

328-330
CAMB. ST.

BP-19-18

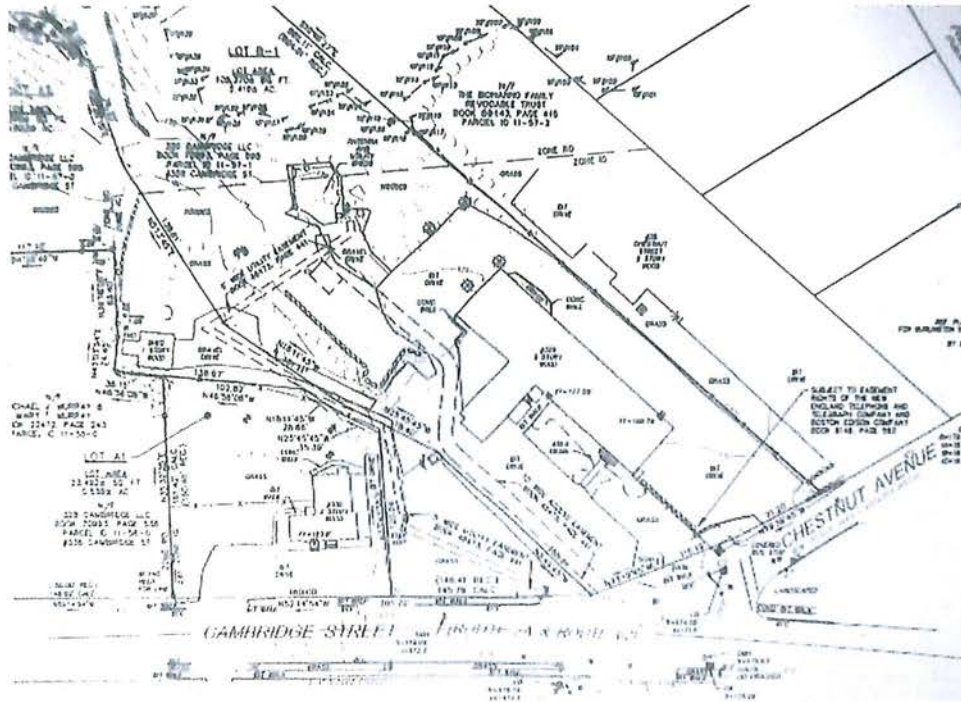
Burlington Historical Commission



The Commission voted to rescind the demolition delay imposed on the property at 328-330 Cambridge St. historically known as the Reed Ham Works Barn with the following provisions:

1. That the portion of the barn identified as the original 19th century building (the 2d floor of a 22 x 21.5 foot section identified as Barn 3A on page 2 of the study of the property completed by John Goff (excerpt attached)) be disassembled and made available for storage and/or future use by the Town of Burlington.
2. That the weathervane identified on page 25 of the same study be made available for storage and/or future use by the Town of Burlington.
3. That as many of the pre-1820 quarried stone blocks identified on page 30 of the same study be made available for storage and/or future use by the Town of Burlington as practicable.

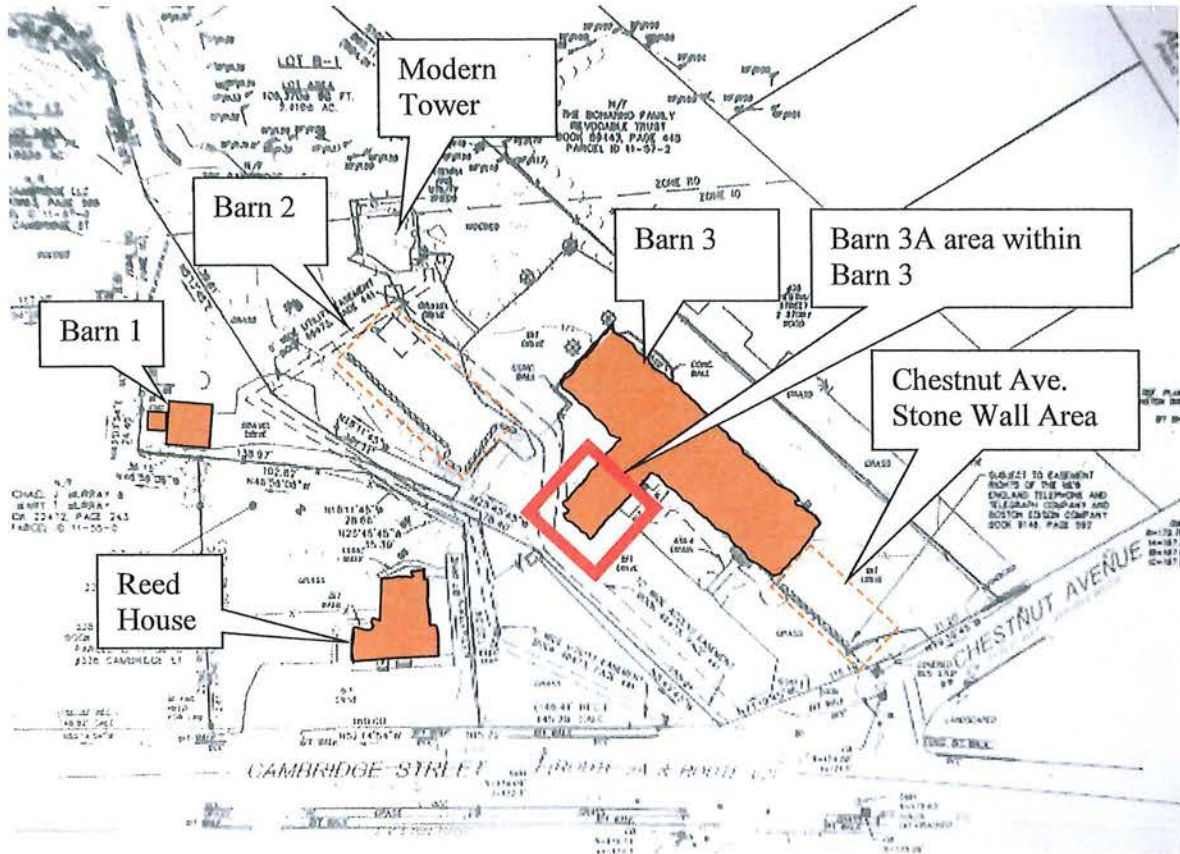
- GET COPY TO
PLAN. BD.
- TALK TO JOHN E. &
FRANK A.
- TALK TO CHRISTINE HUNG
@ RIB



Burlington's Reed Ham Works Barn: An Evaluation

328-330 Cambridge Street
Burlington, MA
by John Goff

Prepared for the new Owners and the
Burlington Historical Commission for their meeting of
June 19, 2019



Principal Features:

On our initial May 9, 2019 and May 11, 2019 site inspections, we determined that there are six (6) major features currently associated with the historic Reed Ham Works Barn. They can be identified as follows:

	Name of feature	Recommendation
1	Reed House	[Different owner] Remove fire hazards of fallen trees and overgrown grasses, etc, from rear of property. Restore house to historic district quality appearance. Conform with Secretary of Interior standards for preservation while preservation advances.
2	Barn or Outbuilding #1	Undertake additional study.
3	Barn or Outbuilding #2	Undertake additional study.
4	Modern Tower	Existing to Remain
5	Barn or Outbuilding #3	Undertake additional study on small square structure numbered 3A
6	Chestnut Ave. Stone Wall Area	Undertake additional study to preserve wall and/or historic stones in existing wall. Several show early and rare quarry marks from pre-1820 and post-1820 periods.



Photograph # EX-21

Reed Ham Works Barn Site, Burlington, MA

Date: May 9, 2019 **Photographer:** John Goff

Subject: View looking south and west at the **METAL FLYING BIRD WEATHERVANE** atop the FRONT SECTION of the LONG BARN STRUCTURE(S) also called Barn #3 on the marked-up site plan.

Note: We are not weathervane specialists. However, this (ca. 1960?) weathervane appears to have been well designed with a large Canada Goose-like bird fabricated from custom sheet copper, mounted atop a (rusty steel?) vertical support rod to which the four cardinal direction (NESW) arms were mounted. The folk art-referencing FLETCHED ARROW (suggesting Colonial times and Indians with bows and arrows) adds to the interest.

We are not sure if this weathervane was additionally designed and grounded to serve as a lightning rod (and thus to protect the barns from accidental fire) but in any case, this architectural element is fine and, despite its lack of age, would be rated a SHOULD BE SAVED feature.



Photograph # EX-26
Reed Ham Works Barn Site, Burlington, MA
Date: May 9, 2019 **Photographer:** John Goff

Subject: Detail view of a possible colonial keystone-shaped quarry mark in the STONE WALL in front of the barn complex.

Note: While studying some of New England's earliest and last surviving water-powered tide-mill complexes in Quincy, MA between 1991 and 2000 [including the Souther Tide Mill on the Town River, and the Edmund Quincy Tide Mill on the nearby Black's Creek] we learned that some of the earliest stone walls erected in America were built using curious keystone-shaped indentations in some of the stones. It seems that before the "cylindrical hole" drilling and splitting methods were developed [ca. 1820?], an older and colonial way of stone extraction existed—that reportedly used the shaping of keystone shape holes, the insertion of wood wedges, and the expansion of the wood using water being added—which made the wedges swell. Our guess is that the stone(s) surviving with KEYSTONE-SHAPED INDENTS on the Burlington property were recycled from lost colonial walls or structures. They are rare, and warrant both further study—and long term protection.

Findings & Recommendations

Based on the historic Reed Ham Works barn site's history and condition-- and various building features and conditions that we saw, inspected and photographed on May 9, 2019, we now propose that various elements are **MUST BE SAVED**, **SHOULD BE SAVED**, and **NEED NOT BE SAVED** features as follows:

Feature	MUST BE SAVED	SHOULD BE SAVED	NEED NOT BE SAVED	Remarks
Barn 3A (west end of WEST ELLS—about 22 feet square)		X		Explore possibility of working with other parties to relocate early barn to another location—for restoration on another site.
Long Barn—Rear Section			X	May be demolished
Long Barn –Middle Section			X	May be demolished
Long Barn—Front Section			X	May be demolished
Historic stones from stone wall(s) in front of the complex	X			Explore possibility of working with other parties to relocate historic stones and/or stone walls to another location—for public access, education & preservation.
Ca. 1960s? sheet metal flying bird weathervane and associated hardware		X		Re-use or sell weathervane.