A Marker for Arlington:

Commemorating General Lafayette's Visit through West Cambridge on September 2, 1824





About The Lafayette Trail, Inc.

The Lafayette Trail, Inc. is incorporated in the U.S. state of Maryland as a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code with the mission to document, map, and mark General Lafayette's footsteps during his Farewell Tour of the United States in 1824 and 1825. It aims to educate the public about the national significance of Lafayette's Tour and to promote a broader understanding of Lafayette's numerous contributions to American independence and national coherence in preparation for the 2024-2025 tour bicentennial celebrations.

Markers are fully paid for by the William C. Pomeroy Foundation. They have final say on verbiage, but location is up to us. We are also responsible for the installation.

Most of the documentation covering West Cambridge is grounded in secondary sources.

“About one o’clock General Lafayette left town for Medford. He passed through Cambridge and West Cambridge.”

“He passed through Charlestown and West Cambridge, and arrived at Medford, about three o’clock”

(To the right, Independent Chronicle and Boston Patriot and Farmer’s Cabinet)

What we currently have is enough evidence to apply for a marker.

Visit to Medford.—He passed through Charlestown and West Cambridge, and arrived at Medford, about three o'clock. It was at a very late hour, that the citizens of Medford ascertained that the town would be honored with his presence; but their preparations to welcome him were appropriate and elegant. The houses to the westward of the Governor's residence, and the meeting-house, were filled with Ladies,—the scholars were formed in line on the street, filled with the citizens, the bells rung a peal, a salute of artillery was fired, and several arches were thrown across the road, decorated with wreaths and flowers, and flags.—One of the arches bore this inscription,

"WELCOME
To our hills and BROOKS."

Under this arch the selectmen of the town were assembled;—when Turell Tufts, Esq. their Chairman, delivered to him an address.

On his return from Medford, he called on Mrs. Amory, at Weston, and attended a numerous party given by Mrs. Lloyd, in Somerset-street.

On Saturday General La Fayette, at 10 o'clock, repaired to the DoricHall in the State House, where he received the congratulations of our patriotic citizens. We observed with pleasure, that many ladies were presented to him,with which attention the General evidently was particularly gratified. Many lads pressed in to have the privilege of taking by the hand our "NATION'S GUEST."

About one o'clock General La Fayette left town for Medford. He passed through Cambridge and West Cambridge. Considerable preparations had been made for his reception in Medford. An arch was thrown across the road in the immediate vicinity of the Meeting-house, bearing the motto:

GENERAL LA FAYETTE,
Welcome to our hills and BROOKS.

The children of the town were drawn up in a line near this arch to welcome the General He was received with loud cheerings and a discharge of artillery. The windows of the meeting house and many private dwellings were crowded, with ladies, and many places in the town were decorated with flags and wreaths. Mr. Tufts, chairman of the selectmen, addressed him, and gave him an official welcome to Medford, to which the General very feelingly replied. He then repaired to the house of late Governor Brooks, where he dined. He was loudly and repeatedly cheered. He returned to town in the evening, which he spent with a large party at Mrs. Lloyd's.

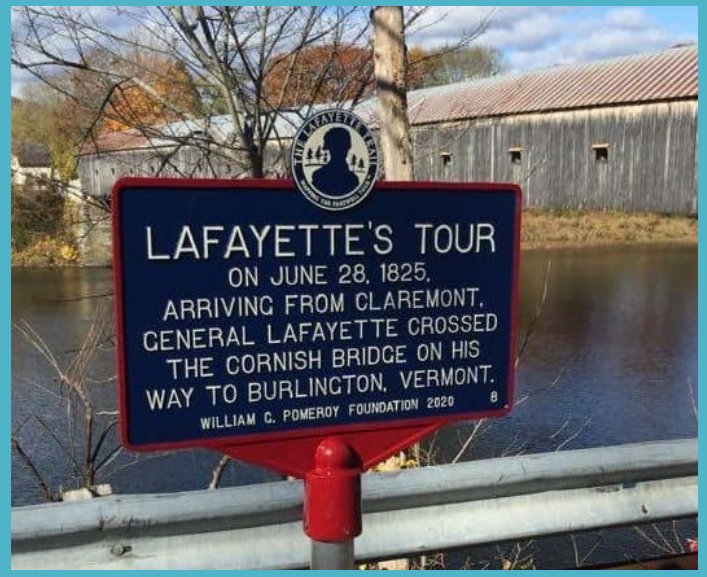
Drafted Lafayette Marker for Arlington

LAFAYETTE'S TOUR

ON SEPT. 2, 1824, GENERAL LAFAYETTE WAS WELCOMED IN THIS TOWN. LOCAL CITIZENS GREETED HIM IN FRONT OF THE MEETING HOUSE.

WILLIAM C. POMEROY FOUNDATION 2024

Examples





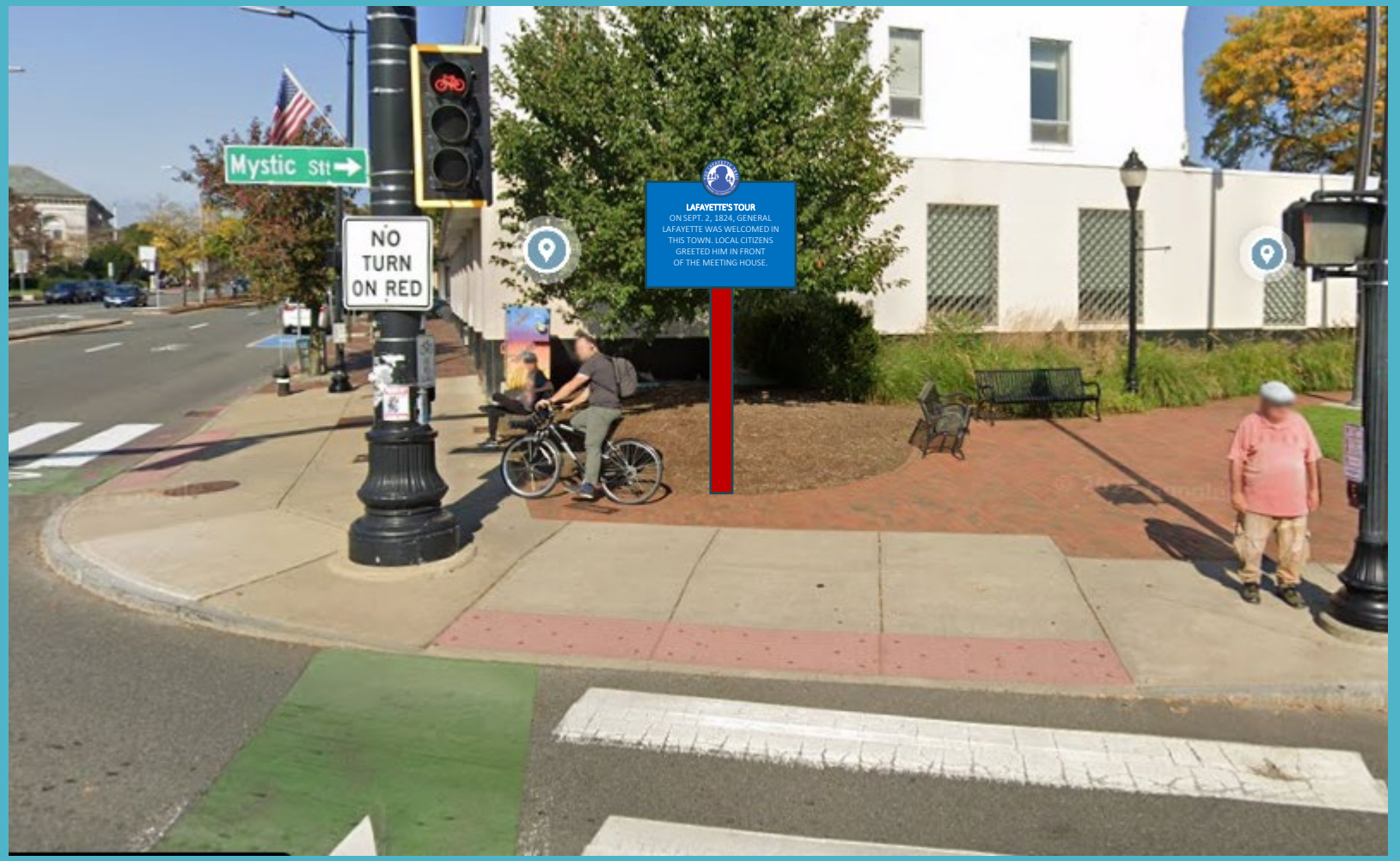


Marker Map of Greater Boston area

Arlington’s Lafayette Marker (purple)

Exact location needs to be approved by the Select Board but will ideally be located at the intersection of Mass Ave/Mystic Street. Open to suggestions of locations along Mass Ave.

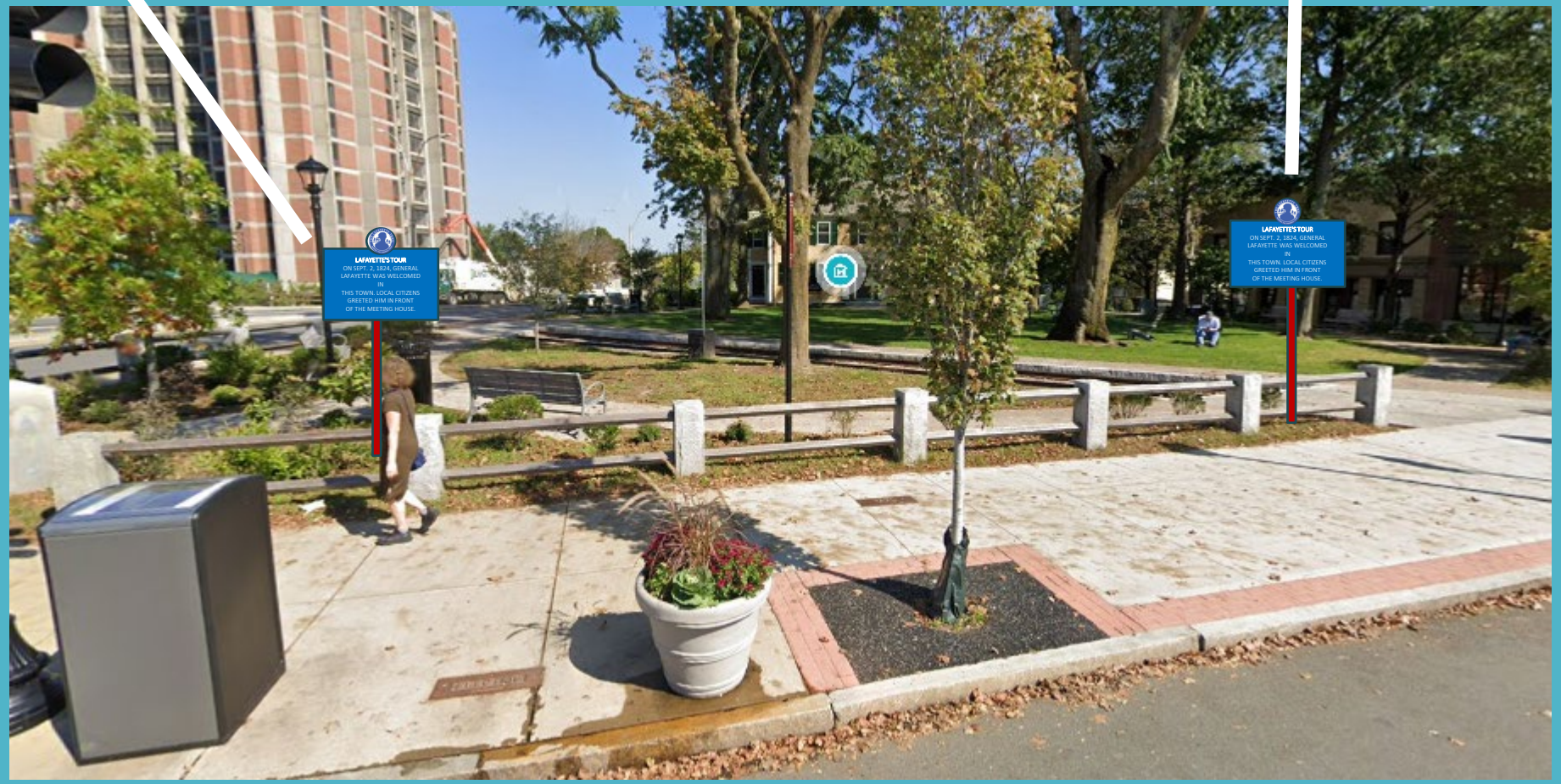
Possible Locations (NOT TO SCALE)
Location A



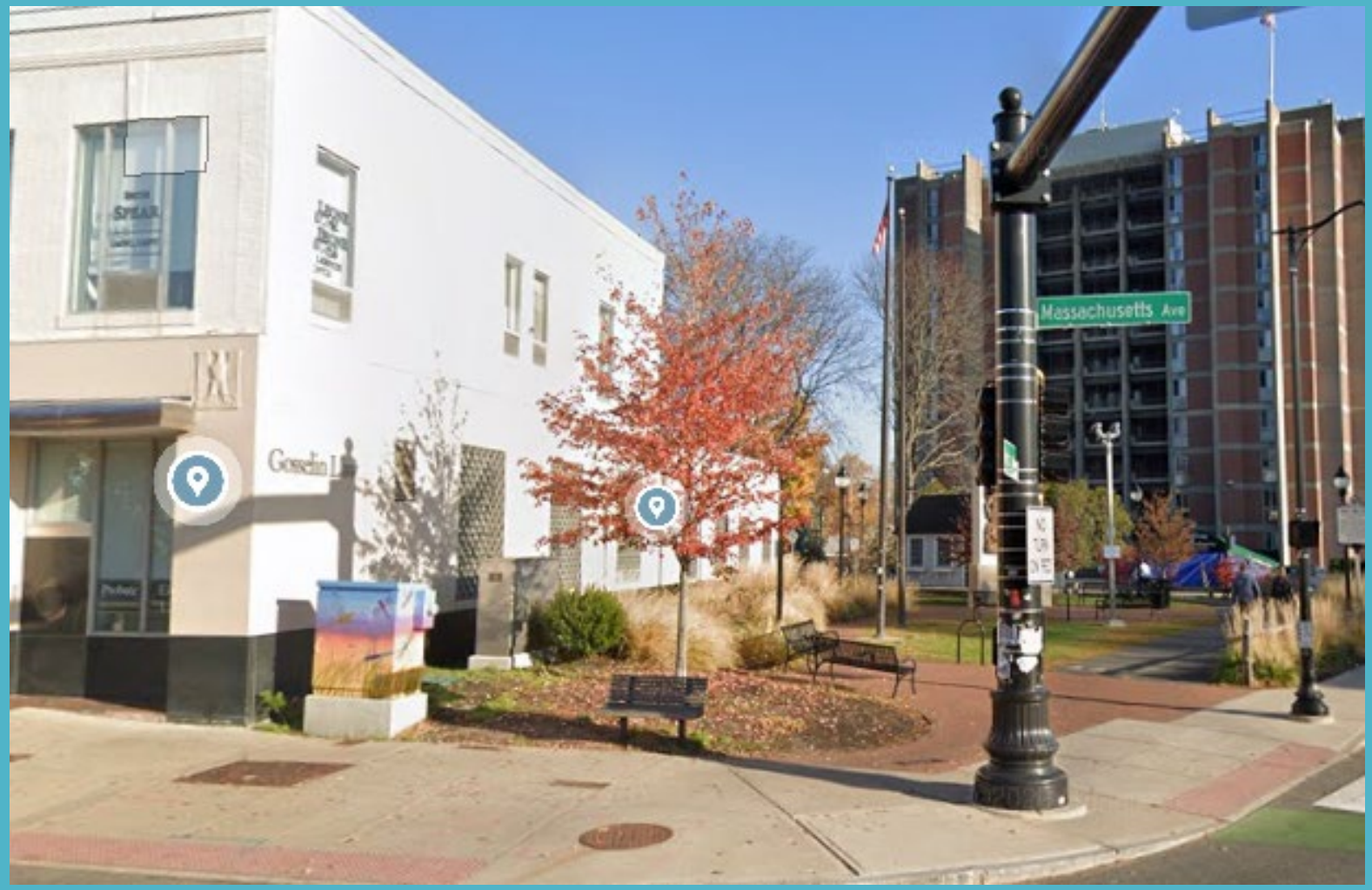
Possible Locations (NOT TO SCALE)

Location B

Location C



Other Viewpoints



Other Viewpoints



Next Steps

Feedback, Thoughts and Support (Historic Society)

Site Approval (Select Board)

Installation Confirmation (DPW)

GOAL: To have this marker installed for the 200th anniversary of this date which is September 2nd, 2024.