

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Dorchester Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number bounded by Dorchester Avenue, Richmond, Adams and Richview Sts. not for publication

city or town Boston (Dorchester) vicinity _____

state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02124

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Brona Simon January 11, 2008
Signature of certifying official/Title Brona Simon, Executive Director Date
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
- ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
- ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ☐ removed from the National Register
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patrick Anderson

Date of Action

2/20/2008

Dorchester Park
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

- ☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☒ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

_____ building
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects
_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: outdoor recreation (park)

LANDSCAPE: park (city park)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: outdoor recreation (park)

LANDSCAPE: park (city park)

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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7. Narrative Description

Dorchester Park is a 28.45-acre park that was established in 1891 as part of the Olmsted-designed Boston Park system and has remained in active use as a neighborhood park since that time. It was conceived as a naturalistic park that would serve as a retreat from the growing city. It is also closely linked with the history of the Dorchester Lower Mills community. The well-preserved municipal park retains strong historical associations and distinctive landscape features dating from the late 19th century to the present. In addition, the 1734 mile marker embedded in the Adams Street wall is a rare surviving feature associated with the early history of Dorchester.

Park Setting

Dorchester, one of Boston's oldest neighborhoods, is in the southeastern part of the city. Dorchester Park is located in the southern end of Dorchester in an area known as Lower Mills, which was the center of early industrial activity along the Neponset River, the boundary between Boston and Milton. Dorchester Avenue, a major north/south route through Dorchester, runs along the western edge of the park where the major entrance is located. It is a busy two-lane road that includes a mix of residential, commercial, and institutional uses. While the earliest part of the road dates to 1805, most of the buildings in the vicinity of the park are from the late 19th and early 20th century. Adams Street, one of the oldest roads in Dorchester, is a wide two-lane street that forms the southeastern boundary of the park. Three other roads also abut the park: Richmond Street, a residential street to the south; Richview Street, a narrow residential street to the east; and Hutchinson Street, a narrow residential street to the north.

Several important Dorchester institutions are located in the immediate vicinity of the park. Most prominent is St. Gregory Roman Catholic Church at 2223 Dorchester Avenue, opposite the main entrance to the park. St. Gregory Parish was established in 1862, with the first church built a few years later. The present church includes an earlier building that was extensively rebuilt between 1895 and 1902. It is an imposing Gothic Revival structure of red brick with a central gable flanked by round towers that make it a major landmark along Dorchester Avenue. Diagonally across from St. Gregory Church at the southwest corner of Dorchester Park is St. Gregory Elementary School at 2214 Dorchester Avenue, a Tudoresque institutional building constructed in 1915. Adjacent to it is the former St. Gregory Convent, a three-story red brick Georgian Revival building constructed in 1920-21. The convent now functions as part of the school, which serves a diverse population of approximately 200 students who are active users of the park.

Abutting Dorchester Park at its northwest corner is the Caritas Carney Hospital at 2100 Dorchester Avenue. Although there has been a medical facility on this site since the 19th century, Carney Hospital was not established here until 1953 and has expanded considerably over the past 50 years. It is now a 197-bed community hospital. In 1967 the hospital acquired a 4.2-acre parcel of land that was formerly part of Dorchester Park and is now used as a hospital parking lot.

Two cemeteries are also located in the immediate vicinity of the park. Dorchester South Burying Ground, established in 1814, is northwest of the park on the opposite side of Dorchester Avenue. It is a small city-owned cemetery that is

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managed as one of Boston's historic burying grounds. Southeast of the park on the opposite side of Adams Street is Cedar Grove Cemetery, a 50-acre privately-owned rural cemetery that extends south towards the Neponset River.

Another important institution is the Cedar Grove subway yard north of the park that is owned by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). It is in a former quarry site that was originally proposed as part of the park but was never acquired. It is at a much lower elevation than the park (a drop of at least 20') and is used for storage of trains on the Ashmont branch of the MBTA Red Line, which runs east of the park with Hillsdale Street in between.

Dorchester Park is also surrounded by the Lower Mills residential neighborhood, a modest working class area that has traditionally included many immigrants. Housing along Dorchester Avenue west of the park represents a diverse collection of mid-late 19th century residences including Queen Anne one- and two-family dwellings and triple-deckers. Adams Street, southeast of the park, exhibits a range of housing development from pre-1850 Greek revival to Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles. Richmond Street south of the park includes 1880s and 90s Queen Anne houses at its western end and early 20th century Colonial Revivals and Capes at its eastern end. In almost all cases, lots are small and tightly spaced, with houses close to the street. Richview Street to the east of the park is a small enclave with houses in several late 19th and early 20th century styles. The Hutchinson Street area to the north consists of smaller 20th century houses on compact lots.

Dorchester Park

Dorchester Park is an irregularly shaped park that includes only limited street frontage. Main access points are at Dorchester Avenue and at Adams Street, with secondary access at Richmond Street, Richview Street and Hutchinson Street. Most of the park is separated from the adjacent residential and institutional properties by a noncontributing **chain-link fence**, which is hidden in the forest and is not generally visible. The overall character of the park is that of a natural forest landscape with relatively minor embellishments, in keeping with the Olmsted firm's idea of preserving natural scenery as a contrast to and relief from the city. The topography is rolling with numerous outcrops of Roxbury conglomerate (sometimes referred to as Roxbury puddingstone). Much of the park is wooded, with primarily deciduous trees, including a large number of oaks. In most of the wooded areas there is a natural upland forest understory. Large trees that act as focal points in the landscape have been left as specimens. Interspersed with the forest are open areas in several locations to accommodate recreational activities, but these are generally subordinate to the woodland, except for the baseball field at the northern end of the park.

A curvilinear **path system** (photos 1&2) that follows the topography provides circulation throughout the site. It was originally soft-surfaced but is now paved with bituminous and varies in width from about 6' to about 8'. In most cases the woodland has been cleared back from the trail so the area along the path is mowed turf with undulating edges. The present path system includes some, but not all, of the paths shown in the 1895 Olmsted plan. Those that exist today are excellent examples of the firm's design approach for a naturalistic park because of the curvilinear alignment of the path in response to the topography and the cleared edges that create an opening in the landscape, a feature that is often lost over time.

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The main path consists of a narrow loop beginning at the Dorchester Avenue entrance at the southwest corner of the park. One leg of the loop runs near the southern edge of the park. Near its western end it connects to a short path leading out to Richmond Street via a 20' wide right-of-way that runs between two residential properties (this entrance was added in 1903). The main path continues easterly through the woods and meets another path that extends south to Adams Street near the southeastern corner of the park. The Adams Street path is wider than the rest of the path system and is sometimes used for service access. Near the intersection of the two paths is a short connecting path that goes to a set of concrete steps leading up to Richview Street, which is at a slightly higher elevation. After meeting the Adams Street connector, the southern loop turns north towards the baseball field where it dead ends. The northern leg of the loop begins at the stone wall at the southwestern edge of the large baseball field where there is a short set of steps in the retaining wall that lead into the woods. From there the path continues southwest roughly parallel to the southern leg of the loop, joining the southern leg near the main Dorchester Avenue entrance at the southwest corner of the park. There is also a secondary two-way loop path that extends north along Dorchester Avenue to a northern entrance near Carney Hospital. This secondary loop was shown on the 1895 Olmsted plan and was modified slightly in the early 1990s.

The Olmsted firm proposed no active recreational facilities but did include a series of open areas that could be used for picnics or informal play activities. Over time, some of these have become more formal recreation spaces. Most of the existing recreational facilities are subordinate to the larger woodland character of the park. While the park is perceived as a unified whole, there are several distinct sub-areas.

Western Woodland

The Dorchester Avenue edge of the park is defined by the **Dorchester Avenue wall (NR#1, photo 3)**, a roughly 4' retaining wall of seam-faced granite extending approximately 560' along the western edge of the park, which was constructed in 1899. The parkland inside the wall is about 4' above street level and has irregular topography with several rock outcrops. There are a few large trees, mostly oaks, which are scattered with areas of grass in between. This part of the park is relatively open and has good views out to Dorchester Avenue. The secondary path loop referred to earlier extends through this area, with entrances at the north and south ends and benches overlooking the street. This edge is located between St. Gregory School and Carney Hospital, and is one of the primary places where the park connects with the city. It is also one of the most heavily used parts of the park. The southern entrance from Dorchester Avenue is located adjacent to St. Gregory School. The entrance was widened in the early 1990s and now includes a new concrete wing wall. Around the same time a new handicapped ramp was added at the northern end to provide a connection to Carney Hospital.

The area inside the south entrance was redesigned in the early 1990s to provide a circular seating area with sturdy benches with wooden seats and backs, and metal bases. These are the same style that is found along Dorchester Avenue and all are heavily used. Near the main entrance is the new **children's playground (NR#2)** installed in the 1990s and recently renovated. It includes contemporary playground equipment in two adjacent clusters, one for very young children and one for slightly older children. The entire area is enclosed by a black chain link fence and is wooded so it blends well with the park. There are a few late 20th century reproduction acorn lights here, the only section of the park that is lit.

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East of the Dorchester Avenue area is the western woodland, which is entirely interior to the park except for a narrow connector leading south to Richmond Street. The primary character of this area is deciduous woodland with a predominance of oaks and low understory. While the loop path runs through this area, there are no built features. The character of this area is primarily natural, but it has been subtly enhanced to make the area easily accessible to the public and to heighten the experience of the visitor. This is done by curvilinear paths that carry visitors through the space creating what Olmsted called "passages of scenery." The views along the paths are created by selective thinning of the trees and by focal features such as specimen trees and rock outcrops. This is an area of particularly high historic integrity. However, it is somewhat separate from the rest of the park because Carney Hospital juts out into the park (see existing conditions map). Cars from the adjacent hospital parking lot are fairly well screened during summer months but are more visible in the winter.

Central Woodland

The central part of the park is largely woodland and is similar in character to the western end. It is the widest part of the park and the furthest removed from the city. The loop path runs through this area and there are remnants of other paths as well. In the middle is a large clearing that includes two adjoining **tennis courts (NR# 3)**. One of these was previously a basketball court but it was converted to tennis because the remote location was difficult to supervise. Today the courts are heavily used for a children's recreational tennis program. There is also a swing set nearby which appears to be left over from the late 20th century, but does not meet current safety standards and is not heavily used. The siting of the tennis courts is an unusual integration of facilities into the interior of a natural woodland park. Two other tennis courts that were previously located in the northern part of the park near Hutchinson Street have been removed. There was also an early park storage building (sometimes referred to as the clubhouse) located near the present tennis courts, which was removed sometime after 1965. Like the western woodland, this area retains a high level of integrity despite the presence of the tennis courts.

Adams Street Area

This area, located in the southeastern part of the park, includes the frontage along Adams Street as well as the path connecting Adams Street with the baseball field and the eastern edge of the park along Richview Street. It is distinguished from most of the rest of the park by its more open landscape, characterized more by lawn areas than by forest.

Adams Street is the second major access point to the park. Along the street edge is the **Adams Street wall (NR# 5)**, built in 1899 that is approximately 236' long and is similar in style and material to the Dorchester Avenue wall (although it is a freestanding wall rather than a retaining wall). It is roughly 3' tall and has two openings, one at the western end that is a narrow break in the wall to allow pedestrian access and another wider access point at the eastern end where the connector path meets Adams Street. This entrance is used by the Park Department as access for emergency and service vehicles and has a utilitarian metal swing gate to eliminate unauthorized access. Built into the western end of the Adams Street wall at

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its western end is a **mile marker (NR#6)** that dates to 1734. The inscription, which is roughly carved and difficult to read, says "7 miles to Boston townhouse, 1734" followed by the letter H. A 1941 Historic American Buildings Survey report indicates,

"The 7-mile stone was on the southeast side of Adams Street, Dorchester a few rods from the corner of Richmond Street, where, in 1887, it was found built into a wall. A few years later, perhaps in 1895, it was removed across the street by the Park Commission and built into the stone wall of Dorchester Park, opposite 1040 Adams Street . . . It is purple sandstone, 2'8" high, 1'9" wide, and approximately rectangular in shape."

One of Olmsted's original clearings that was intended for informal play was located along Adams Street and now functions as a **Little League field (NR#4)** that is used primarily by younger children. A backstop and drinking fountain have been added but the area otherwise remains informal with turfed infield and no permanent markings on the field. The topography is uneven and the northern edge is wooded.

The Adams Street path travels in a fairly straight line north along the eastern edge of the park towards the baseball field. The path passes up a gentle slope and through a relatively wide swath of lawn with the central woodland to the west. On the east is a wooded slope leading up to the Richview neighborhood, which is at a slightly higher elevation. The **Richview Street steps (NR#7)** provide pedestrian access to Richview Street.

Baseball Field Area

At the northeastern part of the park is the largest clearing, which now functions as a **baseball field (NR#8, photo #4)**. This area was shown in the Olmsted plan as a clearing and was converted to a ball field early in the 20th century. It has been expanded over time and adapted for more intensive use. Two features related to the expansion are the retaining walls on either side of the field. The **Richview Street wall (NR#9)** forms the eastern edge of the ball field. A WPA project constructed in the 1930s, the wall is built of mortared fieldstones and is about 10' tall. Since it is in the outfield of the field, part of it has been painted green in imitation of the "green monster" at Boston's Fenway Park baseball stadium. A fieldstone **retaining wall (NR#10)** also runs along the eastern edge of the large baseball field. It is similar in material and construction to the Richview wall and was also built by the WPA around 1934. However, this wall is longer and lower, with a maximum height of about 3' and with a central set of stairs built into the wall that is the beginning of the north leg of the main loop trail.

North of the baseball field is the Hutchinson Street entrance to the park, a narrow entrance marked by several bollards that is used primarily by residents to the immediate north. East of Hutchinson Street is the Cedar Grove subway yard, a former quarry that is considerably lower in elevation than the park. The area occupied by the subway yard was originally proposed as part of the park but was never acquired.

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East of the baseball field running along the southern edge of the trolley yard is a narrow leg of wooded parkland extending east towards Hillsdale Street. There was a tennis court here in the mid-20th century but now the area is overgrown and there is evidence of some dumping.

Condition Assessment

Dorchester Park remains primarily a natural wooded area, a remnant of what Dorchester might have been like in the late 19th century. The uneven topography, rock outcrops, and natural woodlands are a rare surviving remnant of the landscape character that was slightly enhanced by Olmsted with the addition of a path system and clearing of selected areas. It is precisely this "naturalness" that defines the character of the park rather than a specific set of park features. It is a place removed from the city to explore, to ramble and get lost, to climb, to sit. Around the time that Dorchester Park was built, John Charles Olmsted, son of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and a partner in the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot wrote eloquently in the first issue of the *American Park and Outdoor Art Association Proceedings 1897-1904* about "The True Purpose of a Large Public Park." While this was not written specifically about Dorchester Park, it clearly reflects the underlying principles that shaped the design of the park.

"The true purpose of a large public park is to provide for the dwellers in cities convenient opportunity to enjoy beautiful natural scenery and to obtain occasional relief from the nervous strain due to the artificiality of city life. By large park is not meant one covering more than a certain number of acres, but one large enough to contain a complete natural landscape, where the boundaries will not be obtrusive; where city conditions will not be unduly apparent; where one may stroll over hill and dale, across meadows and through woods, always amid natural surroundings, for hours without twice following the same routes; where one may come again and again without becoming familiar with all its interesting localities and natural features; where many thousands of visitors may be enjoying scenery at the same time without crowding each other; where those who especially seek seclusion may find parts remote from the boundaries that even if city houses are not completely hidden they become reduced in distant perspective to inconspicuous proportions as compared with the foliage of trees and other natural objects in the foreground; so remote that the roar of street traffic is less notable than the rustle of foliage stirred by the breeze or than the songs of birds or sounds of insects."

Dorchester Park still clearly meets these ideals set out more than a century ago. This is all the more remarkable considering the changes that have occurred in the city of Boston over the past 116 years since Dorchester Park was established and the enormous pressures for intensified use that face public parkland. Major alterations to the park have been the baseball field, which was established early in the 20th century and has become more formalized over time; and changes near the Dorchester Avenue entrance, which include modifications to the wall, the addition of a sitting area, and new children's playground.

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The park has had an active friends group for over twenty years that provides community oversight of the park, an important aspect of its success. The Friends of Dorchester Park work closely with city officials from the parks and police departments, and with other community organizations. Several recent renovations have been sensitive to the historic character of the park while removing deteriorated features and subtly adapting the park for modern use. Overall it retains an unusually high level of integrity for a naturalistic park that must also accommodate intense modern needs. Unlike most of Boston's small older parks, Dorchester Park generally retains the subtle balance of vegetation, circulation, open areas, and structures. The Little League field on Adams Street retains the intended character despite the addition of a backstop. The baseball field at the northern end of the park is a historic use that goes back to the early 20th century. Despite the fact that it has been modified over time it is considered a contributing resource because it is a continuation of a traditional use. The playground, constructed in the late 20th century, while noncontributing to the park's historic character is appropriate as a modern use. The chain link fence, also non-contributing, is not particularly visible.

(end)

Dorchester Park

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Suffolk, MA

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1734, 1891-1957

Significant Dates

1734 – date of mile marker

1891 – Dorchester Park established

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, Landscape Architects

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Olmstead NHS; Boston Parks Department

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Overview

Dorchester Park qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, with significance at the local level. In addition to its significance as a park designed by the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot, the site also has Colonial period history associated with the mile marker located on Adams Street, and may have archaeological significance associated with pre-park use of the property. The primary period of significance extends from 1891 when the park was established to 1957. Secondary significance is also associated with the early history of Adams Street, particularly 1734, the date of the mile marker (one of the few surviving early mile markers in Boston). The end date for the period of significance reflects National Register policy that properties with ongoing significance use a 50-year cut-off date, unless events of unusual significance have occurred within the past 50 years. The site possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association related to its establishment as a city park in 1891.

The park qualifies for listing under Criterion A due to its strong association with the history and development of Boston and the Dorchester neighborhood. It is one of a system of small parks that were part of the Boston park system conceived by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. in the 1880s. The park also reflects the social history of the community, which was largely Irish and other European immigrants through the mid-20th century, and has since become more ethnically diverse.

The property meets Criterion C as a well-preserved municipal park that was an integral part of the late 19th century Boston park system planned initially by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and later designed by the landscape architectural firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot. Specifically, Dorchester Park is characteristic of the smaller naturalistic neighborhood parks that the Olmsted firm recommended as a refuge from the rapidly growing city. It integrates principles of park design with early ideas of land conservation. The park also includes specific design elements, notably the perimeter walls along Dorchester Avenue and Adams Street, and the curvilinear path system, which still reflect the original design intent. Despite some modifications (including added recreational facilities), the park retains a high level of integrity, particularly in the subtle, evocative quality of the landscape. It is one of the best preserved of Boston's large 19th century neighborhood parks, and one of the few to retain its essential natural character.

Dorchester History

The town of Dorchester was settled and incorporated in 1630, encompassing the present-day Boston neighborhoods of Dorchester, South Boston, Mattapan and Hyde Park. In 1633 Puritans landed at Columbia Point, and settled in the area that became known as Dorchester. For 200 years Dorchester developed primarily as a farming community, although its harbor and riverfront were the site of commercial activities and mills were built along the Neponset River. In the early 1800s, estates and summer houses were built in Dorchester as second homes for wealthy Bostonians, especially on the area's many hilltops. South Boston was annexed to the City of Boston in 1804. In 1868 Hyde Park was incorporated as a separate town.

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The southern part of Dorchester (where Dorchester Park is located) began to develop by the mid-19th century. Saint Gregory Roman Catholic Parish, 2223 Dorchester Avenue (across Dorchester Avenue from the park) was established in 1862. The St. Gregory grammar school, staffed by the Sisters of Notre Dame, opened in 1916 to teach the children of the immigrants who settled in Lower Mills. The high school opened in the 1920s. Today the St. Gregory Parish complex includes Saint Gregory Elementary School (K-8 grades) and Elizabeth Seton Academy (in former Saint Gregory High School building), both at 2214 Dorchester Avenue.

Carney Hospital had its beginnings in 1863 in South Boston when Andrew Carney gave a gift of \$75,000 to the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul to establish a hospital. The 40-bed hospital was the first Catholic hospital in New England. In 1953, the hospital moved from South Boston to its present location in Dorchester. Today, Caritas Carney Hospital provides a wide range of community medical services.

In 1870, when Dorchester was annexed to Boston, it was still a rural community of 12,000 residents. The arrival of the railroad the same year brought increasing residential and commercial development that transformed the previously agricultural area into a streetcar suburb. Upham's Corner, north of the park at the junction of five streetcar lines, became Dorchester's commercial center. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Dorchester attracted working class families, mainly of Irish and other European descent. The predominantly Catholic area was delineated by parishes.

By 1920, with new streetcar and municipal water lines supporting growth, the population of Dorchester climbed to 150,000. After World War II the neighborhood's population dropped, as many families moved to the suburbs. This movement was facilitated by the 1959 opening of the Southeast Expressway and the closing of the Old Colony Railroad commuter line. New residents were initially primarily black, followed more recently by Cape Verdean, Hispanic, Vietnamese, and other immigrant families who were attracted by the low housing prices. Since 1980 the Dorchester population has risen steadily to about 92,000 residents in 2000.

Origins of the Boston Park System

Boston was a leader in the 19th century American municipal park movement. Early park advocates offered initial visions for Boston's public parks, but landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. was responsible for refining these concepts and for giving form to the city's park system. Olmsted integrated aesthetic, social, and engineering concerns into his work, giving rise to a new profession he called landscape architecture. He personally participated in about 500 projects, including the U.S. Capitol grounds in Washington, D.C.; Mount Royal Park in Montreal; Prospect Park in Brooklyn; and the Biltmore estate in Asheville, North Carolina. His firm, which carried on for nearly a century after his death, worked on nearly 5,000 projects in 45 states and several countries.

Olmsted's park designs were grounded in two major principles. He believed strongly in the social value of parks as places where people of all classes could mingle. His smaller parks and portions of the larger parks were designed to meet this need.

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He also embraced the restorative value of nature, and felt that parks should be places where people could escape completely from urban sights and sounds and find tranquil surroundings that would act as an antidote to the pressures of urban life. This he accomplished in large areas that he called landscape parks, where the natural landscape was subtly enhanced to heighten the experience of the park user. One of the clearest articulations of Olmsted's principles for urban parks was in his 1870 essay on the proposed Boston park system.

"We want a ground to which people may easily go when their day's work is done, and where they may stroll for an hour, seeing, hearing, and feeling nothing of the bustle and jar of the streets, where they shall, in effect, find the city put far away from them. We want the greatest possible contrast with the streets and the shops and the rooms of the town . . . We want, especially, the greatest possible contrast with the restraining and confining conditions of the town, those conditions which compel us to walk circumspectly, watchfully, jealously, which compel us to look closely on others without sympathy."

The focal point of Olmsted's park system, developed largely in the 1880s and 90s, was the Emerald Necklace, a series of linked larger parks running through Boston and Brookline which are a designated Boston Landmark and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, from the beginning Olmsted's concept also included additional non-connected neighborhood parks and playgrounds that would provide fresh air and healthy exercise for Boston's increasingly dense neighborhoods.

Olmsted envisioned the park system as a common ground to which all people could come for healthful relief from the noise, pollution, and overcrowding of urban life. He designed paths and parkways to link the parks and the surrounding neighborhoods. He subtly reshaped the landscape to enhance its picturesque qualities, sometimes planting densely with diverse species of trees and shrubs, and at other times selectively removing existing vegetation to open up views or to enhance the character of the landscape. He frequently added a few carefully sited structures such as walls, bridges, and small buildings that would enhance the functional quality of the park. Some of his larger parks, such as those in Boston's Emerald Necklace, were designed as solutions to major drainage and engineering problems.

Dorchester Park

At its June 19, 1891 meeting the Boston Park Commission received strong support for the establishment of Dorchester Park. One letter signed by 270 area residents commented,

"This rapidly growing manufacturing district, remote from parks, urgently needs a playground for youth, a permanent open-air space and park for sanitary reasons, all of which we believe may be secured now to the best advantage."

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorchester Park
Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 4

The Lower Mills Improvement Association voted unanimously in favor of the park. Petitions were also received from Alderman H.S. Carruth and Dr. James S. Green. Carruth wrote,

"This particular locality is . . . a most beautiful natural park with a magnificent growth of trees . . . of first growth, filled with beautiful ledges of rocks. . . I do not think there will be any expensive demands for improvements of the property, nothing more than a mere cleaning up of some underbrush and admission to the grounds, and possibly a policeman or two on Sundays. Otherwise the place itself is a beautiful park. The feeling of the bulk of the population, as expressed to me, is that they desire to have it saved, as the chances are all in favor of its being cut up into house lots within a very short time."

The community support was obviously convincing, because a week later the Board of Park Commissioners acquired approximately 26 acres consisting of two parcels of land belonging to heirs of the Whitney and Badlam families. Once the property had been acquired, city engineer William Jackson commissioned a detailed topographic survey that included trees, rock outcrops and other natural features of the landscape. It indicates that the site was largely wooded with mature forest trees and had numerous rock outcrops. Oaks were the predominant tree species, but there were also spruces, cedars, pines, cherries and walnuts. Stone walls delineated the parcel boundaries. There were no buildings on the site, although there appears to have been a foundation near the Dorchester Street edge, and no formal circulation system. With few improvements, the park opened for use in 1892 and was immediately popular as a picnic ground. During the early years, there was a small budget for "pay of park keepers" and some clearing of the grounds was undertaken.

The firm of Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot was hired in 1893 to prepare a plan for the park. Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. was working on only a few projects by this time so it is likely that one of the other partners was in charge of Dorchester Park, probably John Charles Olmsted who oversaw much of the Boston park system work. (The firm's plans are always signed with the firm name rather than that of the individual designer.)

The 1895 Preliminary Plan (see attached map) proposed a larger park than the land that the city had acquired, including an open area north of the present park where the subway yard is currently. The proposal for this unbuilt northern section shows a more formal landscape than the rest of the park with an open lawn surrounded on the north and west by a walkway and four rows of trees, a distinct contrast to the wooded informal landscape of the rest of the park. The two areas were to be joined by a staircase leading from the open lower space into the more naturalistic park that exists today. This plan, which is the only one to show the Olmsted firm's design proposals for Dorchester Park, is a preliminary plan that is conceptual in nature. It does not show details of planting, construction or layout. Other plans in the Olmsted firm's files show only surveys or existing condition plans for Dorchester Park. The Olmsted firm also recommended acquisition of a small triangle of land that was owned by the convalescent hospital to make the park function better. The park commissioners were enthusiastic about the design but unable at that time to acquire the additional land.

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorchester Park
Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 5

Despite this limitation, the park was an immediate success. Annual reports record that a shelter was built at Dorchester Park in 1897 and that trees continued to be thinned and pruned. In 1898 the superintendent reported:

"No work or improvement was done on this park last season other than that of thinning out overcrowding and dead trees. Being a beautiful piece of natural, rocky undulating woodland intersected by winding trails, it is a favorite resort for family picnic parties. A water-pipe was laid to the picnic shelter last spring, and a section of the boundary wall has been ordered by your Board to be built next spring."

The following year stone walls of seam-faced granite were built along the Dorchester Avenue and Adams Street edges of the park and the Dorchester Avenue edge was prepared for planting. Groundskeepers continued to cut out dead branches and remove stumps. Buildings that existed at this time were the picnic shelter and two "sanitariums." In 1903 an additional 522 sq. ft. was acquired for an entrance to Richmond Street. In 1905 expenditures were made for gymnasium apparatus (playground equipment) and fences. By 1910 the park had a one-acre playground, a baseball field, and provisions for skating. An athletic field was added near Adams Street in 1911 and was improved in 1913. There was also an expenditure for water supply and fountains. The park department's annual report described the park around this time:

"This beautiful piece of natural woodland is frequented by those seeking rest, quiet, and cooling shade and by many picnic parties, for whose purpose it is particularly adapted."

In 1925 about 4.4 acres of land at the southern tip of the hospital grounds (which the Olmsted firm had originally proposed for acquisition) was transferred to the park department. Seven years later the park commissioners were notified that the convalescent hospital had been closed and that the property would become surplus. At that time the hospital was still a small residential scale building with a barn and shed set well back from the street. The park commissioners requested that the entire hospital property be transferred to Park Department as part of Dorchester Park but that never occurred. In 1953 Carney Hospital moved to the site and over time built a much larger hospital. In 1967 the City Council approved the sale of 4.2 acres of parkland from Dorchester Park to Carney Hospital (more or less the same land that the park department had acquired from the convalescent hospital in 1925).

After the addition of recreational facilities in the early 1910s, there were relatively few improvements until the 1930s. In 1932 a wall and fence were built at the end of Richview Street. Two years later, as part of a WPA project, another wall was built near the baseball field; grading and drainage improvements were made; walks were improved; and tennis courts were built.

After this there are relatively few records regarding the park until the 1980s when the Dorchester Park Committee was formed (later the Friends of Dorchester Park) to advocate for park improvements and increased safety. Major renovations to the park around 1990 included new entrances at Dorchester Avenue with additional paths at west end of the park; a

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorchester Park
Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA

Section number 8 Page 6

new playground at the southwest corner; renovations to ball fields, and improvements to basketball and tennis courts. Pruning of mature trees and removal of invasive vegetation, especially bittersweet, has presented somewhat of a problem in recent years but appears to be largely under control at the present time. Mature oaks are highly valued and receive some preventive pruning. The park is heavily used by a wide range of visitors.

Dorchester Park is an important feature of the neighborhood and an excellent surviving example of one of Olmsted's neighborhood parks that retains a high level of integrity. In a community that has seen many changes, the park represents a remarkable continuity of use. Dorchester Park is a well-preserved civic institution that retains a powerful association with the history of the community and continues to reflect a strong sense of civic pride.

(end)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorchester Park
Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA

Section number 9 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Books, Articles, Unpublished Materials

Beveridge, Charles E. and Paul Rochelieu. *Frederick Law Olmsted, Designing the American Landscape*. New York: Rizzoli, 1995.

Boston Parks and Recreation Department. Annual reports, commissioners reports, plans files, vertical files. (Note: the Boston Parks Department has very thorough files regarding Dorchester Park including a number of plans dating from the 1890s to the present.)

Gordon, Edward. Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Forms for Cedar Grove Cemetery/Richview and Lower Mills.

Historic American Buildings Survey. "Milestones and Markers in Massachusetts" from the 1941 HABS survey of Massachusetts (In Boston Landmark Commission files).

Olmsted, John C. "The True Purpose of a Large Public Park" in *National Association for Olmsted Parks Reprints*, Vol. 2, No. 1. (Originally published in *American Park and Outdoor Art Association Proceedings 1897-1904, First Report*, pages 11-17 and also in *Garden and Forest*, Vol. X, 1897, pages 212-213.

Olmsted National Historic Site. Plans, photographs and plans index cards. (Note: Olmsted NHS has one photograph of Dorchester Park and six plans, only one of which is a design plan. The rest are primarily topographical surveys.)

Zaitzevsky, Cynthia. *Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982.

Maps

1894 Bromley, George W. and Walter S. *Atlas of the City of Boston*. Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley & Co.

1894 Baxter, C. F. *Topographical Map of Dorchester Park*. (3 sheets) At Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

1895 Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot. *Preliminary Plan for Dorchester Park*. (Olmsted file number 912-3) Original at Olmsted National Historic Site, copy at Boston Parks and Recreation Department.

1904 Bromley, George W. and Walter S. *Atlas of the City of Boston*. Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley & Co.

(end)

Dorchester Park
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County, State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 28.45 acres

UTM References See continuation sheet.

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 330000 4682660
Zone Easting Northing

2. 19 329740 4682580
Zone Easting Northing

3. 19 329500 4682300
Zone Easting Northing

4. 19 329500 4682160
Zone Easting Northing

x See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shary Page Berg, preservation consultant, with Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December 2007

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Boston, Parks and Recreation Department

street & number 1010 Massachusetts Avenue telephone 617-635-4505

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02118

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

**Dorchester Park
Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA**

Section number 10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the entire area included in Boston assessors parcel 160501600 at 1025 Adams Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the original park established in 1891 with minor boundary adjustments that included small acquisitions (1903-Richmond Street and 1925-from hospital) and one reduction in land (1967-to hospital).

(end)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Dorchester Park
Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA

Section number Map Page 1

Photographs

<i>Photo #</i>	<i>Location/Description</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Photo by</i>
1	Stone wall and parkland along Dorchester Avenue, view looking north	11/2006	Shary Page Berg
2	Main loop path, southern leg looking west.	11/2006	Shary Page Berg
3	Mile marker embedded in Adams Street wall, view looking north from street	11/2006	Shary Page Berg
4	Little League field at Adams Street, view looking east. (Road is to the right, park is at left.)	11/2006	Shary Page Berg
5	Path leading north from Adams Street with adjacent open turf	11/2006	Shary Page Berg



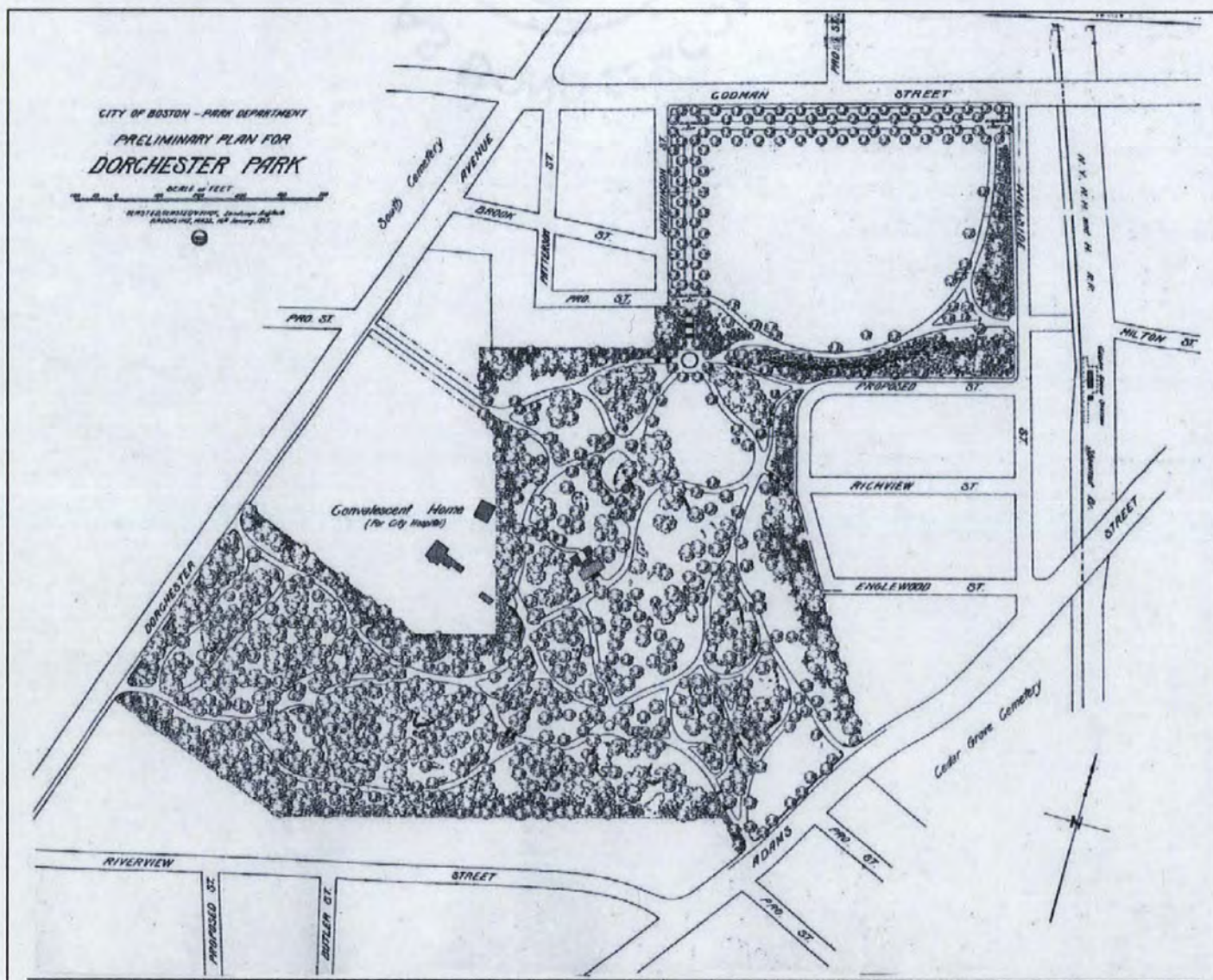
*"Glades and Ledges" Photo of Dorchester Park,
February 1893 (Olmsted National Historic Site)*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

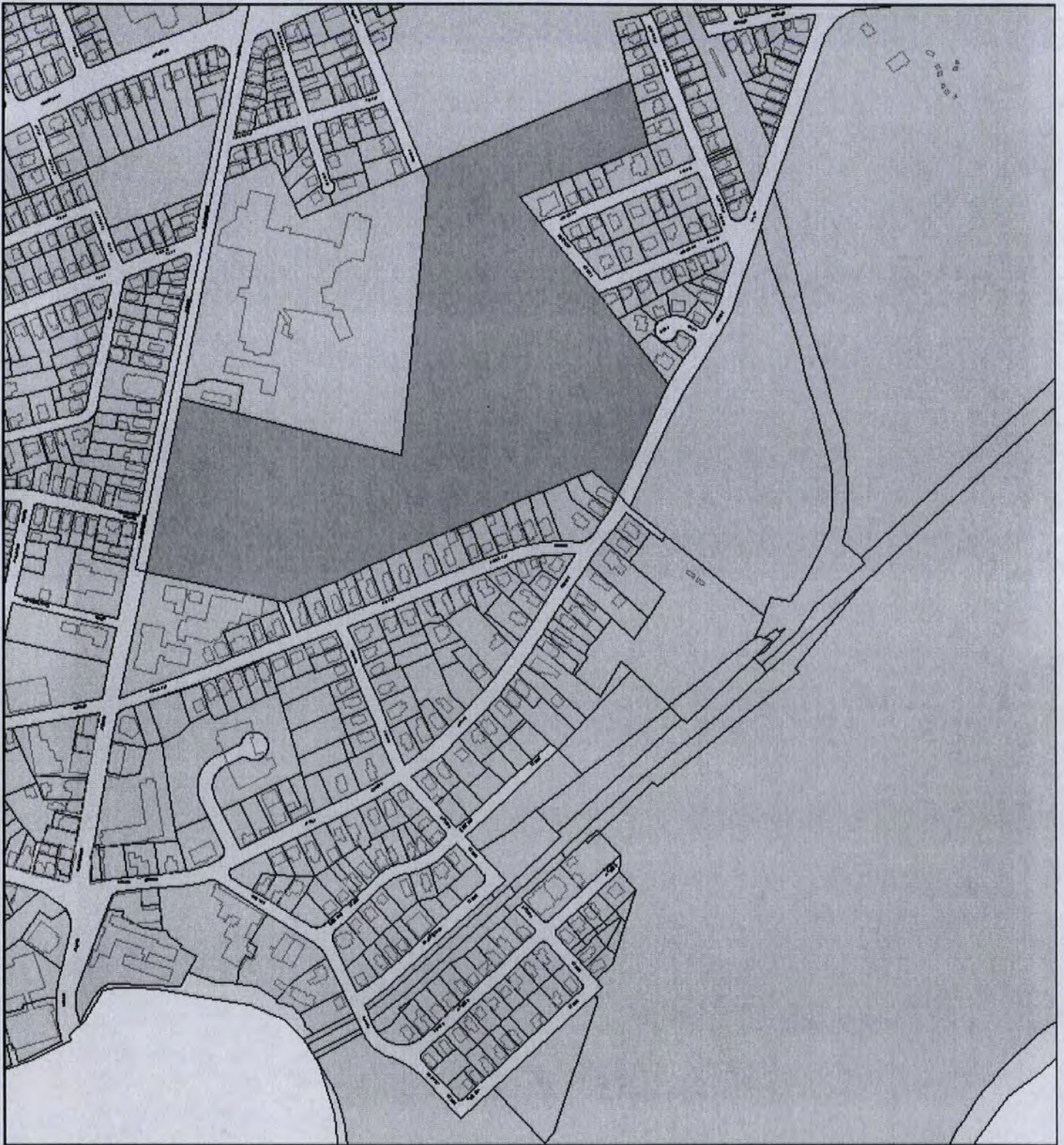
Dorchester Park
Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA

Section number Map Page 2



Map 1 - Preliminary Plan for Dorchester Park, 1895, Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot - This is the only illustrative plan that the Olmsted firm prepared for the park. It shows a largely tree covered landscape with meandering path system and several clearings. Land for the more formal part of the park at the north end was never acquired. (Copy from Boston Parks and Recreation Department, original is at Olmsted National Historic Site.)

1025 Adams Street
Parcel 160501600



DORCHESTER PARK
Boston (Suffolk), MA
DATA SHEET

NR#	Photo #	Name	Location	Description/ Material	Date	Type	Status
N/A		Dorchester Park	Dorchester Av		1891	Si	C
N/A	1,2	Perimeter Fence	park perimeter	chain link, various types	Late 20 th c.	St	NC
		Path System	throughout	Bituminous,	1890s	St	C
1	3	Dorchester Ave wall	Dorchester Ave	originally gravel seam-faced granite retaining wall	1899	St	C
2		Children's playground	near Dorchester Ave	small play area for small children	1990s renovated 2005	St	NC
3		Tennis/Basketball courts (2)	Central woodland	Bituminous surface chain link fence	1930s renovated 1990s	St	C
4		Little League field	near Adams St	Informal field with backstop	1911	St	C
5		Adams St wall	Adams St	seam-faced granite wall	1899	St	C
6		Mile marker	Adams St	freestanding Granite marker	1734	O	C
7		Richview St steps	near Richview St	concrete steps from park to neighborhood	late 20 th c	St	C
8	4	Baseball field	near Hutchinson St	skinned infield with backstop	1911, renovated 1990s	St	C
9		Richview St wall	near Richview St	fieldstone retaining wall	1932	St	C
10	4	retaining wall	SW of baseball field	built by WPA fieldstone retaining wall	ca. 1934 by WPA	St	C

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Dorchester Park

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/04/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/19/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/29/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000089

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 2/20/2008 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Significant 19th century Olmstead-designed park.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AIC

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 2/20/2008

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MA - Boston (Suffolk County) - Dorchester Park 1..tif



MA - Boston (Suffolk County) - Dorchester Park 2.tif

Dorchester Park Suffolk County MA 11-06 Photo 2 Sherry Berg



MA - Boston (^{Suffolk County} ~~Dorchester~~) - Dorchester Park 3. ff

Dorchester Park Suffolk County, MA 11-06 Photo 3 Shary Berg



MA - Boston (Suffolk County) - Dorchester Park 4.tif

Dorchester Park Suffolk County MA Photo 4 11-06 Shary Berg



MA - Boston (Suffolk County) - Dorchester Park 5.tif

Dorchester Park Suffolk County MA 11-06 Photo 5 Shary Berg

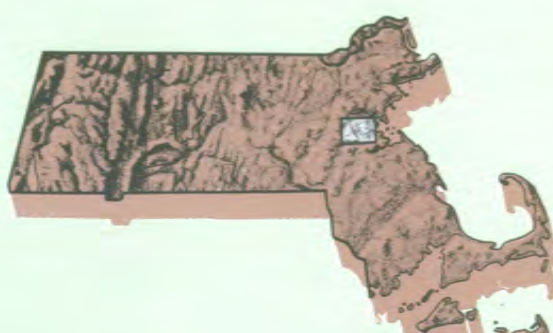
BOSTON SOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS



Dorchester Park
Boston (Suffolk Co.) MA

Boston South
MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1982) and 13272 (1982). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, unmodified zone
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
CONTOUR INTERVAL: 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHOULDER SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM	ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet		1	2	3
1	3.2808	18° 284 MILS 17°5' 275 MILS	4	5	
2	6.5617		6	7	8
3	9.8425				
4	13.1234				
5	16.4042				
6	19.6850				
7	22.9659				
8	26.2467				
9	29.5275				
10	32.8084				
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808		UTM grid convergence (GN) and 180 magnetic declination (MN) at center of map Diagram is approximate	1	2	3
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048			4	5	6
			1	2	3
			4	5	6
			7	8	9
			10	11	12



Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, trail
- Route marker: Interstate; U.S. State
- Railroad: standard gauge; narrow gauge
- Bridge: drawbridge
- Footbridge; overpass; underpass
- Railway area: only selected buildings shown
- House; barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary
- National, with monument
- State
- County, parish
- Civil township, precinct, district
- Incorporated city, village, town
- National or State reservation, and park
- Land grant with monument; found section corner
- U.S. public lands survey: range, township, section
- Range, township, section line: location approximate
- Fence or field line
- Power transmission line, located tower
- Dam; dam with lock
- Cemetery; grave
- Campground; picnic area; U.S. National monument
- Windmill; water well; spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
- Soundings; depth curve
- Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids; large and small; falls; large and small
- Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
- Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard

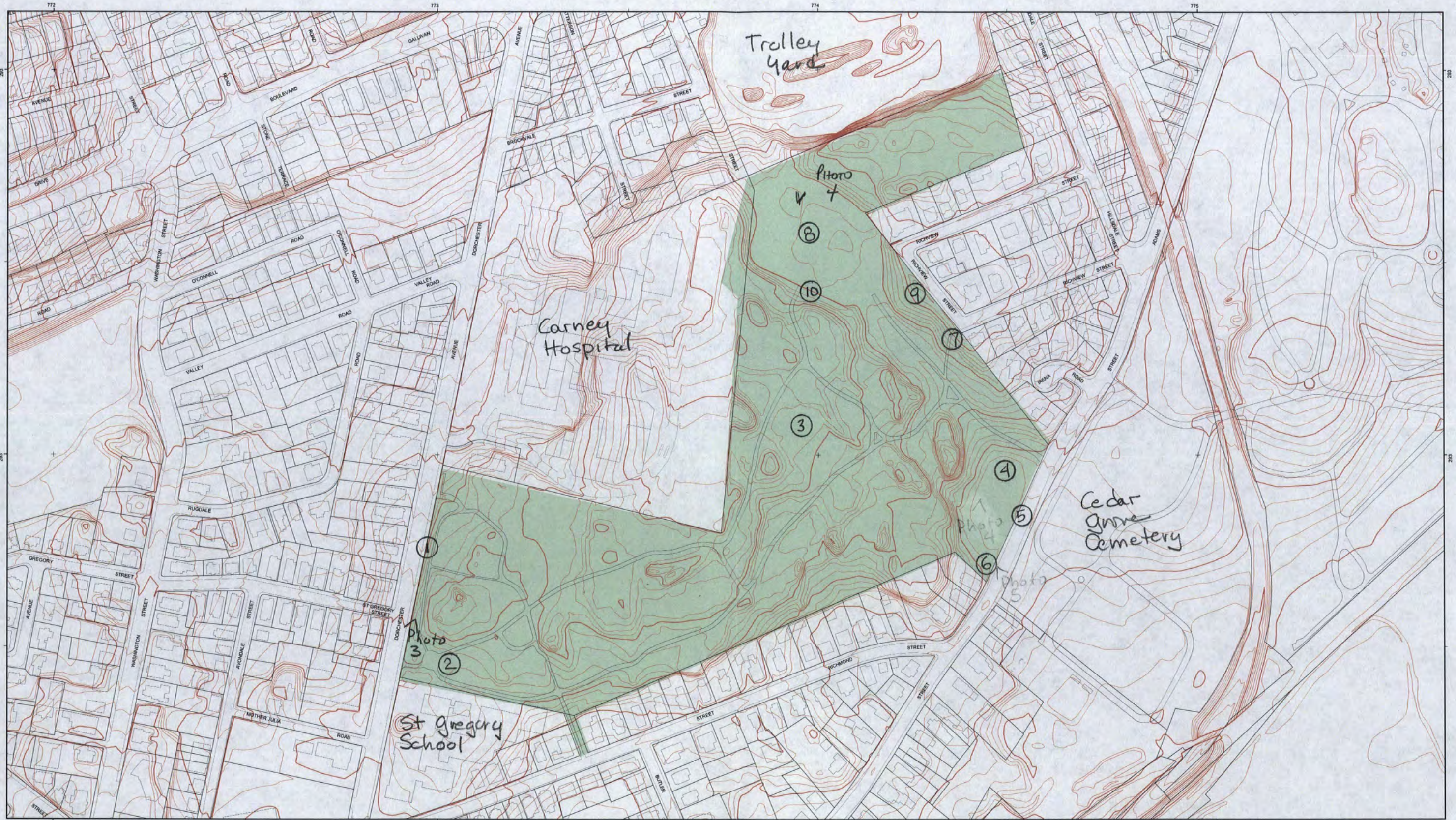
A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

BOSTON SOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS
42071-C1-TM-025

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

DORCHESTER PARK Boston (Suffolk Co) MA

CITY OF BOSTON
PLANIMETRIC MAP



Prepared by the Boston Redevelopment Authority
Property information is courtesy of City of Boston Assessing Department
Sidewalks and building footprints derived from
Boston Water and Sewer Commission 1994 digital orthophoto project

Due to GIS inconsistencies,
green line does not align
precisely with park boundaries

0 50 100 150 200
Feet
500 FOOT GRID BASED
ON MASSACHUSETTS STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, MAINLAND ZONE
THE LAST THREE DIGITS OF THE GRID NUMBERS ARE OMITTED
2 FOOT CONTOURS

Numbers of park features
(in circles) are keyed
to data sheet.



BOSTON
MASSACHUSETTS
2006

BOSTON

Thomas M. Menino, Mayor

RECEIVED

JUL 19 2005

MASS. HIST. COMM

RECEIVED 2280

JAN 16 2008

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

July 18, 2005

Betsy Friedberg
Director of National Registration Program
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

The Boston Parks and Recreation Department supports the efforts of the Friends of Dorchester Park to place Dorchester Park on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Friends of Dorchester Park have a long and productive relationship with this Department; their community-based work includes clean ups, programming and fund raising for the park. Placing Dorchester Park on the Register will enable the Friends to continue with their efforts to restore the original landscape there.

Sincerely,



Antonia M. Pollak
Commissioner

Cc: Jane Boyer
Friends of Dorchester Park



Boston Parks and Recreation Department

1010 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02118 / Tel.: (617) 635-4505 / Fax: 635-3173



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

January 11, 2008 William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Dorchester Park, Boston/Dorchester (Suffolk), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property in the Certified Local Government community of Boston were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60 to 90 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

One letter of support has been received.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Shary Page Berg, consultant
Roysin B. Younkin, Boston CLG coordinator
Thomas Menino, Mayor, City of Boston
Antonia Pollak, Boston Parks Commissioner
Friends of Dorchester Park
Susan Pranger, Boston Landmarks Commission



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Fax Transmittal Memorandum

To: Patrick Andrews Fax #: 202-371-2229
From: Betsy Friedberg Date: 2/19/08
Re: Dorchester Park, Boston Pages, including cover sheet: 2

Comments:

Hi Patrick,
Here's the verbal boundary page from
the NR nomination for Dorchester Park.
Hard copy will follow with our next transmittal
of a nomination (next week) - hope that's
OK. Will also send a correct CD.

Betsy

If this communication has been received in error, please notify us immediately.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
Tel: (617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128 • Website: www.state.ma.us/sec/mhc

NPS Form 1 10-900-a
(4-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places****Continuation Sheet****Dorchester Park****Boston [Dorchester] (Suffolk), MA**

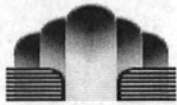
Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the entire area included in Boston assessors parcel 160501600 at 1025 Adams Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the original park established in 1891 with minor boundary adjustments that included small acquisitions (1903-Richmond Street and 1925-from hospital) and one reduction in land (1967-to hospital).



Patrick Andrus

02/19/2008 01:14 PM
EST

To: Betsy Friedberg
CC:
Subject: Dorchester Park

Hi Betsy: We have the nomination for Dorchester Park in Boston. The photo disk does not meet our requirements because it is a CD-RW (rather than a CD-R). The CD-RW is a rewritable disk, which means we could lose the photos. Could you please provide us another photo disk (CD-R)?

Thanks,

Patrick

Patrick W. Andrus
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Patrick_Andrus@nps.gov



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

February 26, 2008

Mr. J. Paul Loether
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed as requested please find the following items related to the nomination form for:

Dorchester Park, Boston/Dorchester (Suffolk), MA

These include Section 10, verbal boundary description and justification, which was omitted from the original submission, and a CD-R holding the digital images for the nomination.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosures