors; openings canted on top and bottom with metal lintels and sills
- Main entrance with flat, metal-clad canopy between bays three and four from east;
- Loading bay between bays nine and ten at west end
- One story wing at west end surmounted by pipe railing and mechanical equipment
- Design similar to Parsons laboratory (9-15 Vassar Street; see form)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Cyclotron laboratory at 51 Vassar Street was built by MIT in 1938 for research in nuclear physics.

McCreery & Theriault were the original builders. Unknown additions were made in 1946; alterations made in 1962 were designed by Perry Shaw Hepburn & Dean, architects also of the Parsons Laboratory (1949 and 1968), the Sloan Metals Processing Laboratory at 88 Vassar Street (1950), and four other buildings in Cambridge from 1955-61.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Sanborn map, 1997

City directories, 1941, 1953/54, 1961.

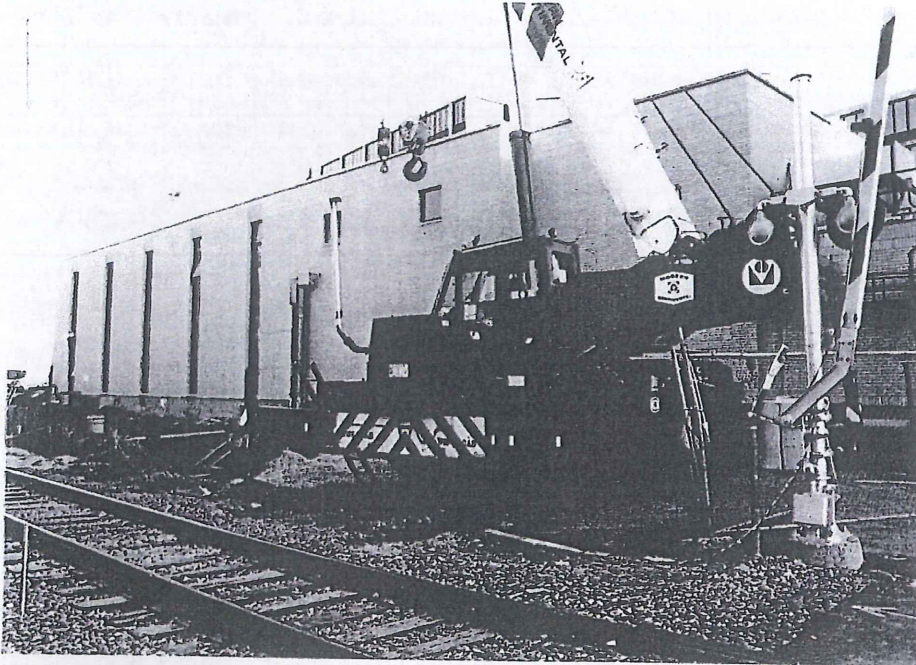
CHC survey file for 51 Vassar Street.

Cambridge Historical Commission. *Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge: Cambridgeport*. 1971.

MIT INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Property Name Cyclotron Building
Property Address 51 Vassar Street

Photo: rear elevation along railroad tracks



MIT - HISTORIC INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT
 EVALUATION MATRIX: MODERATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE

Wendy Frontiero and Candace Jenkins – 19 December 2002

31 Individual Buildings and 3 Complexes

Building or Complex	Architecture	Rarity	Condition	Integrity	History	Setting	Overall	
4 Blanche Street; Gordon House	moderate	moderate+ survey area; low citywide	moderate	moderate+	high survey area low+ citywide	low+	moderate	M
11-15 Green Street; Moxon's Block	moderate	high survey area; mod. citywide	moderate+	moderate+	moderate	moderate	moderate	M
85 Hamilton Street; Myerson Tooth	moderate+	moderate+; single owner	moderate	high	moderate	moderate	moderate	M
26-36 Landsdowne Street	moderate+	moderate	high	moderate	moderate+	moderate	moderate	M
782-798 Main Street	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate+	moderate	M
872-874 Main Street, Union Baptist Church	moderate	high (survey area) mod. (citywide)	moderate	moderate-	high	moderate	moderate	M
298-302 Mass. Ave.	moderate	moderate	moderate	low+	moderate	moderate	moderate	M
332-336 Mass. Ave.	moderate+	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	M
15 Tudor Street	moderate	moderate	high	moderate	moderate+	moderate+	moderate	M
9-15 Vassar Street; Parsons Laboratory	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	moderate	M
51 Vassar Street; Cyclotron	low	high	moderate	moderate	high	moderate	moderate	M