

FORM A - AREA

Assessor's Sheets USGS Quad Area Letter Form Numbers in Area

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

110/19, 20, 21-1,25		E	190-193 & 920
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Photograph



27 Everett Street

Town: Sharon

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Sharon

Name of Area: Sharon Sanatorium/Kendall Whaling Museum

Present Use: Residential/Multi-Family

Construction Dates or Period: 1891-1950

Overall Condition: Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:

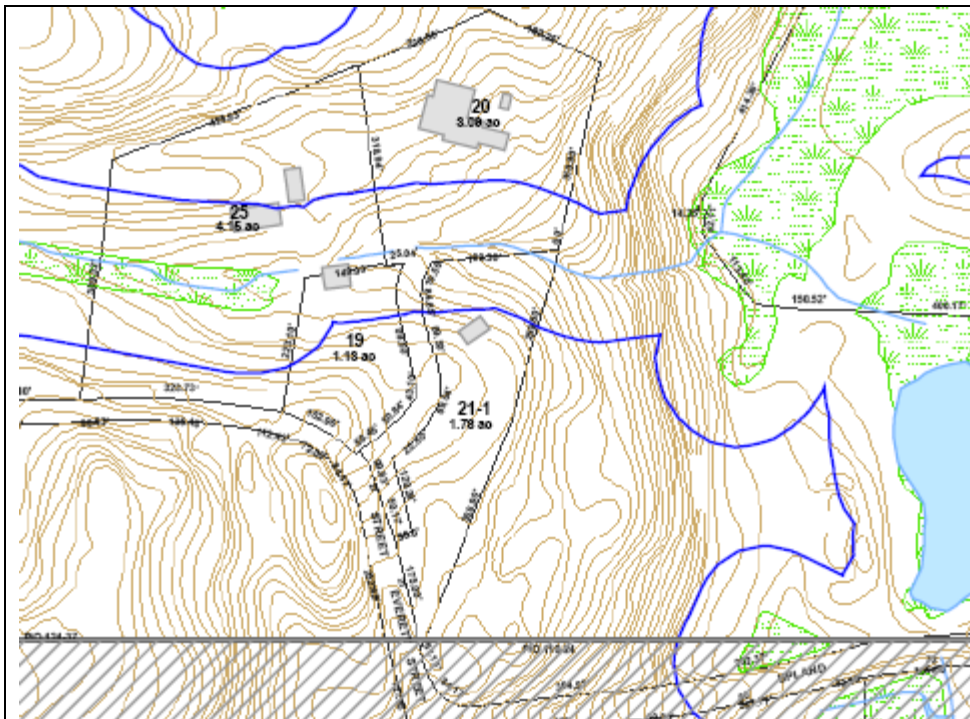
Acreage: Over 10 acres

Recorded by: Julie Ann Larry & Geoffrey E. Melhuish
Turk, Tracey, and Larry Architects, LLC

Organization: Town of Sharon

Date (*month / year*): July 2008

Topographic or Assessor's Map



___ see continuation sheet

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

SHARON

SHARON SANATORIUM

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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____ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

The former Sharon Sanatorium is located on approximately 10 acres on Moose Hill on the northeast side of Everett Street, off Upland Road approximately 8/10 of a mile west of the center of Sharon. A paved drive provides access to the property. The building complex features open rolling hills bounded by the woodlots of the Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary owned by The Massachusetts Audubon Society. The five properties located within this survey area that were historically part of the Sharon Sanatorium are the Matron's Building, constructed during the late nineteenth or early twentieth century; the X-Ray Building, possibly constructed between 1907-1912; the Children's Building (also home of the Kendall Whaling Museum from 1950-2001) constructed in 1916; and a twentieth century barn and garage. The names for the buildings were taken from a 1946 Site Plan of the Sharon Sanatorium in the archives of the Children's Hospital Boston. Several buildings associated with the Sanatorium including the original Main Building constructed 1890 and the Infirmary are no longer extant.

21 Everett Street, identified on the 1946 Sharon Sanatorium Site Plan as the Matron's Building (MHC #191), is a two-story wood-frame Colonial Revival four-square. The three-by-three bay building faces west and is setback approximately twenty feet from the drive off of Everett Street. The residence adopts a rectangular plan on a sloped lot. The building terminates in a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A single gable roof dormer is featured on the west roof plane and a shed roof dormer is featured on the north and south roof planes. A chimney pierces the south roof plane. The residence is clad with wood clapboards. A centrally located portico marks the principal entrance to the building. The gable roof is supported by slender wood columns. A single 1/1 double-hung wood sash window is located to each side of the entry. A one-bay addition projects from the north elevation. The addition is located between the first and second floors and is supported by two wood posts. The addition terminates in a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles.

23 Everett Street, identified on the 1946 Sharon Sanatorium Site Plan as the X-Ray Building (MHC#192), is a two-story dressed fieldstone building which faces south. The fieldstone is set in mortar. The three-by-two bay building is located northwest of the Matron Building. The building terminates in a side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A two-bay shed roof dormer is located on the south roof plane. The principal elevation features three infilled garage door bays, the central bay features an inset door which provides access to the building. The second floor features five 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows equally spaced across the façade. Each opening is marked by a wooden segmental arched transom.

27 Everett Street, identified on the 1946 Sharon Sanatorium Site Plan as the Children's Building (MHC #193), is a monumental two-story wood-frame Colonial Revival constructed in 1916. The main block is three bays wide and faces south. Numerous multi-story wings project from the east and west elevations; two long one-story wings terminate in a clearstory. The main block terminates in a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A hipped roof dormer is featured on the south roof plane. The dormer features a pair of 1/1 replacement sash windows. Interior chimneys pierce the east and west roof planes. Access to the block is provided by a centrally located entry. A wide concrete stair provides access to the entry. The opening is highlighted by a segmental arch door mould. Paired 1/1 double-hung replacements are located to each side of the opening.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *continued*

The garage and barn located at 11 Everett Street (MHC # 190) to the northwest of the X-Ray building are connected to each other by a one-story flat roof dressed fieldstone structure. The garage is a one-story, four-by-two bay building constructed of dressed fieldstone. The building terminates in a side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Four overhead track garage doors on the south façade provide access to the interior. A one-story fieldstone structure projects from the northeast corner of the garage and connects to the exposed foundation of the barn to the northeast. The barn is a one-and-one-half story wood frame barn constructed on a raised fieldstone foundation. The barn terminates in a side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles; a projecting intersecting gable on the east roof plane marks the principal entry. The barn is clad with painted wood clapboards. A pair of hinged barn doors provides access to the barn on the east elevation. Boarded window opening are located to each side. 1/1 double-hung metal sash windows are located on the south elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

The Sharon Sanatorium began construction of an institution for the cure of pulmonary diseases on the Hewins Farm in 1890. Maps of the area indicate that Joel Hewins owned land in the area as far back as 1831. Joel P. Hewins (1818-1897) is listed in the vital records as a farmer and boot maker. Joel married Sarah J. Dunbar on April 17, 1842. An excerpt from the diary of Dr. Alfred Bowditch, the Sanitarium's first president states that when the farm was purchased for \$1400.00 from an "anxious" Mrs. Hewins, the "little farm comprised about twenty-three acres extending from the stone wall just above and to the west of the building[on the site of the present main building], back to the heavily wooded land to the north, thence at a right angle down across the meadow up the opposite pine-covered hill to the Norwood or Walpole Road."

According to the Massachusetts Division of Inspection Records, Sharon Sanitorium was designed by the architectural firm of Longfellow, Alden and Harlow and built by Henry H. Hunt of West Newton. The firm made up of Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow (1854-1934), Frank Ellis Alden (1859-1908), and Alfred Branch Harlow (1857-1927) was one of the leading architectural firms in Pittsburgh and Boston; designing prominent buildings including Cambridge City Hall (1888), the Brattle Theatre (1889) and numerous private homes for the new industrial elite, as well as a series of Carnegie libraries in Pittsburgh. The firm dissolved in 1895 after the completion of their largest work, the Carnegie Institute (1891-1895).

Sharon Sanatorium for Pulmonary Diseases opened formally February 9, 1891 and received its first patient, one week later. The Sanatorium's purpose was to provide affordable care for patents suffering from Tuberculosis and other pulmonary diseases. During the 1880s, Tuberculosis was found to be contagious and the infected were encouraged to enter sanatoriums. Treatment at the Sharon Sanatorium included sleeping on porches in the fresh air year-round, which was a unique and unusual way to treat patients with pulmonary diseases. The rationale was that rest and good nutrition offered the best chance for cure. The Sanatorium was sited to catch the prevailing breezes on the side of Moose Hill. The 1896 annual report of the Sharon Sanatorium states that the Sharon Sanatorium "is the only one for this special purpose in New England."

Alfred Bowditch (1855-1918) was named the Sanatorium's first president, and Dr. Vincent Yardley Bowditch (1852-1929), son of abolitionist Henry Ingersoll Bowditch (1808-1892), and Dr. Robert W. Lovett were its first medical directors. In July 1901, the Sanatorium procured the services of a resident director, Dr. Walter A. Griffin. The Harvard Medical School eventually asked Dr. Griffin to join its faculty, and the Sanatorium was used as a teaching facility for Harvard's medical students.

In 1916, the facility opened the Children's Pavilion, which was reserved for children less than fourteen years of age suffering from tuberculosis. By 1938, the threat of tuberculosis was under control, and the Sanatorium began admitting patients suffering from arthritis and rheumatic fever.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE continued

In 1947 the Sanatorium closed its doors and became affiliated with Wellesley Convalescent Home and House of the Good Samaritan. In 1949, the Sanatorium integrated with Children's Hospital Boston. Shortly thereafter, in December 1950 the property was bought by Henry P. Kendall. The children's pavilion of the sanatorium was converted for use as the Kendall Whaling Museum in 1950.

The Kendall Whaling Museum was created by Henry Plimpton Kendall, an early twentieth century entrepreneur and industrialist (1878-1959) from Walpole, Massachusetts, whose company produced baby products, bandages, medical products for hospitals and homes, non-woven fabrics, and pressure-sensitive tapes. The profitability of the company allowed Mr. Kendall to amass a large collection of paintings, prints, and the tools of whaling. In 2001, the Kendall Whaling Museum merged with the New Bedford Whaling Museum and the collection and archives were moved from Sharon to New Bedford. The Children's Pavilion, the Matron's House and the X-Ray Building are still owned by the Kendall Family.

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21 Everett Street



23 Everett Street

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11 Everett Street



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