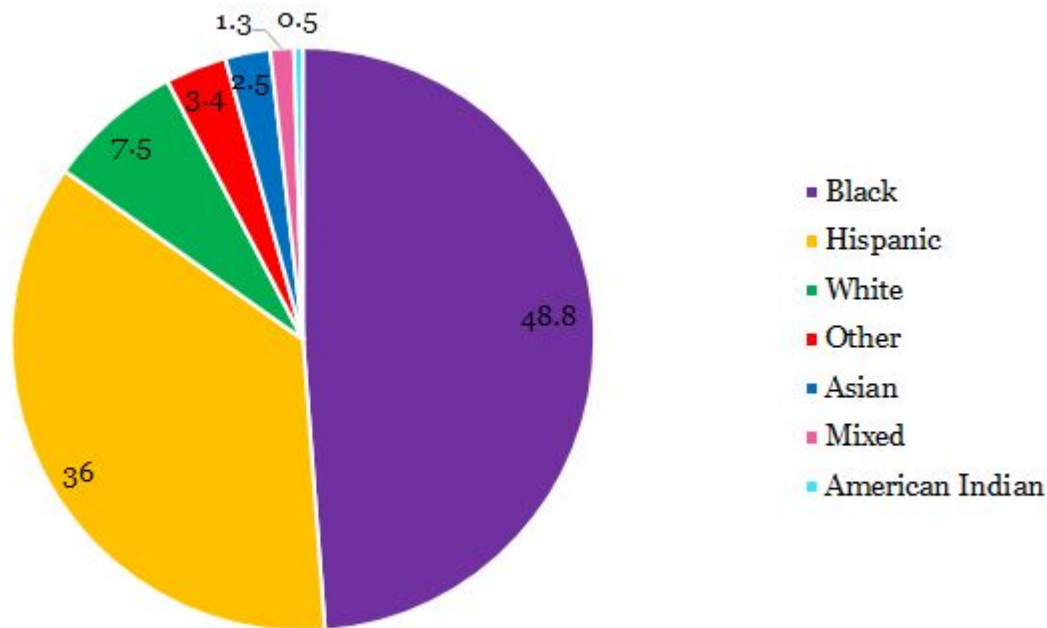


Ellis Memorial and Lower Roxbury

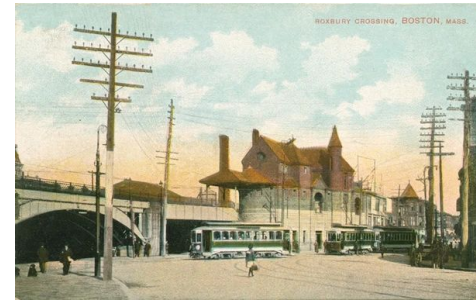
Ella Holl, Sebastian Wicke, and Lisa Wu

Demographics

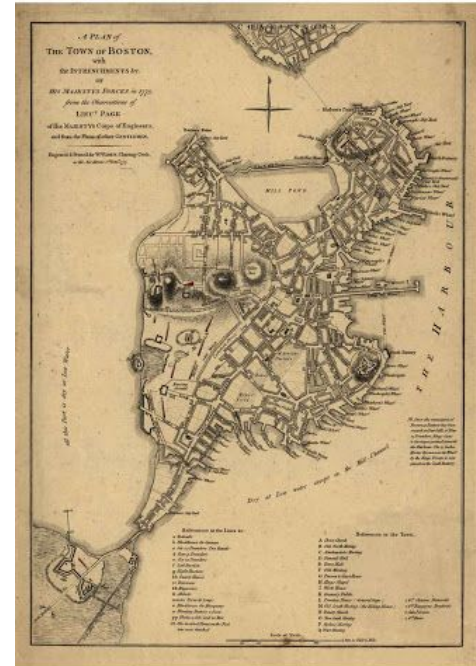
- 48.8% Black
- 36% Hispanic
- 7.5% White
- 3.4% Other
- 2.5% Asian
- 1.3% 2+ Races
- 0.5% American Indian

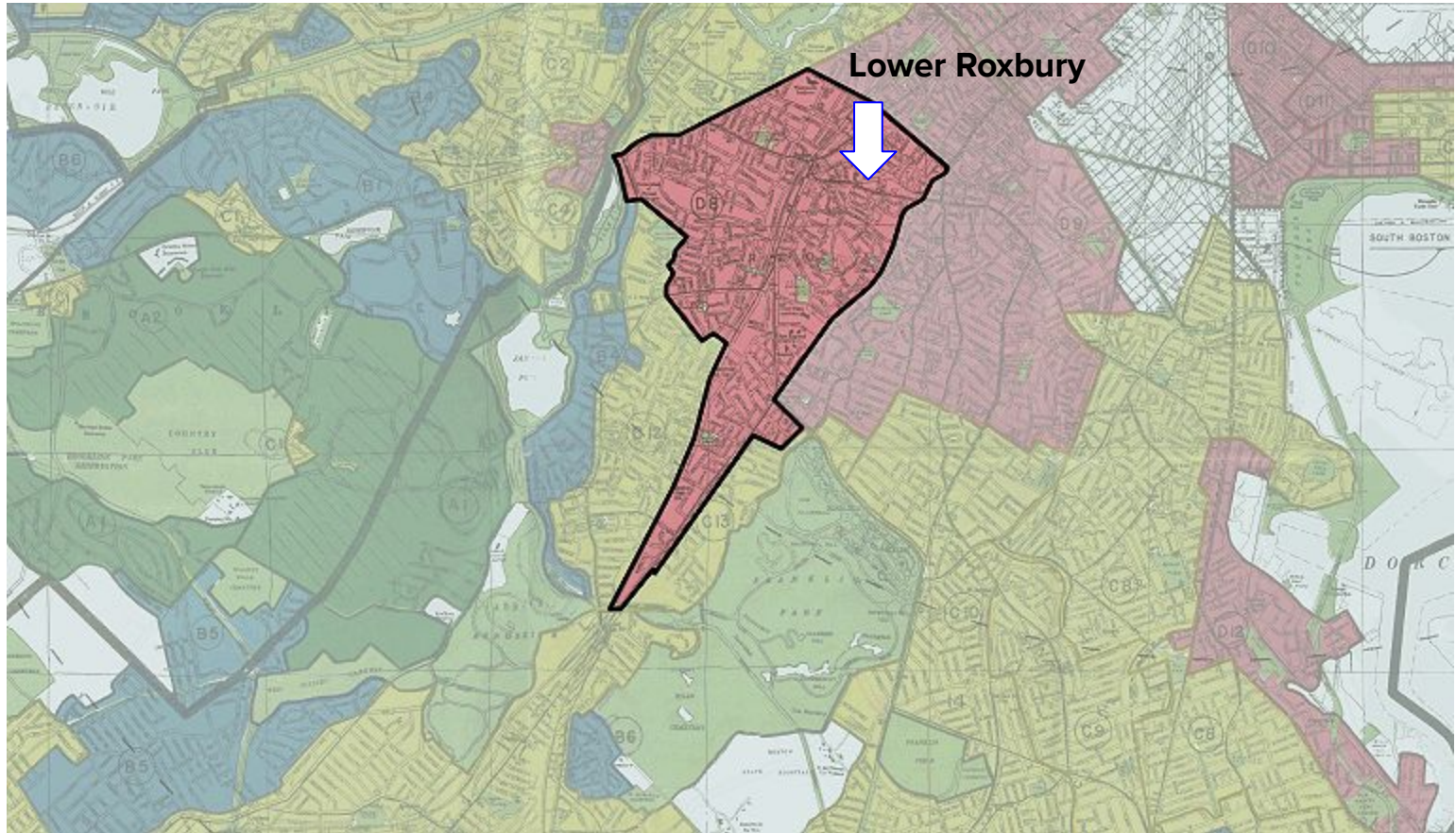


General History



- 18th-19th century: rural, with mostly farmers and few industries
- 1832: built a streetcar to Boston from Roxbury - became more suburban (controlled by the wealthy)
- 1868: annexed to Boston - became very industrial
 - Lower Roxbury was where the working class from the industries lived
- 1920s-40s: Black middle class moved to Lower Roxbury from the South due to high demand for unskilled labor for industries
- 1950s-present: Roxbury shifted from a primarily white community to a primarily black community





Lower Roxbury



Challenges

- Gentrification
 - More expensive housing and businesses being developed
 - Rising rent prices forcing out established families
 - Roxbury has a rich history and is now in a battle of preserving it from developers
 - **Janey, Resident of Lower Roxbury:** “Roxbury has been home to the black community in the city of Boston now for generations. And to try to claim that it is the South End is very problematic because it is erasing our history, it's erasing people of color from that history, from our neighborhood.”
- Neighborhood stability
 - Changed from a ‘family feel’ to not wanting to walk alone at night



Strengths

- Close vicinity to public transportation
- Strong community involvement and cooperation
 - When issues regarding the community arose, the people came together to either support or protest the proposal
 - I-95 placement
 - Trash removal
 - “Lower Roxbury is a reflection of Black thought”



Community Activists/ Leaders



- Chuck Turner
 - A Roxbury activist
 - Organized the South End Neighborhood Action Program (SNAP)
 - Protested the treatment of Madison Park (with the trash)
 - Fought urban renewal when I-95 was proposed
 - “Chuck Turner was not afraid; he led an exceptional life working for equity, empowerment, and social justice.”
 - Passed away last December at age 79.
- Joseph Leroy Walcott
 - Opened Wally’s (a bar/restaurant) - “Their establishment is unique as a Black family-run and -owned business of long standing.”
 - “He has helped many young people...and he used to have big dinners on Thanksgiving and Christmas that were free to his public.”
 - “When I was in business the kids didn’t have a piano at home and they used to come over there and practice their lesson. I made it so that it was a happy place for youngsters that didn’t have.” -Wally
 - Passed away in 1998 at age 101

Public Services and Spaces

- Madison Park Technical Vocational High School
- John D. O'Bryant School of Mathematics and Science
- Boston Public Schools Library & Media Services
- Children's Services of Roxbury
- United Neighbors of Lower Roxbury
- Eritrean Community Center
- Parks
 - Madison Park
 - Ramsay Park
 - South Bay Harbor Trail



Other Community-Based Organizations

- Madison Park Development Organization
- Lower Roxbury Community Corporation

Ellis Memorial

- Founded in 1855 by Ida Eldredge as an afternoon club for boys
- First united Presbyterian Church sells its building at 66 Berkeley Street allowing Ellis to expand in 1924
- Ellis moves into Dewitt Center in 2018
- Ellis has numerous programs for early childhood education in a diverse environment
- Kids typically have free time, then an activity, then do homework until the day is over



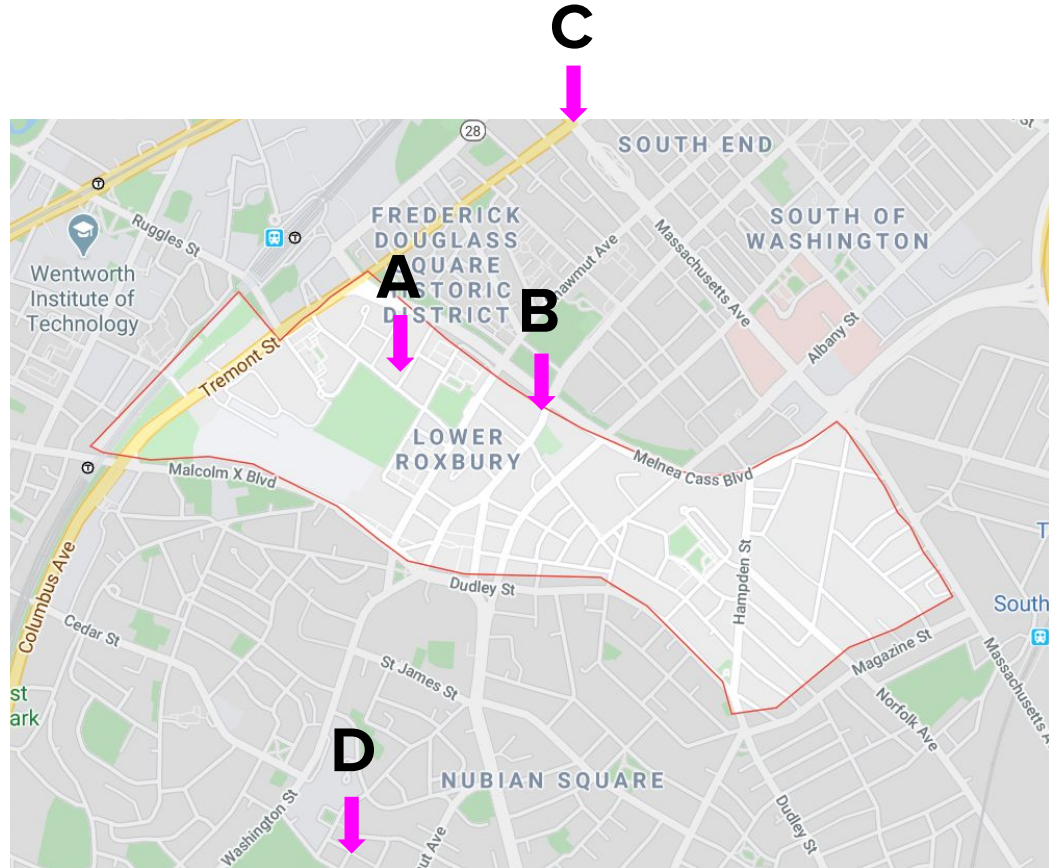
**ELLIS
MEMORIAL**
Supporting Families Since 1885



Our Community Walk

Locations:

- A. Madison Park
- B. Eliot Burying Ground
- C. Wally's Jazz Club
- D. Malcolm X's House



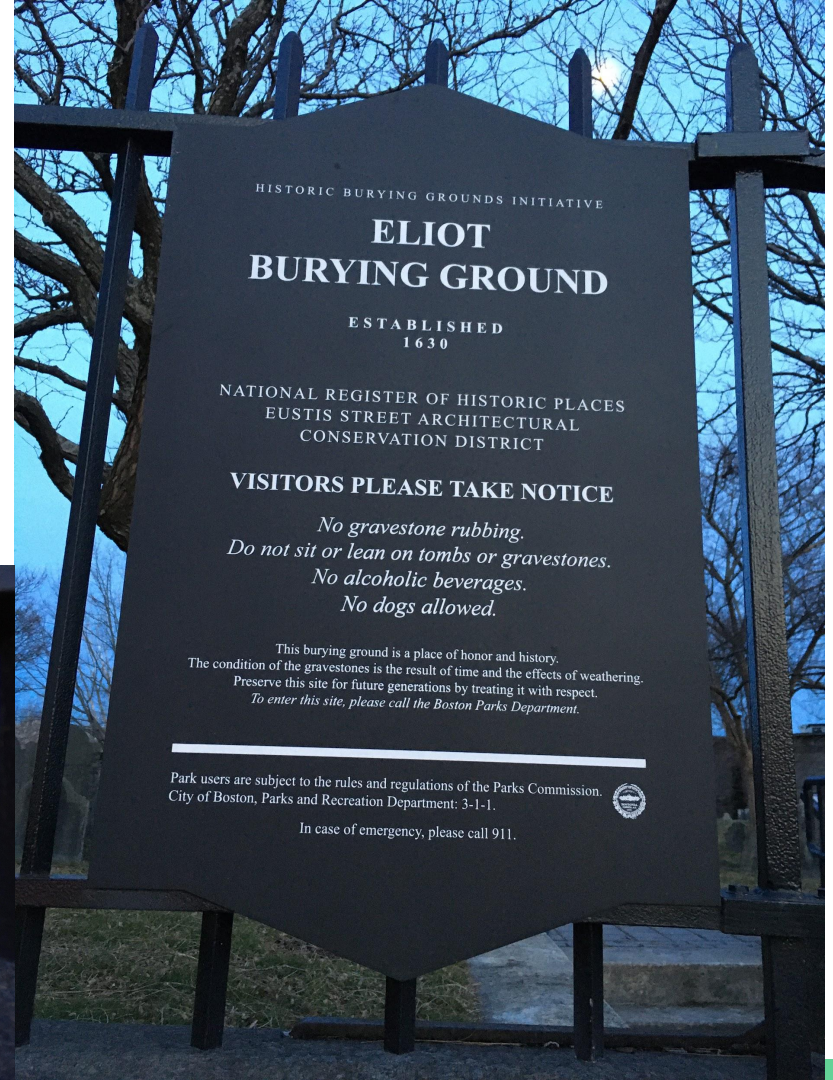
Madison Park

- Has historical importance
 - People from the suburbs kept dumping trash in the park
 - In 1966, there was an effort from the community to clean the park by burning the trash
 - Firefighters came and instead of hosing the fire, they hosed the people - mostly Black.



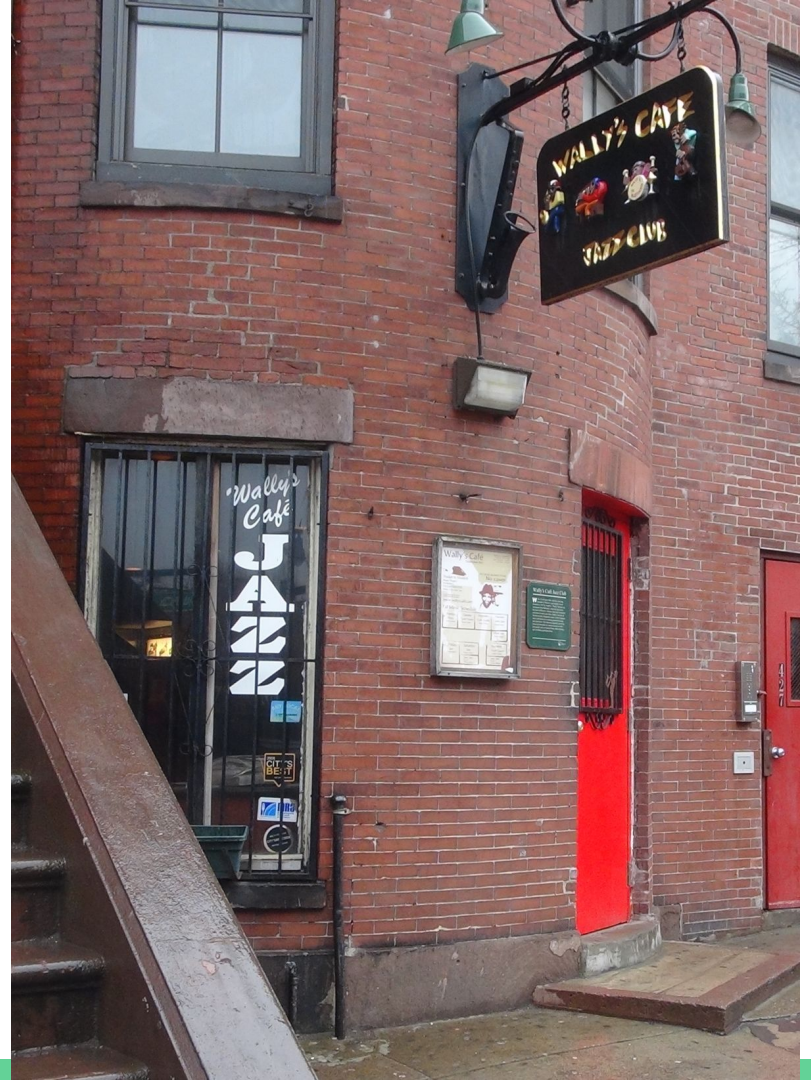
Eliot Burial Ground

- The oldest burial ground in Roxbury
- One of the three oldest of Boston's historic burying grounds with first interment made in 1633
- Many important public figures such as governors were buried at this site.



Wally's Jazz Club

- Founded in 1947 by Joseph L. Walcott who was the first African American to own a nightclub in New England
- A place for people (especially those who are black) to hang out and feel welcome
- Frequented by Malcolm X



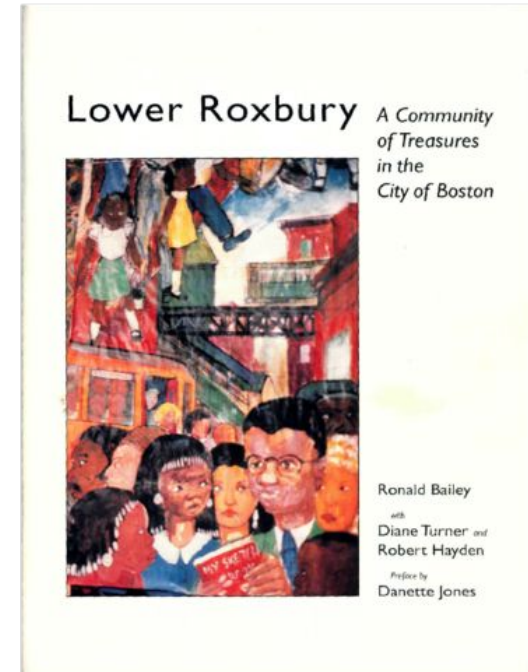
Malcolm X's Roxbury House

- Located at 72 Dale Street
- Ella Little-Collins purchased the house in 1941
- Malcolm X spent his teenage years at this house
- Got into trouble and in 1946 he began serving an eight to ten year sentence



Interesting Resources!

- Lower Roxbury: A community of treasures in the city of Boston
 - <https://archive.org/details/lowerroxbury00rona/page/2/mode/2up>
- Lower Roxbury Black History Project
 - <https://roxbury.library.northeastern.edu/explore/>



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