## Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	BKL.900	
Historic Name:	Anderson, Larz Park	
Common Name: Address:	Goddard Ave Newton St	
City/Town:	Brookline	
Village/Neighborhood:	Goddard - Weld; Larz Anderson Park	
Local No:	1	
Year Constructed:		
Architect(s): Architectural Style(s):	Platt, Charles Adams	
Use(s):	Park	
Significance:	Community Planning; Landscape Architecture; Recreation	
Area(s):	BKL.Q: Anderson, Larz Park Historic District BKL.W: Brookline Multiple Resource Area	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (10/17/1985); Nat'l Register MRA (10/17/1985)	
Building Materials(s):		

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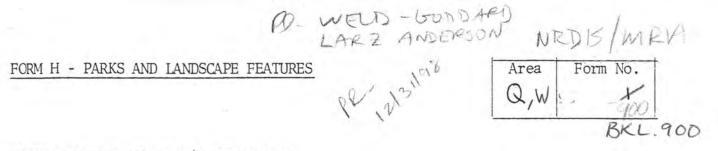
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Commonwealth of Massachusetts Massachusetts Historical Commission 220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125 www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION 294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



maicate north.

View of Boston from top of Larz Anderson

1. Town Brookline Address Newton St. & Goddard Ave NameLarz Anderson Park

2. Ownership:

x Public

Private

Present owner Town of Brookline

3. Type:

x Park

Reservation

Town Green/Common

Boulevard or Parkway

Playground or Athletic Field

Training Field

Other

4. Description:

DateEstate became park-1949 Size (approx. acreage)61.7 acres Landscape architect(s) (if known) Estate was designed by Charles Platt

Location of Plans (if known) Site Plan-Brookline Engineering Dep't Setting

In residential area; abuts Bosto Current Condition Good

Recorded by Carla Benka Organization Brookline Hist. Com. Date June 1983

VISUAL ASSESSMENT Describe topography and layout. Note components such as structures (bandstands, gazebos, sheds), monuments and fountains; landscaping features (formal plantings, bodies of water). Compare current appearance with original, if possible.

Larz Anderson Park, just under 62 acres, contains a number of topographical features, ranging from rolling hills to open meadows. The western half of the park is dominated by a lake which can be crossed by "The Causeway." At the east end of the lake is a small, classical temple. The southern and eastern sections are the locations for a number of historic structures (see individual inventory forms), the largest of which is a carriage house which accompanied the mansion which once stood in the north east, now the site of a skating rink. A parking area is located in the western section and is accessible via Goddard Avenue. A playfield, including football field and baseball diamond are also found in the western section, along with a children's play area, shelter, and picnic area. Community gardens, once "Victory Gardens" during the Second World War, are located to the south. There is also a parking area near the carriage house which is approached by a winding road which begins on Newton St. and exits onto Avon St. There is also a paved road to the picnic grounds and a walk laid HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Discuss types of use, major period of use, evaluate

importance within town. out around the lake. Remnants of the estate's gardens (pergola, urns, walls, specimen plants) are found on the hilltop, near the skating rink. There is also a tree allee in the northern section, near Goddard Avenue. Unfortunately, town-owned buildings behind the carriage house, used by the parks department, detract from the overall quality of this park.

The largest park in Brookline, Larz Anderson Park was named for the husband of Isabel Weld Anderson, a granddaughter of William Fletcher Weld I, a successful merchant and shipbuilder. Weld purchased a number of parcels of land between 1841 and 1881 to create "Weld", his country estate. Upon his death, the property passed to his son, William Fletcher Weld, II who built a house on the site of the original Weld home.as well as the carriage house. Dying heirless, Weld left the estate to his cousin, Isabel, who also inherited 17 million dollars from her grandfather. She and her husband, who served as an ambassador of the United States during the administrations of Presidents Harrison and Taft, lived in Washington for much of the year, but nevertheless lavished a great deal of care on their Brookline home. Anderson hired the landscape architect Charles Pratt to design the gardens and grounds. Its design has been characterized as reminiscent of an English Park, i.e. "a conscious manipulation of the landscape so that the eye is guided in its appreciation of the surroundings by the placement of trees or minor architectural features." One unique aspect of the park is the view of Boston which is unsurpassed by any other site on Brookline.

The main portion of the estate was bequeathed to the Town in 1948 by Mrs. Anderson whose will stipulated that the buildings and land be used for educational and recreational purposes. It is of particular interest to know BIBLIOGRAPHY

Site Plan, Olmsted Brothers, Brookline, MA. February 4, 1957; revised Jan.9, In files of Brookline Engineering Department-N2 1A 7735A 1961. Brookline Historical Commission, "Larz Anderson Park", unpublished paper by Carla Benka and Leslie Larkin, 1982

"The Carriage House and Stable - Larz Anderson Park", by Nora Lucas, unpublish ed, 1981, in files of Brookline Historical Commission

BKL. 900

## INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Brookline			Form No:	
Property	Name:Larz	Ander	son	Park

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

that the land here was once part of the first private polo field in New England, so there is historical continuity in the fact that the site is still used for recreational purposes. Although there is no polo, the park is used by both Brookline residents and people from neighboring Boston. A variety of activities take place here including: sledding, skating, cross-country skiing, picniking, kite flying, baseball, football, and quiet contemplation of nature.



Architectural remnants from Anderson estate garden. (April, 1983)

Iron fence W/flowerpot finial design. Goddard Ave, nr. Gnore St. April, 1983

Starle to Inventory form