

PROSPECT HILL PARK

Image by Eric Kilby



COMMUNITY MEETING #2 - NOVEMBER 8, 2017

PROSPECT HILL PARK

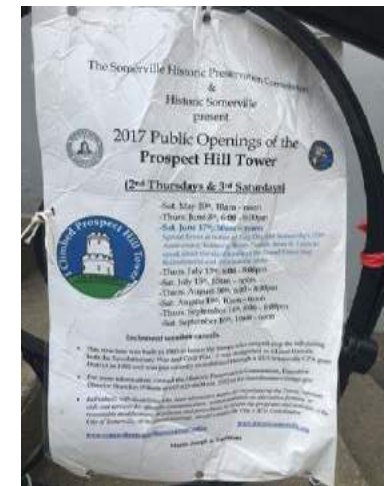
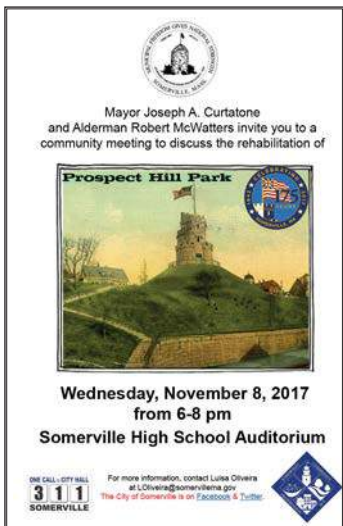
JOIN THE CONVERSATION

Communications:

- Project Updates:

[HTTPS://WWW.SOMERVILLEMA.GOV/PROSPECTHILLPARK](https://www.somerville.ma.gov/prospecthillpark)

- Email List
- Newspapers, Website, Calendar, Cable Wheel, Flyers
- Social Media: Facebook and Twitter (City of Somerville & Somerville Neighborhood updates, Portuguese, Spanish, & Haitian Kreyole pages)



PROSPECT HILL PARK

PROJECT TIMELINE

November 2017

- Community Meeting #2
- Schematic Design
- Historic Preservation Committee

December

- Community Meeting #3
- Design Development

January 2018

- Community Meeting #4
- Historic Preservation Committee
- Construction Documentation

February

- Advertise for Construction Bid

March

April

May

June

- Construction must begin June 1,
likely through Spring 2019

PROSPECT HILL PARK

DESIGN TEAM

Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development:

- Luisa Oliveira, ASLA, Senior Planner for Landscape Design
- Sarah White, Preservation & Zoning Planner
- Somerville Historic Preservation Committee

Design Team:

Kyle Zick Landscape Architecture, Inc.

- Kyle Zick, ASLA, Principal-in-Charge
- Danielle Desilets, RLA, Project Manager

Structures North Consulting Engineers, Inc. - Structural engineers

Design Consultants, Inc. - Civil engineers

Sarkisian & Associates, Inc. - Irrigation consultant

Allied Consulting Engineering Services, Inc.- M/E/P engineers



tactical urbanism



campus planning



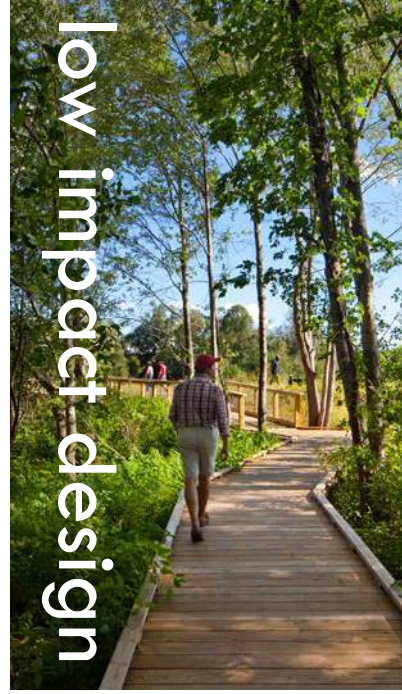
master planning



urban parks



coastal restoration



low impact design



historic preservation

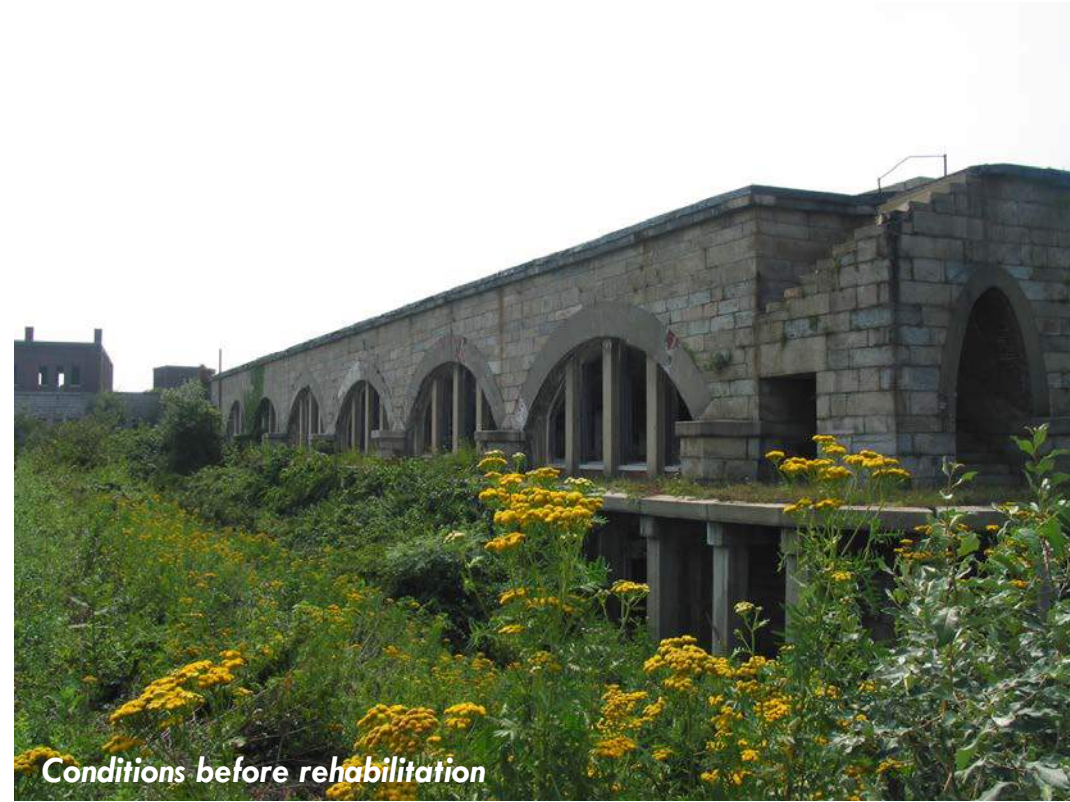


mixed-use development

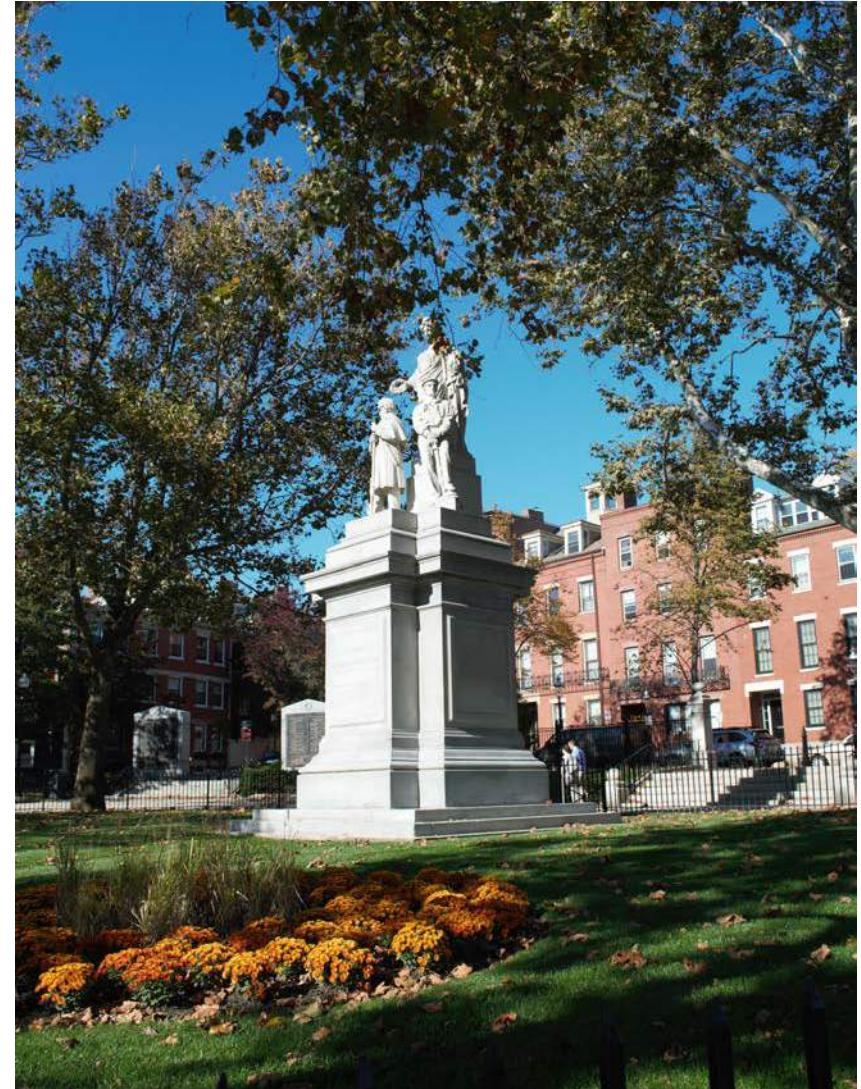
kzla



urban forest management



Site Improvements



Site Improvements



Site Improvements



2014 site conditions: dense canopy of invasive trees



2016 post construction



2016 post construction

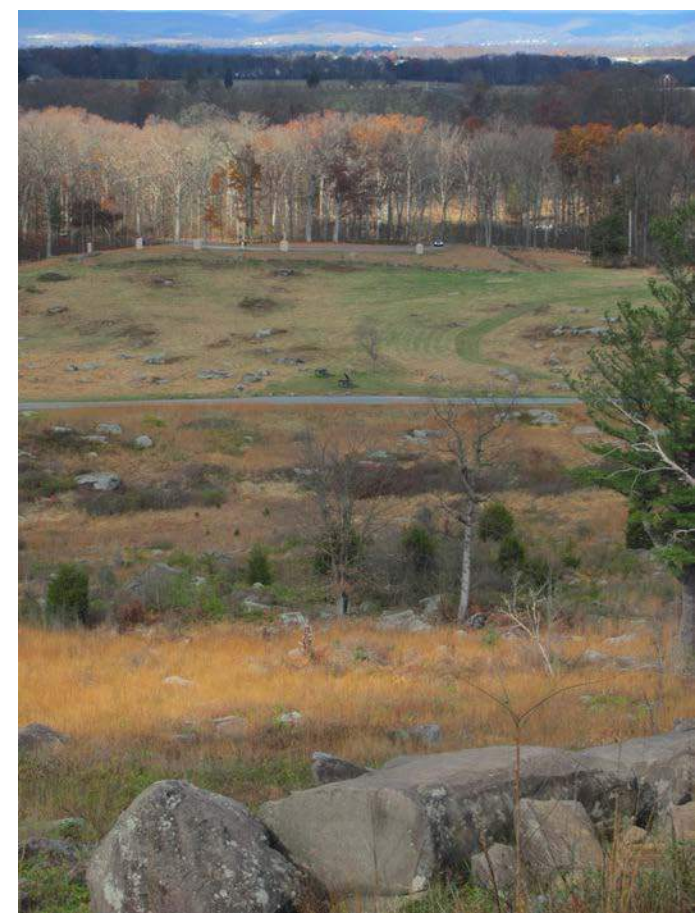


Site Improvements



Telling the story of Buena Vista estate & historic Roxbury





Understanding the battlefield: control for the high-ground & providing a complete experience



DESIGNING FOR & INTERPRETING LANDSCAPES

of the American Revolutionary War

kzla



WINTHROP SQUARE
CHARLESTOWN, MA



BUNKER HILL MONUMENT
CHARLESTOWN, MA



BATTLE ROAD TRAIL
CONCORD, LINCOLN &
LEXINGTON, MA



DORCHESTER HEIGHTS
SOUTH BOSTON, MA



VALLEY FORGE
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA



**LONGFELLOW HOUSE-
WASHINGTON HQ NHS**
CAMBRIDGE, MA



FORT PICKERING
SALEM, MA



DEY MANSION
WAYNE, NJ



OLD NORTH BRIDGE
CONCORD, MA

PROSPECT HILL PARK

COMMUNITY MEETING #1 (JULY 2017)



access ADA areas base benches blocked boulders building
calming canopy capture climb community composting
connections crosswalks fence flowers forest gatherings health hill hillsides
historic important landscape lawn **lighting**
management native natural neighbor
neighborhood open path pathways people **plant** plaques play public quality
railings recreation safer shrubs sidewalks
signage space species square stairs stone stormwater tower
traffic **trees** union **views** walls woodland

PROSPECT HILL PARK

DESIGN GOALS

- To highlight the site's Local & National historical significance
 - Team will work with Historic Preservation Committee, to Preserve and Interpret the HISTORY
- To improve the Public park
 - Enhance the experience for people with different abilities
 - Enhance safety with improved lighting
 - Improve quality of turf
 - Consider forest management & views
- Do it all in the most sustainable way possible

PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION: 2.6M to 11,700 YEARS AGO

PRE-CONTACT ERA: 12,500 YEARS AGO TO

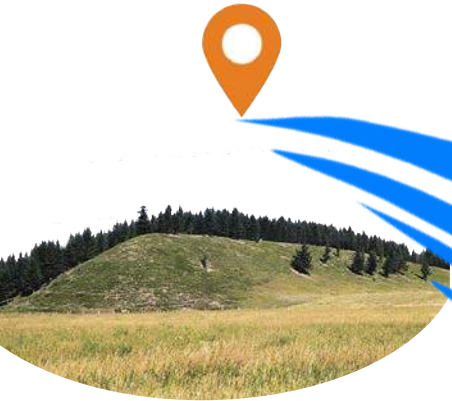
COLONIAL ERA: 1500 to 1775 C.E.

**SIEGE OF BOSTON (REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA):
1775 to 1789**

FEDERAL ERA: 1789 to 1860

**CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION:
1860 to 1896**

**PROSPECT HILL PARK
1896 to PRESENT**



PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

GEOLOGICAL FORMATION:
2.6M TO 11,700 YEARS AGO



Drumlin = hills formed by glacial advance & retreat



Forested with northern red & white oak, gray birch, red maple, sugar maple & eastern white pine



Well-drained, loamy sand used for pasturage or crop cultivation

PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

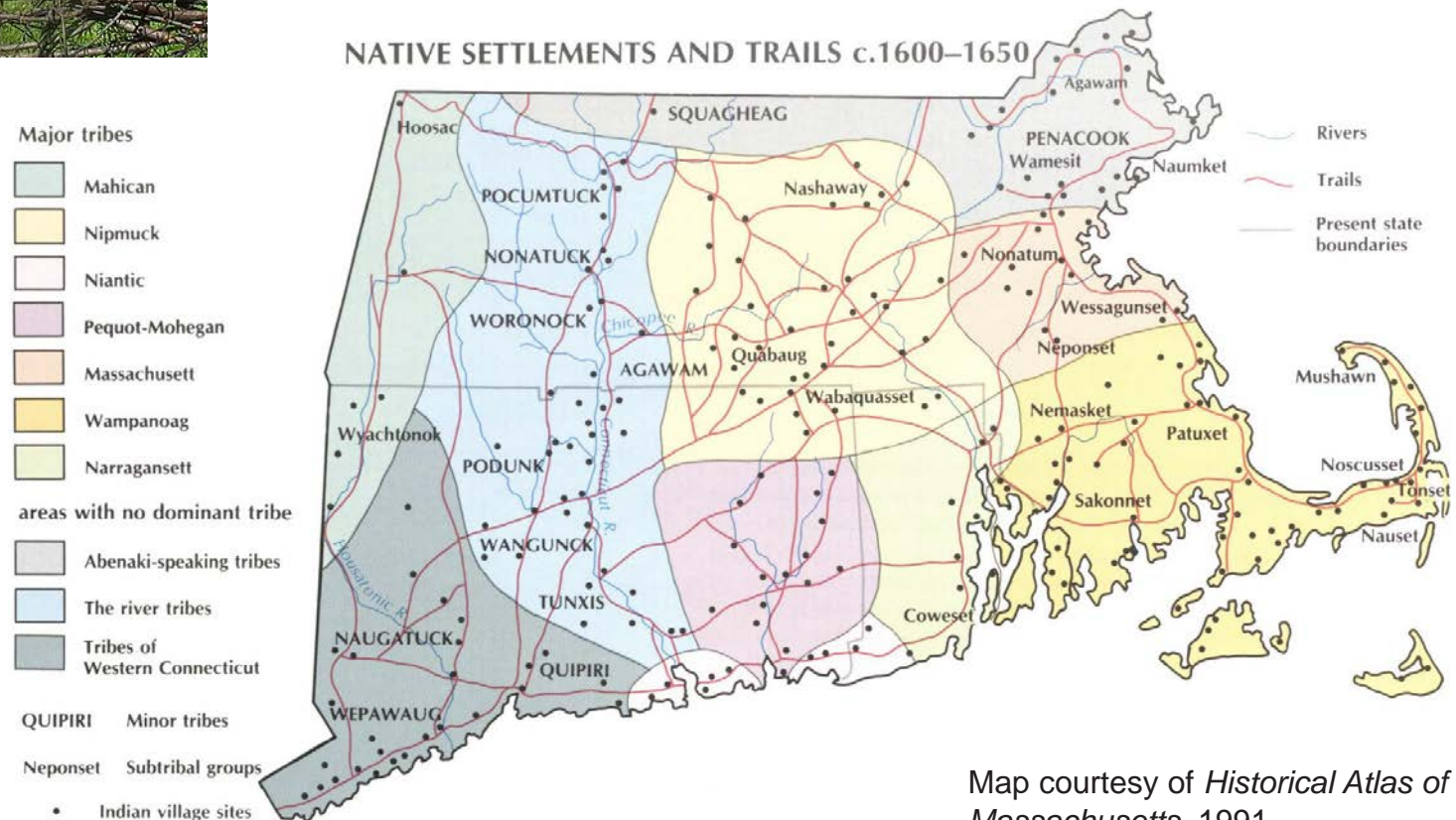
PRE-CONTACT ERA: 12,500 YEARS AGO TO 1500 C.E.



Pre-contact sites typically found around freshwater lakes & ponds:

- fresh water
- food source

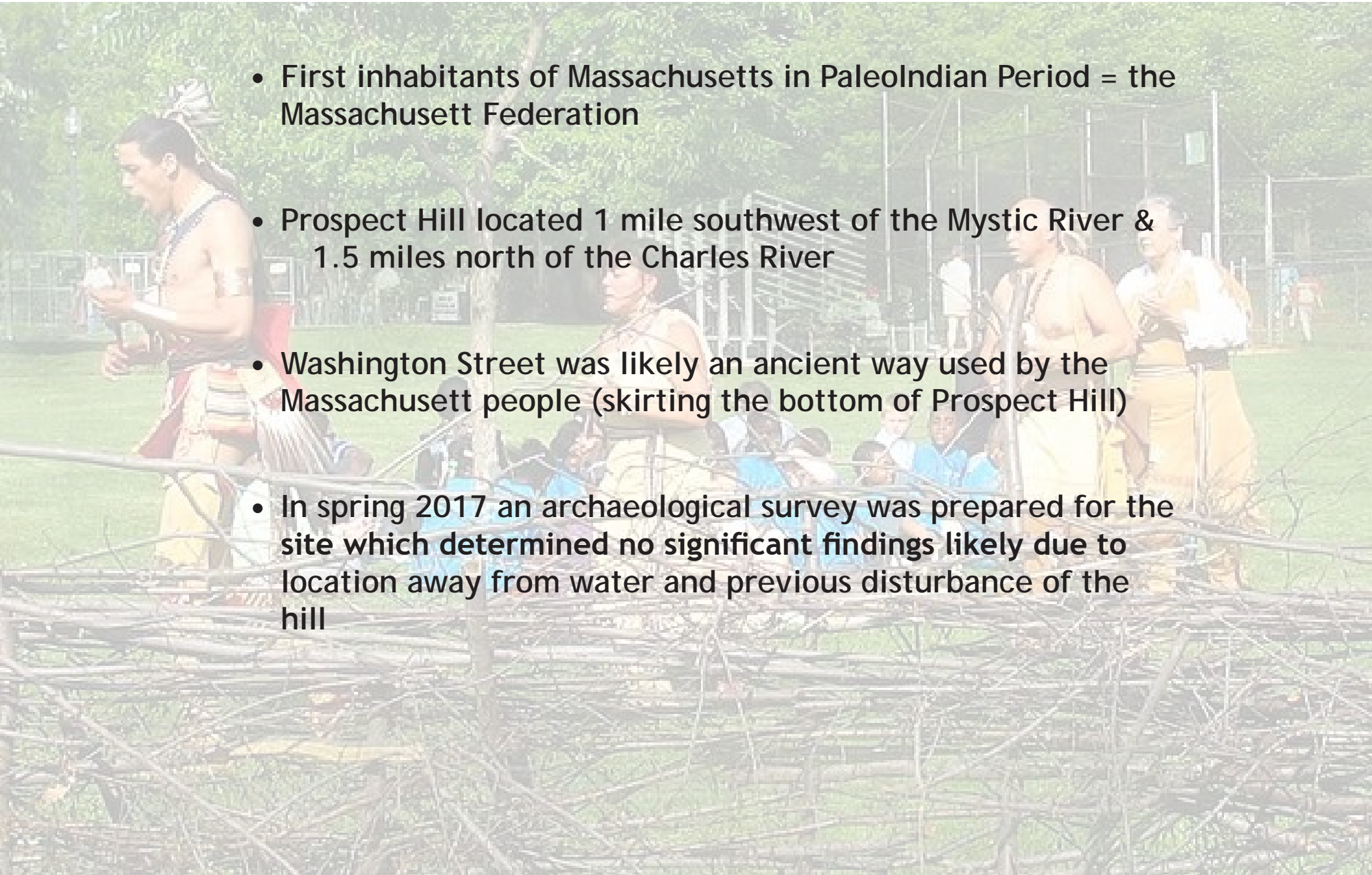
Ancient Fishweir Project on the Boston Common; courtesy of www.fishweir.org



PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

PRE-CONTACT ERA:
12,500 YEARS AGO to 1500 C.E.

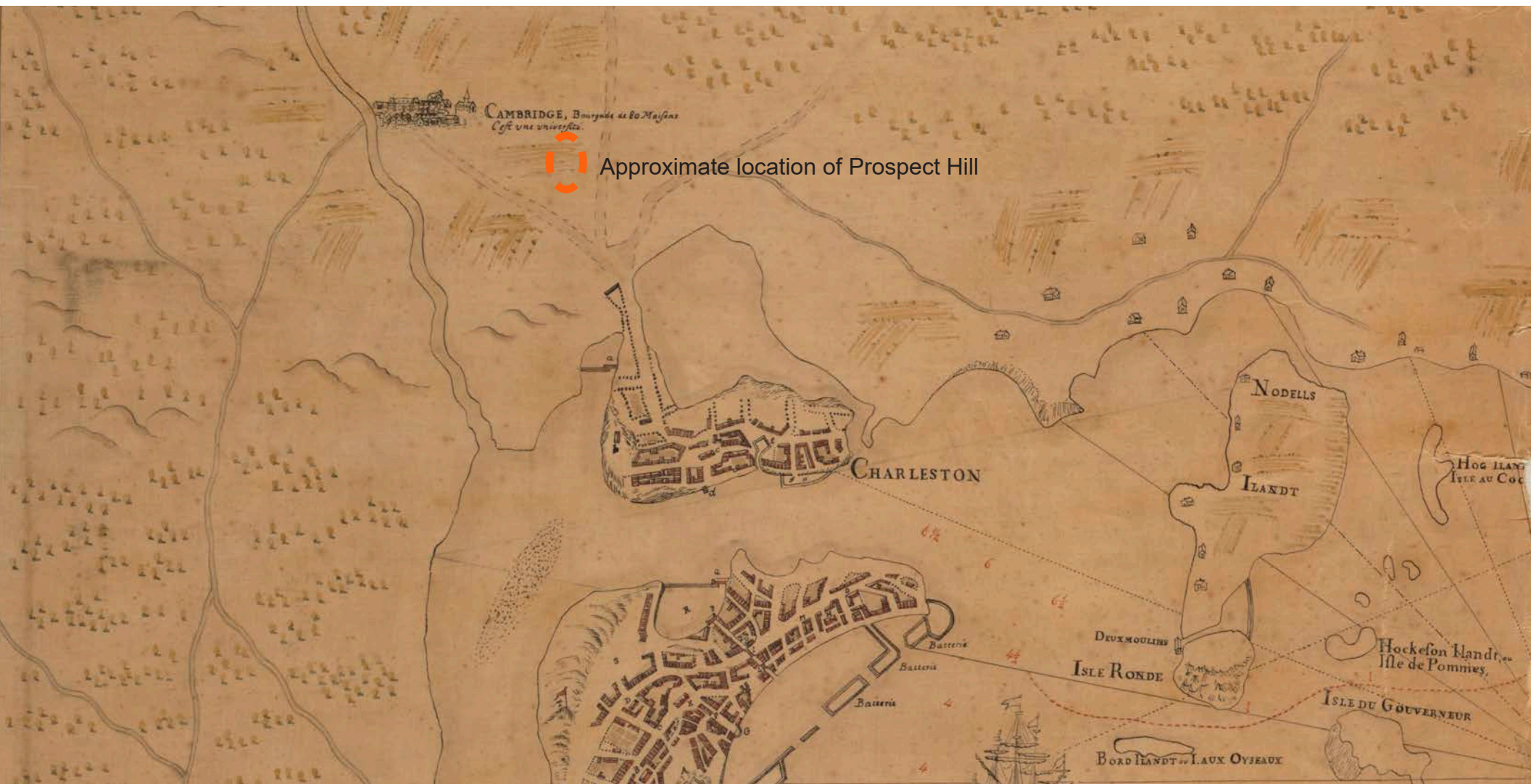
- First inhabitants of Massachusetts in PaleoIndian Period = the Massachusett Federation
 - Prospect Hill located 1 mile southwest of the Mystic River & 1.5 miles north of the Charles River
 - Washington Street was likely an ancient way used by the Massachusett people (skirting the bottom of Prospect Hill)
 - In spring 2017 an archaeological survey was prepared for the site which determined no significant findings likely due to location away from water and previous disturbance of the hill
- 

PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

COLONIAL ERA: 1500 to 1775 C.E.

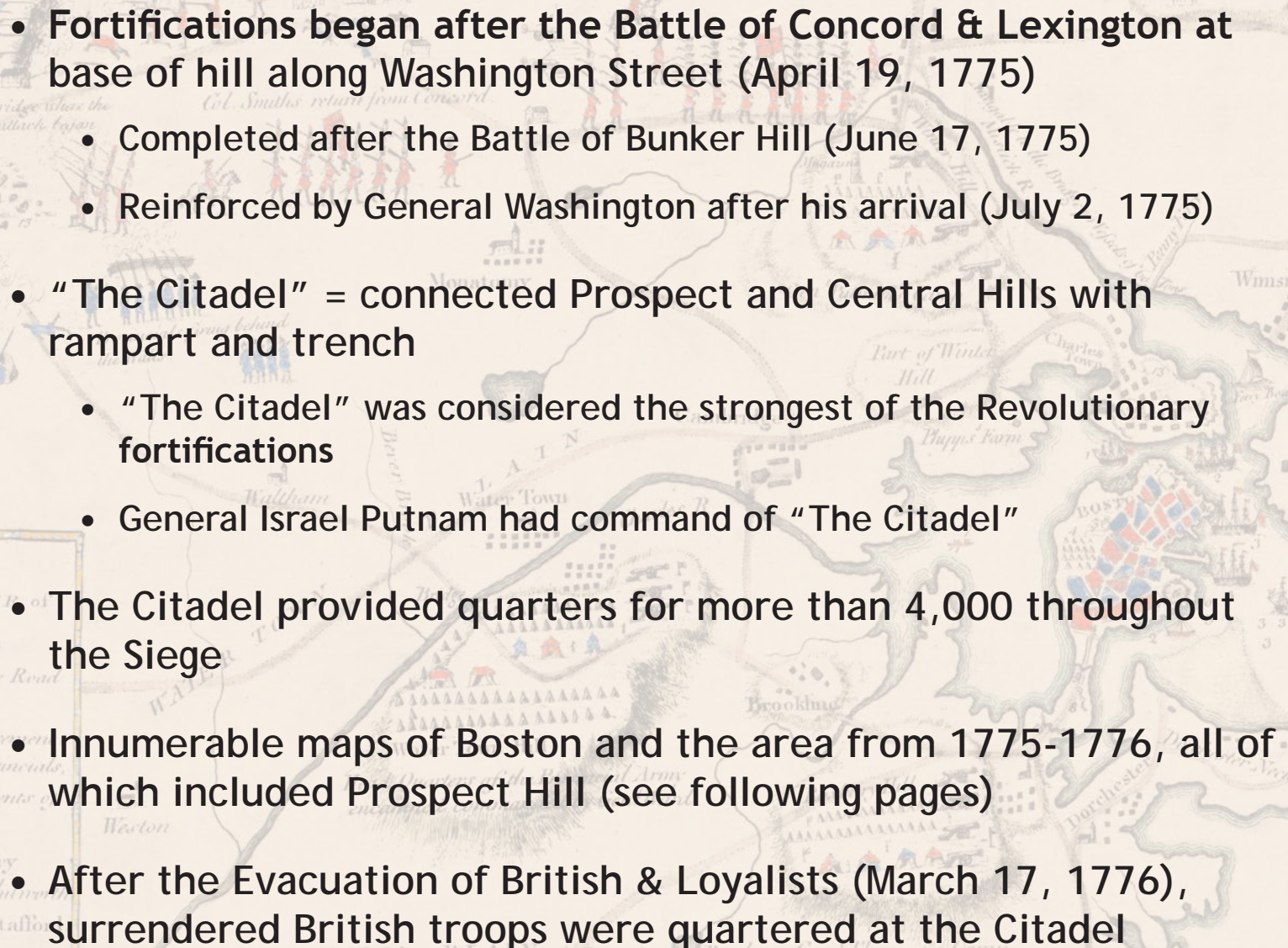
- 250-acre “Stinted Common” = public grazing land in Charlestown until 1685
- Extended from today’s border with Charlestown to Somerville’s Elm Street



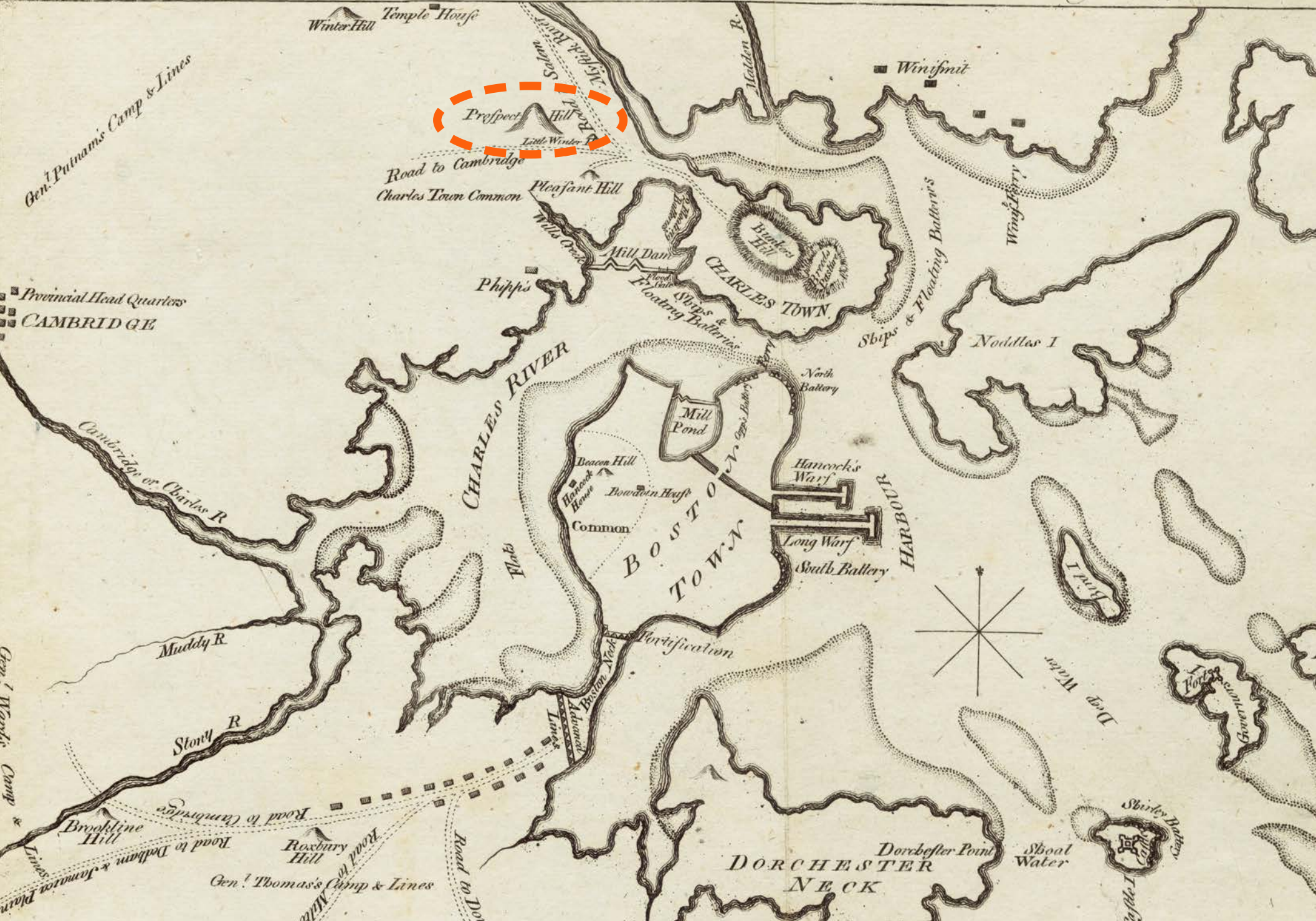
PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

SIEGE OF BOSTON (REVOLUTIONARY WAR ERA): 1775 to 1789

- 
- The background of the text is a historical map titled "A PLAN OF THE TOWN and HARBOUR of BOSTON, and the Country adjacent with the Road from Boston to Concord". The map shows the city of Boston, the harbor, and surrounding areas like Concord, Malden, and Chelsea. It includes various fortifications and military encampments, with labels such as "The Citadel", "Prospect Hill", and "Jamaica Plain". The map also shows the "River" and "Harbour" and includes a title block with the author's name, "Taken from an Actual Survey Humbly Inscribed to Rich^d Warren Esq^r Member of Parliament for Stafford By his most Obedient Servant J. De Costa".
- Fortifications began after the Battle of Concord & Lexington at base of hill along Washington Street (April 19, 1775)
 - Completed after the Battle of Bunker Hill (June 17, 1775)
 - Reinforced by General Washington after his arrival (July 2, 1775)
 - “The Citadel” = connected Prospect and Central Hills with rampart and trench
 - “The Citadel” was considered the strongest of the Revolutionary fortifications
 - General Israel Putnam had command of “The Citadel”
 - The Citadel provided quarters for more than 4,000 throughout the Siege
 - Innumerable maps of Boston and the area from 1775-1776, all of which included Prospect Hill (see following pages)
 - After the Evacuation of British & Loyalists (March 17, 1776), surrendered British troops were quartered at the Citadel

MAP of the ENVIRONS of BOSTON. Drawn at BOSTON in June 1775; and Published in London by J. Almon, according to Act of Parliament Aug. 28th 1775.



A DRAUGHT of the TOWNS of
BOSTON and CHARLESTOWN
and the Circumjacent Country shewing the
Works thrown up by HIS MAJESTY'S
Troops, and also those by the *Rebels*,
during the Campaign: 1775.

N.B. The Rebels Entrenchments are expres'd as they appear
from Beacon Hill which are color'd yellow.

Map Division
Library of Congress

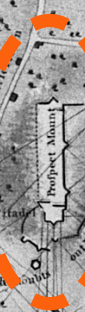


A PLAN of BOSTON in NEW ENGLAND with its ENVIRONS.

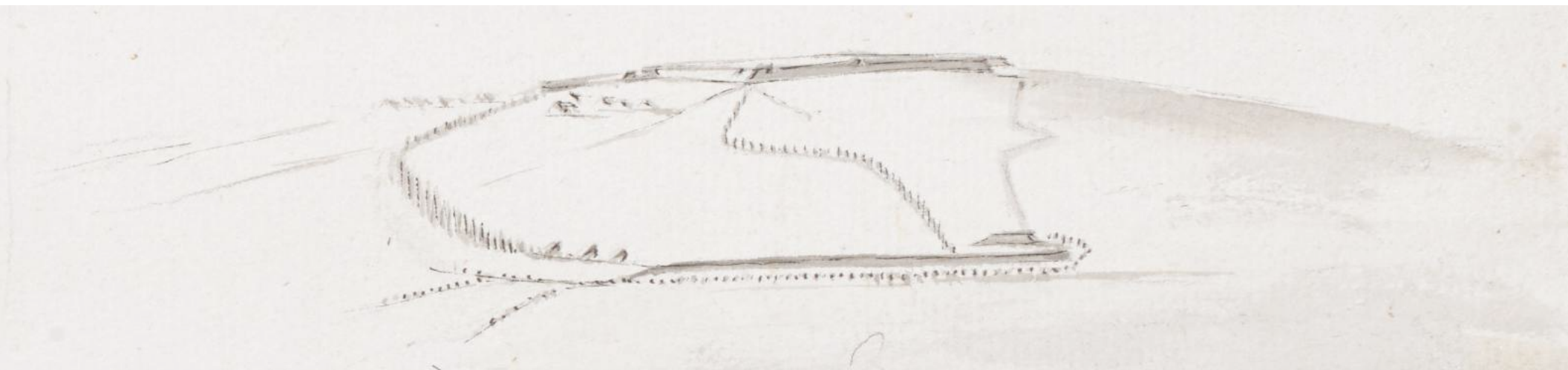
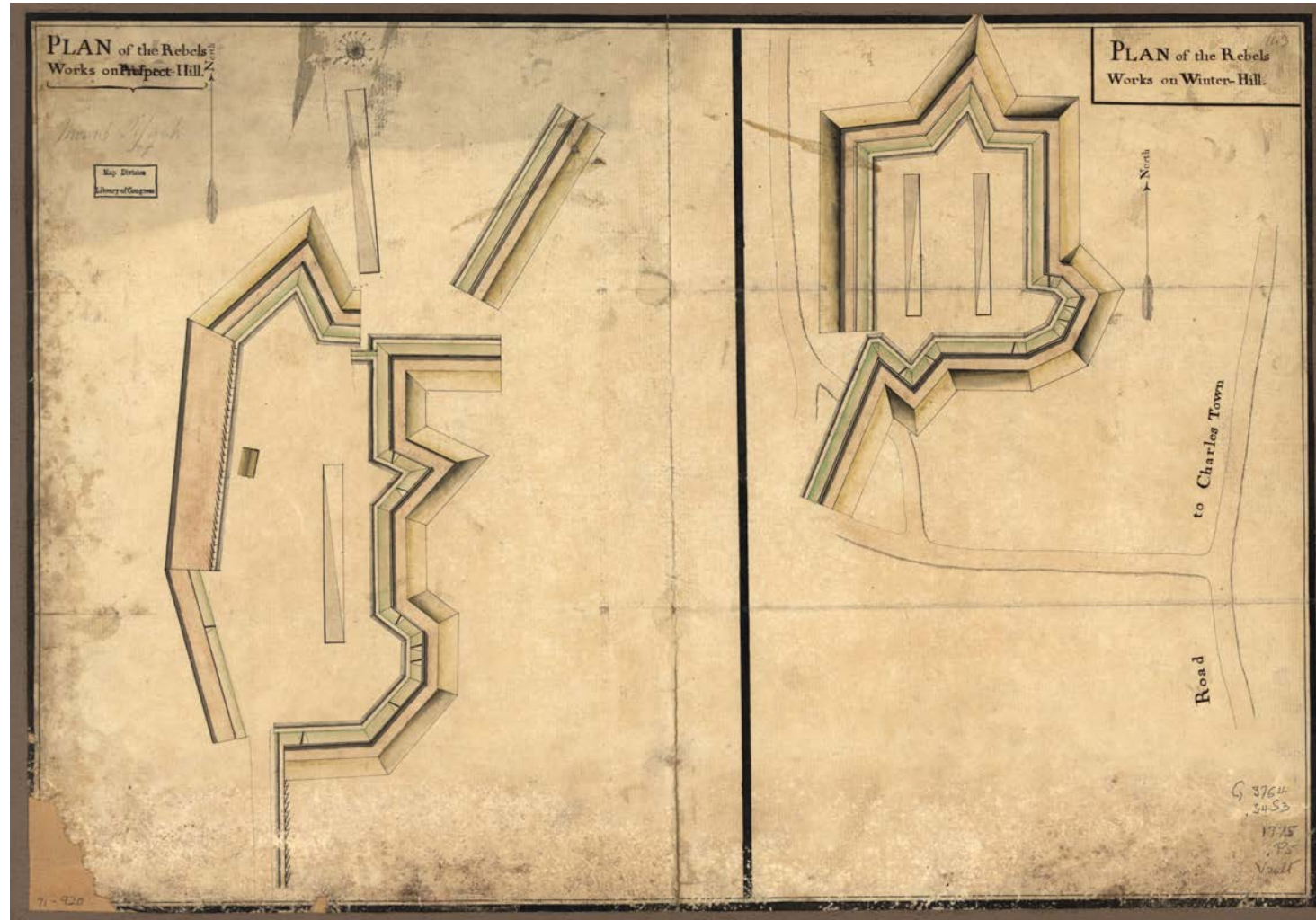
Including MILTON, DORCHESTER, ROXBURY, BROOKLIN, CAMBRIDGE, MEDFORD, CHARLESTOWN, Parts of MALDEN and CHELSEA.

With the MILITARY WORKS Constructed in those Places in the Years 1775 and 1776.

*The Quarter Master M. Henry Pelham has his head quarters in the Town of Boston 24 August 1776
of the Rebel works in Charlestown he is not to take a
but has leave to pass those places in doing
all other places necessary to be obstructed or impeded
north, south, east, west, &c. in the Heights of Charlestown
for completing his said
views of the Kings
To the Quarter Master
Town Major*



Norman 1777



"View of the Rebels Works on Prospect Hill", circa 1775; courtesy of the Norman B. Leventhal Map Center at the Boston Public Library



Courtesy of Harper's Weekly.

Copyright by Harper & Brothers.

RAISING THE FIRST AMERICAN FLAG, SOMERVILLE, MASS., JANUARY 1, 1776

Artist's rendering of the raising of the Grand Union flag over Prospect Hill's fortifications; courtesy of Harper's Weekly

PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

FEDERAL ERA:
1789 to 1860

- As America established itself as an independent nation, Prospect Hill was reallocated
 - Munroe grist mill established near summit of Prospect Hill
- Boston & Lowell Railroad established in 1835
 - The line ran just to the north of today's Prospect Hill Park
 - Railroad brought development of Prospect Hill which then became a very desirable residential neighborhood
 - Boston & Munroe Streets laid out in 1842
- Somerville established as a town on March 3, 1842 (with little more than 1,000 residents)
 - By 1900 census records 61,000 residents in Somerville

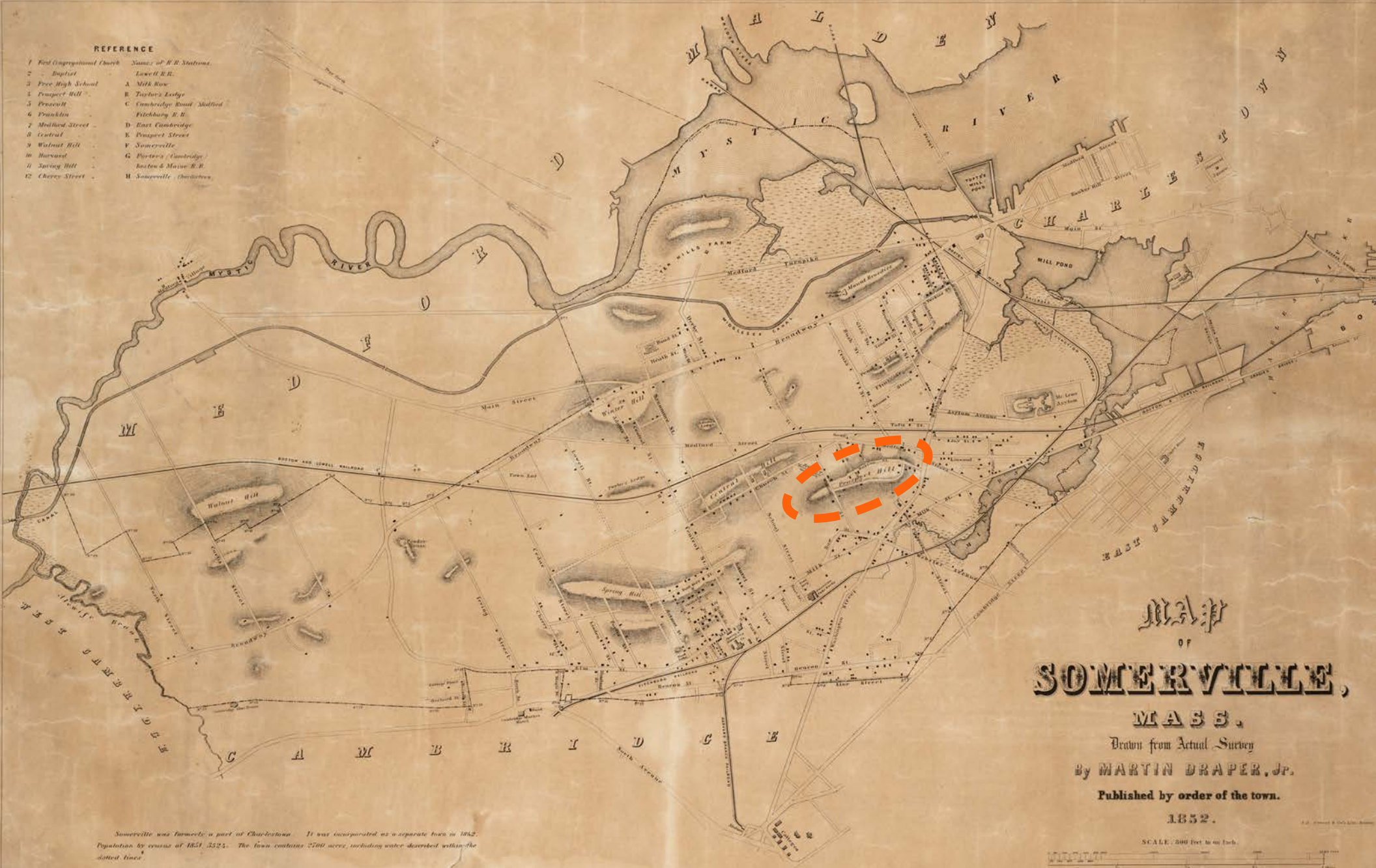
REFERENCE

First Congregational Church	Summit of R.R. Station
1 Baptist	Lowell R.R.
2 Free High School	A Milk Row
3 Prospect Hill	B Trunking Lodge
4 Prospect	C Cambridge Road Station
5 Franklin	Fitchburg R.R.
7 Mutual Street	D East Cambridge
8 Central	E Prospect Street
9 Walnut Hill	F Somerville
10 Harvard	G Phoenix Cambridge
11 Spring Hill	Horton & Mason R.R.
12 Grove Street	H University, Cambridge

PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

FEDERAL ERA:
1789 to 1860



REFERENCE

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 First Congregational Church | Sizes of R.R. Stations |
| 2 Baptist | Lowell R.R. |
| 3 Free High School | A Milk Row |
| 4 Prospect Hill | B Teachers Lodge |
| 5 Penwell | C Cambridge Road Station |
| 6 Franklin | Fitchburg R.R. |
| 7 Mulford Street | D East Cambridge |
| 8 Central | E Prospect Street |
| 9 Walnut Hill | F Somerville |
| 10 Harvard | G Physics (Cambridge) |
| 11 Spring Hill | Boston & Maine R.R. |
| 12 Cherry Street | H Somerville Churches |

MAP
OF
SOMERVILLE,
MASS.

Drawn from Actual Survey
By **MARTIN DRAPER, JR.**

Published by order of the town.

1852.

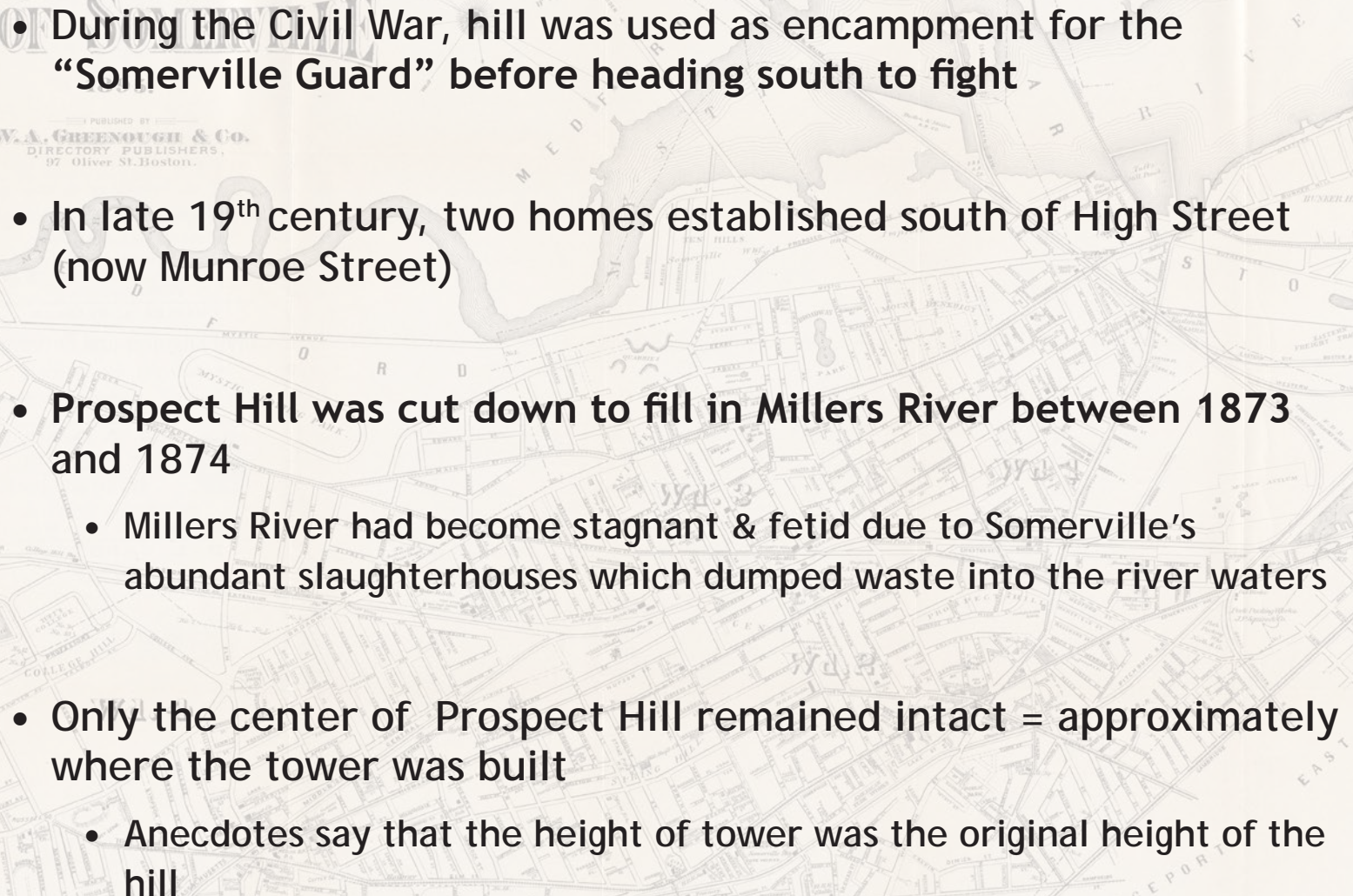
SCALE: 200 Feet to an Inch.

Somerville was formerly a part of Charlestown. It was incorporated as a separate town in 1842. Population by census of 1851, 3525. The town contains 2500 acres, including water described within the dotted lines.

PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION ERA: 1860 to 1896

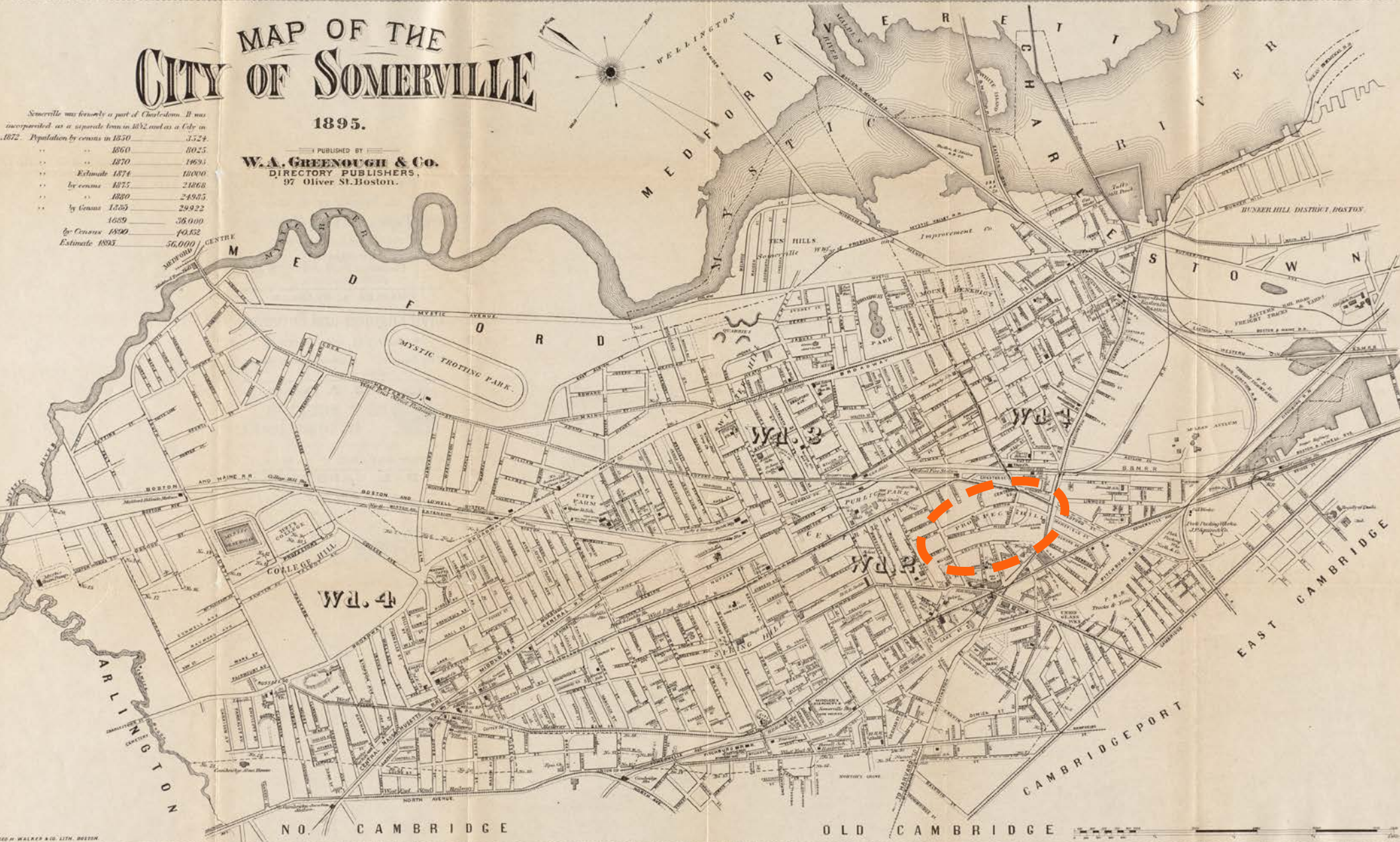
- 
- MAP OF THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE
- Published by W.A. GREENOUGH & Co. DIRECTORY PUBLISHERS, 97 Oliver St. Boston.
- Somerville was formerly a part of Charlestown. It was incorporated as a separate town in 1832 and as a City in 1872. Population by census in 1870 3,729*
- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1860 | 3,025 |
| 1870 | 1,963 |
| Estimate 1874 | 10,000 |
| by census 1875 | 21,868 |
| 1880 | 24,955 |
| by Census 1885 | 28,922 |
| 1890 | 38,000 |
| by Census 1890 | 40,552 |
| Estimate 1893 | 56,000 |
- During the Civil War, hill was used as encampment for the “Somerville Guard” before heading south to fight
 - In late 19th century, two homes established south of High Street (now Munroe Street)
 - Prospect Hill was cut down to fill in Millers River between 1873 and 1874
 - Millers River had become stagnant & fetid due to Somerville’s abundant slaughterhouses which dumped waste into the river waters
 - Only the center of Prospect Hill remained intact = approximately where the tower was built
 - Anecdotes say that the height of tower was the original height of the hill

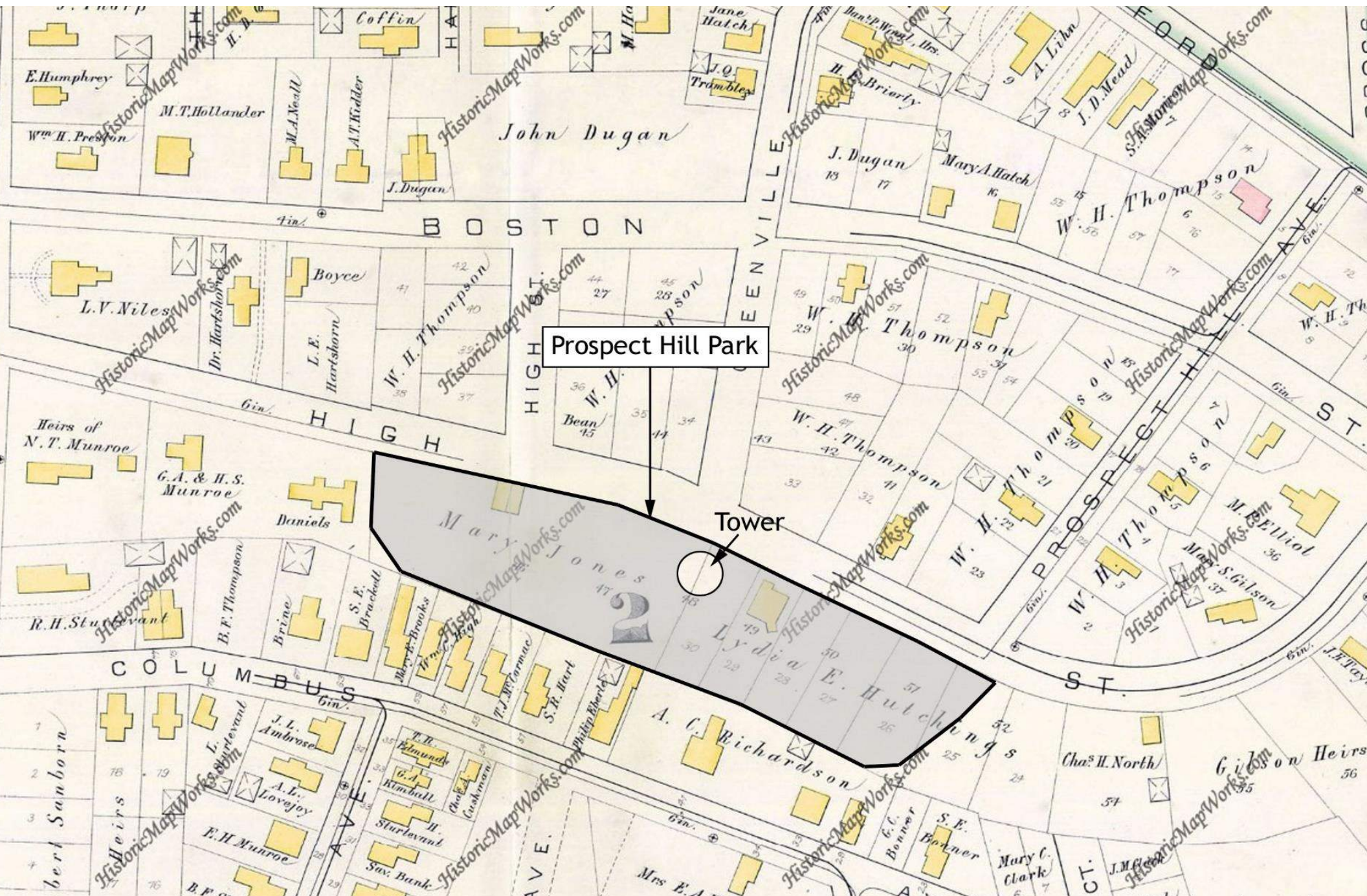
PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

CIVIL WAR & RECONSTRUCTION ERA:

1860 to 1896





Enlargement of 1884 Atlas of the City of Somerville, Massachusetts. Overlay by Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc., 2017.

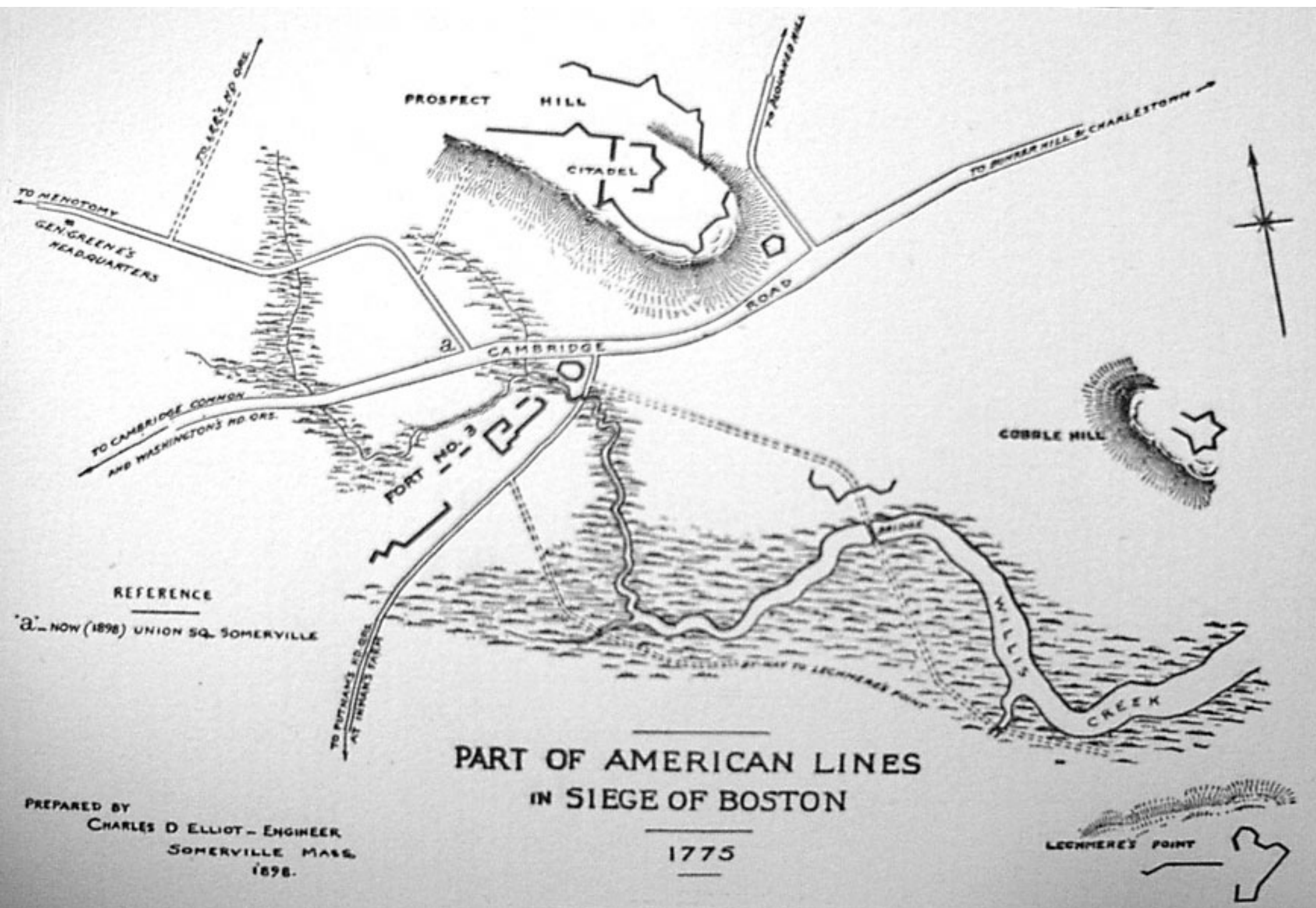
PROSPECT HILL

A TIMELINE

PROSPECT HILL PARK: 1896 TO PRESENT

Tower, Somerville, Mass.

- 1896 – Prospect Hill Park Association established
 - Proposal for a park “to include the revolutionary remains and site of the old *citadel*”
- 1898 – Somerville Historical Society established
- 1903 – Dedication of Prospect Hill Tower & Observatory
 - Tower was designed by Ernest W. Bailey, City engineer
- 1950s – Concrete retaining walls added to support the tower
- 1982 – Park renovation added overlook on the east side & cobble sidewalk
- 1992 – Tower & Observatory listed on Massachusetts Registry of Historic Places
- 2011 – Prospect Hill Local Historic District established
- 2015 – Prospect Hill Tower & Observatory restoration
- 2017 – Prospect Hill Park restoration



PART OF AMERICAN LINES
IN SIEGE OF BOSTON

1775

PREPARED BY
CHARLES D ELLIOT - ENGINEER
SOMERVILLE MASS.
1898.

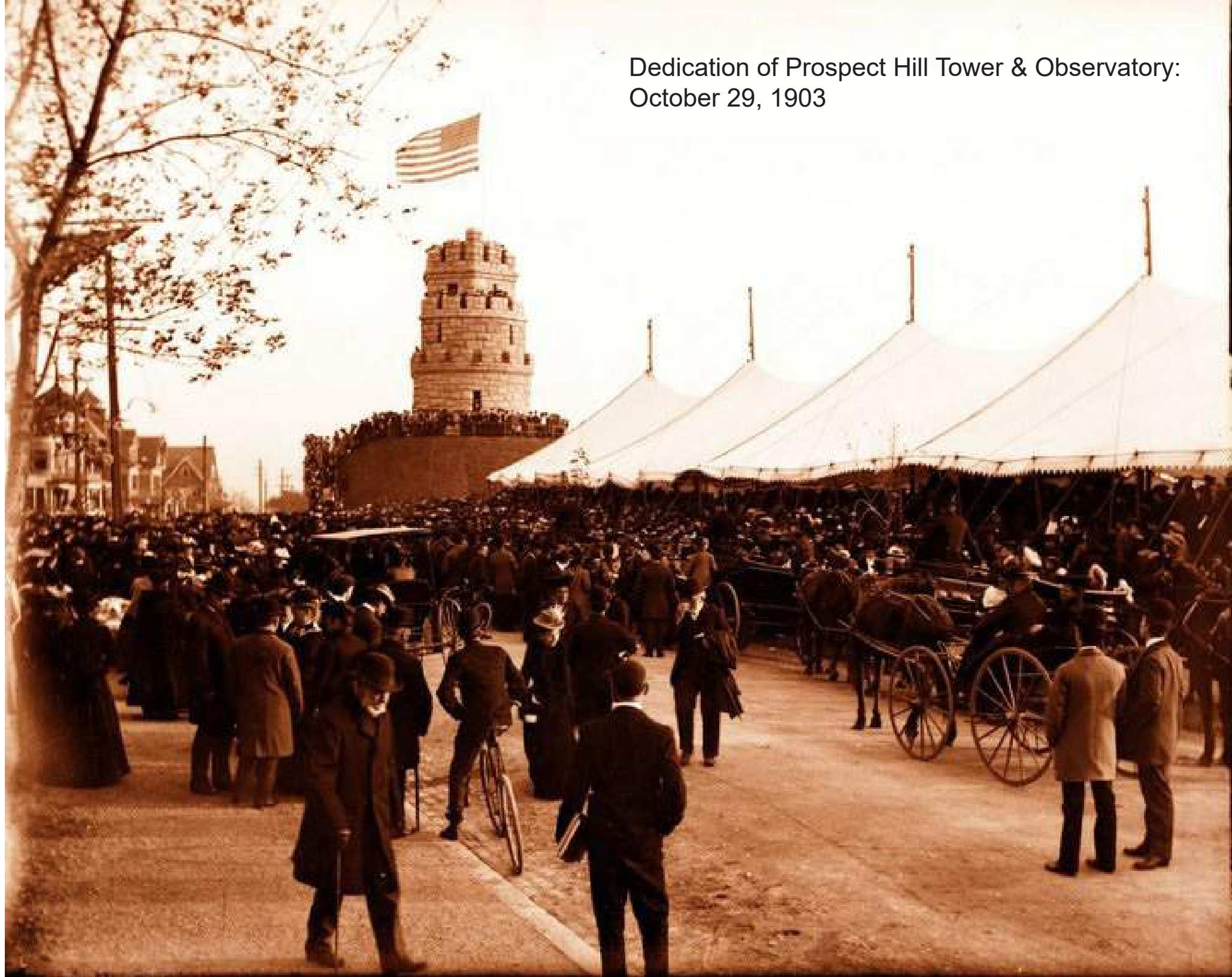


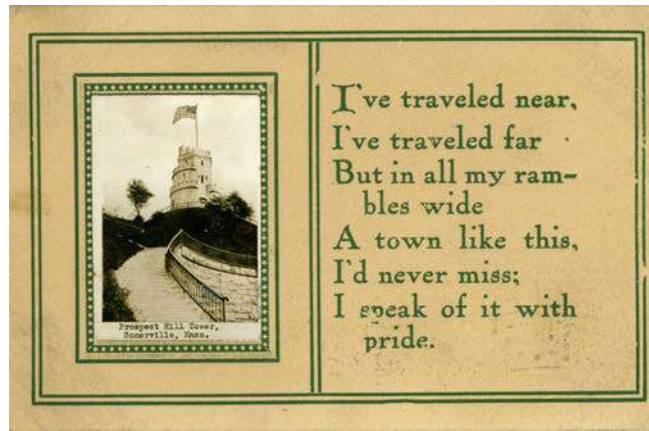
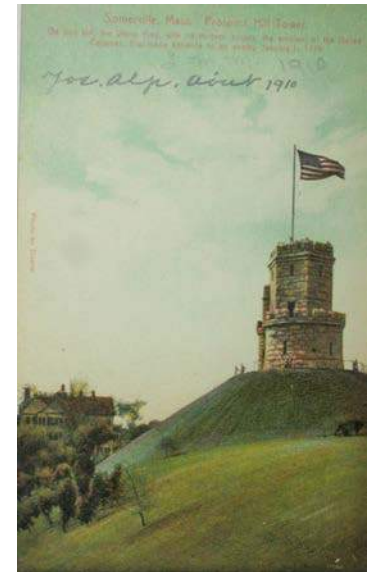
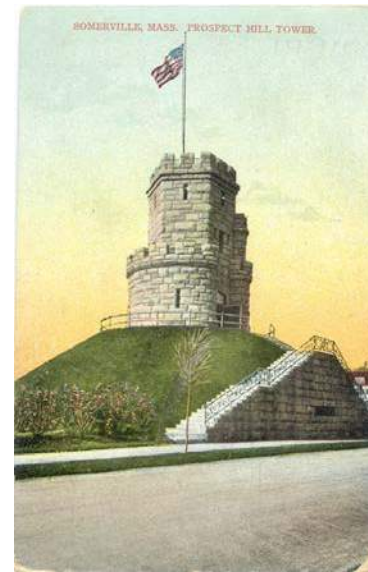
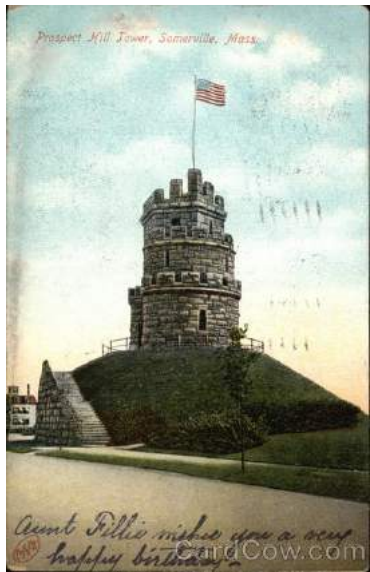
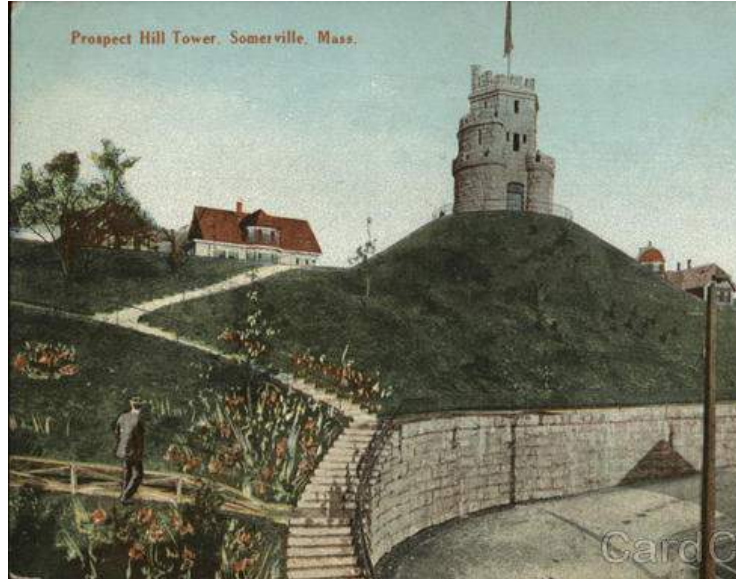
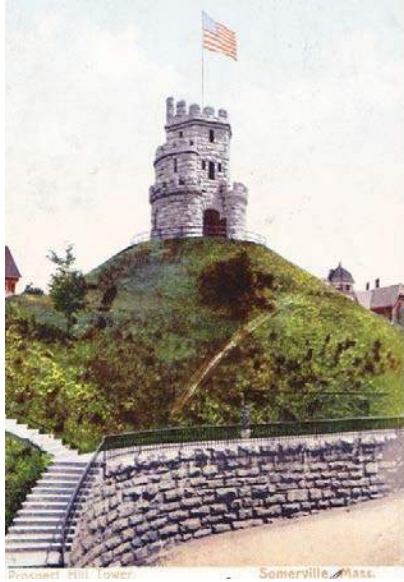
Prospect Hill Park after re-grading of the hill & before construction of the tower, circa 1900



Construction of Prospect Hill Parkway, then Stone Avenue, circa 1902

Dedication of Prospect Hill Tower & Observatory:
October 29, 1903





Selection of postcards from the early 20th century



1954 erosion of slope supporting the tower

1975 raising of the
Grand Union flag



KEYS TO A SUCCESSFUL PARK

kzla



Creative placemaking

- Using site history & context to develop a sense of place
- Understanding both the qualities and limitations of a site



Site amenities

- Varied forms of site amenities for all users



Accessibility

- Universal design
- Circulation
- Ease of parking



- Providing productive multi-use areas
- Allowing users flexibility in how a space is used



Flexible space



- Providing shade to protect users from weather



Comfort



Recreation opportunities

- Site-specific programming
- Thoroughly understanding the needs and wants of the users



Safety

- Providing recreation areas, whether passive or active, that promote healthy and safe interactions

PROSPECT HILL

EXISTING CONDITIONS (2017)

- Site uses
- Accessibility
- Vegetation
- Views
- Resources



PROSPECT HILL

SITE USES



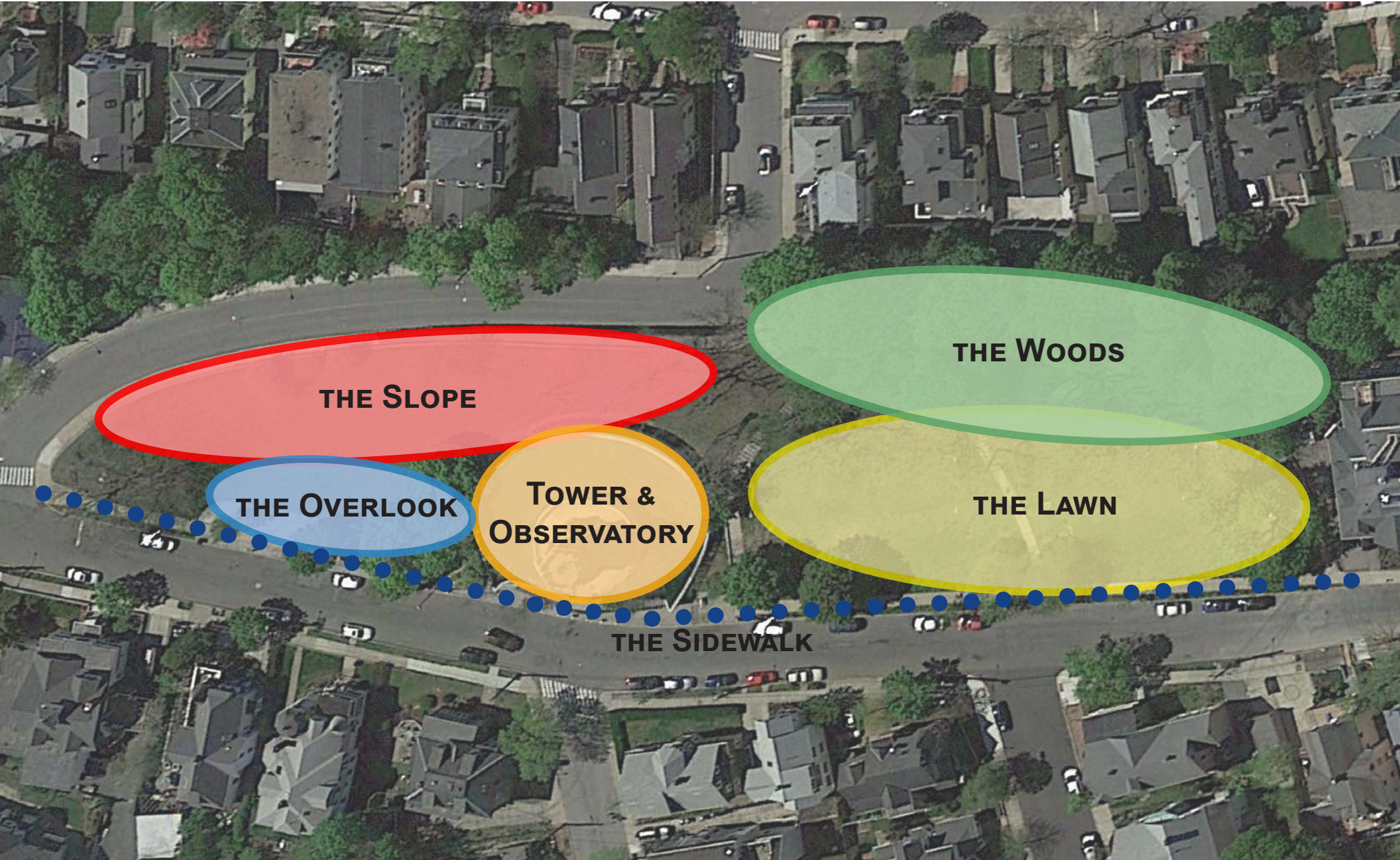
SENATOR
CORBETT
PLAYGROUND

PROSPECT HILL PARKWAY

MUNROE STREET

PROSPECT HILL

SITE USES



THE SLOPE

THE OVERLOOK

**TOWER &
OBSERVATORY**

THE WOODS

THE LAWN

THE SIDEWALK

PROSPECT HILL

THE LAWN - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

THE WOODS - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

THE TOWER & OBSERVATORY - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

THE OVERLOOK - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

THE SLOPE - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

THE SIDEWALK - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

SITE ASSESSMENT - ACCESSIBILITY



PROSPECT HILL

SITE ASSESSMENT - ACCESSIBILITY



PROSPECT HILL

SITE ASSESSMENT - ACCESSIBILITY



OVERLOOK

PATHWAY ACCESSING SUMMIT
& OPEN LAWN SPACE

PROSPECT HILL

VEGETATION - 1902 PLANTING PLAN

TREES

- *Abies concolor* White fir (NMA)
- *Acer palmatum* Japanese maple
- *Acer rubrum* Red maple (NMA)
- *Acer saccharinum* Silver maple (NMA)
- *Betula nigra* River birch (NMA)
- *Crataegus crus-galli* Cockspur hawthorn (NMA)
- *Juniperus virginiana* Eastern red cedar (NMA)
- *Larix decidua* European larch
- *Picea pungens* Blue spruce
- *Pinus strobus* White pine (NMA)
- *Populus nigra* Lombardy poplar
- *Pseudotsuga menziesii* Douglas fir

VINES

- *Celastrus scandens* Bittersweet (NMA)
- *Weigelia florida* Rose-colored weigelia
- *Rosa setigera* Climbing rose (NMA)

- *Invasive or aggressive species*
- *Not commercially available/undesirable species*

SHRUBS

- *Baccharis halmifolia* Groundseltree (NMA)
- *Berberis vulgaris* Barberry
- *Cornus sanguinea* Common dogwood
- *Forsythia suspensa var. fortunei* Forsythia
- *Halesia carolina* Common silverbell
- *Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora*
Peegee hydrangea
- *Kerria japonica* Kerria
- *Ligustrum vulgare* European privet
- *Rhus glabra* Smooth sumac (NMA)
- *Rhodotypos scandens* Jetbead/White kerria
- *Rosa virginiana* Virginia rose (NMA)
- *Spiraea tomentosa* Steeplebush (NMA)
- *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus* Coralberry (NMA)
- *Viburnum acerifolium* Maple-leaf viburnum (NMA)

- *Species native to Massachusetts (NMA)*
- *Species present on site, 2017*

PROSPECT HILL

VEGETATION - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

VEGETATION - EXISTING CONDITIONS

TREES

- *Acer rubrum* Red maple (NMA)
- *Acer platanooides* Norway maple
- *Malus spp.* Apple
- *Platanus x acerifolia* London planetree
- *Robinia pseudoacacia* Black locust (NMA)
- *Ulmus americana* American elm (NMA)

VINES

- *Hedera helix* Common ivy

SHRUBS

- *Berberis spp.* Barberry
- *Forsythia fortunei* Forsythia
- *Viburnum acerifolium* Maple-leaf viburnum (NMA)
- *Viburnum rhytidophyllum* Leathleaf viburnum
- *Viburnum spp.* Viburnum

- *Invasive or aggressive species*

- *Species native to Massachusetts (NMA)*

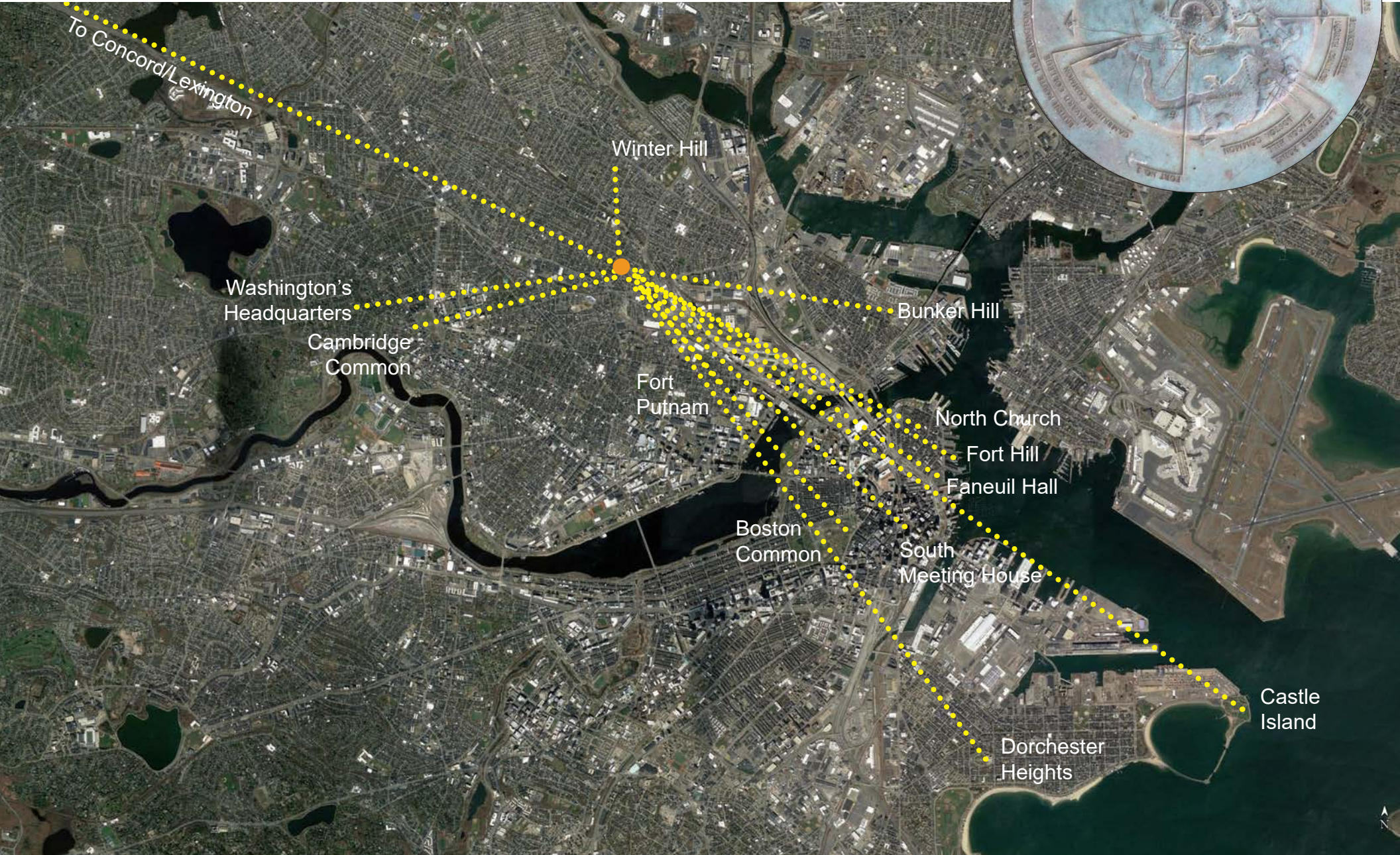
PROSPECT HILL

VEGETATION - EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROSPECT HILL

VISUAL & HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS



PROSPECT HILL

VIEWS - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Views from park level



PROSPECT HILL

VIEWS - EXISTING CONDITIONS

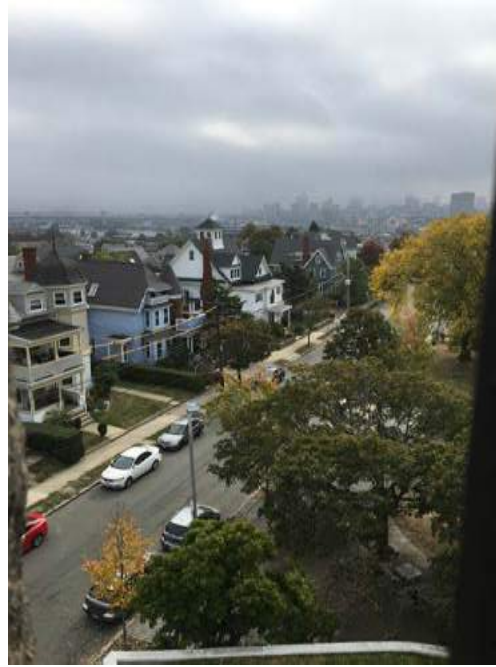
Views from first level of Tower



PROSPECT HILL

VIEWS - EXISTING CONDITIONS

Views from top of Tower




PROSPECT HILL

RESOURCES - POTENTIAL FOR REUSE



Your park. Your thoughts?

- 
- How do you use the park?
 - What's your favorite thing about the park?
 - Are there problems we should be aware of?



kzla

Contact:

Luisa Oliveira, Project Manager
LOliveira@somervillema.gov
(617) 625-6600, ext 2529

Project updates:

- [HTTPS://WWW.SOMERVILLEMA.GOV/PROSPECTHILLPARK](https://www.somervillema.gov/prospecthillpark)