

# Cambridge Historical Commission

July 9, 2020

Public Hearing: Landmark Designation Proceeding

28 Union Street, Ann McGovern MacAdam, owner

Consider request by property owner to initiate  
landmark study



28 Union Street (1866)





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## Alberta V. Scott

FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN GRADUATE OF RADCLIFFE COLLEGE  
1875 - 1902



Alberta Virginia Scott, a resident of Cambridgeport, was the first African American graduate of Radcliffe College.

Alberta was born near Richmond, Virginia, the daughter of Smith and Fanny Burch Scott. When she was six years old, her family moved to Cambridge, where they lived in several locations in the "lower part," a traditionally black neighborhood near Kendall Square that has been replaced with office buildings. Her father, a

boiler tender and stationary engineer, was a deacon at the Union Baptist Church on Main Street.

As a child, Scott devoted herself to intensive study. From the time she entered elementary school, it was said that she had a studious disposition. At Union Baptist, she taught Sunday school under the guidance of her friend Charlotte Hawkins.

Scott graduated with distinction from the Cambridge Latin School in 1894 and entered Radcliffe College, where she studied science and the classics and belonged to the Ilder and German clubs. Radcliffe had no dormitories at that time, so during her first two years there she lived with an African American family on Parker Street. In her senior year, she lived at home at 28 Union Street. When she finished college in 1898, she was only the fourth African American to graduate from a women's college in Massachusetts.

Scott decided that it was her duty to teach African American children in the South rather than stay in Massachusetts. At first she taught in an Indianapolis high school, but in 1900 Booker T. Washington recruited her to

teach at the Tuskegee Institute.

Scott's promising future was tragically cut short. After a year in Alabama, she fell sick and returned to Cambridge, where she died at her parents' home at 37 Hubbard Avenue on August 30, 1902. Charlotte Hawkins sang at her funeral, which was conducted by the Reverend Jesse Harrell of the Union Baptist Church.

*Related Cambridge African American Trail Markers*  
Charlotte Hawkins Jones, 51 Essex Street  
Richard E. Green, College House, 1831  
Massachusetts Avenue

*Sources*  
Alice Gibb, June 23, 1898  
Boston Herald, September 2, 1902  
Radcliffe College, *Alumni File*, Schlesinger  
Library (1898)

Cambridge African American  
History Project • 1993

Cambridge Discovery Inc.

Cambridge Historical Commission

Alberta V. Scott marker

Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties  
(Old Cambridge Historic District)

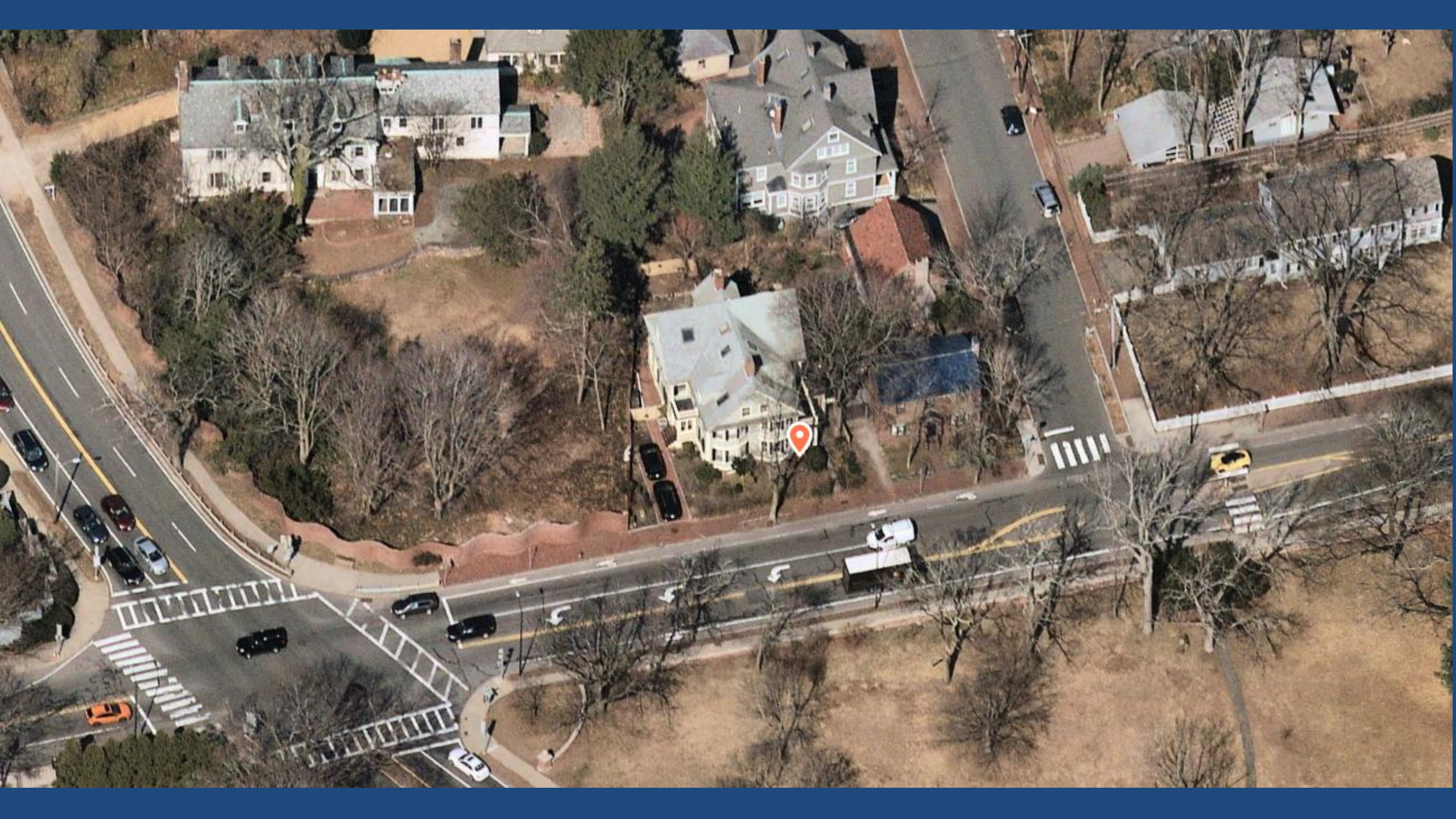
Case 4322: 213 Brattle St., by Mary Gehring and Jon Penterman

Construct driveway for parking one car



213-215 Brattle Street (1896, H.M Stephenson, architect)









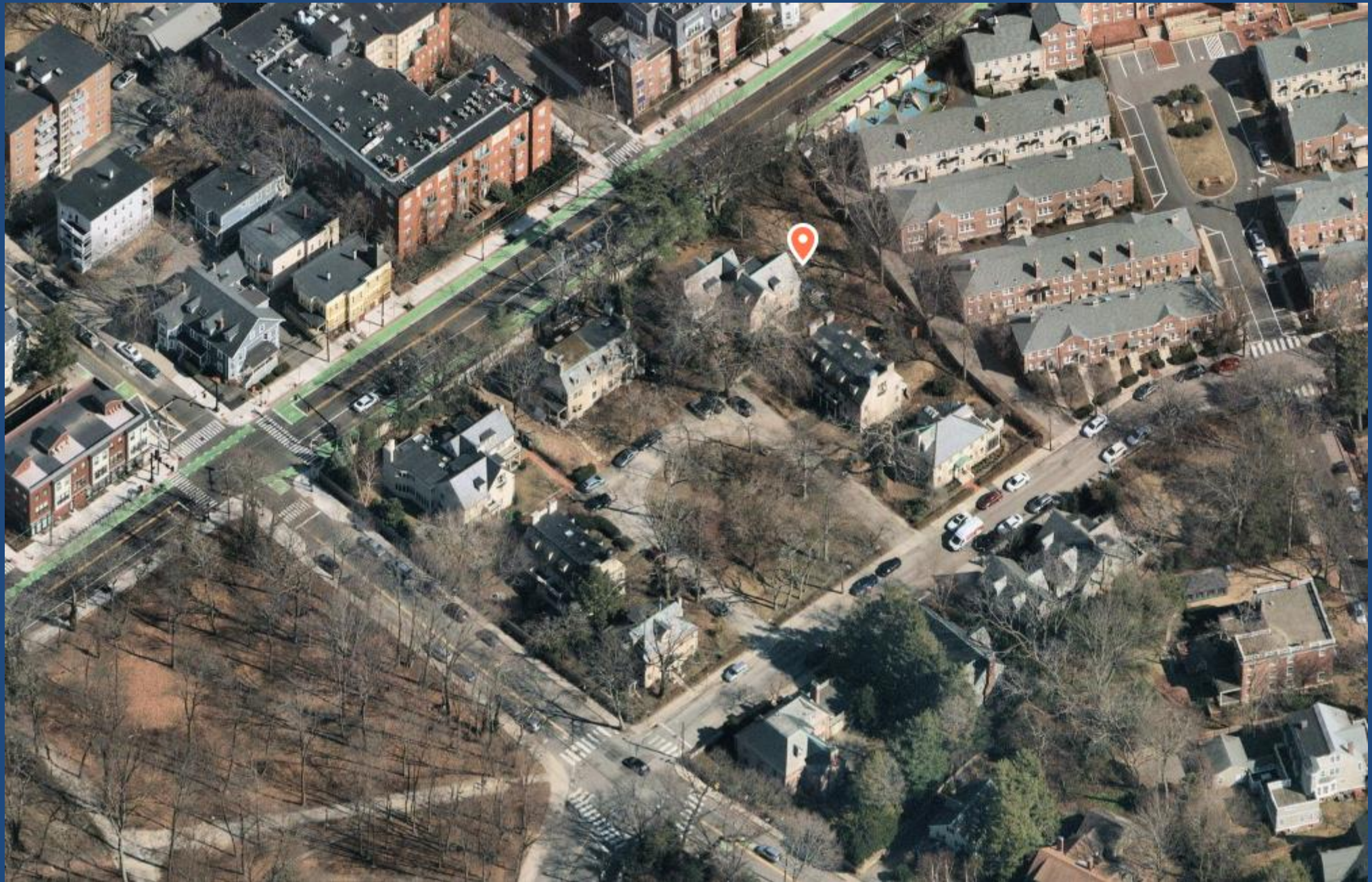
Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties  
(Shady Hill Square)

Case 4326: 9 Shady Hill Square, by Carter S. Bacon, Jr.

Construct a one-story screened porch on SW elevation, re-stucco house exterior, replace slate roof with new slate, replace wood gutters with copper



9 Shady Hill Square (1915, J.W. Ames, architect)









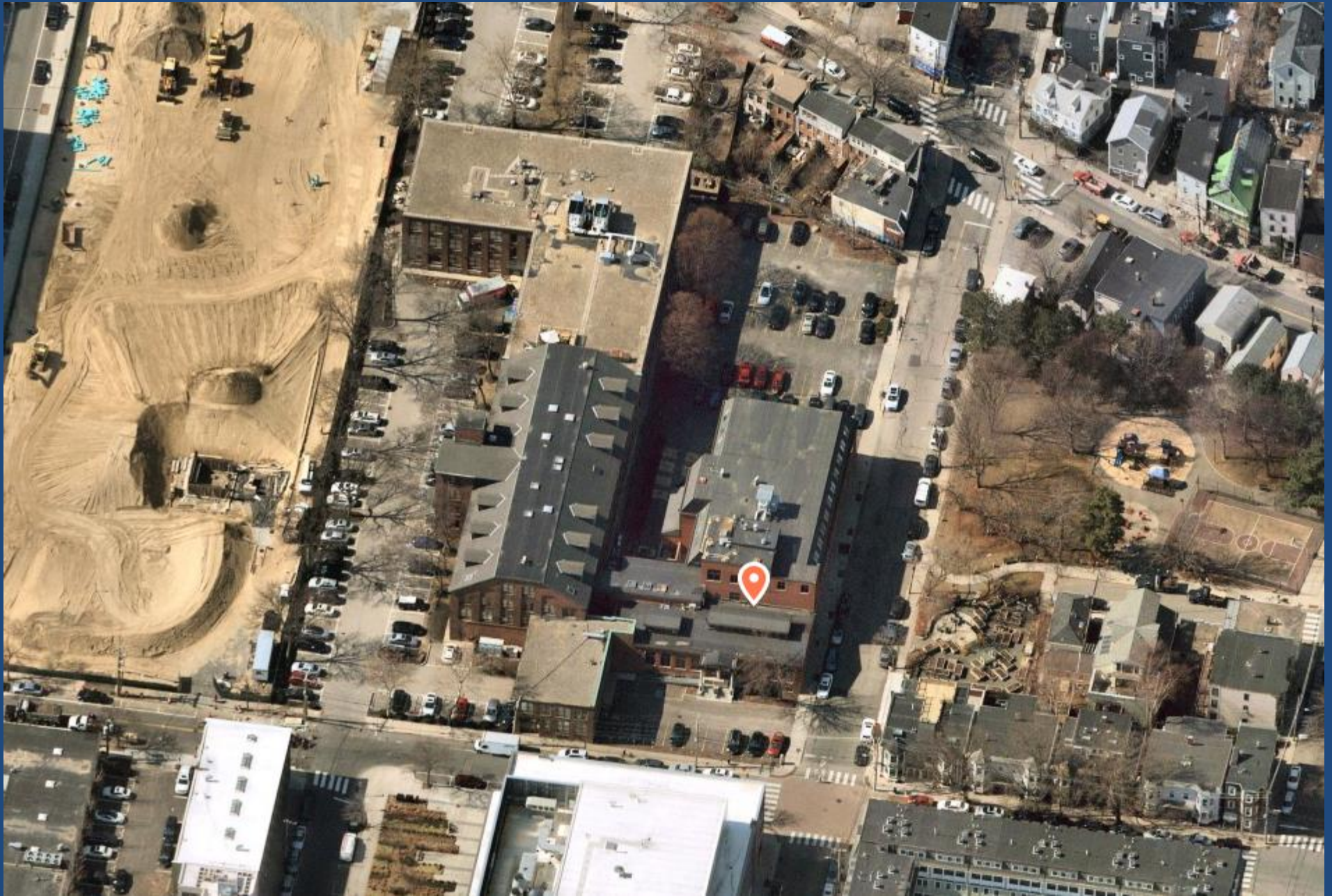
Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties  
(East Cambridge NCD Study Area)

Case 4327: 58 Charles St., by BMR-58 Charles Street LLC.

Install rooftop mechanicals, replace windows and doors,  
alter landscaping and signs, repoint brick masonry,  
other mechanicals and loading dock at rear.



American Net & Twine Co., 58 Charles Street (1911; altered 1986)



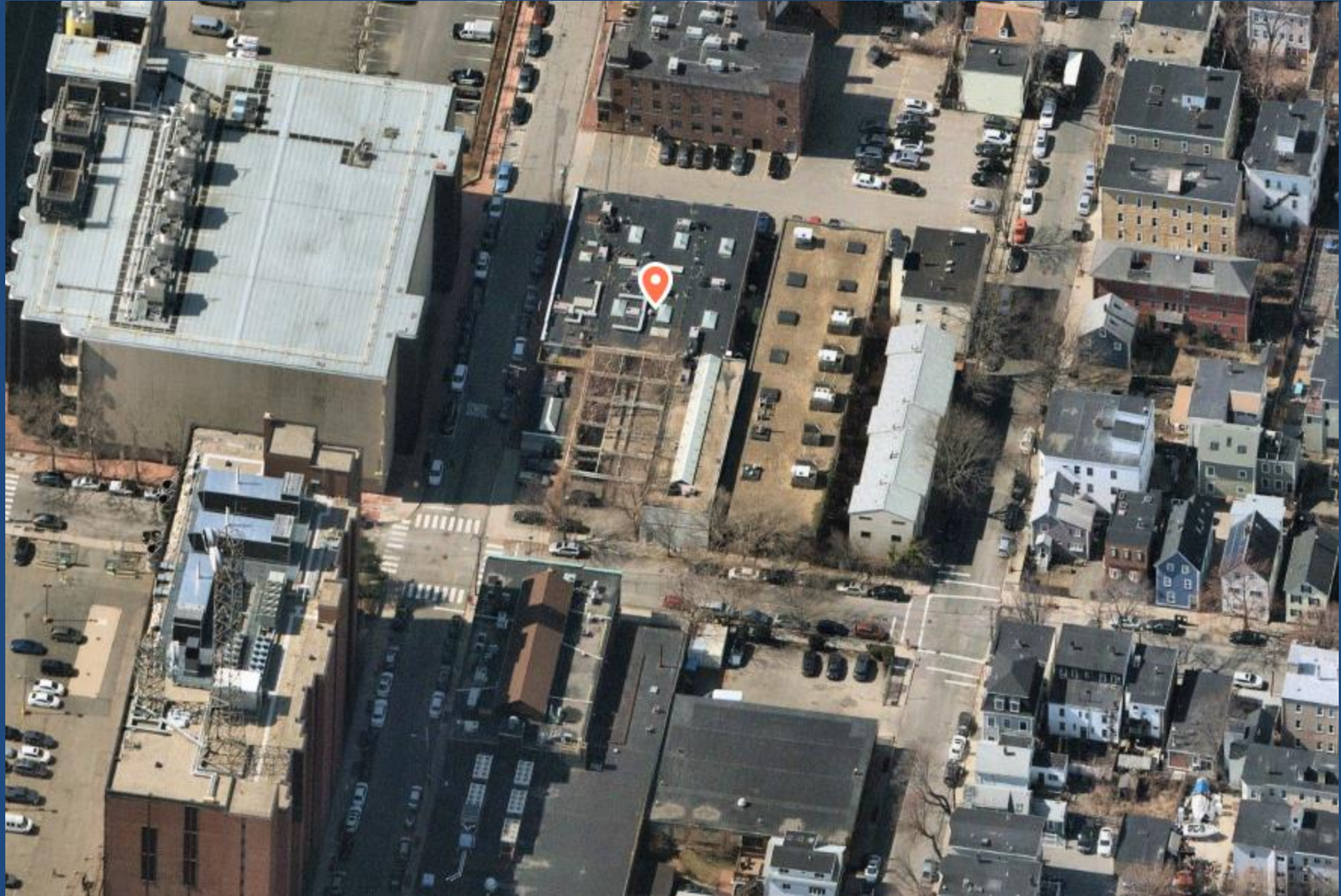




Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties  
(East Cambridge NCD Study Area)

Case 4349: 243 Bent St. #1, by Ronald E. Peeples.

Install two windows in new openings on the Fifth St. elevation.





243 Bent Street (1917)





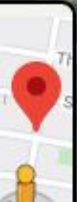


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Public Hearing: Alterations to Designated Properties  
(Harvard Square Conservation District)

Case 4350: 96 Winthrop St., by Raj Dhanda, o/b/o The Boiling Crab, tenant.

Alter exterior mechanicals, restore original door



Isaac Hyde house, 98 Winthrop Street (1846, Oliver Hastings, housewright)





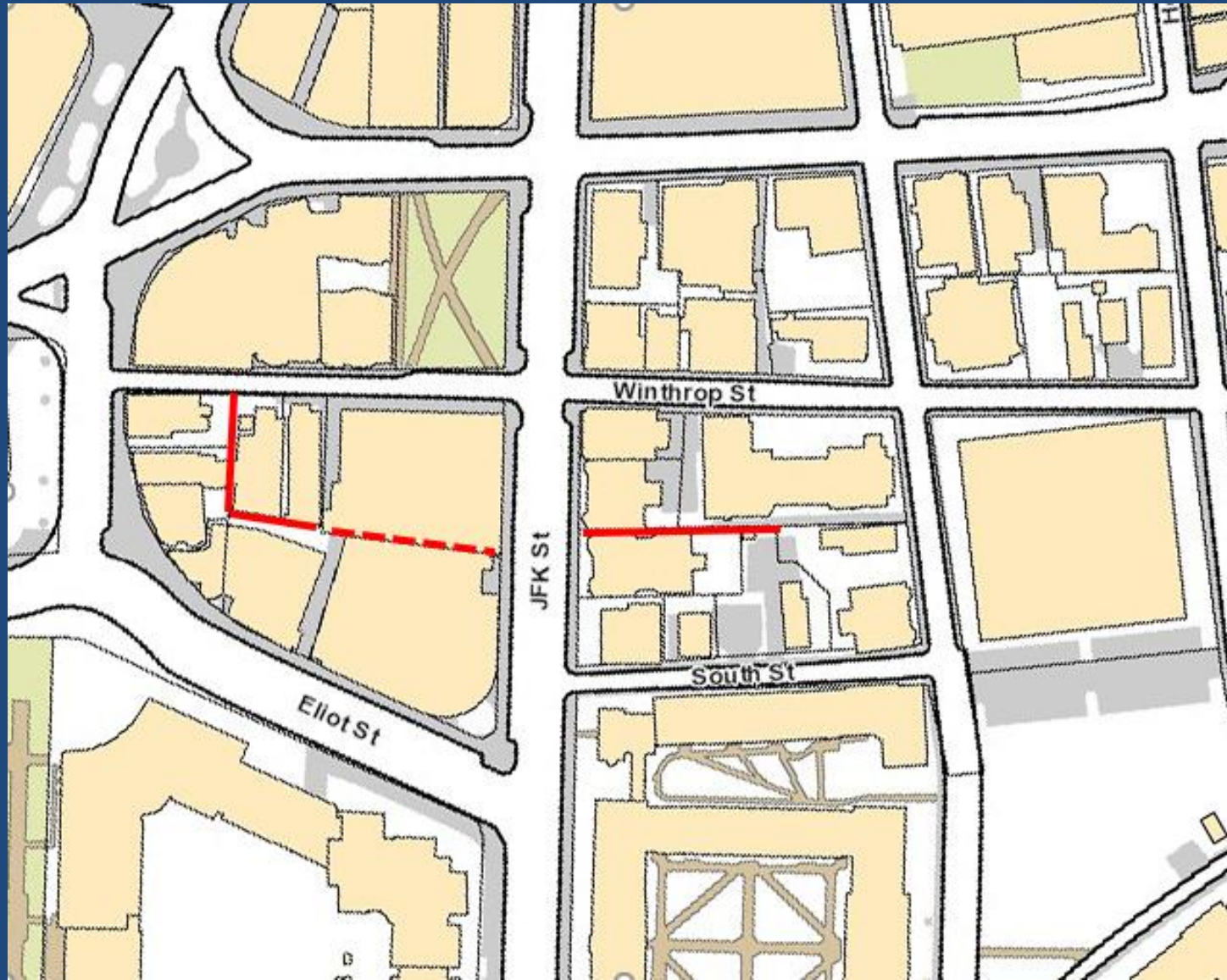












Stone retaining walls, ca. 1805



# Preservation Grants



PG 21-1, 424 Broadway, by Just A Start. \$12,500 for window and trim repairs (1892; altered with a store, 1909; store made a residential unit, 1959)



IPG 21-1, 1038 Massachusetts Avenue, by The Greek Institute. \$100,000 for exterior repairs (1856)





