

# Cambridge: *Who We Are and* How We Got Here

**Charles Sullivan, Executive Director  
Cambridge Historical Commission**

**August 24, 2016**



## Boston and Cambridge, ca. 1770

Lt. John Hills, "Boston, with  
the surrounding, &c.," (detail)  
Library of Congress



Continent

Camp, Col.

Military

M.P.

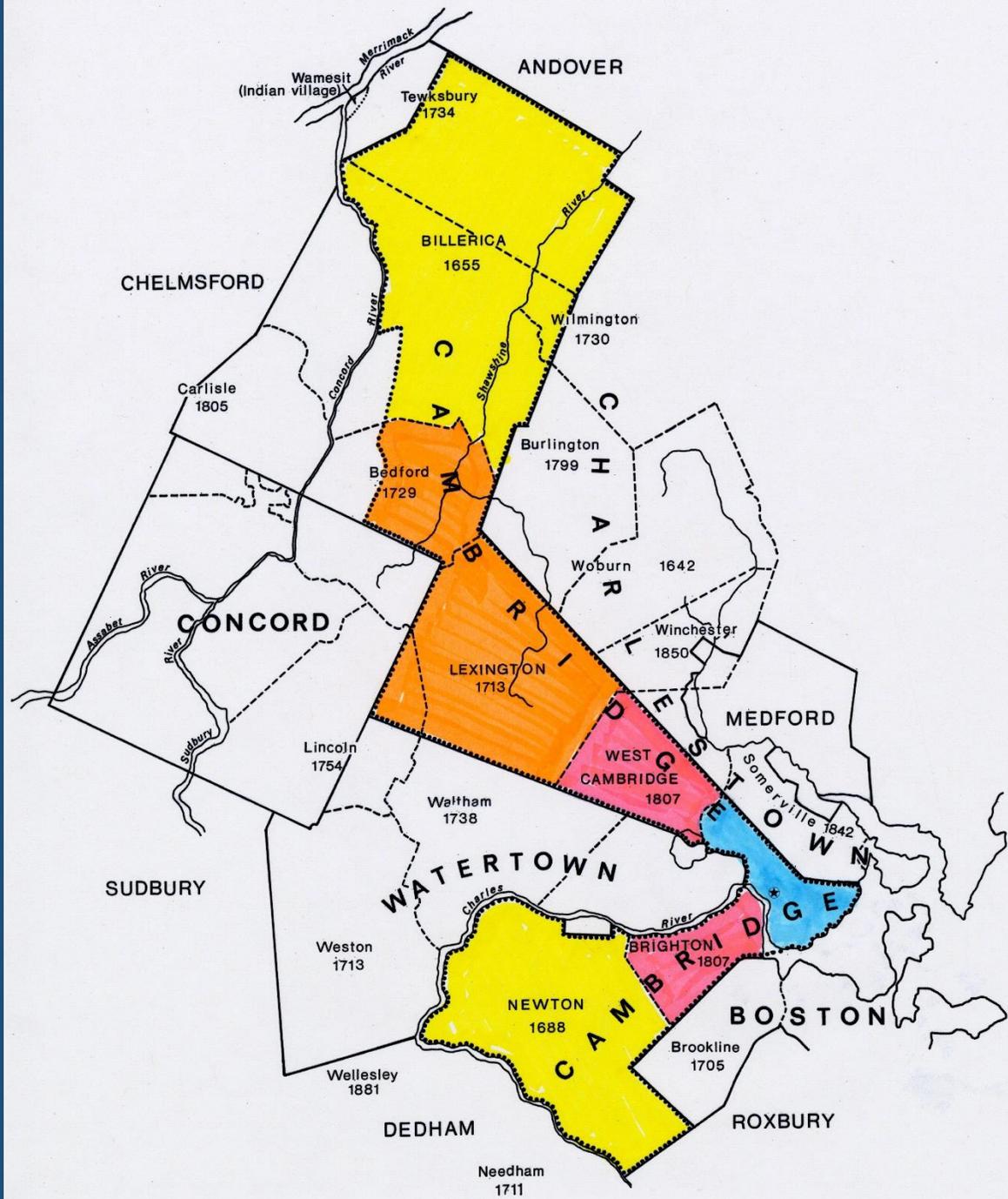
Millers Creek

CHARLESTOWN

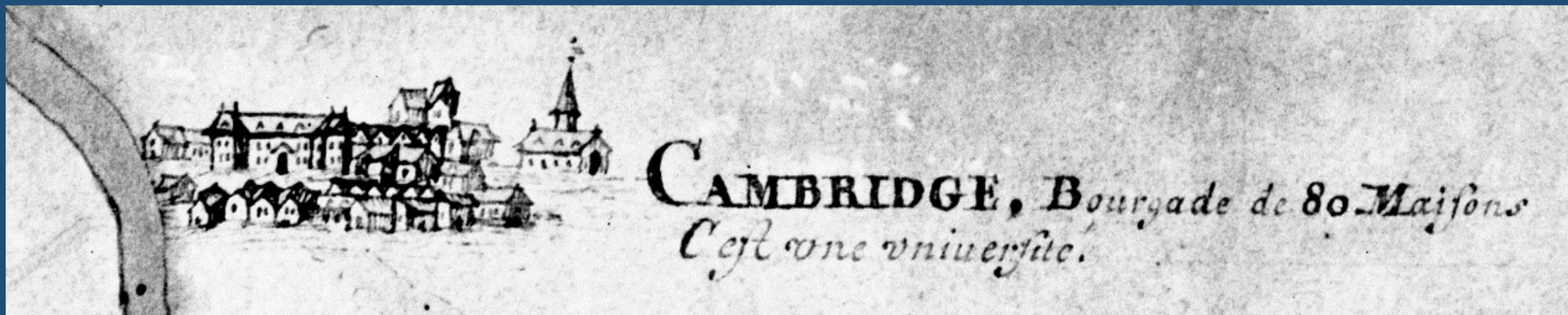
M.P.

BOSTON

Common



The boundaries of Cambridge at its greatest magnitude, 1642–1655



First known view of Cambridge, 1693



The Village  
(Harvard Square)  
seen from the  
north in 1775

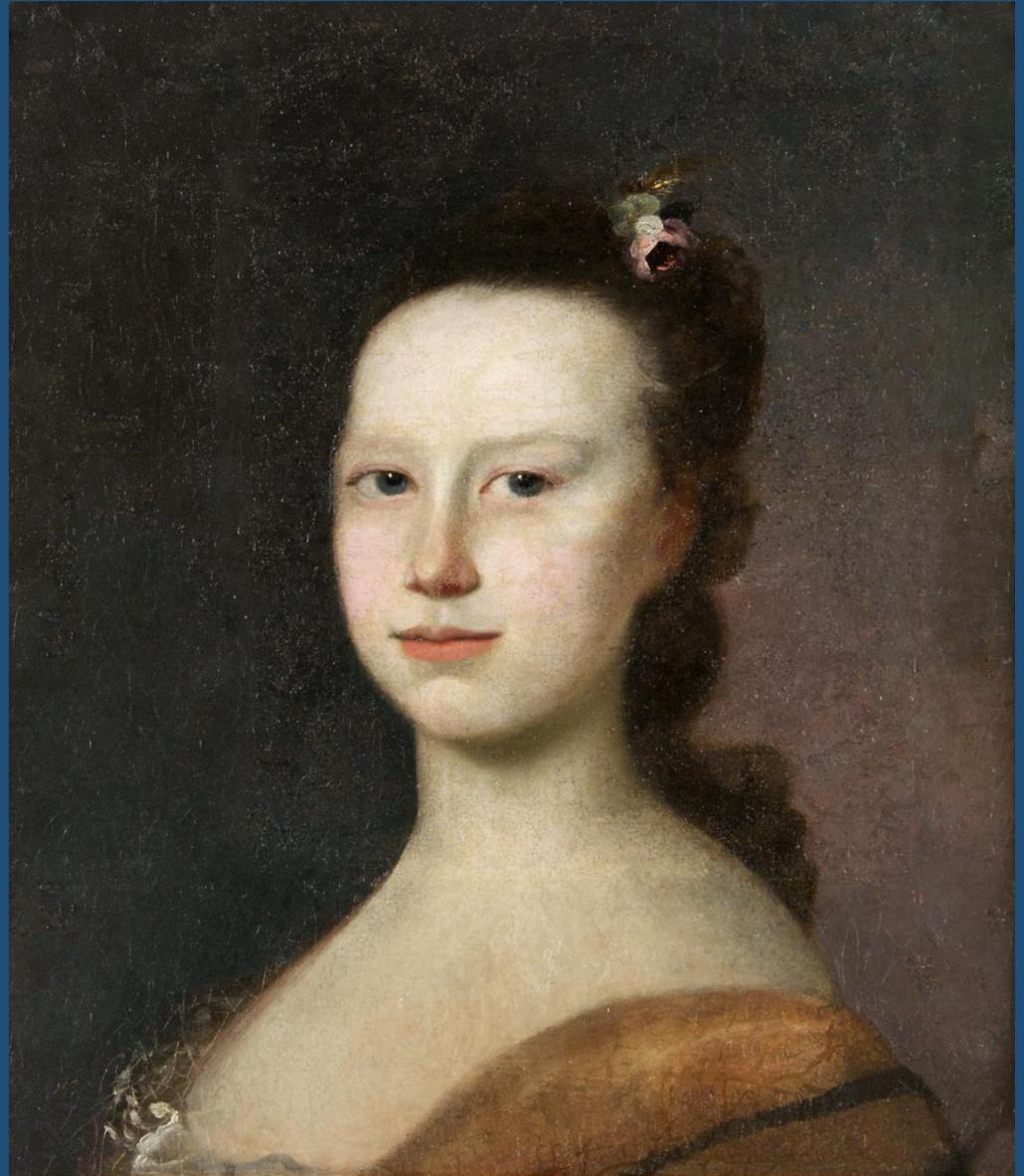


64 John F. Kennedy Street, ca. 1725; demolished 1900

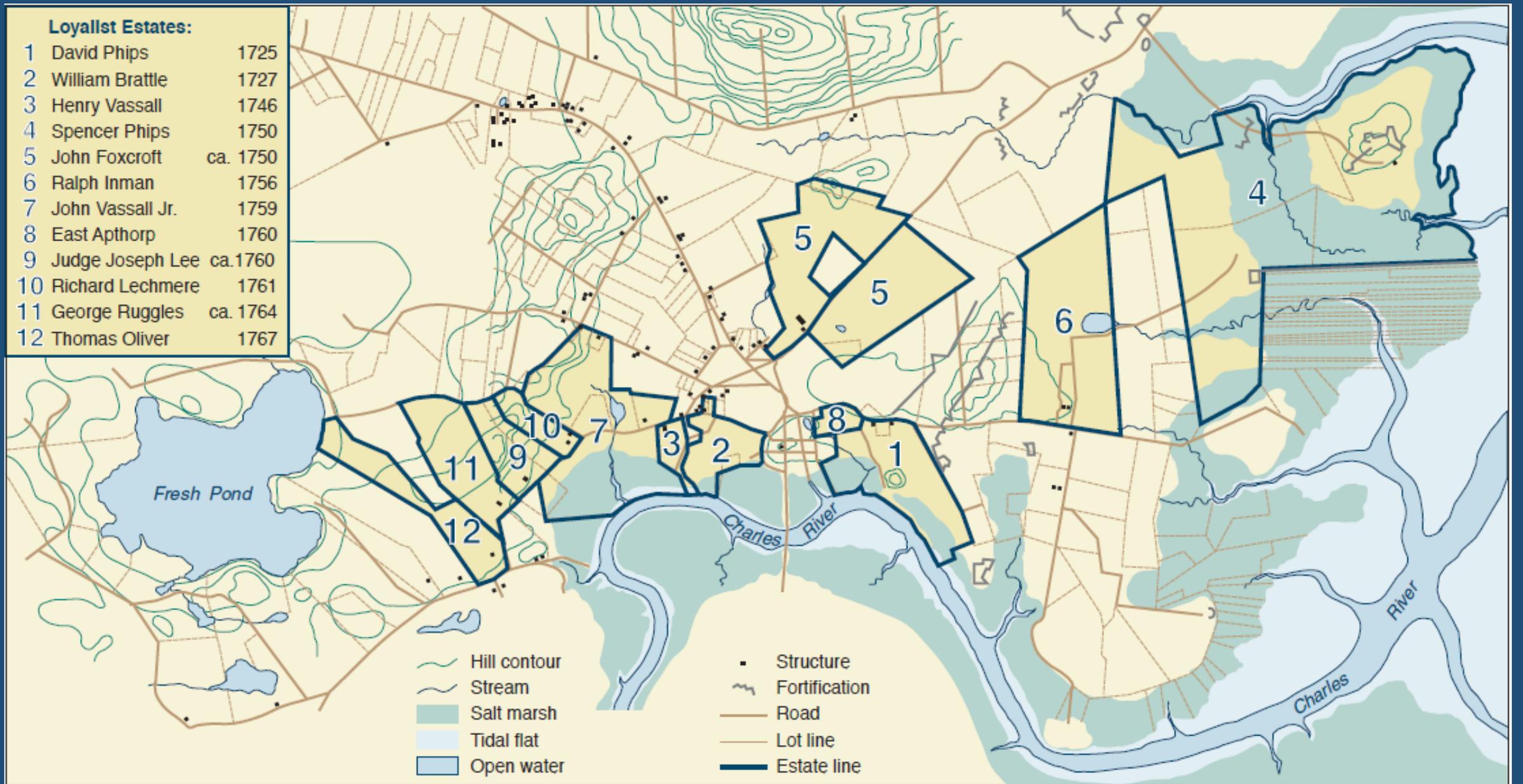
## SLAVE OWNERS IN THE FIRST PARISH OF CAMBRIDGE, 1749

	Occupation	Slaves Aged 12–50
William Angier	tanner	1
Moses Bordman Jr.	tanner	1
Francis Foxcroft	judge	1
Elizabeth Nutting	unmarried	1
Stephen Prentice	cordwainer	1
Jonathan Sprague	?	1
Lieut. [Ebenezer] Stedman	innkeeper	1
Edmund Trowbridge	judge	1
Henry Vassall	merchant	4
[Mrs. John] Vassall	widow	1
Abraham Watson	tanner	1
Deacon [Samuel] Whittemore	storekeeper	1
Total		15

Sources: Town of Cambridge Tax Valuation Sheet, 1749; Paige, *History of Cambridge*, 1877; Massachusetts Vital Records



Colonel Henry Vassall and Penelope Royall Vassall (1724–1800)



Loyalist Estates in 1775



Tory Row in 1775,  
looking east

Richard Lechmere  
estate in the  
foreground, with  
the village in the  
distance

John Vassall's claim to the British government after his holdings were confiscated in 1778 reported an annual income of £150 from his farm and itemized its "sundry stock:"

A Negro woman, Cuba £40

A Mulatto Man, Malcolm £50

A Mulatto Boy, James £30

A Negro Man, William £20

A Negro Woman, Dinah £30

Two small Boys £30

Two yoke of oxen £50

Six cows £24

A Pair Steers £6

Two heifers £5

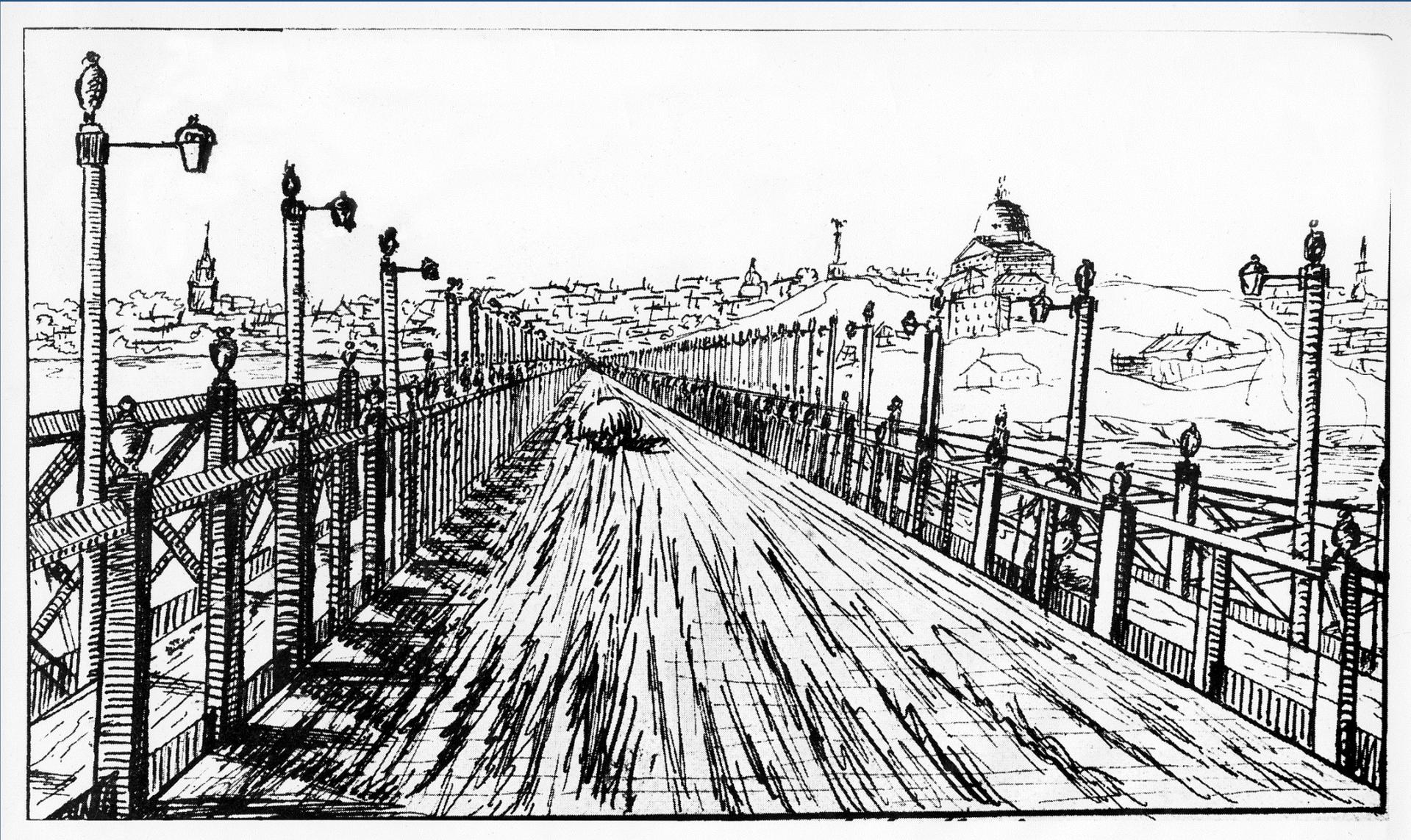
Two Yearlings £3

A Bay Mare paid sheriff for £40

A Bay Mare £10

Two horses from England £100

Four colts £25



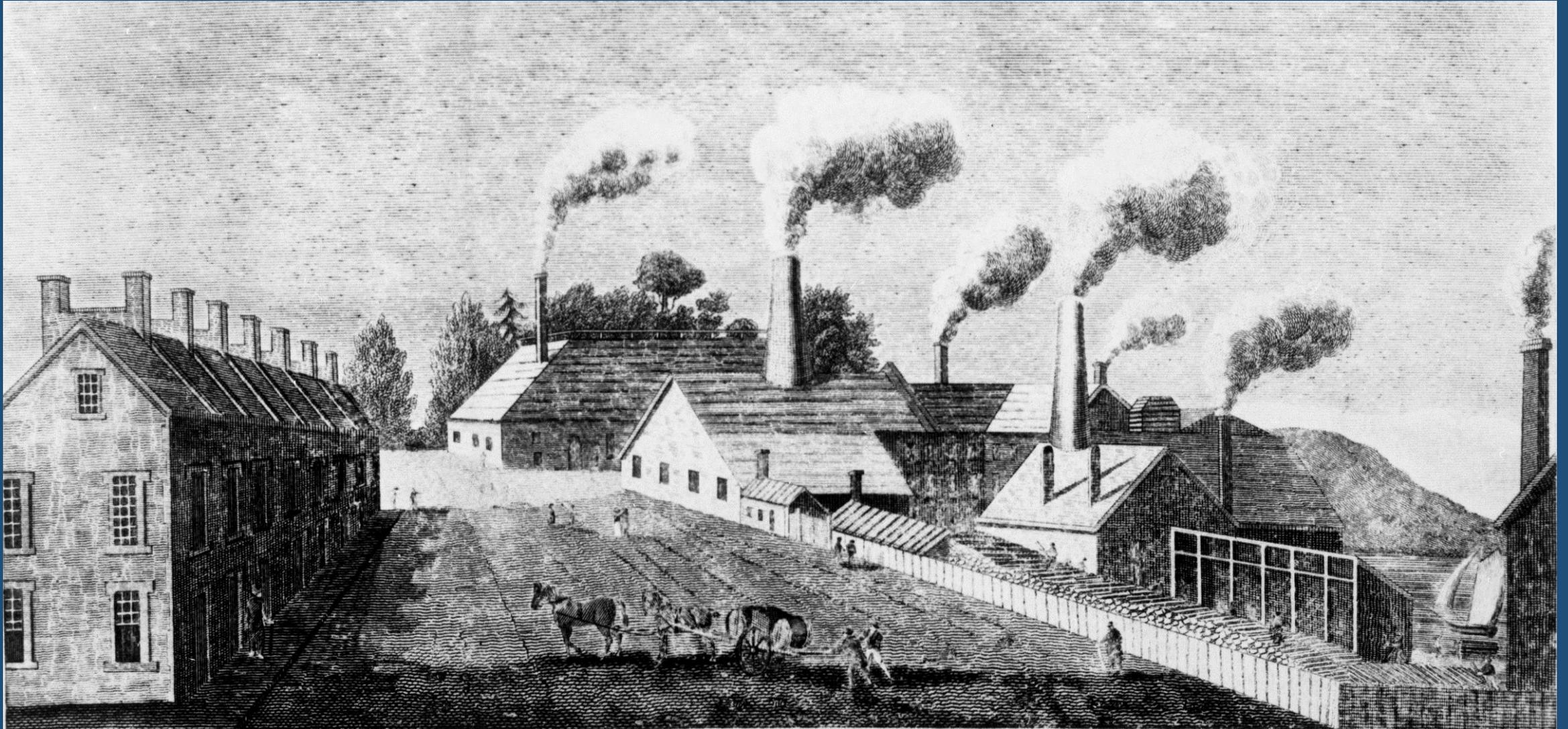
West Boston (Longfellow) Bridge, 1793



Three villages  
connected by  
new roads,  
1830



Lafayette Square ca. 1825,  
looking east toward the  
intersection with  
Main Street.



New England Glass Works, North Street, East Cambridge, ca. 1825



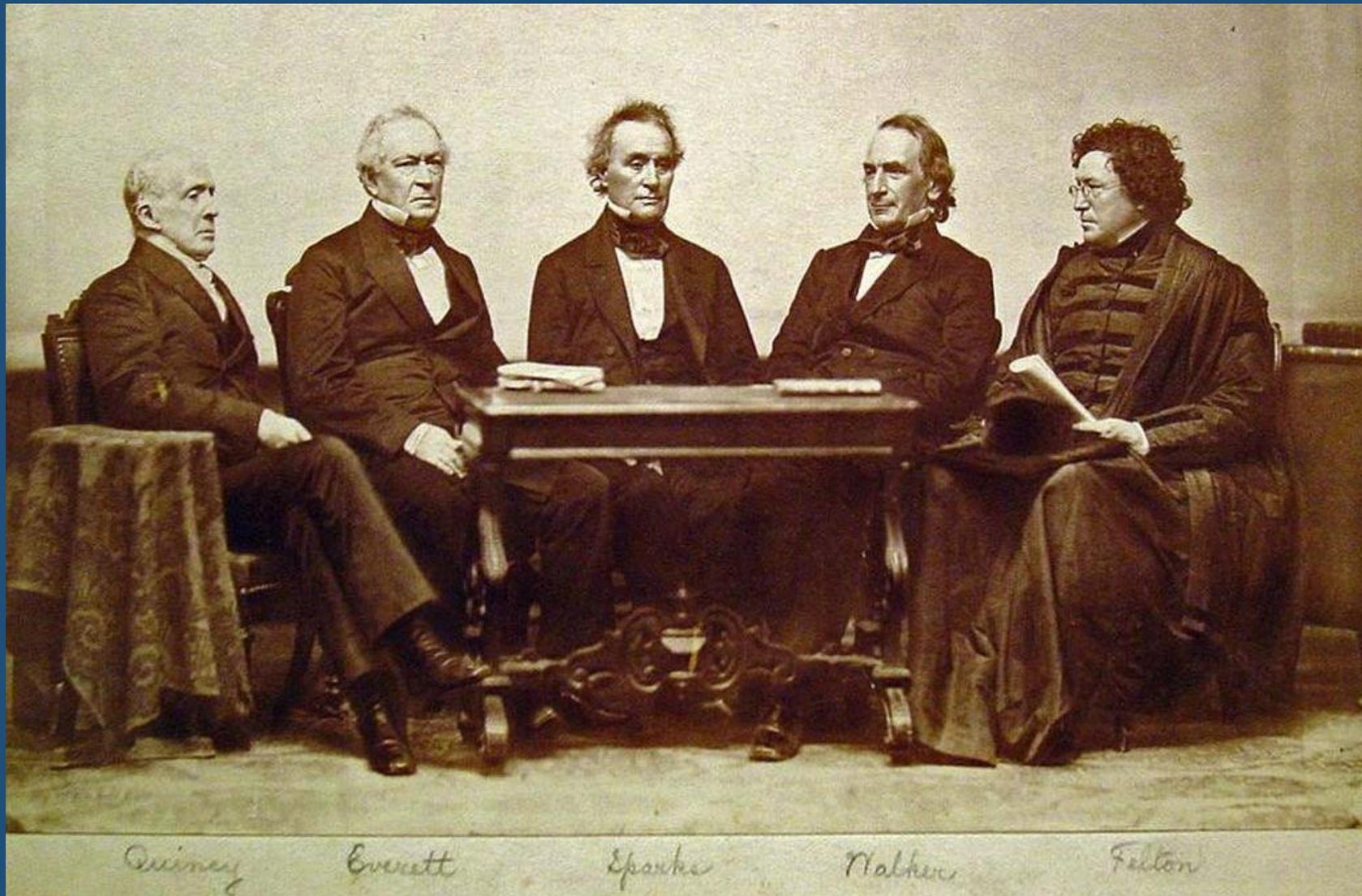
The village,  
1833



Deacon Levi Farwell, steward of Harvard College, and Prudence Farwell

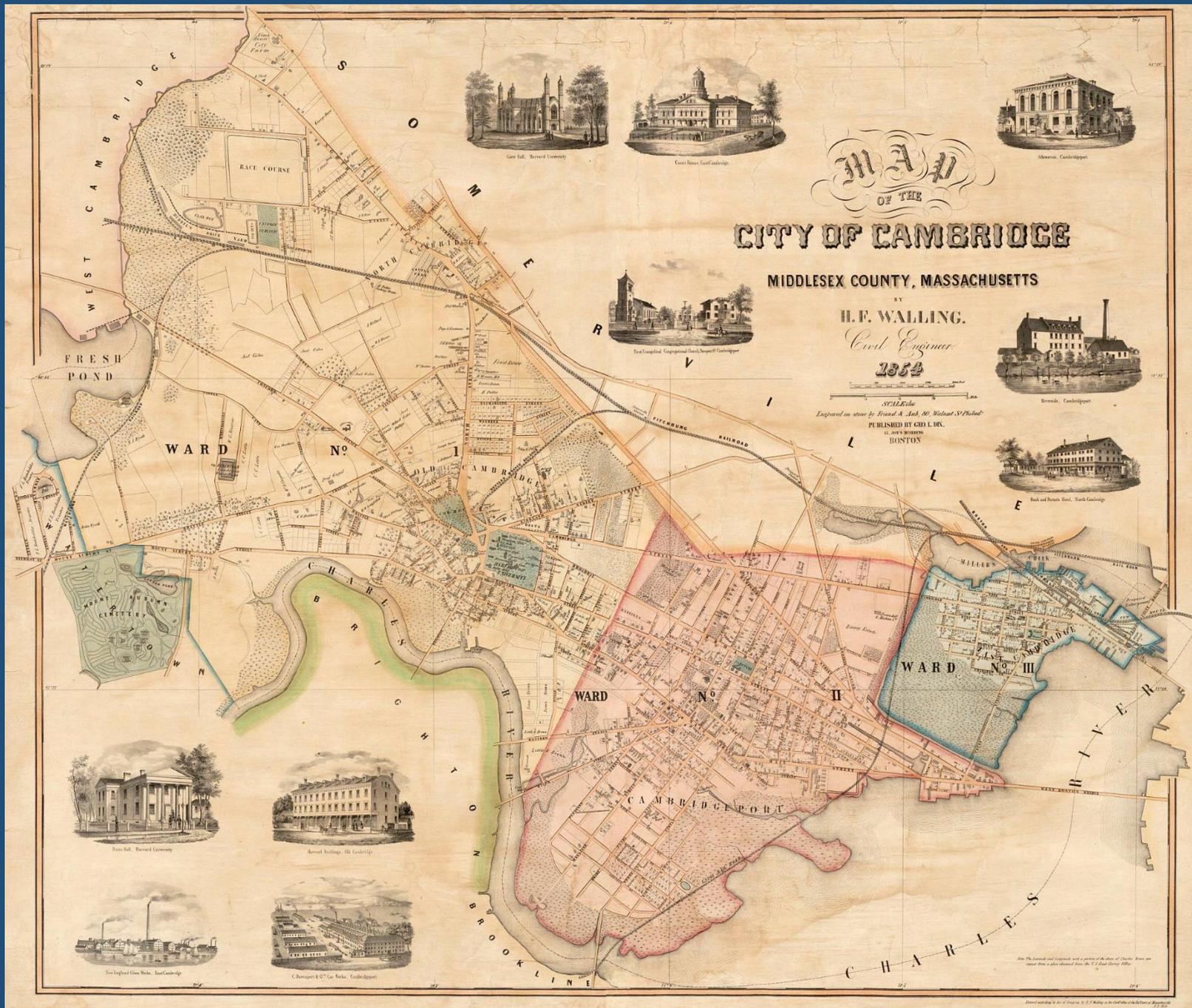


Thirteen Goodies outside Harvard Hall in 1862.



Five Harvard Presidents, 1861

Josiah Quincy, Edward Everett, Jared Sparks, James Walker and Cornelius Conway Felton



Henry F. Walling, "Map of the City of Cambridge ... Massachusetts," 1854



Harvard Square in 1869



The Palmer Street saloon served workingmen until Cambridge went dry in 1882



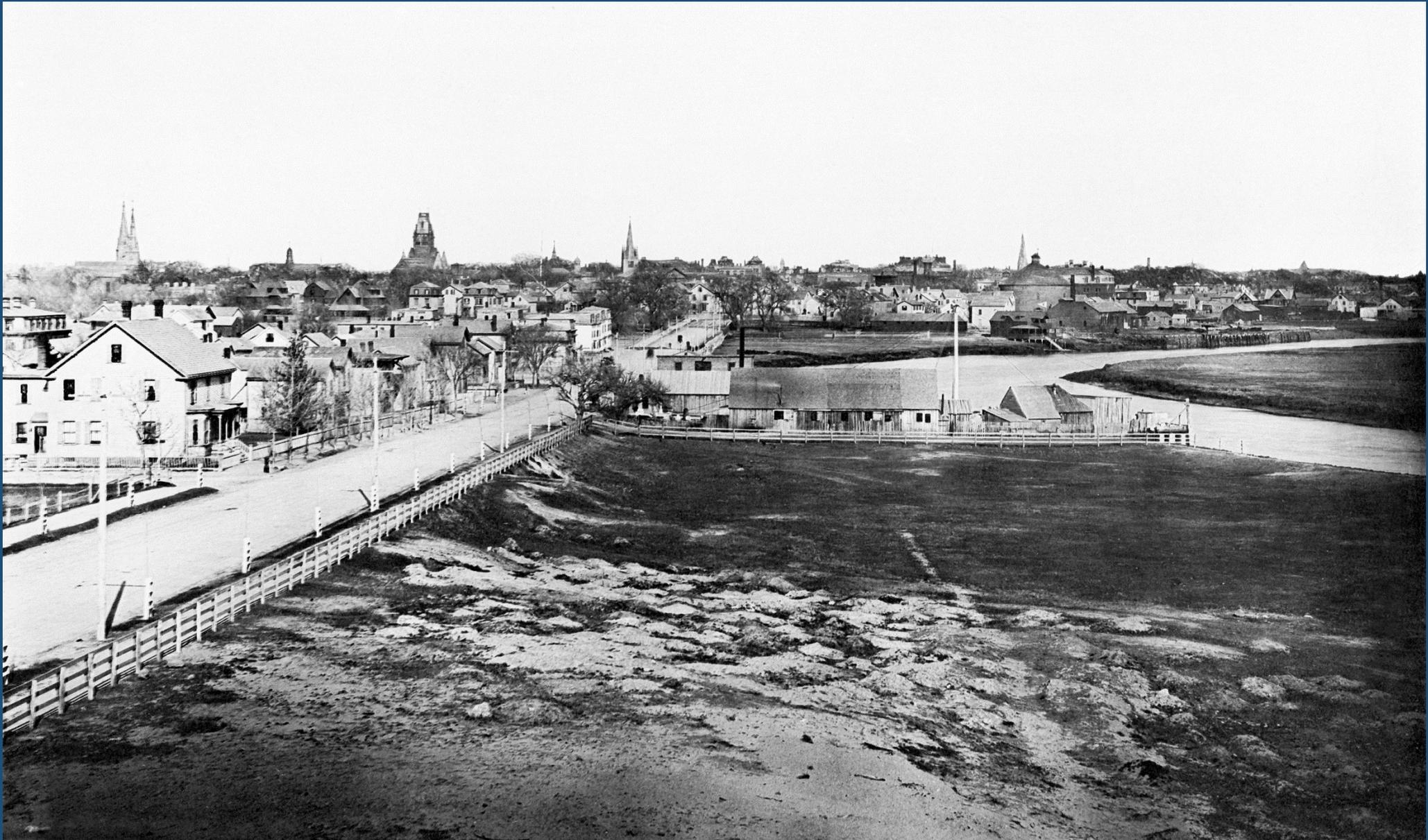
Workmen at Blake's carriage shop, Church Street, ca. 1880



Housemaids at the home of  
Prof. Epes Sargent Dixwell,  
58 Garden Street, ca. 1885



William Dean Howells  
and Elinor Mead Howells, 1862



The Marsh neighborhood, 1885



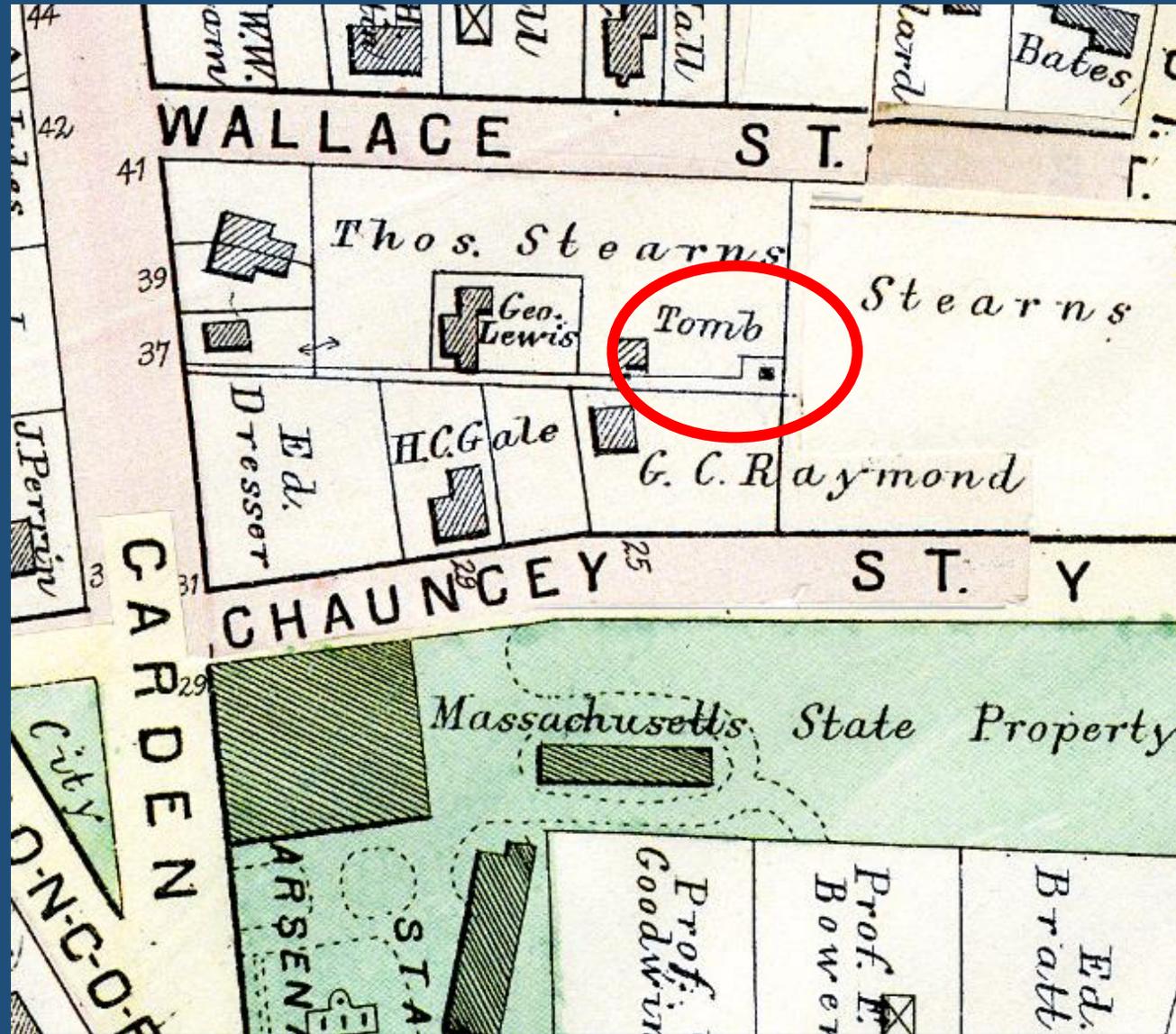
The Port in 1877



35, 37, and 41 Clark Street, 1901



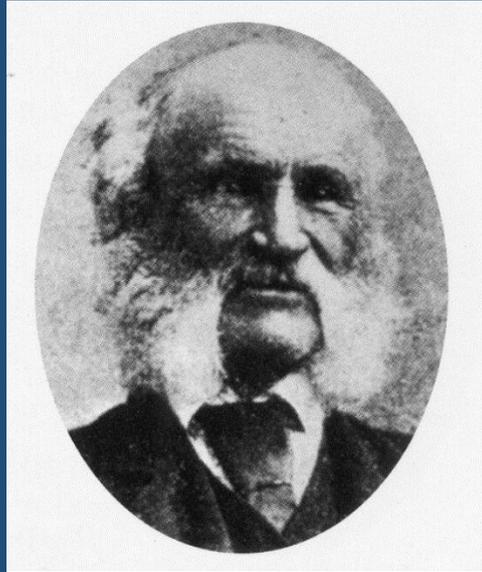
African American waiters outside Memorial Hall, 1875







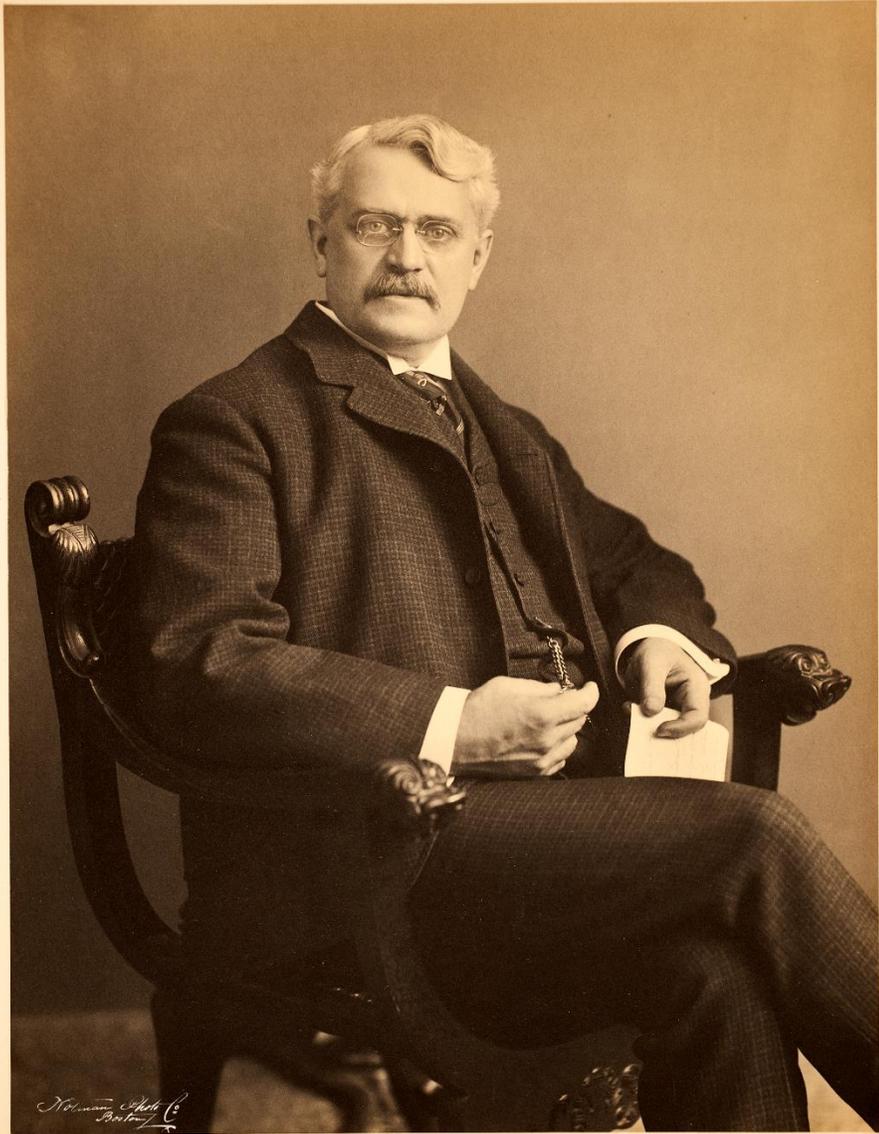
George Washington Lewis family at 47 Parker Street (1890). Photo ca. 1900



Common Councillor J. Milton Clarke (1820-1902)  
First African American elected to public office in Cambridge, 1870



William H. Lewis (1868–1949)  
Early African American graduate  
of the Harvard Law School;  
member of the Common Council  
1899–1901; Assistant U.S.  
Attorney and Assistant Attorney  
General, 1903-13. Photo 1899.



John H.H. McNamee (1853-1936)  
Cambridge's first Irish-American mayor,  
1902-04

*John H. H. McNamee*







Newtowne Court  
Federally-funded  
public housing,  
1938



Newtowne Court, 1937



Move-in day, January 1938

# Cambridge Household Population 1765-2010

