

# "THE VILLAGE," WEST NEWTON

1855-1960

Department of Planning and Development



based partly on

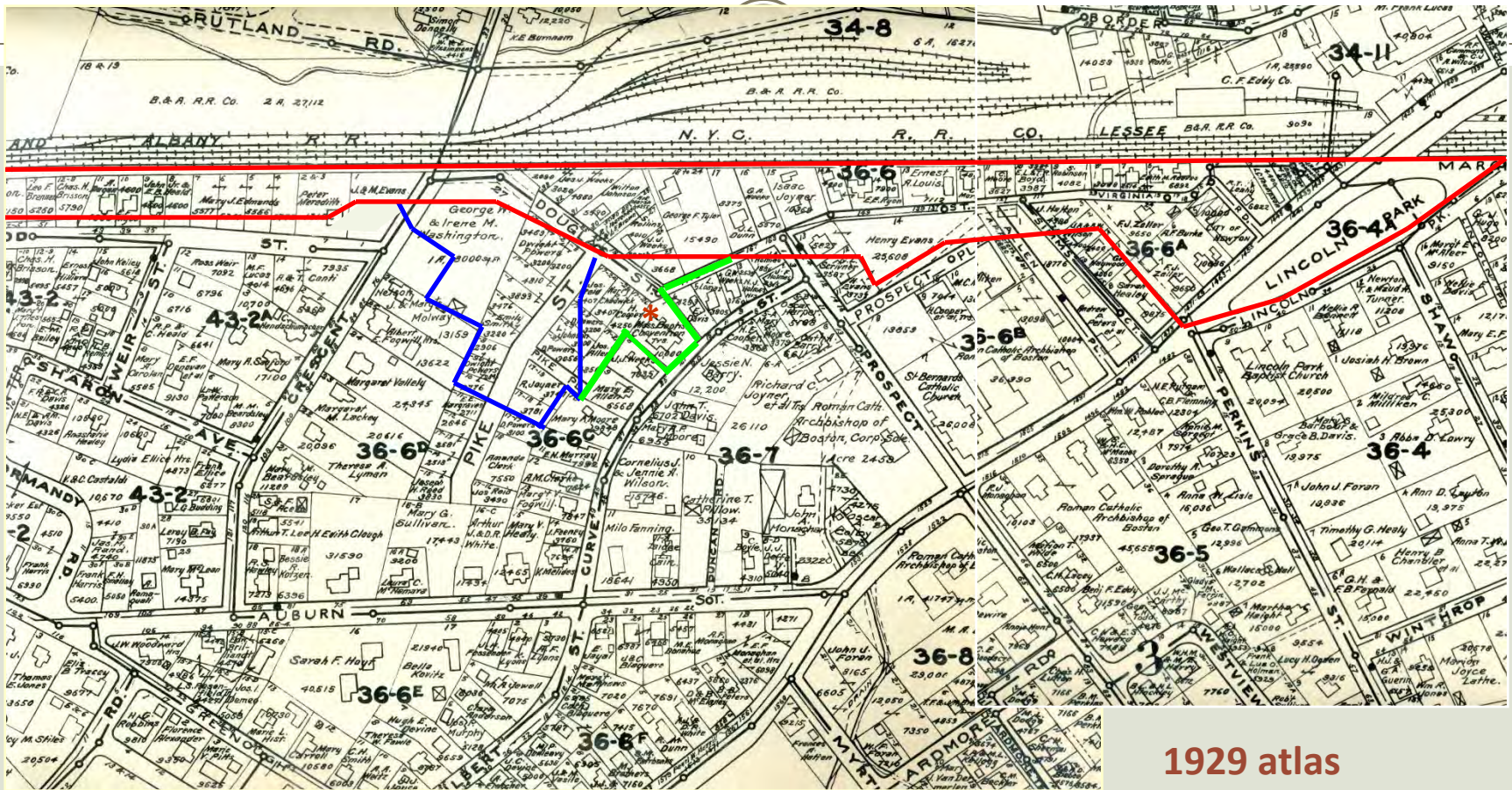
*Redevelopment & Resilience:  
How Myrtle Baptist Survived the Mass Pike*

November 19, 2006

Sponsored by Myrtle Baptist Church  
& the Newton History Museum

# “The Village,” West Newton

streets & houses taken by eminent domain for the Turnpike Extension, 1962



1929 atlas

post-1962  
ownership:

Massachusetts  
Turnpike  
Authority

taken by Turnpike Authority,  
then transferred to City of Newton  
(used by Parks & Recreation Dept.)

Myrtle Baptist  
Church



## “The Village,” West Newton



C. F. EDDY - ~~CO~~ CO

19th century? ♦ G. F. Eddy Company

## “The Village,” West Newton



1930s? ♦ fire station & Mt. Zion Church

## “The Village,” West Newton



1930s? ♦ Virginia Road

## “The Village,” West Newton



1930s? ♦ Virginia Road



## “The Village,” West Newton



1930s? ♦ Virginia Road

## “The Village,” West Newton



1930s ♦ Douglas Street, in back of Myrtle Baptist Church



## “The Village,” West Newton



1940s? ♦ church outing, rear of Myrtle Baptist Church, facing Douglas St.

## “The Village,” West Newton



1936 ♦ Newton Giants on the steps of 12 Prospect St.



# “The Village,” West Newton

SPRING EDITION, 1972

PRINCE HALL CRAFTSMAN

BOSTON EVENING TRANSCRIPT, MONDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1938

## *Newton Baptist Pastor Fashions Brooms In Cellar Workshop Between Sermons*

### **Rev. Louis E. Ford's Grandfather Ended His Slavery by Trade**

By Mary Elizabeth Prim

The Rev. Louis E. Ford, pastor of the Myrtle Baptist Church, West Newton, is known as “the Broom parson,” for he carries on as an avocation the trade by which his grandfather, Abraham Ford, also a minister, was able to buy himself out of slavery.

In the cellar of the minister's house at 1445 Washington street, West Newton, is his workshop with corn and rattan for brooms neatly arranged with the finished product beside the machinery for making it. Much of the machinery is of Mr. Ford's own invention.

Mr. Ford like his grandfather

began his broom-making in the South and had established a prosperous factory in Baltimore when he received a scholarship to study for the ministry at Boston University. He came here in 1921.

### **Nephews Sell Them**

The brooms made by the minister and sold from door to door in the Newtons by his nephews show a high standard of workmanship. The latest type of his invention is a small, light broom, with a handle painted red or green, that is popular among motorists for sweeping out cars.

The broom-making machinery of Mr. Ford's invention is as ingenious as it is workable and makes use of an odd assortment of spare parts. In order to make a “seeder” to rid the broom corn of seeds, the minister transformed an old mangle.

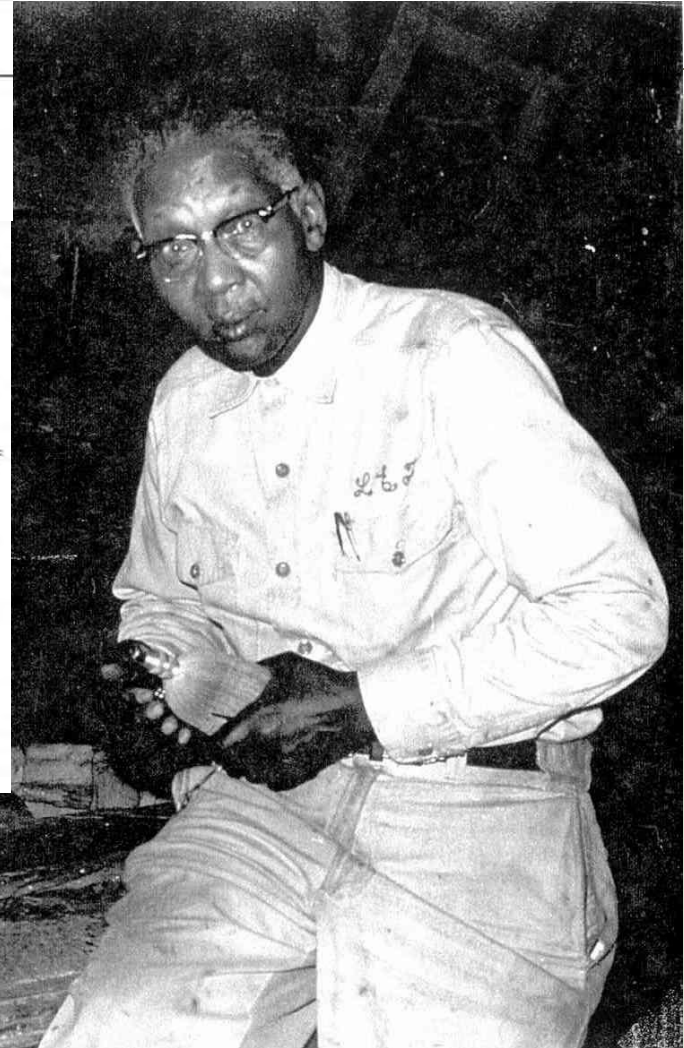
The motorized “stemmer” he

constructed to remove the stems from the corn includes two old stove pipes painted cream color, a screen, a washing machine frame and the base of a dress-maker's garment form.

### **10 Dozen a Week**

Mr. Ford turns out ten dozen brooms a week in his spare time. He considers this a small amount indeed, compared to the 575,000 dozen turned out in the course of a year in a factory he once had in Haverhill. The only help he has in his cellar workshop is from his nephew Robert Hudger-son.

Mr. Hudger's brother Albert, who assists him in his door to door broom-selling campaign is blind. Mr. Ford's church is on Curve street and was established in 1874. The minister admits modestly that his congregation, numbering around two hundred, is proud of his spare time handiwork.



1930s ♦ Rev. Ford in the broom factory



## “The Village,” West Newton



1930s? ♦ Rollins family portrait

## “The Village,” West Newton



Olivette Rollins Cooper ♦ in the 1940s ♦ at Virginia State College



## “The Village,” West Newton



1940s ♦ on Simms Court



# “The Village,” West Newton



Douglas St., looking at corner of Hicks & Prospect Sts.

**1940s**



on Curve St., looking east toward Prospect St.

Bill Banford & Billy Jr.

# “The Village,” West Newton



on Hicks St.

Easter Sunday ♦ 1950



# "The Village," West Newton



on Hicks St.

1950s



Mr. Harry Gray,  
corner of Curve &  
Prospect Sts



# “The Village,” West Newton



at Hicks,  
Prospect &  
Douglas Sts.



**1950s**



Richard Evans  
at the  
corner of  
Prospect  
&  
Douglas  
Streets



## “The Village,” West Newton



1950s ♦ Helen Rollins Lomax, Narcissus Gray, and Olivette Rollins Cooper  
(photograph by D. J. Jones Photo Lab)



# “The Village,” West Newton



Helen Cooper Evans



1950s ♦ the Evans family in the snow



# “The Village,” West Newton



1959 ♦ the prom & graduation,  
Douglas St.



# “The Village,” West Newton



the Evans twins  
... & friends