

FORM A - AREA

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

52/6

H

239-280;
923-928

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

Photograph



MHC-925

Town: Sharon

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Sharon

Name of Area: Camp Wonderland

Present Use: Recreational - Summer Camp

Construction Dates or Period: 1924 - Present

Overall Condition: Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:

Summer Staff Cabins – doors, windows, siding, and porches replaced in 2008.

Acreage: 103.22

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

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

SHARON

CAMP WONDERLAND

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.

Camp Wonderland, 186 Massapoag Street MHC Sharon Area H is located at the southeast end of Lake Massapoag; northeast of the community center. Camp Wonderland is a unique assemblage of mid to late twentieth century wood frame camp structures comprised of a several residential properties including a second empire residence (predates camp), administration buildings, camp cabins, summer staff cabins, a chapel, an amphitheater, dining hall, and conference center and several small associated wood frame buildings and storage sheds. Several of the buildings in this seasonal camp maintain a high degree of architectural integrity including the camp cabins and general office. The approximately one hundred acre camp contains rolling wooded terrain around a central open field. Access is provided by a paved drive off Massapoag Avenue. A stone and concrete pillar and timber frame entry gate marked "Camp Wonderland" is located at the west end of the drive. Paved drives throughout the camp provide access to all of the buildings.

The entry drive off of Massapoag Avenue leads to a small parking lot located approximately five-hundred feet from the entrance. Several buildings surround the lot and include the general office, camp store, and chapel to the east and a public restroom to the west.

The general office, originally used as a library for the camp, is a one-story building constructed of wood frame. The north and south end of the building are cut away forming a rough curve at each end. The building rests on a concrete pier foundation. The three-by-three bay building faces west and terminates in a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A small louvered cupola is centered on the hip and an intersecting gable on hip roof projecting from the west elevation marks the principal entrance. Access to the building is provided by a wood screen door highlighted by diamond patten sidelights to each side. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding. Paired double-hung wood sash windows are located to each side of the projecting entry. Each opening features a multi-light upper sash (diamond pattern) and a single light below.

The camp store, located south of the office is a one-story octagonal wood frame building. The building rests on a concrete pier foundation and terminates in a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A small louvered cupola is centered on the hip. Access to the building is provided by a wood screen door on the east side. Large double-hung windows are located on the remaining elevations.

The chapel, located west of the northeast of the camp office is constructed of wood frame and is sheathed with vinyl siding. The building adopts a rectangular footprint and terminates in a front gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A bell tower is located at the west end of the roof. Arched louvered openings are featured on each side of the bell tower. Access is provided by entry doors located at each end of the west elevation. A paired twelve-over-twelve light double-hung sash window is located between the entries. The window opening features an arched opening above.

An open wood framed and vinyl clad amphitheater is located northwest of the chapel and a wood frame recreation hall is located to the north. The eleven by two bay recreation hall faces southwest on a slight hill overlooking the ball fields. The building terminates in a side gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. The exterior walls are clad with wood clapboards. A

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gabled entry porch centered on the southwest elevation provides access. Twelve-over-twelve, double-hung wood sash windows provide light to the interior. The windows are set within simple wood surrounds.

Cabins for both summer staff (six) and camp attendees (twelve) are located to the northeast and are separated from the General Office and Chapel by large open playing fields. The six summer staff cabin have recently been refurbished with new doors, windows, siding, and decks. The one story cabins are set on the west side of a paved drive leading to the camp cabins. The twelve camp cabins are constructed of wood frame on pier foundations. The one-and-one-half story cabins terminate in roofs sheathed with asphalt shingles, intersecting gable roofs, gable on hip, and hipped roofs are present. The exterior walls are clad with shiplap siding. Porches formed by the overhang of the roof above mark the principal entry to the building. Secondary entrances are typically marked by one-bay entry porches. Double-hung wood sash windows provide light to the interior. All of the door and window openings are set within simple wood surrounds.

Northwest of the parking lot are several large residential properties including the "White" house, the "Brown" house and the "Lakeview" House. The "White" house is the one property believed to predate the camp.

The "White" house is one-and-one-half story, wood frame, Second Empire. The house sits atop a hill overlooking Lake Massapoag below. The building terminates in a mansard roof, typical of the style; dormers are featured on the lower plan of the roof. Each dormer is marked by a gable roof. A wrap-around porch is featured on the west elevation and continues down the north and south elevation of the building. The roof of the porch is supported on wood posts resting on a raised wood deck. Decorative wood brackets are featured at the eave.

A one-story barn is located north of the residence. The barn terminates in a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Gable roof dormers are featured on each roof plane; a louvered cupola is centered on the hip. The walls of the barn are clad with wood clapboards. Access is provided by a paired garage door opening on the west end of the south elevation. A single entrance flanked by a double-hung wood sash window and a multi-light casement is located to the east.

A stone with bronze marker is located south of the "white" house. The marker reads "Wonderland Camp --Secured through the Foresight, Faith, and Labors -- of Commissioner and Mrs. William A. McIntyre -- October 1924 -- A Visible Symbol of High Devotion."

South of the "White" House is the "Brown" house. The "Brown" House, like the "White" House sits prominently on the hill overlooking the lake; a full width porch across the west elevation provides a nice viewing location. The building is constructed of wood frame and terminates in an intersecting gable roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. Large front facing gables centered on the east and west elevations mark the principal entries to the building. Each gable is flanked by a smaller in scale shed roof dormer featuring a pair of six-light wood frame awning sash windows. A slender brick chimney pierces the north end of the roof. The exterior walls are clad with wood shingles.

A two-story barn is located east of the residence. The barn terminates in a hipped roof sheathed with asphalt shingles. A gable roof wall dormer is centered on the west roof plane. A paired wood panel door in the gable provides access to the loft. A wood frame belvedere is centered on the hip. The belvedere terminates in a hipped roof; a galloping horse weathervane is featured at the peak. Paired 2/1 double-hung wood sash windows are located on each elevation. The walls of the barn are clad with wood clapboards. Access is provided by an overhead garage doors located at the north and south ends of the east elevation. Three double-hung wood sash windows are located between the two openings.

To the west of the barn and south west of the "Brown" house is the "Lakeview" house. Constructed in 1975, this building comprises three connected rectangular wood frame blocks under three connected shallow pitched gable roofs. The exterior walls are clad with plywood sheathing. Metal frame doors on the east and west elevations provide access to the building.

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North of the parking lot is a small grouping of wood framed buildings which are currently used as the camp director's residence, the health office, and summer staff housing. The buildings are all one-story wood frame buildings and terminate in hipped roofs sheathed with asphalt shingles. Exposed rafters are featured at the eave. Double-hung wood sash windows provide light to the interior. All of the door and window openings are set within simple wood surrounds.

To the south of the parking lot, separated by Sucker Brook, are a conference center, conference center annex, dining hall, and conference center director's residence. A wood frame bridge provides access to the conference center complex from the parking lot. All of these buildings were constructed during the late twentieth century and feature vinyl siding. Many of the door and windows on the buildings are replacements.

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. The largest, Camp Wonderland, a Salvation Army Fresh Air Camp was established in 1924 by Commissioner William A. McIntyre. William McIntyre is best remembered in the history of the Salvation Army as one of two, the other being N. Lewis, young Army officers who were instrumental in establishing the Salvation Army Christmas collecting kettle (red Kettle) on the east coast in 1897. The kettle had been used in the West Coast area since 1895.

The earliest recorded camp programs operated by The Salvation Army were conducted in England in 1898. The following years saw the development of "Poor Children's Picnics", an extensive program where underprivileged children from the city were given a day in the country. As time went on, camps were organized, extending the outing period to a week or ten days. "The purpose was to build up the children with good food and lots of fresh air. Each child was weighed at the time of arrival and again at departure time, with success of the program gauged largely on the poundage gained." (History of Salvation Army and online at salvationarmy.ca)

Twentieth century USGS maps (1941) show development of the camp following the main road through the camp and ending at the cabins to the east. According to the Massachusetts Division of Inspection Records, several of the buildings at the camp have been designed by local architects. These include the health unit (1926) by L.P. Guin; the Dining Room (1925) by William R. Dimock; and the Chapel (1948) Gordon Robb. The Dining Hall was razed by fire in 1990. William R. Dimock also designed William A. McIntyre's Colonial Revival house (1924) at 35 Hawthorn Road, Brookline, Ma (MHC # BKL 1115) and Gordon Robb is best known for his work on the Metropolitan State Hospital Complex in Waltham and Lexington, MA (MHC# WLT 1000- 1008; LEX 619-625); the Northhampton State Hospital (MHC #s NTH 1156 – 1158); and restoration work on the Judge Jonathan Corwin (Salem Witch) House at 310 Essex Street in Salem (MHC # SAL 1510) and Thomas Pickering House to name a few.

One property, the caretaker's house predates Camp Wonderland. Constructed in the Second Empire style, the house dates from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The property first appears on 1876 Sherman Map of Sharon as the Henry T. Billings residence and on the detailed 1876 Map of Sharon Heights as Weatherill. Henry T. Billing (b 1834) is listed in the 1870 census as a farmer and railroad contractor; he is not identified in the 1880 census. The 1888 map shows the property as the Potter Residence. This may refer to Charles Potter (b 1862) and his wife, Mary (b 1863) who are listed in the 1900 and 1910 Census as living in Sharon; no address is given.

Today, Camp Wonderland is located on 110 acres of land on the shores of Lake Massapoag and provides inner city and low income children an overnight camp experience which provides for the opportunity for each camper to contribute to and benefit from a group living experience. Activities at the camp include hiking, swimming, boating, crafts, sports and a ropes course.

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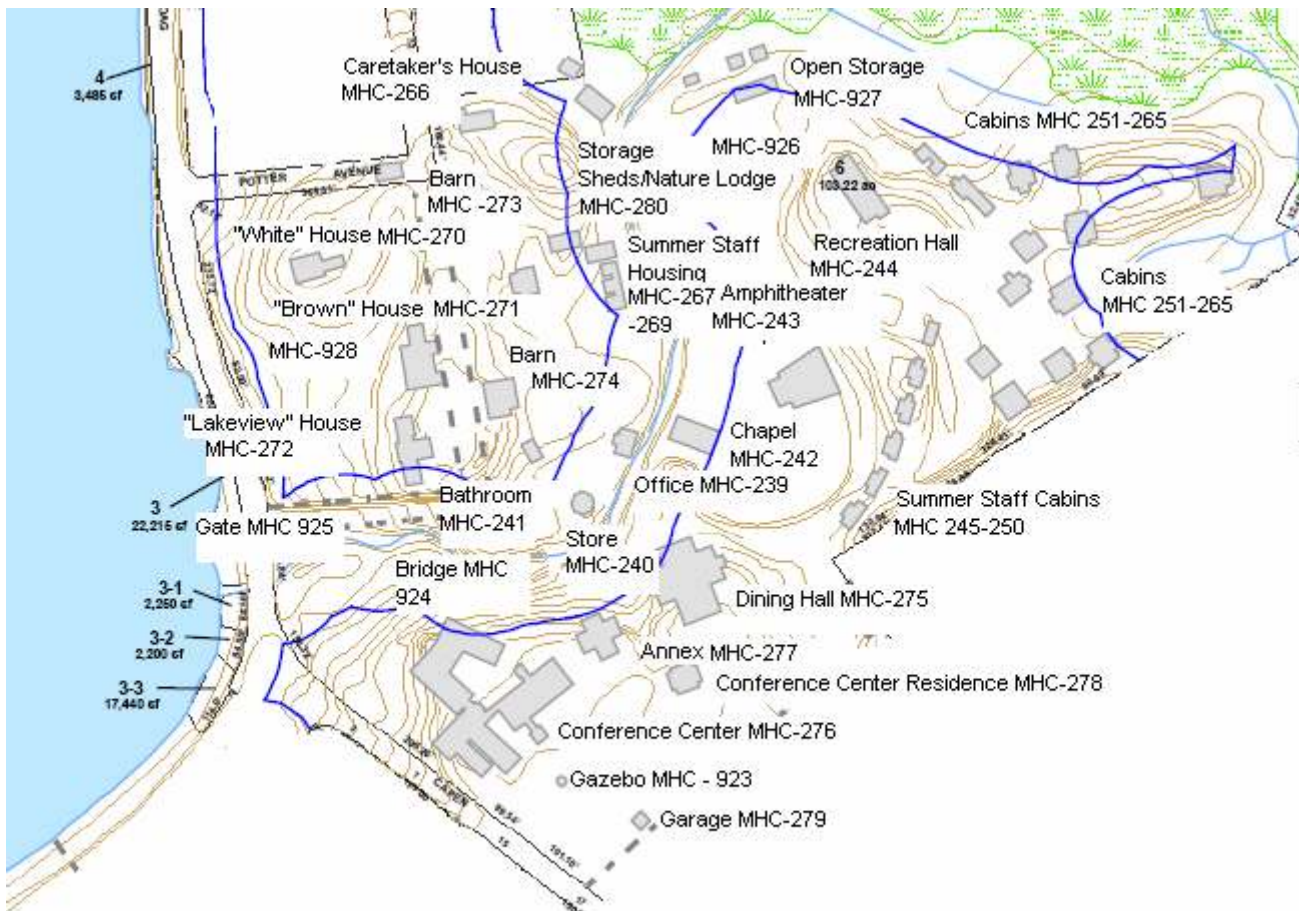
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MHC-240



MHC-241



MHC-242



MHC-243



MHC-244

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MHC 245-250



MHC 245-250



MHC 251-265



MHC 251-265



MHC-266



MHC 267-269

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MHC-270



MHC-271



MHC-272



MHC-273



MHC-274



MHC-275

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MHC-924



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