



The Bellevue House Barn Project
48 Centre Street - Roxbury

Owners: Lisa Berger and Edward Blank

Introduction

The current home on Centre Street was originally known as Bellevue Terrace when it was originally built in 1835. The house is situated on the southwestern corner of the property and was described in the 1842 will and testament of Adam Stuart as the mansion, barn, and outbuildings on 27,000 square feet of land. The northern edge was marked by the Three Mile Marker (the oldest marker on the Old Boston Post Road indicating 3 miles to the state house.) The marker is there to this day.

Lisa's family heritage in the United States dates back to William and Mary Chase, who arrived in Boston in 1632. Most notably, they were founders of the First Church of Roxbury, a few hundred feet from Bellevue House. Portraits of the Chases still exist in the church archives. Some of those archives were stored in the basement of Belleview house not long before Lisa and Ed purchased the property in 2003. Where the Chases lived is still a mystery, but Lisa feels deeply connected to this neighborhood.

Amazingly, ninety percent of the original land is still intact. The barn project began with the idea of adding a garage to the house, with a studio above, but none of those designs fit the character and history of the home. There were no garages in 1835, and the thought of a carriage house came up, but there is no history of such a building, yet there was mention of their barn with stables. Many wealthy families had barns to house horses and carriages, feed, and sometimes house the hired hands. The barn was the winning idea. It would fit the needs of the current owners and fit nicely with the history of the house and the Fort Hill neighborhood.

The Gambrel-styled barn will have a 2-car garage, kitchen, laundry, and half bath on the first floor, a living area, bedroom, and bath on the second floor. Lisa and Ed intend to occupy this as their home when it is finished and slowly retire. Still, in love with the main house, the four-plus bedrooms, the uneven stone steps leading to the house, and the steep skinny stairway to the third-floor loft are better suited for a younger, larger family. Renting the main house and living in the barn will give Lisa and Ed the financial and physical means to stay on the property and enjoy the Fort Hill neighborhood for another 25 years.

Bellevue House – land and buildings

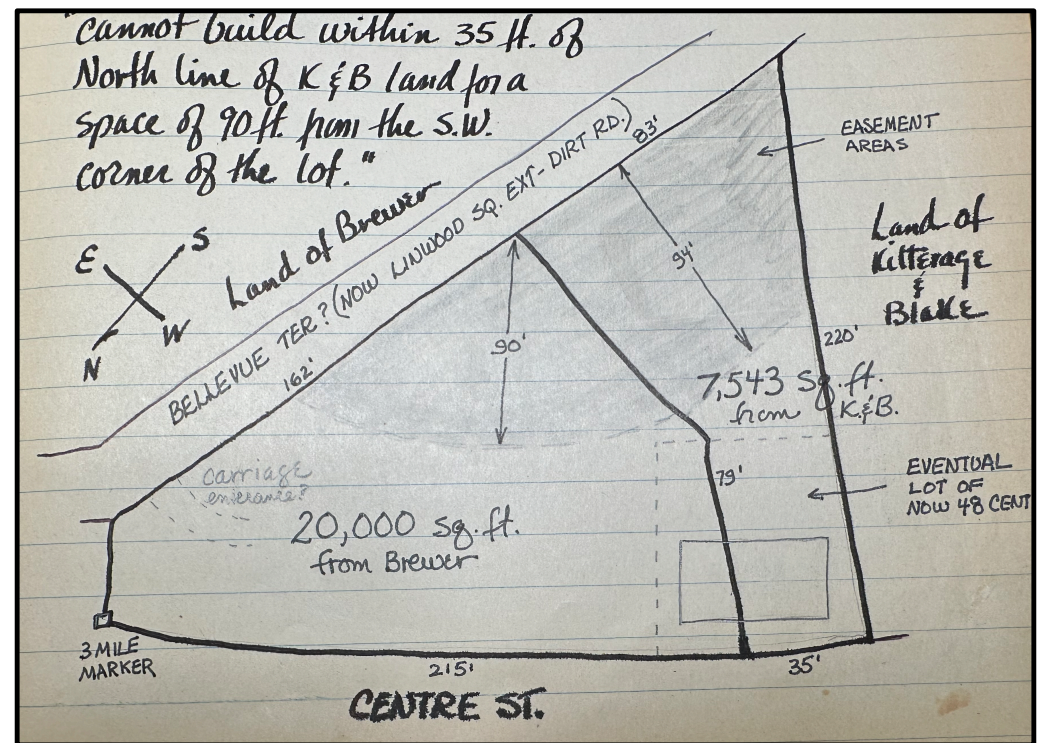
June 4, 1833 (Norfolk book 99, page 226) - Porter sells undisclosed amount of land to **Brewer**.

Between 1833 and 1835, **Brewer**, a carpenter, builds the Bellevue House

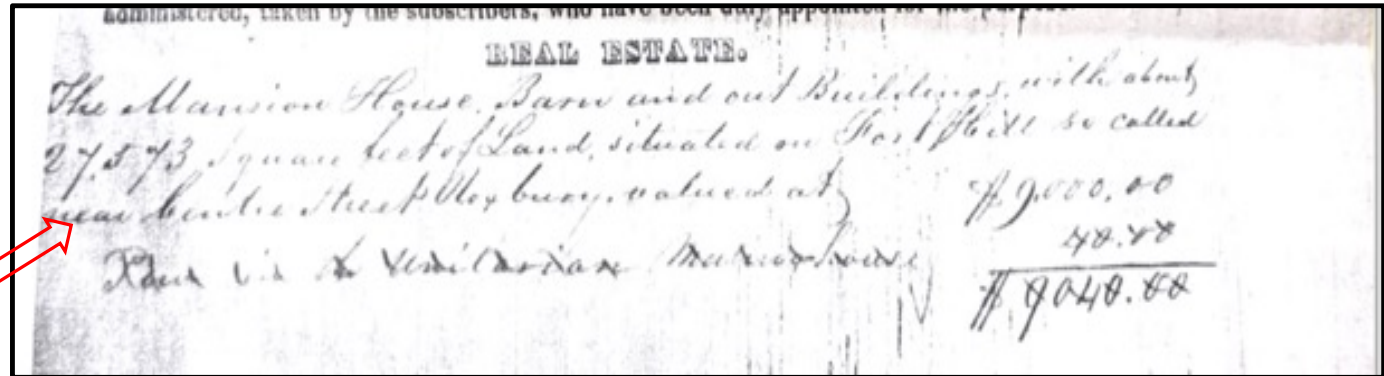
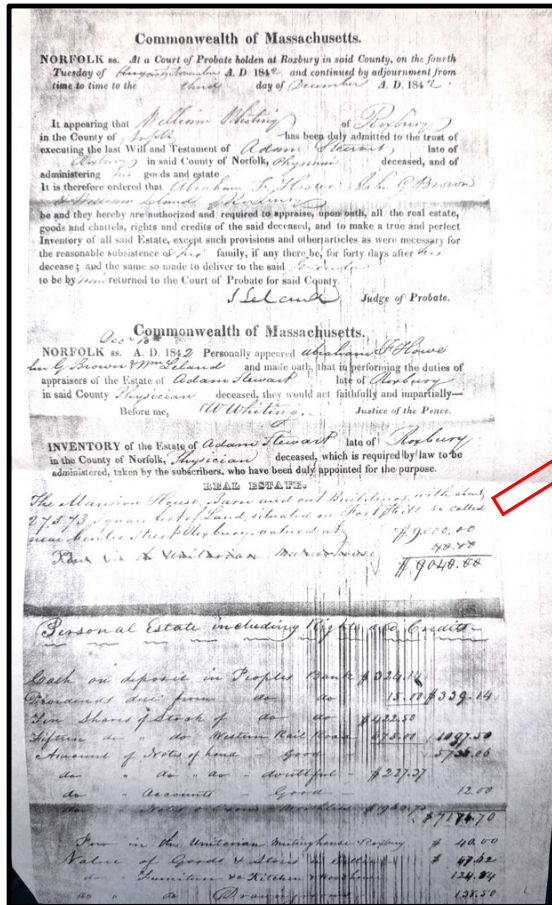
April 24, 1837 (Norfolk book 115, page 155)
Kitteredge & Blake (K & B) sell 7,543 sq. ft of land to
Minoff, Esc. Trust/indenture to **Adam Stewart**

(It appeared as if **Brewer** constructed part of
the house on the 7,543 sq ft of land which at
the time of construction, belonged to K & B.)

June 14, 1837 (Norfolk book 116, page 86) –
Brewer sells approximately 20,000 sq. ft. of
property to Minoff, Esc. Trust/indenture to
Adam Stewart “with a new dwelling house
thereon called Bellevue House”



Bellevue House – land and buildings



December 3, 1842 (Norfolk Probate #17,400)

"The Mansion House, Barn, and out Buildings with about 27,543 Square Feet of Land, situated on Fort Hill..."

are willed to Stewart's "illegitimate wife and children".

Bellevue House – land and buildings

The house, barn and outbuildings were owned by **Adam Stewart's** "illegitimate" family from the time of the inheritance in 1842 to the time it was sold to E. L. Davenport on June 2, 1860 (Norfolk book 288, page 294)



Map of property from 1852

Historical examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)



Historical examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)



Historical examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)

Roxbury, Mears house, Guild Street.



Item Information

Title: Roxbury, Mears house, Guild Street.

Date: [ca. 1895–1905]

Format: [Photographs](#)

Tools

[Share](#) ▾

[Add to Folder](#)

Historical examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)

Ruggles-Turner House, Roxbury, Mass.



Item Information

Title: Ruggles-Turner House, Roxbury, Mass.

Date: [ca. 1873-1899]

Format: Photographs

Genre: [Photographic prints](#)

Location: [Boston Public Library](#)
Arts Department

Collection (local): [Boston Pictorial Archive](#)

Series: [Neighborhoods > Roxbury](#)

Subjects: [Neighborhoods](#)
[Houses](#)

Tools

[Share](#)

[Add to Folder](#)

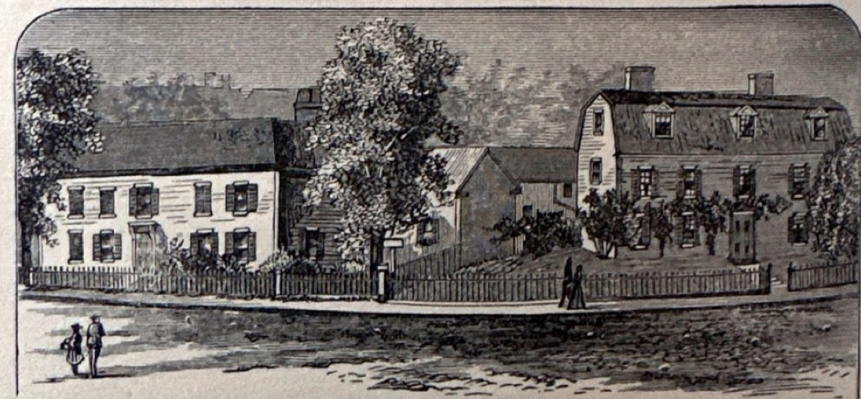
[Email](#)

[Cite](#)

[IIIF Manifest](#)

Downloads

At the corner of Eliot Square and Highland Street is the old house once the residence of Major Nathaniel Ruggles, who



RUGGLES HOMESTEAD AND TURNER HOUSE.

Historical examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury

Boston 1775

History, analysis, and unabashed gossip about the start of the American Revolution in Massachusetts.

About me

J. L. BELL is a Massachusetts writer who specializes in (among other things) the start of the American Revolution in and around Boston. He is particularly interested in the experiences of children in 1765-75. He has published scholarly papers and popular articles for both children and adults. He was consultant for an episode of *History Detectives*, and contributed to a display at Minute Man National Historic Park.

[About This Blog](#)
[Finding Material on This Blog](#)
[Contacting J. L. Bell](#)
[Boston 1775 Mastodon feed](#)
[Boston 1775 Facebook page](#)
[Boston 1775 Twitter feed](#)
[Amazon author page](#)
[Support J. L. Bell's Work](#)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2011

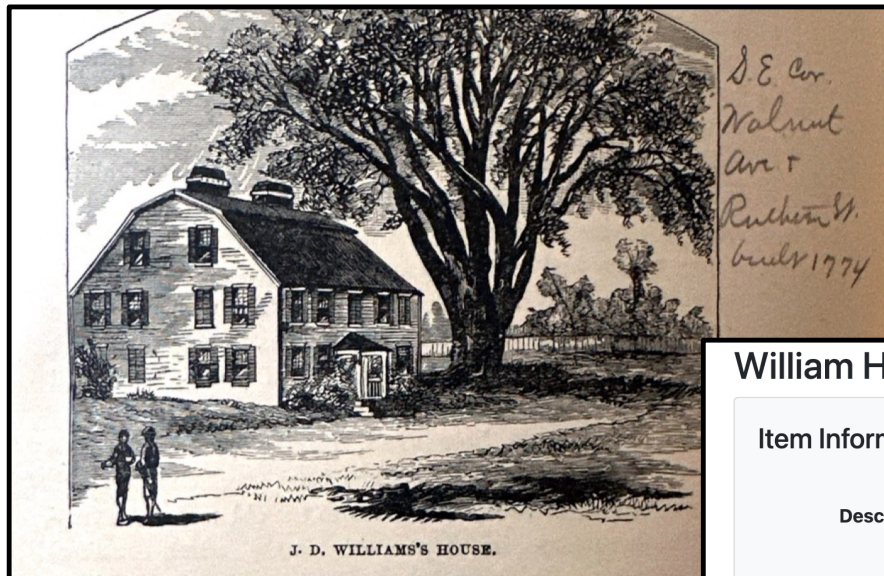
A "Romantic" Mansion in Roxbury



In 1874, Emily Pierpont Delesdernier (1840-1915) published *Fannie St. John: A Romantic Incident of the American Revolution*. Though inspired by family lore, that book was fiction.

Delesdernier described an old Roxbury mansion, built in 1723 by Francis Brinley and bought just before the Revolution by her great-grandfather Robert Pierpont, like this:

Historical examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury



William House, Walnut Ave., Roxbury, Mass.

Item Information

Title: William House, Walnut Ave., Roxbury, Mass.

Description: An exterior view of the William House on Walnut Avenue in Roxbury, Massachusetts. The house is two stories high with a gambrel roof. The projecting doorway is upheld by two Doric columns, at the sides of which trellises support vines. The corner of the front porch of the neighboring house can be seen at the right edge of the photograph. A driveway leads between the two houses. A bearded man drives a single-horse buggy out of the driveway. The wrought iron doors of the gate are ornamented with heart-shaped figures. The stone footpath from the house through the gate to the sidewalk ends at what appears to be a round mounting block.

Current examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)



Holy Temple United Holy Church of America Inc.
14 Lambert Ave. Roxbury

Current examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)

46 Linwood St. Roxbury



Current examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)

98 Lambert Ave.
Roxbury



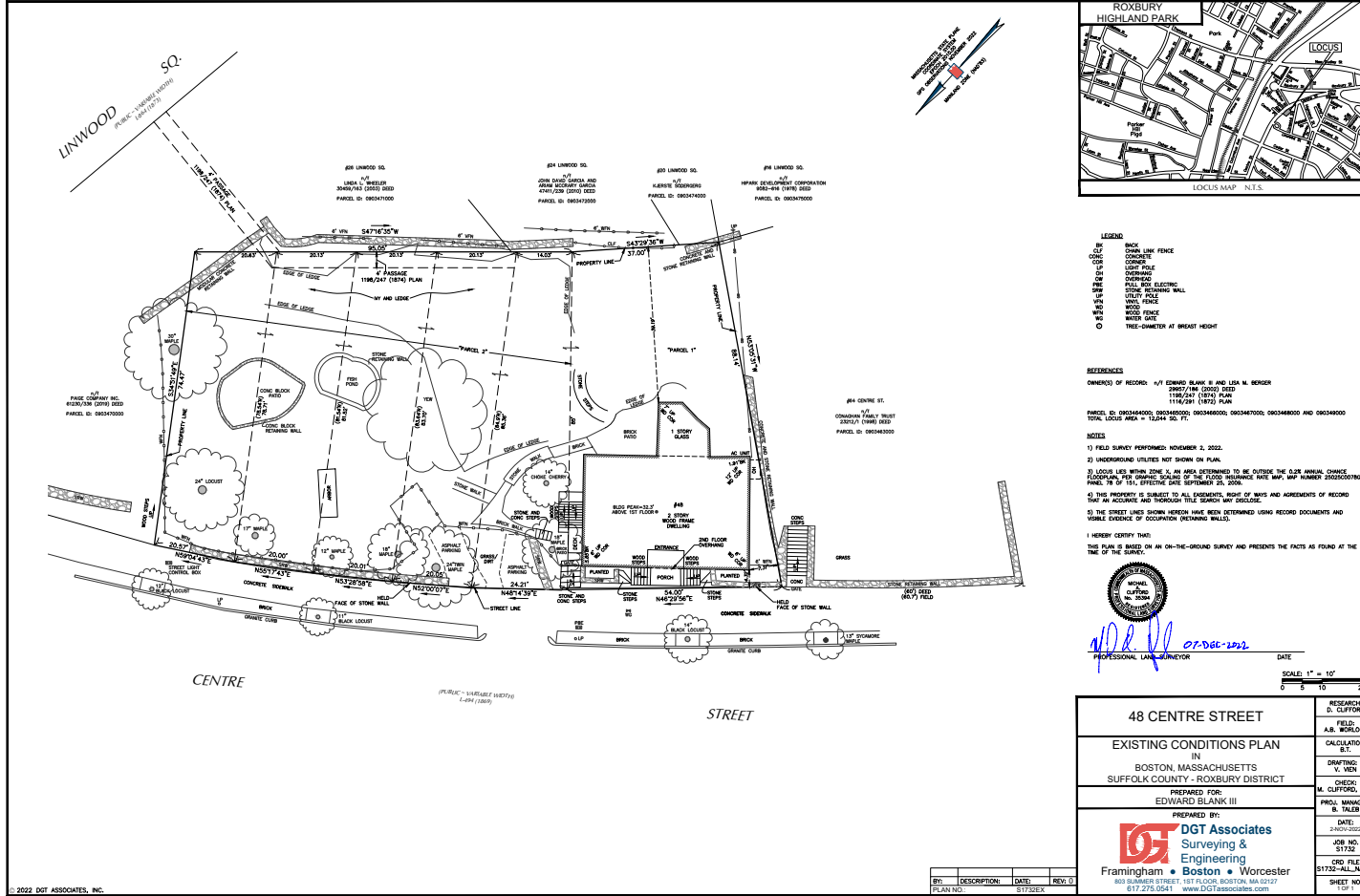
Current examples of gambrel-roof buildings in Roxbury (Highland Park)

Linwood Circle Roxbury

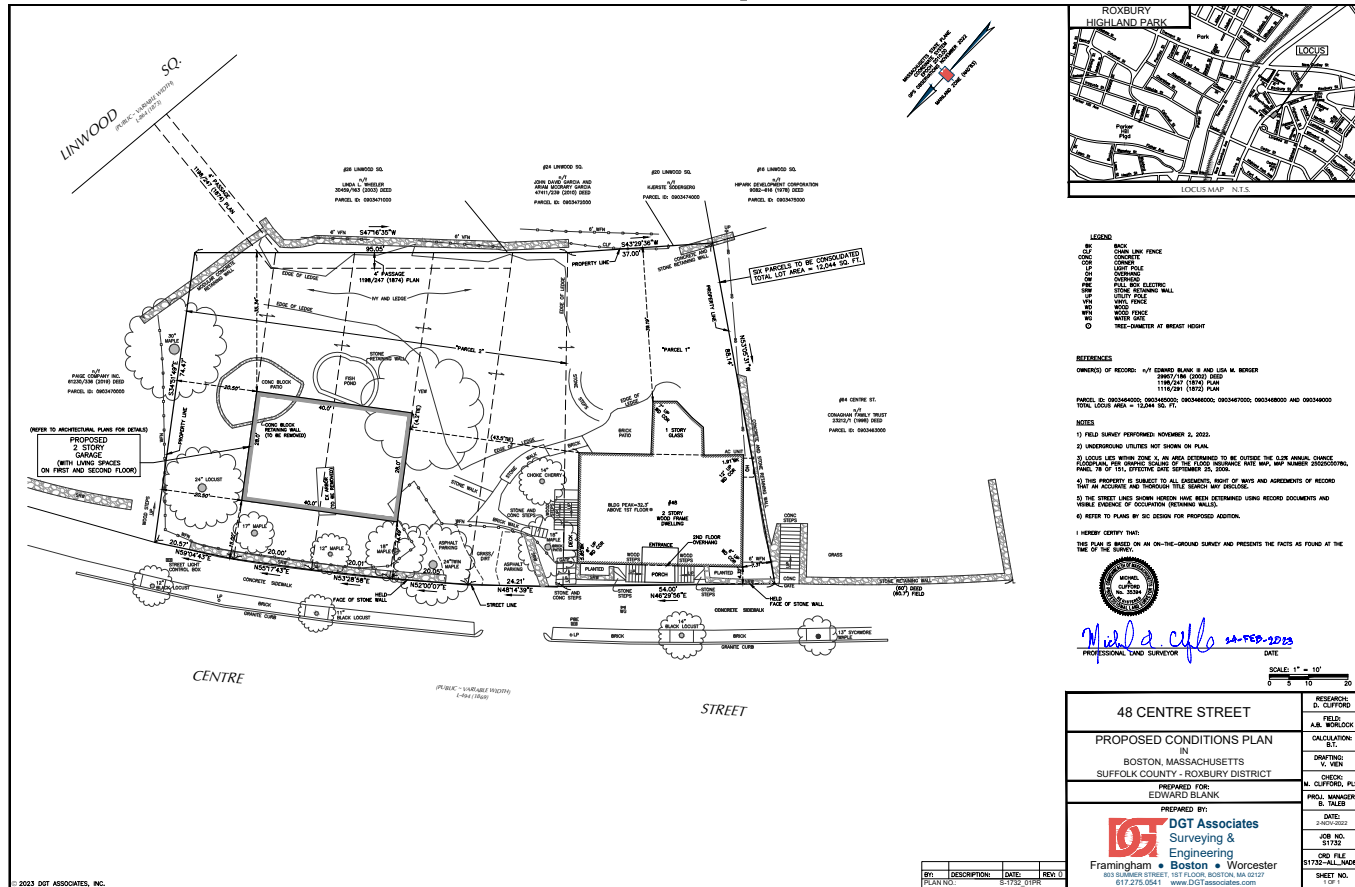
Constructed began
2023 (not completed)



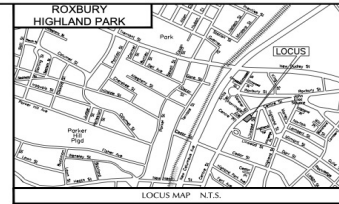
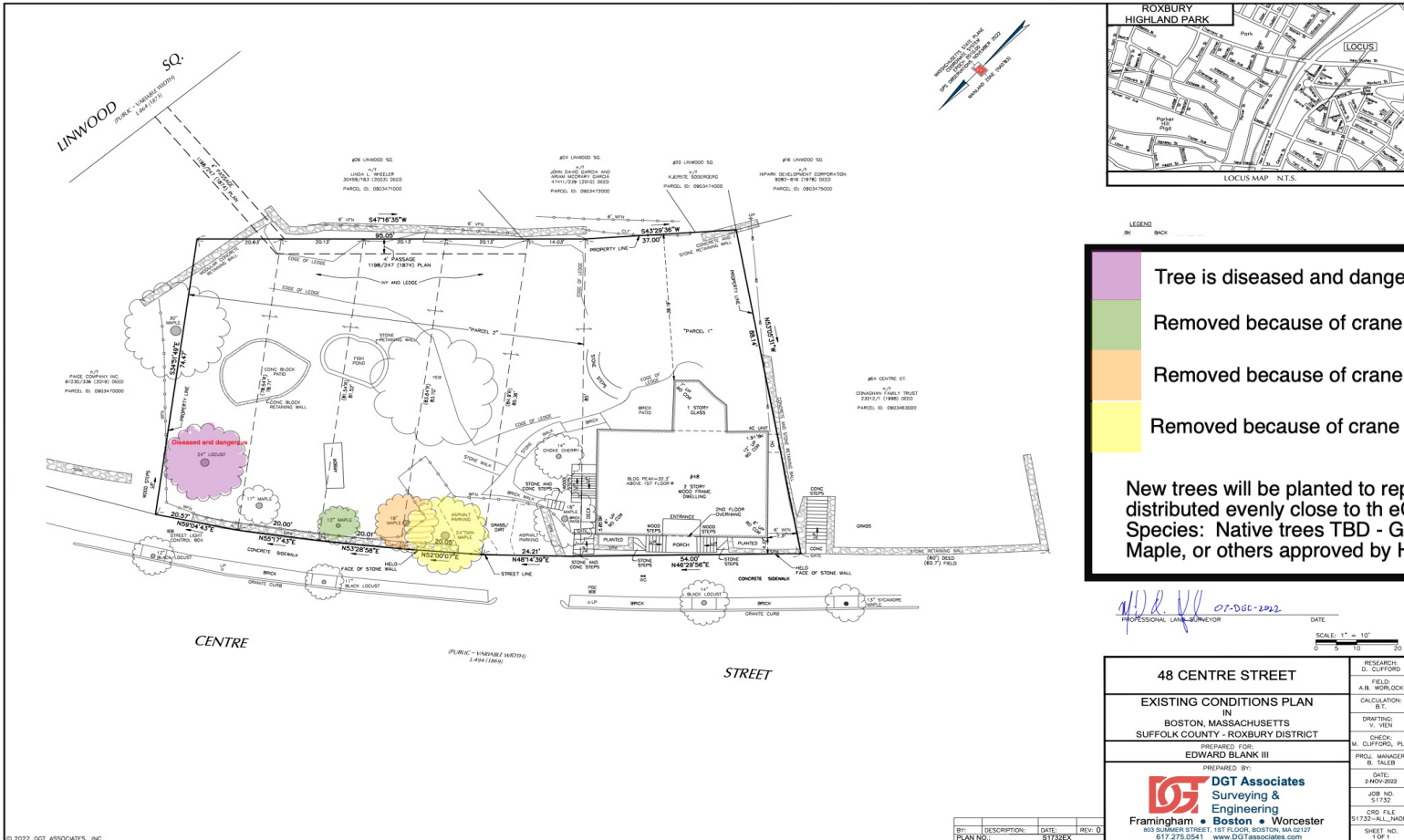
Existing Condition / Site Plan



Plot plan showing the proposed building and related access points



Tree Removal for construction of barn at 48 Centre St.



Legend

- Tree is diseased and dangerous.
- Removed because of crane clearance.
- Removed because of crane clearance and driveway.
- Removed because of crane clearance and driveway.

New trees will be planted to replace each tree. These will be distributed evenly close to the Centre St. property line.
 Species: Native trees TBD - Green Ash, Red Maple, Sugar Maple, or others approved by HPACD.

4/12/22 07-06-2022
 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR DATE

SCALE: 1" = 10'
 0 5 10 20

48 CENTRE STREET		RESEARCH: D. CLIFFORD
EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN		FIELD: A.B. WORLOCK
IN		CALCULATION: B.T.
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS		DRAWING: V. WEN
SUFFOLK COUNTY - ROXBURY DISTRICT		CHECK: M. CLIFFORD, P.L.S.
PREPARED FOR: EDWARD BLANK III		PROJ. MANAGER: B. TALEB
PREPARED BY: DGT Associates Surveying & Engineering		DATE: 2-NOV-2022
Framingham • Boston • Worcester		JOB NO.: 21732
100 SUMMIT STREET, 1ST FLOOR, BOSTON, MA 02107		CRD FILE: 11732-ALL_H0083
617.275.0541 www.DGTassociates.com		SHEET NO. OF 1

BY:	DESCRIPTION:	DATE:	REV.:
		8/13/22	
PLAN NO.:		87132EX	

Rendition of Bellevue Barn on site

