

FORM A - AREA

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

41/2

G

216-238 &
922

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

Photograph



MHC-217

Town: Sharon

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Sharon

Name of Area: Camp Gannett

Present Use: Recreational - Summer Camp (Day Use)

Construction Dates or Period: 1940s - Present

Overall Condition: Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:

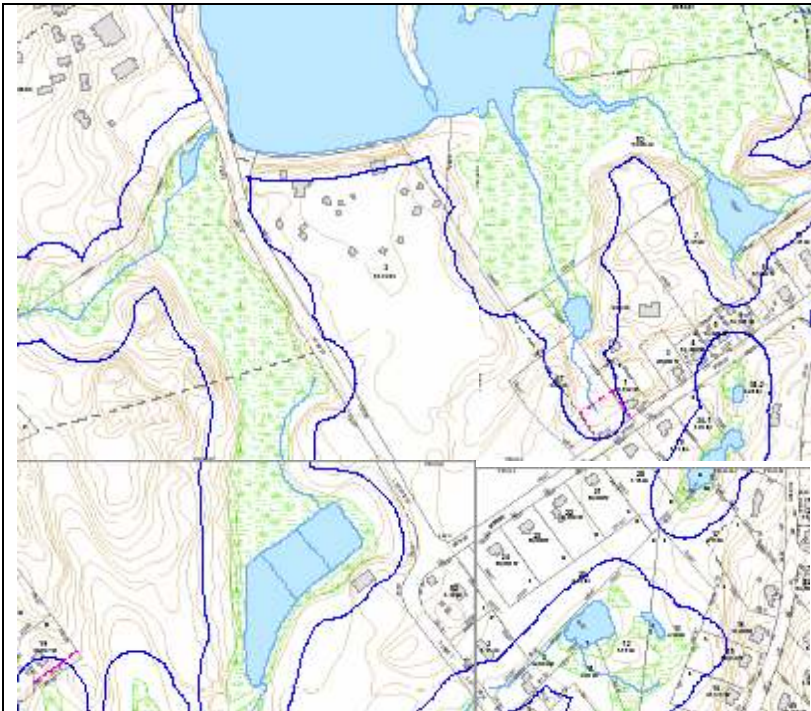
Acreage: 19.72

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

CAMP GANNETT

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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X 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.

Camp Gannett, at 174 Lakeview Street MHC Sharon Area G is located at the south end of Lake Massapoag southwest of the Sharon Community Center. Bordered by Lake Massapoag to the north and Lakeview Street to the west, Camp Gannett is a unique assemblage of mid twentieth century wood frame structures comprised of a administration building, dining hall, first-aid station, recreation hall, a caretakers cabin (late twentieth century), fourteen one-story cabins located to the south and west of the administration building, associated bathhouses, and several small wood frame storage structures. Many of the buildings in this seasonal camp maintain a high degree of architectural integrity. Several of the properties are identified by Cabin Names such as "Mystic," "Ten Hills," and "Spring Hill." The approximately twenty acre camp contains relatively flat wooded terrain with open ball fields to the south. Access is provided by a dirt drive off Lakeview Street. A small wood sign "Camp Gannett" is located at the entry.

The Administration Building is located at the west end of the camp to the north of the entry drive. The building is constructed of wood frame on a concrete pier foundation. The four-by-four bay building faces east and terminates in a side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A slender brick chimney pierces the ridge of the roof. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding. A wood door on the east elevation provides access. Six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows provide light to the interior. The windows are set within simple wood surrounds.

The Dining Hall is located east of the Administration Building. The building is constructed of wood frame on a concrete pier foundation; vertical wood lattice is located between the piers. The building adopts a t-shaped footprint and terminates in an intersecting gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Two interior brick chimney pierce the ridge of the roof; one at the south end and one to the west. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding. A wood door on the east elevation provides access; secondary entrances are located on the west elevation. Six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows provide light to the interior; a few of the windows are paired and several are highlighted by vertical board shutters. All of the door and window openings are set within simple wood surrounds. An outdoor dining area of wooden picnic tables is located east of the Dining Hall.

The First Aid Station is located south of the Dining Hall. The one-story building is constructed of wood frame on a concrete pier foundation. The three-by-three bay building faces north and terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding. A central wood panel door on the north elevation provides access. A single window opening covered by a wood awning is located to each side of the entry. Three window openings with wood awnings are located on the east and west elevations. The door and window opening are highlighted by a simple wood surround.

The Caretakers Cabin is located south of the Administration building to the south of the access drive. The one-story building is constructed of wood frame on a concrete pier foundation. The building faces north and terminates in a shallow pitched front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are clad with vertical board siding. A wood frame door on the north elevation provides access. Metal frame window openings are located to each side.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION continued

The Recreation Hall is located east of the Dining Hall. The building is constructed of wood frame on a concrete pier foundation; vertical wood lattice is located between the piers. The building adopts a rectangular footprint and terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. An exterior brick chimney is located on the south elevation. A low one-story shed roof block is located along the north elevation of the hall. The exterior walls are clad with wood clapboards. A wood door on the west elevation provides access; secondary entrances are located to the north and on the east elevation. Like the Dining Hall, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash windows provide light to the interior and a few of the windows are paired and several are highlighted by vertical board shutters. All of the door and window openings are set within simple wood surrounds.

The cabins which are located to the east and south of the administrative core of the camp are of similar construction; wood frame on concrete pier, one-story in height and terminate in front gable roofs sheathed with asphalt shingles. Additionally, the exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding and a central wood panel door with a single window opening covered by a wood awning located to each side of the entry marks the principal façade. The one difference in the cabins is several have two rather than three window openings on the side elevations. All of the door and window opening are highlighted by a simple wood surround and all of the window openings are protected by a vertical board awning.

Two bathhouses are located in the cabin area and like the cabins and the administration buildings are similar construction; however, the bathhouses feature a concrete block foundation and exhaust vents pierce the roofs of the buildings. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding and the window and door window openings are highlighted by a simple wood surround and all of the window openings are protected by a vertical board awning.

Two, one-story, wood frame, storage structures are located west of the cabins. The structures terminate in shed roofs sheathed with asphalt shingles. The exterior is clad with shiplap siding.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

Several Camps including Camp Gannett, Camp Horizon for Youth, and Camp Wonderland are located at the southern end of Lake Massapoag. These camps were created during the early twentieth century at a time when residents of Boston were seeking the good air and quiet countryside environment that the Town and surrounding communities offered. Many "Fresh Air Camps" in the area were built to help inner-city children escape the great scourge, tuberculosis that was happening at the time. Additionally, these summer camps made it possible for children to experience summer outside of the city, in a safe, fun, and nurturing camp environment.

The following information was gained through phone interviews with Jim and Bob DiMaggio. Jim DiMaggio is the current caretaker of Camp Gannett. He and his father, Dr. Robert DiMaggio attended and worked at the camp growing up and both continue to have an active participation with the camp.

Camp Gannett was originally property of the Gannett Family and was bequeathed to the Elizabeth Peabody House in the early 1900s. The camp evolved from tents (early teens) to wooden platforms (1920s) to the more permanent structures standing today. Many of current buildings were constructed after a hurricane in 1938 destroyed the wooden platforms. Twentieth century USGS maps (1941) show development of the camp off Lakeview Street in a layout that survives today.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE continued

The camp started as an overnight camp but in the 1960s was turned into a day camp. Today, Camp Gannett, or the Elizabeth Peabody House Summer Day Camp provides a camp experience to a diverse group of children from Somerville and surrounding communities. The Elizabeth Peabody House website lists activities at the camp: hiking, swimming, boating, drama, crafts, and sports with a strong emphasis on multiculturalism and environmental awareness.

Elizabeth Peabody House was founded in 1896 in the West End of Boston as a memorial to Elizabeth Palmer Peabody (1804-1894), an American educator, lecturer, author, and reformer whose dedication to the care of children initiated the first English-language kindergarten to open in the United States in 1861. The mission of the Peabody House was to provide day care for immigrants and residents but it soon expanded to include citizenship classes and social work services. The house became a center for cultural events, educational groups, and sports activities in the West End; however, due to urban renewal in the 1950s, the Peabody House relocated to Somerville. In 1979, the Elizabeth Peabody House moved to its present site at 277 Broadway. Elizabeth Peabody House programs range from Infant Care to Senior Drop-In, and include the camp and Theater Arts for school age children (in collaboration with the Somerville Theatre Cooperative).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

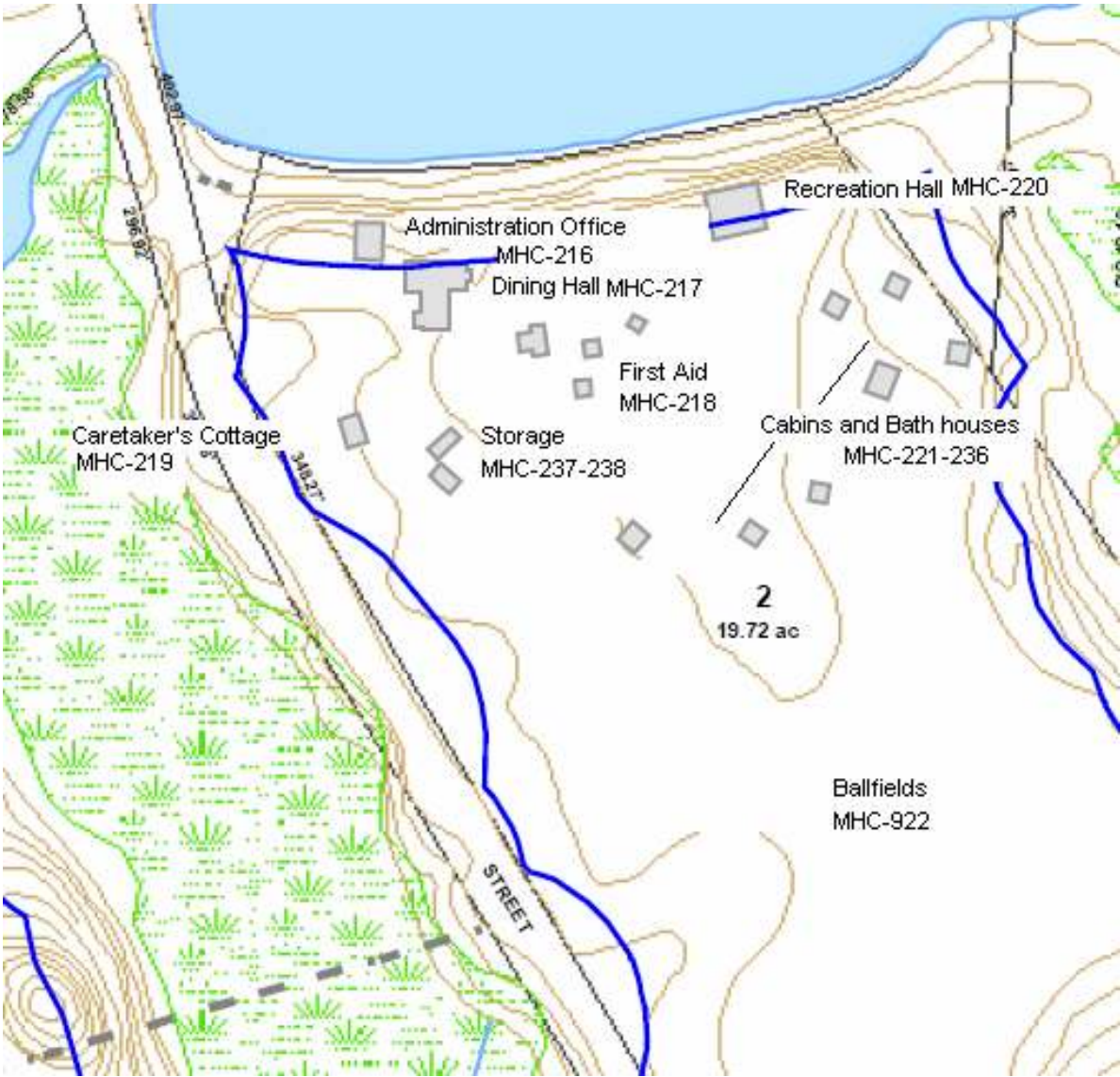
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MHC-216



MHC-218



MHC-219



MHC-220



MHC-221-234



MHC-221-234

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MHC-221-234



MHC-235-236



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