

Old West Church Food Forest tool Storage Shed Proposal

Old West Church United Methodist
131 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA
02114

Old West Church Food Forest Tool Storage Shed Proposal

Background

Proposal

Design Concept

Construction Plan and Materials

Architectural Drawings & Photos

Old West Church Food Forest Tool Storage Shed Proposal

BACKGROUND

- ▶ Consistent with our core value focused on food justice, in 2014, Old West embarked on a mission to transform the church yard into a Food Forest
- ▶ We leveraged relationships with the Boston Food Forest Coalition and other urban farming organizations for guidance
- ▶ On a very limited budget we:
 - ▶ Deep tilled the soil and composted the entire yard to promote improved soil structure and establishing organic matter in the upper layers of the soil
 - ▶ Created an herb garden with potted herbs on the front steps of Old West
 - ▶ Constructed keyhole planting beds and filled with organic compost to begin some vegetable gardening.
 - ▶ From generous donations from a retiring local farmer and members of the congregation, we began to accumulate tools to work the fledgling food forest
 - ▶ Tools were stored in stairways, alcoves and even the sanctuary inside Old West
 - ▶ In 2018, a 5' x 7' metal shed was donated to Old West and erected on the east side of the bell tower but, the number of tools we've assembled to maintain the Food Forest has outgrown the capacity of such a small structure

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BACKGROUND

- ▶ In 2019, we were the recipients of a significant grant from the Edmund Ingersoll Browne Fund enabling Old West to realized our dream of transforming the church yard into a Food Forest
- ▶ Delayed more than 12 months by the Coronavirus pandemic, in early 2021, we engaged a landscape architect to design the Food Forest and broke ground on our Food Forest/Pollinator Garden on April 6, 2021
- ▶ ADA paths and raised beds were constructed (filled with organic compost) and prepared for planting
- ▶ Greater than 1500 perennial plants were planted in the area designated as Pollinator Garden
- ▶ 11 apple trees and a plum tree were planted to add to the existing 2 apple trees and 2 cherry trees
- ▶ Vegetable and berry crops were planted

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BACKGROUND

- ▶ Throughout 2021, in support of our gardening efforts, a reasonable volume of additional tools have been acquired (purchased or donated) to support the work the Food Forest and Pollinator garden requires
- ▶ With the additional tools have very much outgrown the existing 5' x 7' storage shed
- ▶ From our initial larger volume crop year, we've learned we need space to prepare some vegetables for long term storage
 - ▶ E.g. Onions and Garlic need to be properly dried on shelves to enable them to be kept
 - ▶ Corn can be harvested and dried to the correct moisture content
- ▶ It would also be consistent with our core values if we had sheltered space to use to plant seeds in pots in the late winter/early spring and then transplant seedlings from small to larger pots in preparation for planting in the Food Forest

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PROPOSAL

- ▶ Construct a 8' x 12' "Lean-Too" style shed on the west side of the Old West Church bell tower
 - ▶ "Lean-Too" style referring to a single slope roof
 - ▶ Replace the current 5' x 7' metal shed
 - ▶ Provide storage of tools & supplies in service of our ongoing food justice ministry
 - ▶ Lower profile structure to reduce drawing attention to the shed, away from Old West
 - ▶ Adequate height for ergonomic walk in and inside work
 - ▶ Adequate space to house all tools
 - ▶ If space allows, add drop down shelves for use as potting shelving, bulb drying, etc.
 - ▶ Once a new shed is constructed, the existing 5' x 7' aluminum shed would be removed from the premises.

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DESIGN CONCEPT

- ▶ Lean-Too style can be built with a lower overall profile making it less visible from the street(s) and obstruct less of the brick/granite facade of Old West
 - ▶ Overall height of the building was settled upon to prevent the building from attracting attention away from the historic Old West Church building
- ▶ To the extent possible, the shed will be constructed with sustainable materials to be as ecologically conscience as possible
- ▶ The shed will be placed to enable easy access to the façade of Old West for maintenance if / as needed and to avoid potential snow build up against the OWC foundation in the winter. *(see drawings later in this presentation)*

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CONSTRUCTION PLAN AND MATERIALS

- ▶ Shallow (6" +/-) footing trench will be dug
- ▶ To create a rodent barrier, the footing trench will be backfilled with a 3-inch layer of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch clean white rock/limestone will be poured and leveled in the footing trench
- ▶ A 3" layer of crushed stone (decomposed granite) will be layered and leveled over the clean stone
- ▶ The foundation will be 5' x 5' rough cut cedar timbers placed on the leveled footing
 - ▶ Rough cut cedar timbers are weather resistant and are generally maintenance free
 - ▶ The foundation timbers will be anchored using 18" x $\frac{3}{8}$ " rebar
- ▶ Given the slope of the church yard in the designated area, this should result in no more than 3 - 5 inches of the cedar foundation exposed.

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CONSTRUCTION PLAN AND MATERIALS

- ▶ Floor Construction:
 - ▶ 2" x 6" PT Double sill plate
 - ▶ Floor Joists: 2" x 6" PT wood, 16" centers
 - ▶ Floor Deck: 4' x 8' x $\frac{3}{4}$ inch marine plywood
- ▶ Wall Construction:
 - ▶ Studs: 2" x 4" x 6' - 7'-foot lengths, 20" centers
 - ▶ 4' x 8' exterior vertical siding
- ▶ Door Construction
 - ▶ 5-foot x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ foot tall center opening double barn style doors
 - ▶ Each door will be 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ foot wide x 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ foot tall
 - ▶ One door will be left hand pull, One door will be right hand pull

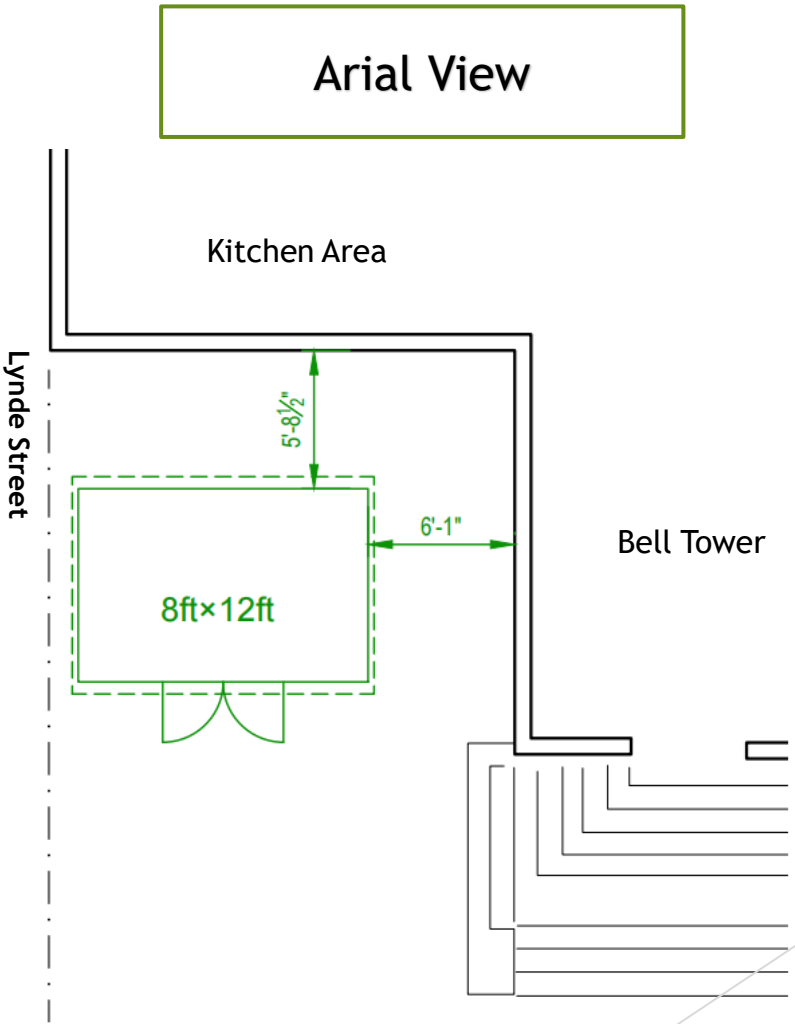
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CONSTRUCTION PLAN AND MATERIALS

- ▶ Roof Construction
 - ▶ Rafters: 2" x 6" pine on 20" centers
 - ▶ Decking: 4' x 8' x 15/32" plywood sheathing
 - ▶ Rolled paper moisture barrier
 - ▶ Aluminum drip moldings
 - ▶ Asphalt shingles
 - ▶ Single 4" gutter, down spout, etc.
- ▶ Unless otherwise requested, paint and shingle colors will be selected to blend as much as possible with the façade of Old West and not distract attention from Old West
- ▶ Plan to construct a "living wall" / trellis on the Cambridge street side of the proposed shed to further hide the shed from public view

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

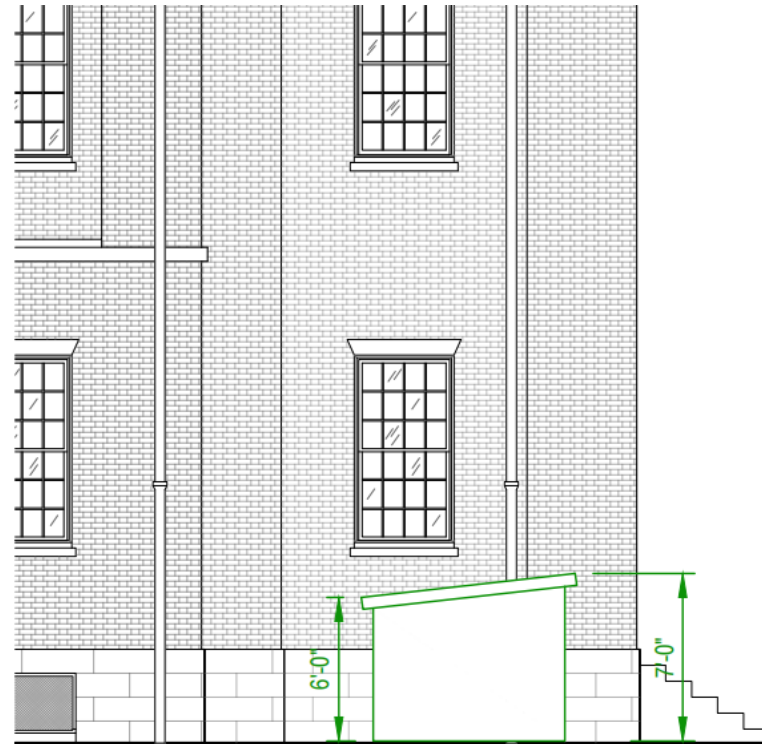
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ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

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Side Elevation



Lynde Street (Alley)

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Front Elevation

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Cambridge Street

ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Street / Pedestrian Views of Proposed Shed Site from Old West Side of Cambridge Street

Red oval in a photo indicates proposed shed location



ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Street / Pedestrian View of Proposed Shed Site from Across Cambridge Street

Red oval in a photo indicates proposed shed location



ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Street / Pedestrian Views of Proposed Shed Site from Across Cambridge Street

Red oval in a photo indicates proposed shed location



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To enable continued advancement of our food justice ministry, the Leadership Team of Old West Church requests approval to proceed with constructing a lean-to style gardening tool storage shed as described in this proposal in the location noted in this proposal

Thank You from the Leadership Team Old West Church United Methodist

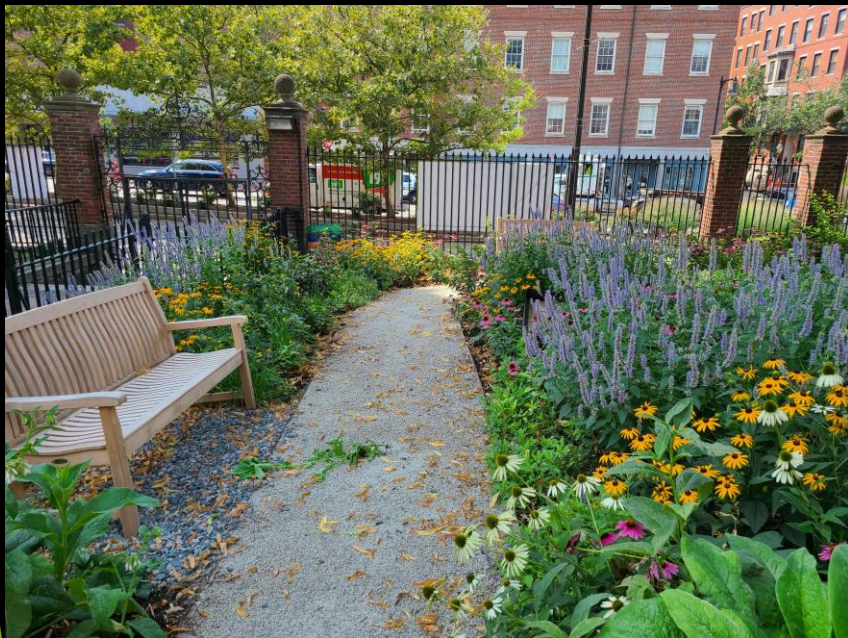
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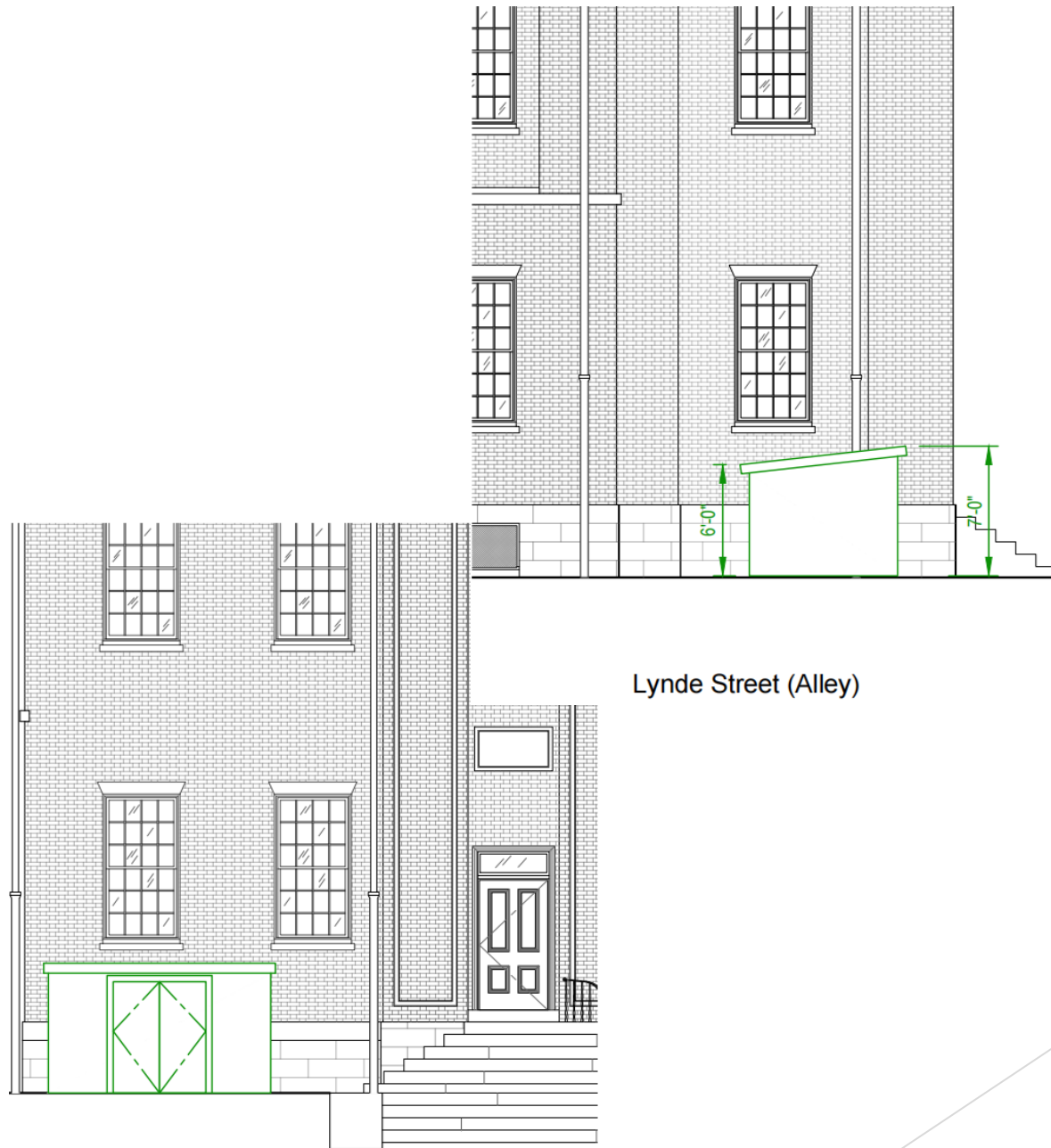
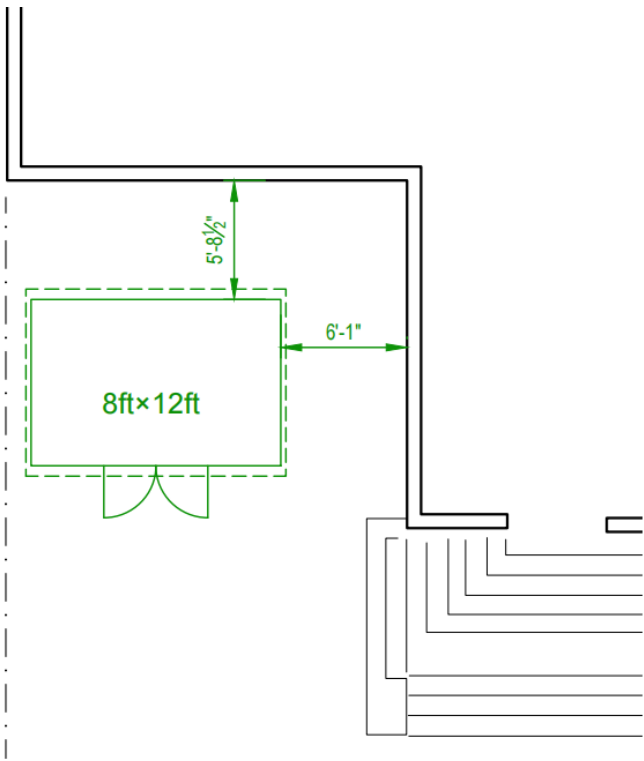
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APPENDIX

Photos of Food Forest and Pollinator Garden



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