

Redevelopment & Resilience:
**HOW MYRTLE BAPTIST
SURVIVED THE MASS PIKE**



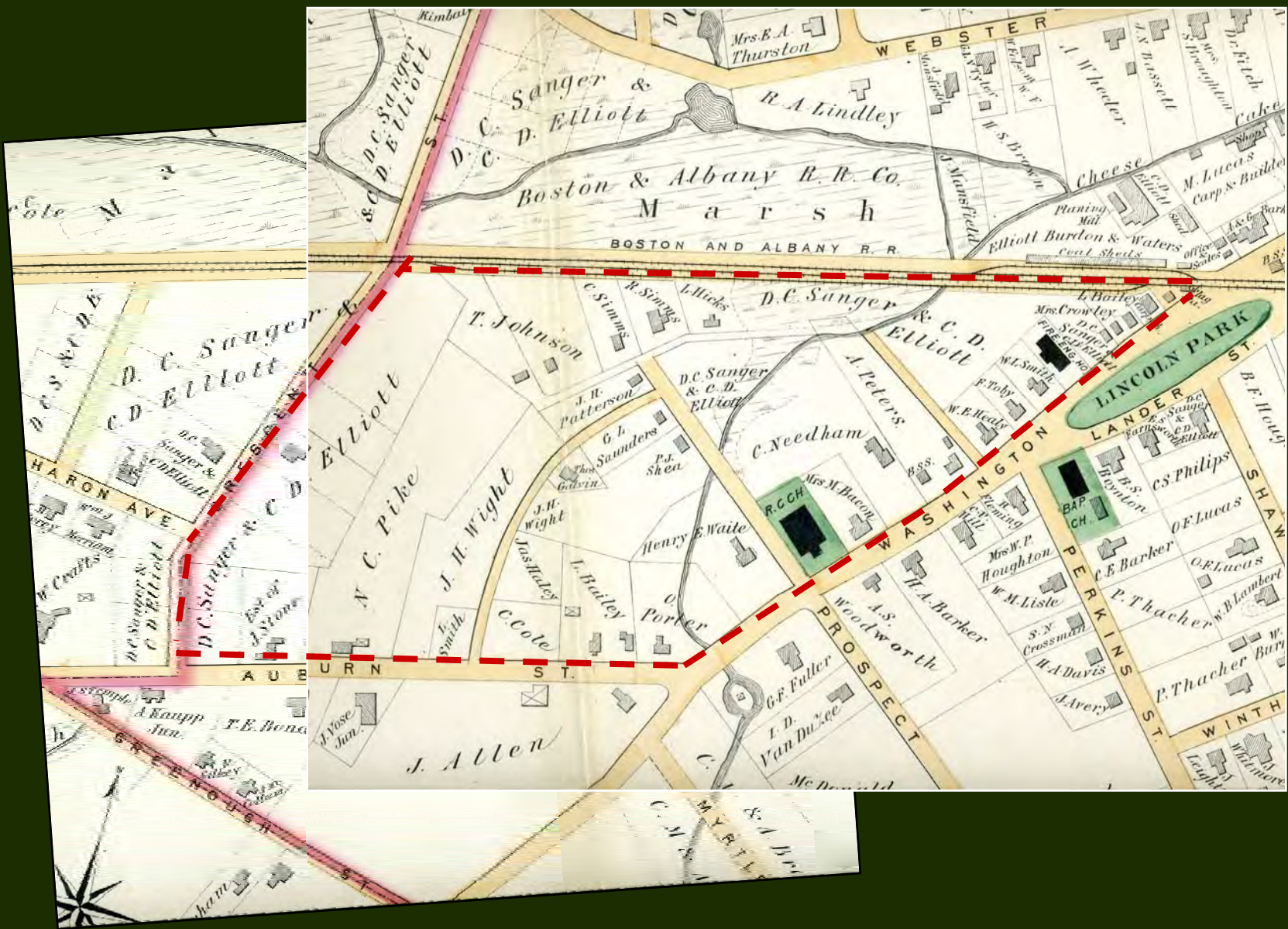
Sunday ♦ November 19, 2006 ♦ 2-4 pm

Myrtle Baptist Church

21 Curve St., West Newton



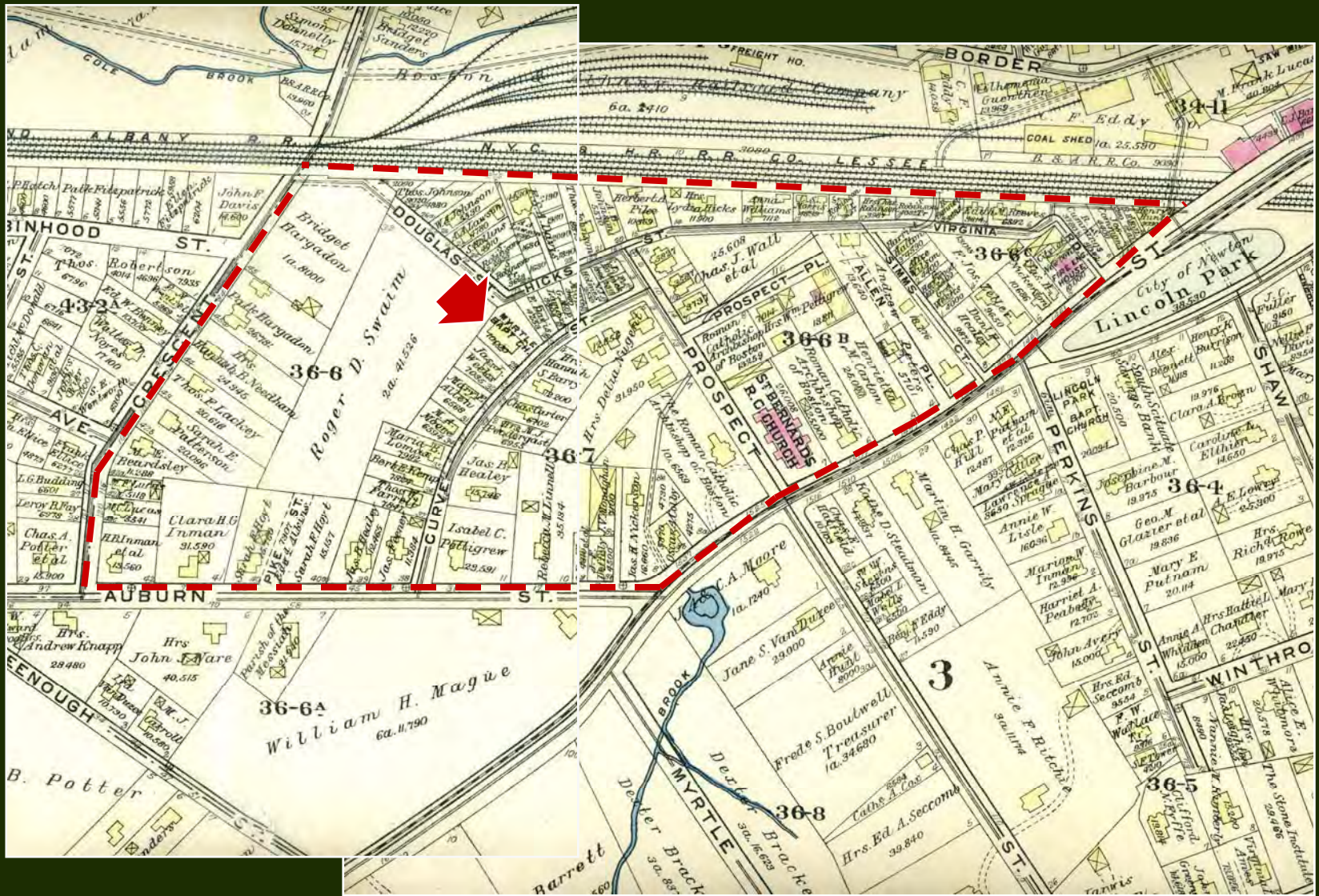
1874 Hopkins atlas



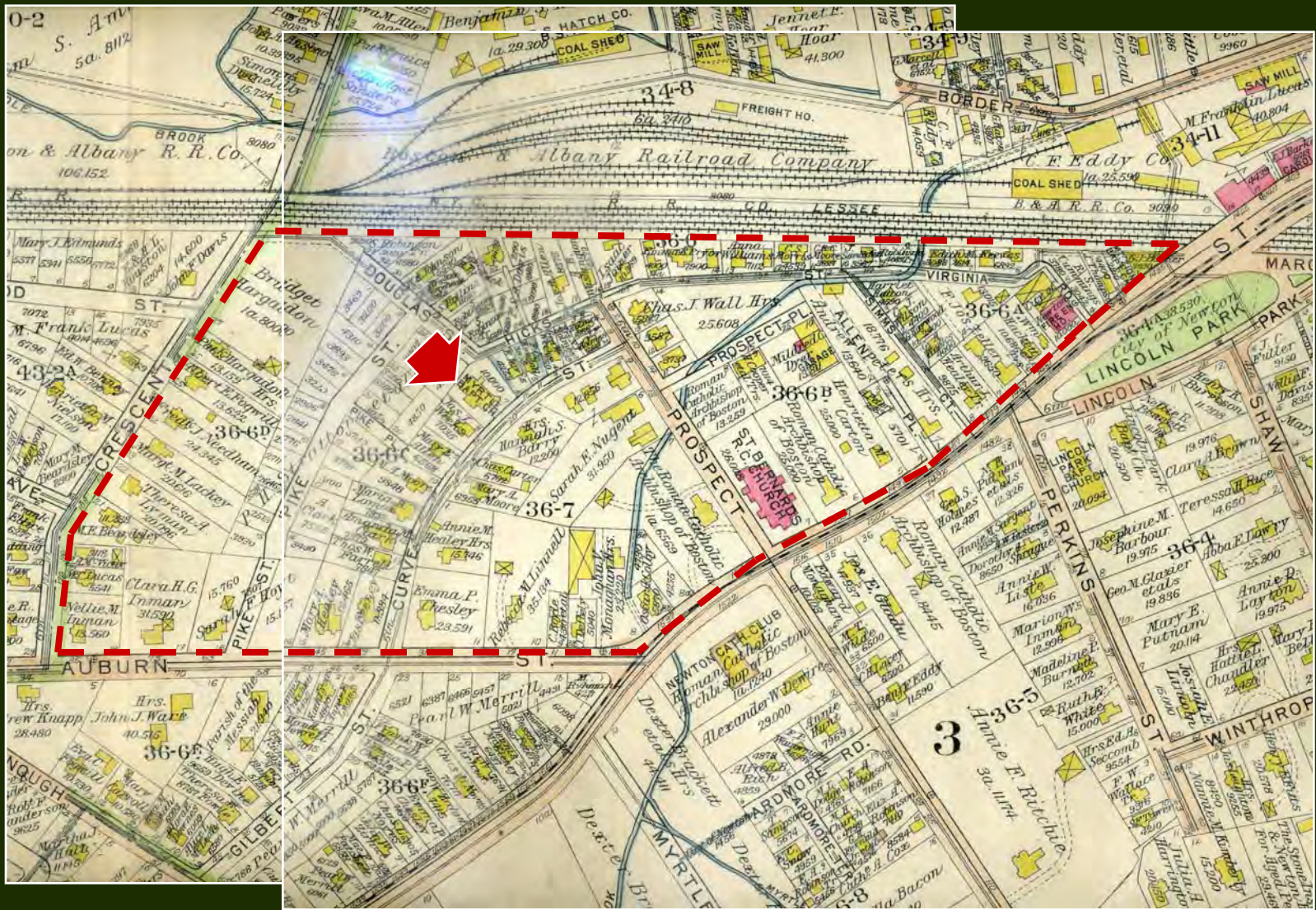
1874 ♦ DeBeers atlas



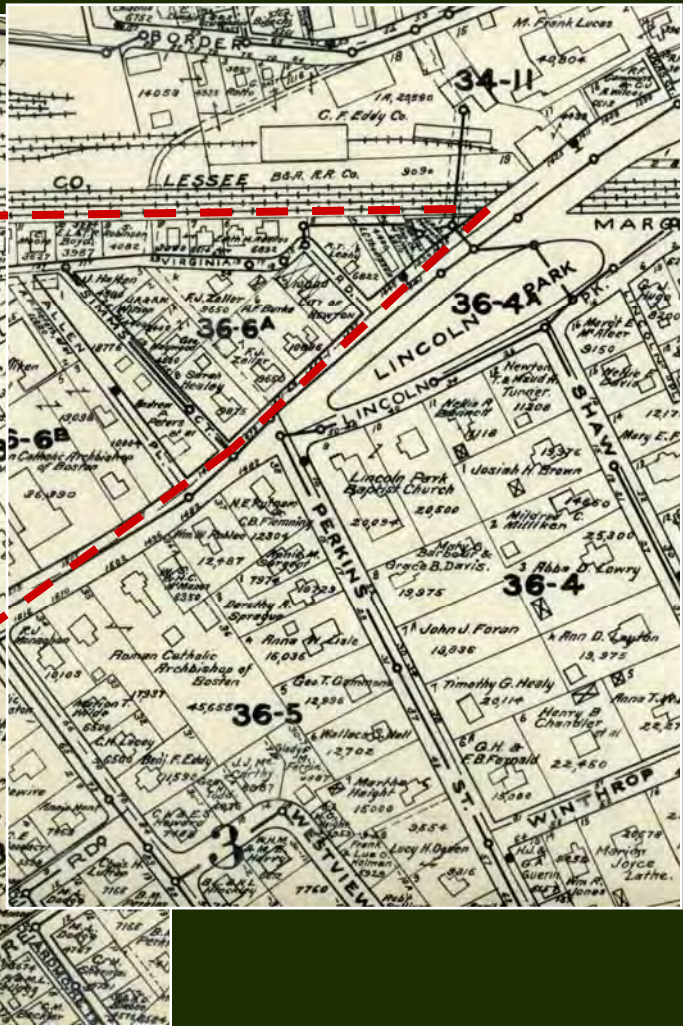
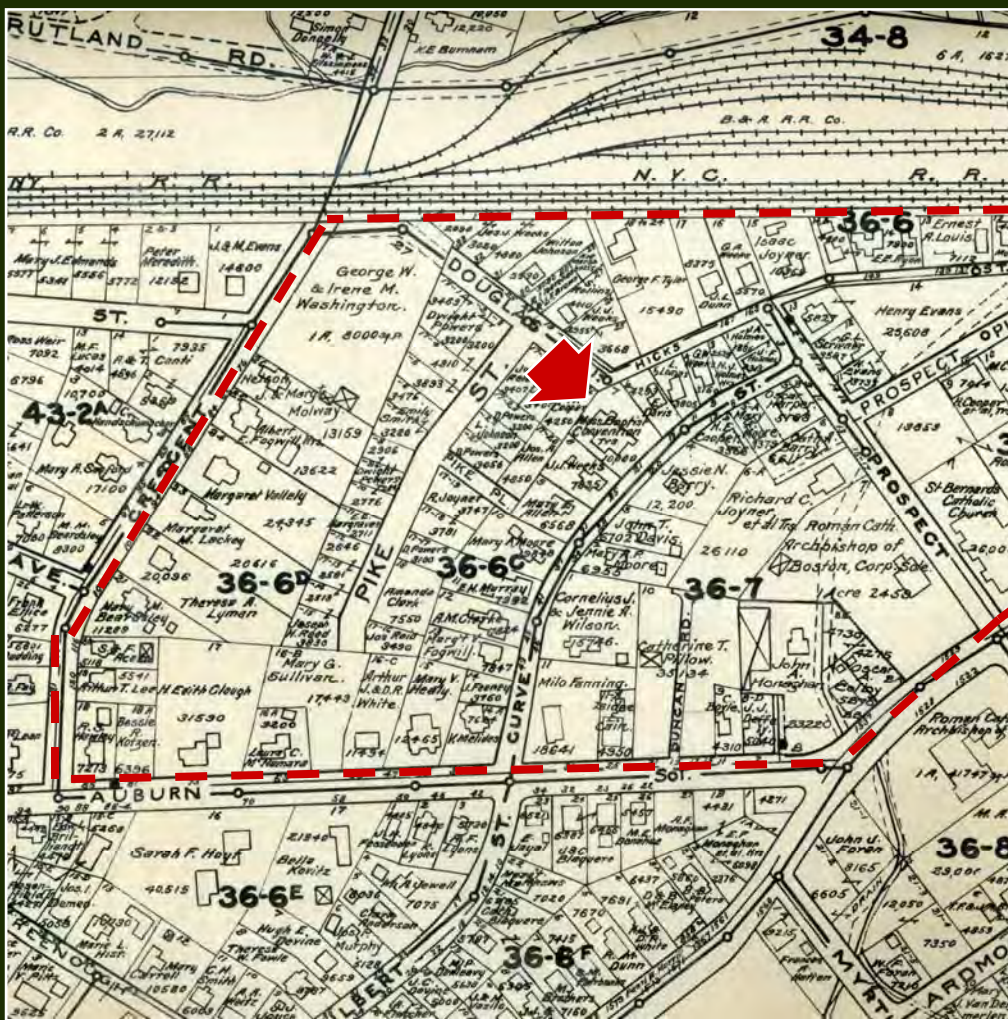
1886 atlas



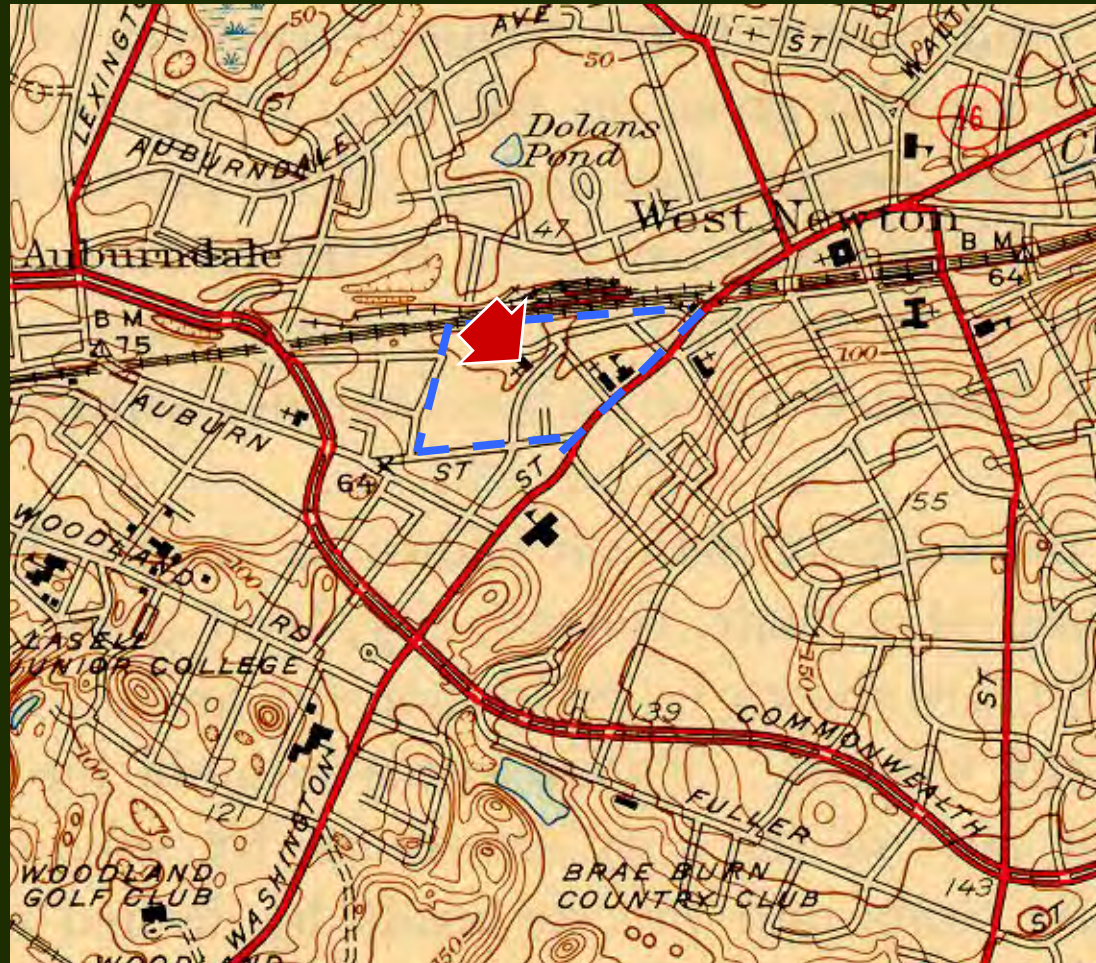
1907 atlas



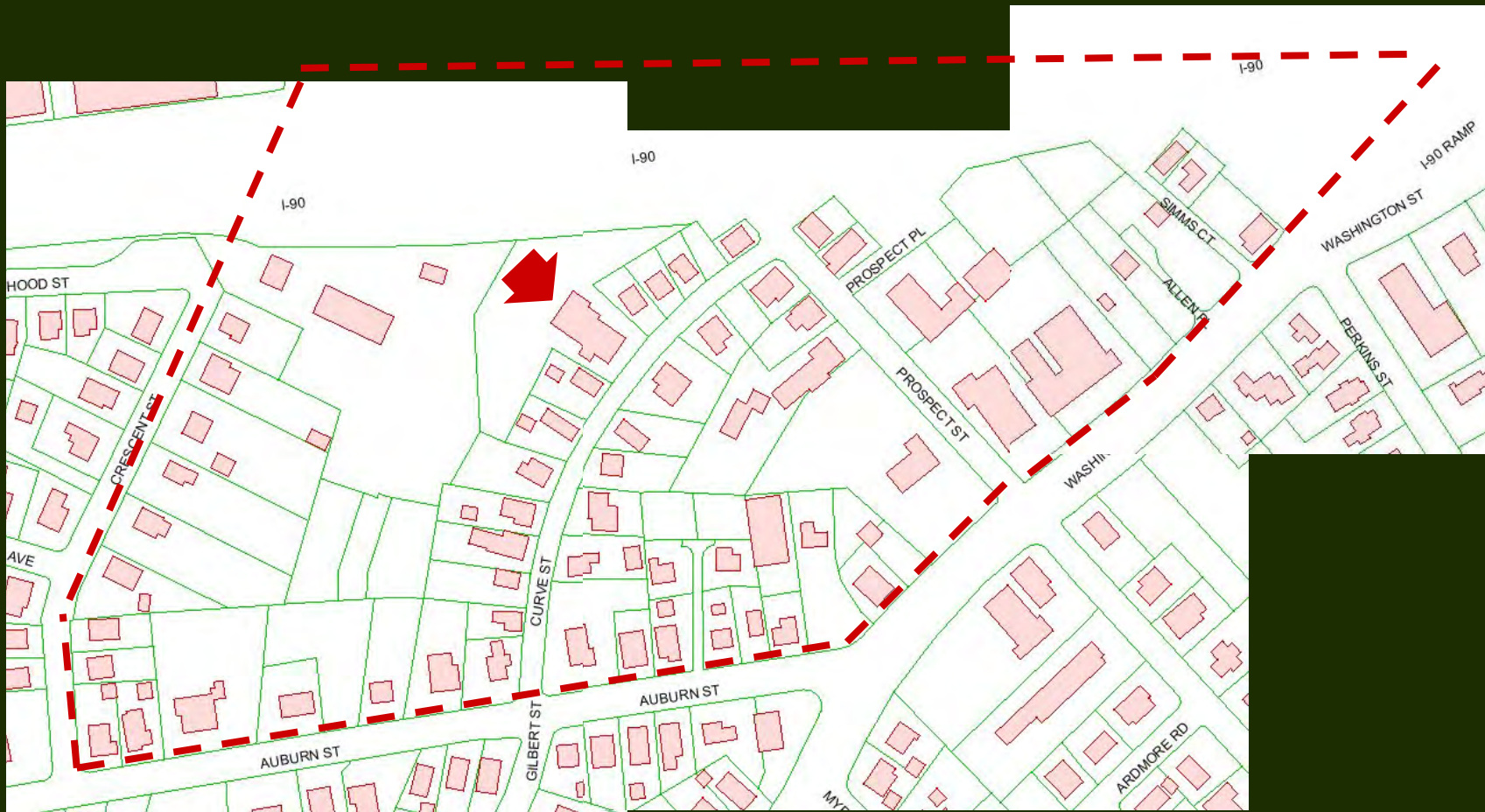
1917 atlas



1929 atlas



1946 topographic map



2006 Newton Geographic Information System



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

19th century? ♦ G. F. Eddy Company



1930s? ♦ fire station & Mt. Zion Church



1930s? ♦ Virginia Road



1930s? ♦ Virginia Road



1930s? ♦ Virginia Road



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



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



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

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 Hudgerson.

Mr. Hudgerson'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



1930s? ♦ Rollins family portrait



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



1940s ♦ on Simms Court



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

1940s



*Bill Banford
& Billy Jr.*



*on Curve St., looking east
toward Prospect St.*

Easter Sunday ♦ 1950



on Hicks St.



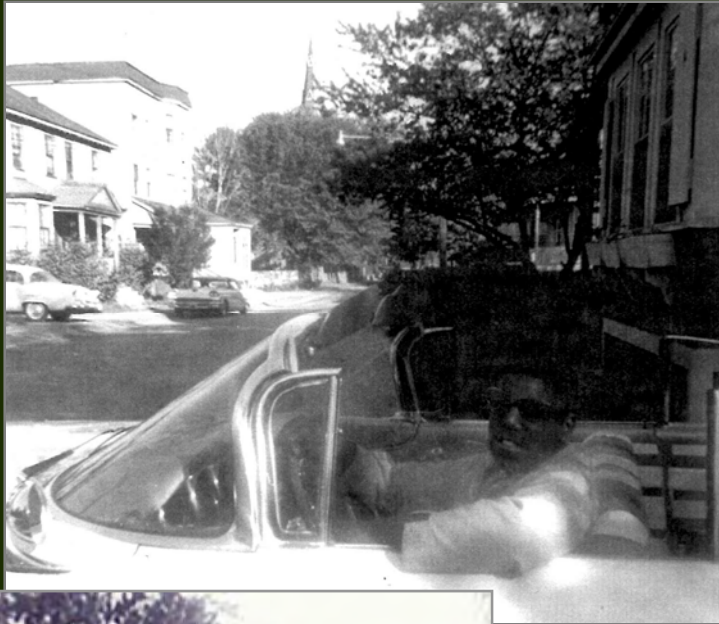
on Hicks St.



1950s



*Mr. Harry Gray,
corner of Curve &
Prospect Sts*



*Richard
Evans at
the corner
of Prospect
& Douglas
Sts.*



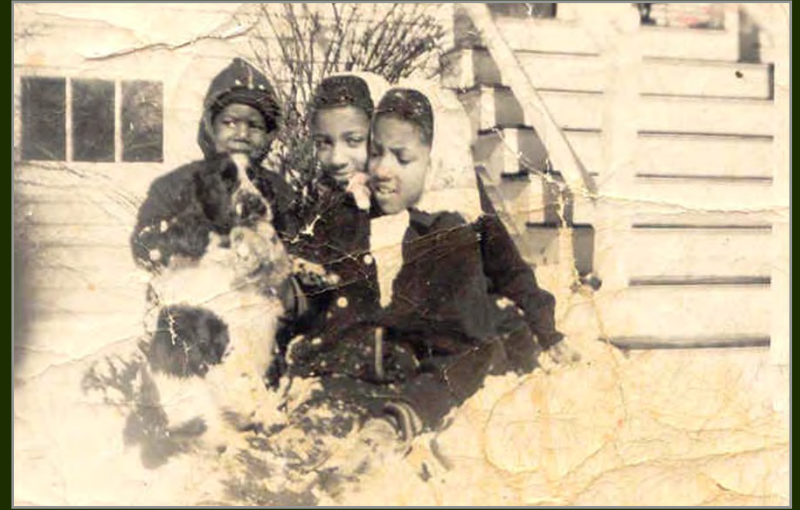
1950s

*at Hicks,
Prospect &
Douglas Sts.*





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



1950s ♦ the Evans family in the snow

*Helen
Cooper
Evans*



1959 ♦ *the prom & graduation,
Douglas St.*





*the Evans twins
... & friends*

