

FLANSBURGH

August 24, 2021

Mr. Edward L. Bell
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Mass. Archives Bldg.
Boston MA 02125

RE: David Mindess School, Ashland MA

Dear Mr. Bell,

In response to your recent request regarding the existing memorial site behind the Mindess School in Ashland MA, we offer the following.

As noted above the existing memorial site is located behind the existing school, in an overgrown area adjacent to the play fields. There is no way to easily access this area and because of its location, many visitors who enter the school are unaware of this item. The proposed new school will be constructed behind the existing school, the result of which, places this memorial site in front of the new school east of the main entrance. Please understand it has always been the intention of the Design Team to respect and preserve this feature and potentially use it as a teaching opportunity. To better illustrate these concepts attached here with this letter is the following documentation.

1. Design Narrative from Stimson Studio outlining the design concepts to highlight the memorial site in the new design.
2. Existing Plan – Overall Site Plan to better understand the location of the school, memorial site, in context with the surrounding neighborhood.
3. Existing Plan – Enlarged Plan at Memorial Site, including a photo of the area in question to better illustrate the existing conditions.
4. Proposed Plan / Site Improvements – Rendered plan to illustrate the proposed design.
5. Construction Narrative from Shawmut Design and Construction outlining the measures to be put in place to protect and preserve the memorial site during the construction of the new school.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or comments you may have.

Sincerely,

FLANSBURGH ARCHITECTS



Bill Beatrice, AIA
Project Manager

STIMSON

Approximately 25 feet north the existing David Mindess School, at the backside, is located an existing fenced in area containing a stone grave marker for a Revolutionary War veteran named Aaron Brown. The existing fenced area sits atop a concrete retaining wall approximately 4 feet above the first-floor level of the existing school and can only be observed from below. There is currently no way to easily access the site, which has led to a lack of maintenance, allowing the area to become overgrown.

The design for the new David Mindess Elementary School, located approximately 50 feet north of the existing building, will feature this stone grave marker along the main pedestrian route into the front door of the new building. The first-floor elevation of the proposed school will be set at approximately the same elevation to the grave marker. The proposed design features a new ornamental metal fence and gate to surround the marker. The metal fence will provide observers with a more transparent viewing experience, while also providing access for continued maintenance and upkeep. The fenced in area is sited within a larger garden bed containing native woodland shrubs, perennials, flowering, and deciduous shade trees. Some of the species to be included are White Oak, Flowering Dogwood, Cranberry Bush Viburnum, Inkberry Holly, Hay-scented Fern and Lilly-turf Liriope. Lower plants will be installed between viewing areas and the stone marker to allow for clear views, while taller shrubs and trees will be installed behind, to make it feel more embedded in the landscape. A new interpretive sign will be installed along the pedestrian route to the school to provide visitors with a description of the site, and a clear transcription of the monument engraving.

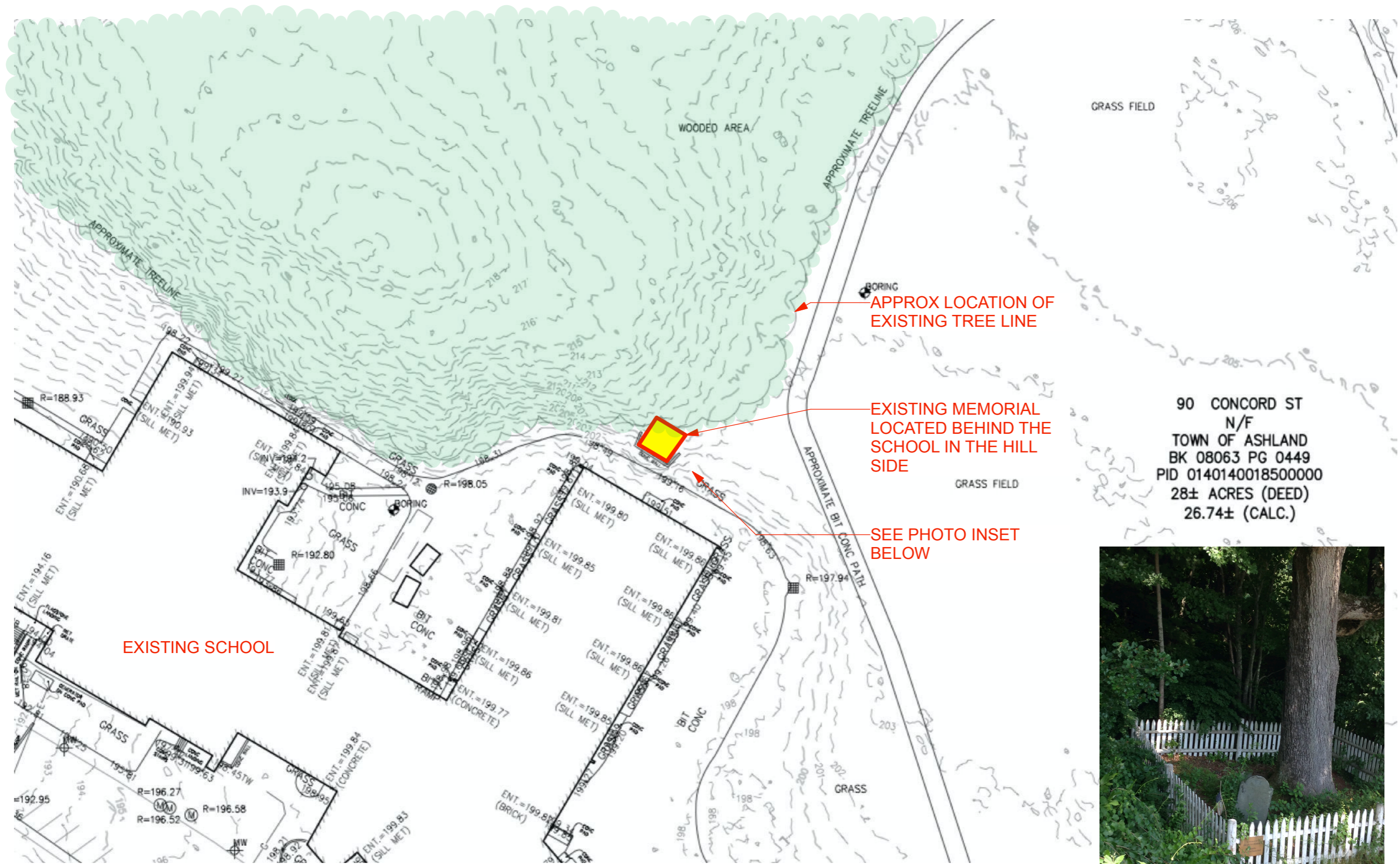
STEPHEN STIMSON ASSOCIATES LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, INC.

288 NORFOLK STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA 02139

T 617 876 8960

2 MOUNTAIN ROAD
PRINCETON, MA 01541

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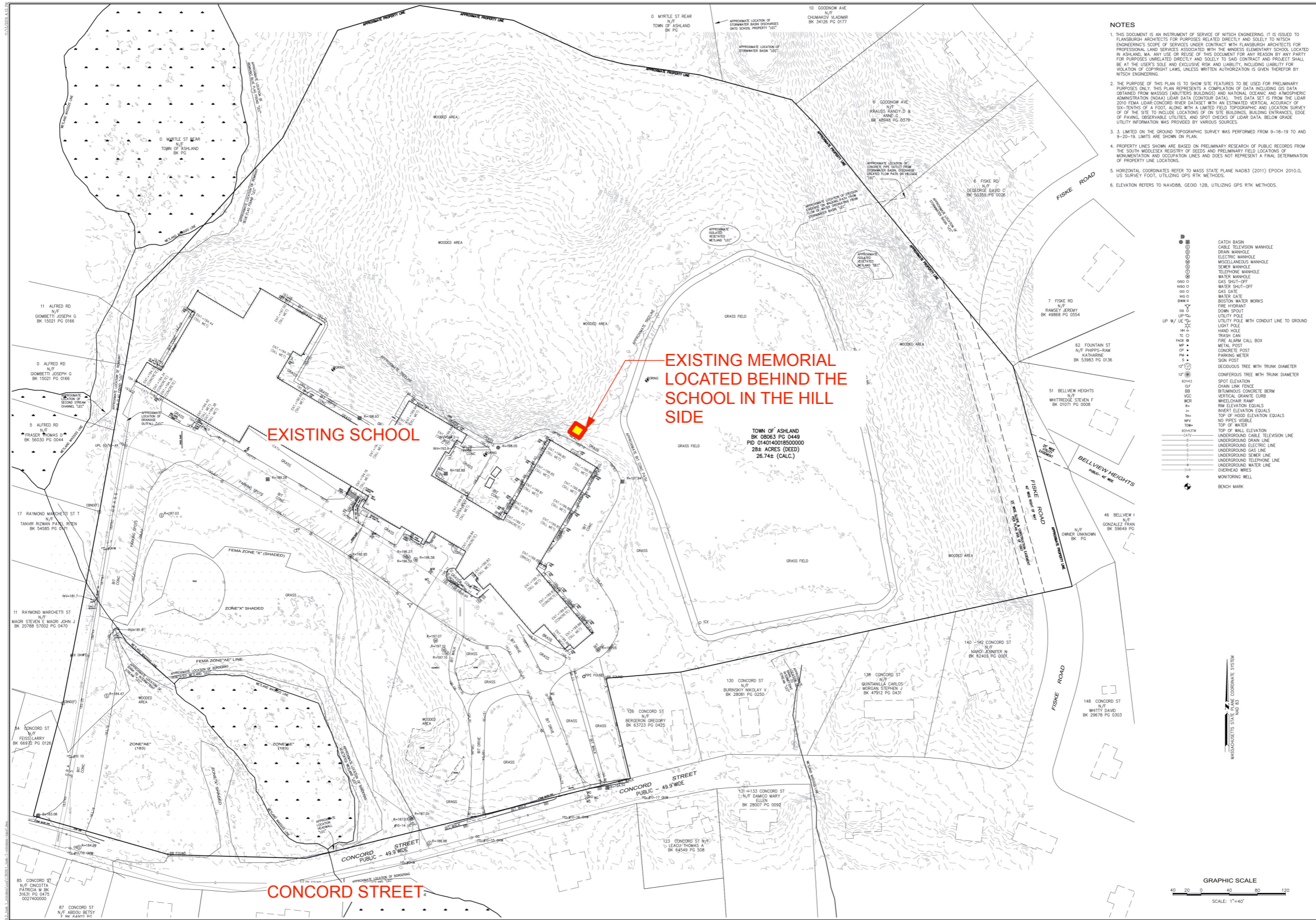
EXISTING MEMORIAL

90 CONCORD ST
 N/F
 TOWN OF ASHLAND
 BK 08063 PG 0449
 PID 0140140018500000
 28± ACRES (DEED)
 26.74± (CALC.)

JOB #:	1914.00
DRAWN BY:	wtb
DATE:	8/23/21
SCALE:	nts

FLANSBURGH ARCHITECTS 77 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114 TELEPHONE 617-367-3970 FACSIMILE 617-720-7873	David Mindess School, Ashland MA
TITLE: Existing Site - Enlarged Plan	

SKETCH NO. EX-1A	REFERENCE DRAWING -
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NOTES

- THIS DOCUMENT IS AN INSTRUMENT OF SERVICE OF NITSOH ENGINEERING, IT IS ISSUED TO FLANSBURGH ARCHITECTS FOR PURPOSES RELATED DIRECTLY AND SOLELY TO NITSOH ENGINEERING'S SCOPE OF SERVICES UNDER CONTRACT WITH FLANSBURGH ARCHITECTS FOR PROFESSIONAL LAND SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MINDLESS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATED IN ASHLAND, MA. ANY USE OR REUSE OF THIS DOCUMENT FOR ANY REASON BY ANY PARTY FOR PURPOSES UNRELATED DIRECTLY AND SOLELY TO SAID CONTRACT AND PROJECT SHALL BE AT THE USER'S SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE RISK AND LIABILITY, INCLUDING LIABILITY FOR VIOLATION OF COPYRIGHT LAWS, UNLESS WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION IS GIVEN THEREFOR BY NITSOH ENGINEERING.
- THE PURPOSE OF THIS PLAN IS TO SHOW SITE FEATURES TO BE USED FOR PRELIMINARY PURPOSES ONLY. THIS PLAN REPRESENTS A COMPILATION OF DATA INCLUDING GIS DATA OBTAINED FROM MASSGIS (BUILDERS BUILDINGS) AND NATIONAL GEODESIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) LIDAR DATA (CONTOUR DATA). THIS DATA SET IS FROM THE LIDAR 2010 FEMA LIDAR CONCORD RIVER DATASET WITH AN ESTIMATED VERTICAL ACCURACY OF 30+ FEET OF A FOOT, ALONG WITH A LIMITED FIELD TOPOGRAPHIC AND LOCATION SURVEY OF THE SITE TO INCLUDE LOCATIONS OF ON SITE BUILDINGS, BUILDING ENTRANCES, EDGE OF PAVING, OBSERVABLE UTILITIES, AND SPOT CHECKS OF LIDAR DATA. BELOW GRADE UTILITY INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY VARIOUS SOURCES.
- LIMITED ON THE GROUND TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY WAS PERFORMED FROM 9-18-19 TO AND 9-20-19. LIMITS ARE SHOWN ON PLAN.
- PROPERTY LINES SHOWN ARE BASED ON PRELIMINARY RESEARCH OF PUBLIC RECORDS FROM THE SOUTH MIDDLESEX REGISTRY OF DEEDS AND PRELIMINARY FIELD LOCATIONS OF MONUMENTATION AND OCCUPATION LINES AND DOES NOT REPRESENT A FINAL DETERMINATION OF PROPERTY LINE LOCATIONS.
- HORIZONTAL COORDINATES REFER TO MASS STATE PLANE NAD83 (2011) EPOCH 2010.0, US SURVEY FOOT, UTILIZING GPS RTK METHODS.
- ELEVATION REFERS TO NAVD83, GEOID 12B, UTILIZING GPS RTK METHODS.

- CATCH BASIN
- CABLE TELEVISION MANHOLE
- DRAIN MANHOLE
- ELECTRIC MANHOLE
- MISCELLANEOUS MANHOLE
- SEWER MANHOLE
- TELEPHONE MANHOLE
- WATER MANHOLE
- GAS SHUT-OFF
- WATER SHUT-OFF
- GAS GATE
- WATER GATE
- BOSTON WATER WORKS
- FIRE HYDRANT
- DOWN SPOUT
- UTILITY POLE
- UTILITY POLE WITH CONDUIT LINE TO GROUND
- LIGHT POLE
- HAND HOLE
- TRASH CAN
- FIRE ALARM CALL BOX
- METAL POST
- CONCRETE POST
- PARKING METER
- SIGN POST
- DECIDUOUS TREE WITH TRUNK DIAMETER
- CONIFEROUS TREE WITH TRUNK DIAMETER
- SPOT ELEVATION
- CHAIN LINK FENCE
- BRIMMUS CONCRETE BERM
- VERTICAL GRANITE CURB
- WHEELCHAIR RAMP
- FIN ELEVATION EQUALS
- INVERT ELEVATION EQUALS
- TOP OF HOOD ELEVATION EQUALS
- TOP OF WATER
- NO PIPES VISIBLE
- TOP OF WALL ELEVATION
- UNDERGROUND CABLE TELEVISION LINE
- UNDERGROUND BRAN LINE
- UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE
- UNDERGROUND GAS LINE
- UNDERGROUND SEWER LINE
- UNDERGROUND TELEPHONE LINE
- UNDERGROUND WATER LINE
- UNDERGROUND WELLS
- MONITORING WELL
- BENCH MARK

SKETCH NO. **EX-1**

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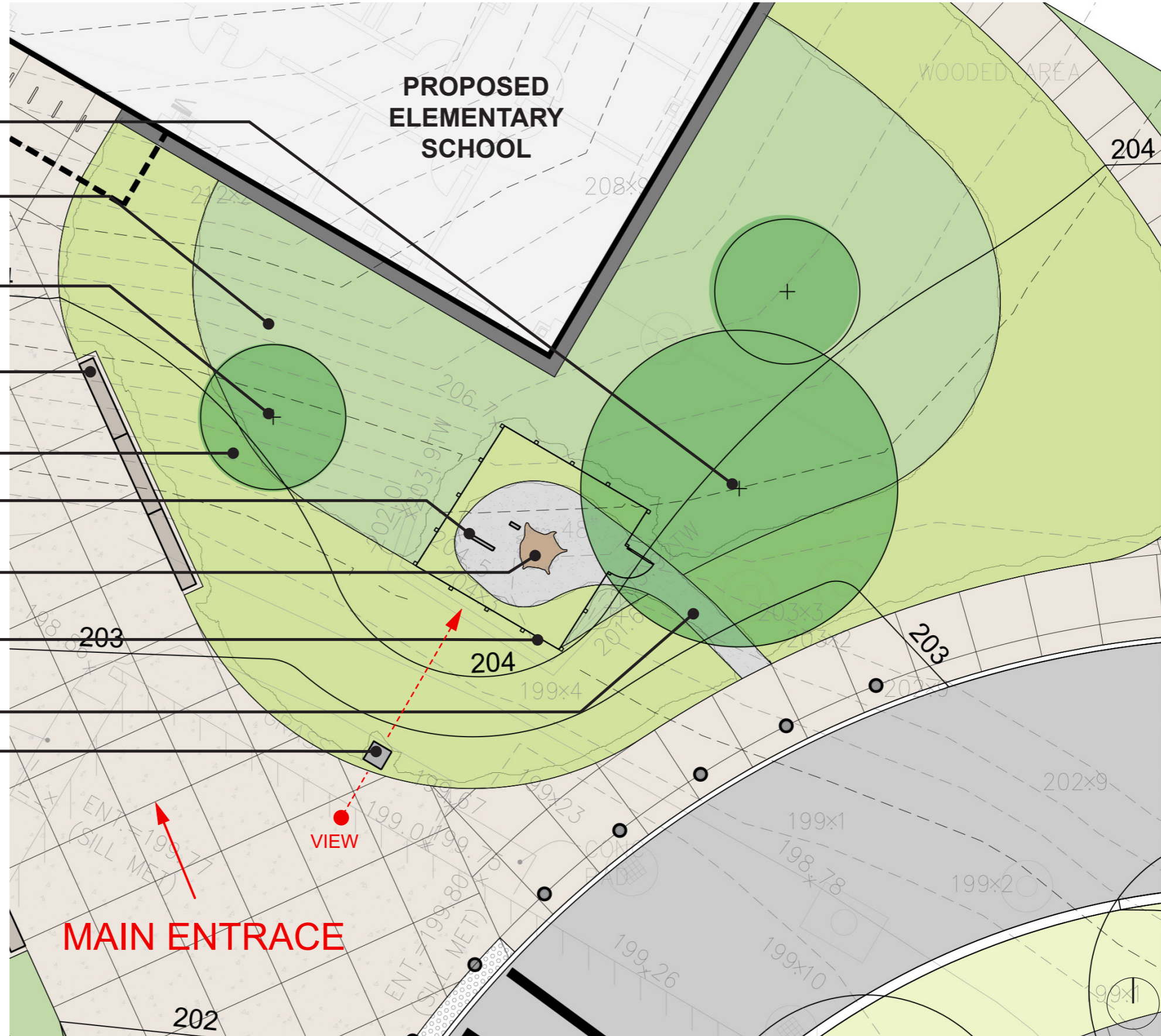
JOB #: **1914.00**
DRAWN BY: **wtb**
DATE: **8/23/21**
SCALE: **nts**

REFERENCE DRAWING

David Mindess School, Ashland MA

TITLE: Existing Site - Overall Plan

- DECIDUOUS SHADE TREE, 4" CAL
- 24"-36" HEIGHT SHRUB PLANTING
- FLOWERING TREE, 3" CAL.
- WOOD BENCH
- 12-18" HEIGHT PERENNIAL PLANTING
- EXISTING MONUMENT RESET PLUMB AND LEVEL
- LOCATION OF EXISTING WHITE OAK
- ORNAMENTAL METAL FENCE AND GATE
- MAINTENANCE PATH
- INTERPRETIVE SIGN



MEMORIAL SITE IS NOW CLEARLY VISIBLE AS VISITORS APPROACH THE MAIN ENTRY TO THE NEW SCHOOL.

SKETCH NO. **EX-2**
REFERENCE DRAWING -

FLANSBURGH ARCHITECTS
77 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114
TELEPHONE 617-367-3970 FACSIMILE 617-720-7873

David Mindess School, Ashland MA

TITLE: Proposed Plan

JOB #: 1914.00
DRAWN BY: wtb
DATE: 8/23/21
SCALE: nts



August 23, 2021

Michael Quinlan
Senior Project Manager
Compass Project Management
One Edgewater Drive
Suite 204
Norwood, MA 02062

**RE: David Mindess Elementary School – DMES
Memorial Grave - Preliminary Temporary Protection Plan**

Dear Mr. Quinlan,

In response to your request, Shawmut has made evaluation of the currently planned construction activities around the existing memorial grave located at the Mindess Elementary School and offers the following preliminary assessment and planned temporary protection plan.

Existing Conditions

The current memorial grave site is bound by a white wood picket fence, within the bounds of this fence there exists an oak tree, head stone and foot stone. Outside the bounds of this white picket fence exists an approximately (4) four-foot-tall cast-in-place concrete retaining wall which supports the southerly edge of the memorial grave site where the existing grades drop off.

New Construction

As currently designed, there is new below-grade utility work slated to occur to the North, South and East of the Memorial Grave's location, with foundation work slated to occur to the North as well. As currently designed, the required excavations for this new work is all located sufficiently far away as to not impact the white wood picket fence and the area bound within it.

The existing oak tree located within the bounds of the wood white picket fence will require removal, but we understand that the design intent for this removal is to an above grade only point, with the stump remaining intact and no sub-surface disturbance required.

The existing white wood picket fence is slated to be removed and replaced with a new fence to unify the site with the new construction. It is anticipated that the new fence will be installed at the same location of the existing or just outside it's bounds.

Preliminary Planned Temporary Protections

To protect the memorial grave site during tree removal activities, it is anticipated that a wooden enclosure, in the form of a combination of 2x4s, plywood sheathing, etc., will be installed on-grade encompassing both the head and foot stones to afford both overhead protection and side protection of these elements.

Following tree removal activities and to provide protection from general construction activities, a (6) six-foot high temporary chain-link fence is anticipated to be installed just outside the limits of the existing white wood picket fence. This chain-link fence would then receive a woven scrim material to mitigate any debris from inadvertently migrating



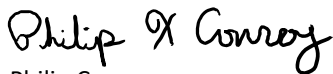
into the area. It is anticipated that both the temporary wooden enclosure and fencing as noted above will remain and be maintained through the duration of construction activities. All tree removal activities will be undertaken under the supervision of licensed arborist, with appropriate planning and care taken to mitigate the potential for any portion of the tree to fall near the protected elements.

The existing cast-in-place retaining wall is currently slated to remain in-kind as the new grades in the area should cover it.

Shawmut's assessment and proposed temporary protections included herein reflect our preliminary planning only and are based off our understanding of the existing conditions, elements requiring protection and the 60% CD Pricing Set dated August 3, 2021.

Shawmut's understands and acknowledges the need to be reverent to and protect the existing memorial grave site throughout construction. All planning for work undertaken in the vicinity of the memorial grave site will incorporate the consideration.

Sincerely,



Philip Conroy
Project Manager

pconroy@shawmut.com

