

Area	Form No. 31-147/6A
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Photo (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)  
Staple to left side of form

Photo number \_\_\_\_\_

SKETCH MAP

Draw map showing property's location  
in relationship to nearest cross streets  
and other buildings or geographical features.  
Indicate north.

1. Town Brookline MRA  
Address Linden Park (Linden Pl. & S  
Name Linden Park

2. Ownership:

Public  
 Private

Present owner Town of Brookline

3. Type:

Park  
 Green  
 Training Field  
 Boulevard or Parkway  
 Other

4. Description:

Date: 1843-1844

Size (approx. acreage) Less than 1 acre

Architect (if known) Alex. Wadsworth

Location of Plans (if known) Dedham,  
Norfolk County Courthouse

Setting Triangular open space surr-  
ounded by 3-deckers, single family  
houses & church complex in a densel  
settled area.

Current Condition good

Recorded by Greer Hardwicke

Organization Brookline Hist. Comm.

Date March 1985

Boston South Quadrangle

UTM Reference: 19/325440/4689900

Map #: 38

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

Linden Park is a flat, traingular-shaped open space enclosed by a wrought-iron fence around 3/4 of the property. Dotted with trees and grassy spaces, there is a children's park (with sandbox) covering about 1/3 of the enclosed area. There are also walkways and benches.

The original layout (from best evidence) included smaller walkways and a greater profusion of plantings.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Discuss types of use, major period of use, evaluate importance within town.

Linden Park is a triangular-shaped park that was part of the land development laid out by Thomas Aspinwall Davis in 1844. (For more information about Davis, see #29 Linden Place, 31-147-9.) It was originally part of a cherry and apple orchard that had belonged to the Davis family, known as the Holden Farm. In 1842, T. A. Davis bought 3/4 of his mother's and James Holden's 3/4 share of the land, "being and lying in the centre of said Brookline containing 31 acres 1/4 and 37 rods--the said land being divided in two parts by the county road leading from Brookline to Cambridge and called Harvard Street and being the same land of the said Lucy held in virtue of her right of dower in the estate of her late husband Ebenezer Davis . . ." The next year, 1843, T. A. Davis laid it out in lots on a plan drawn by Alexander Wadsworth, and sold the lots at auction. Along with the land, Davis wrote in a number of restrictions about what could be done with the lots and the open space that went along with the property. Each owner held a right in common to Linden Park (see form) and the Court (now Pierce Street) and Avenue (Linden Street) were "to be forever kept open for the use and convenience of all proprietors of Linden Place . . ." Each lot was sold with the condition that "no building shall be erected upon said tracts within 30 feet of Harvard St. or of the Court or Avenues laid down on said plan and upon further condition that the only buildings to be erected upon said land or placed thereon, shall be dwelling houses and their appur- tances exclusive of all shopyards or other conveniences for manufacturing or mechanical purposes." (Book 141, p. 105) (These conditions were to be declared null and void, however, after January 1, 1850, as stated in an addition to the deed.)

(continued)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BROOKLINE	Form No: 31-147/6A
Property Name: Linden Park	

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

Of the three carved-out open spaces that were part of this controlled suburban development, Linden Place and Linden Park remain. Davis built himself a Gothic cottage facing Linden Park with his own extensive garden in the rear. This house, 29 Linden Place, has been moved and the garden site built upon. Several of the original houses from the early development remain. All of them are on the east side of Harvard Street. There are two Greek/gothic cottages and four Greek Revival houses. This area was described, in 1920, with its houses "considered at the time of their erection, beautiful structures and the colony was rather aristocratic. It was a beautiful section of town and the land to the north and west, now covered with houses, was then a beautiful woods, with a brook running through it."

In 1899, the Proprietors of Linden Place, James H. Fay, Mary Goodnow Stone, William H. Abercrombie, Thomas B. Griggs, Joseph P. Murphy, M. D., Emery E. Allen, James W. Tobey, William H. Lincoln, Michael Murphy, Terrance Gallagher, Claudius A. McDonald, Samuel McCullough, Gilbert W. Salter, Samuel F. Pratt, Charles W. Chamberlain, Percival S. Howe (as Trustee for Thomas Howe), Elen E. Bishop, Matilda G., William Prescott, and Willard Lee Wellman (trustees for William A. Wellman), I. Henry Woods, Mary A. Melcher, George D. and S. Doane (trustees for Daniel Doane), and the Rev. John J. Williams released title and presented the land to the land with the "express condition that the said premises shall be forever kept and maintained as a public park and shall not be built upon or used for any other purpose." (Book 865, p. 358, 1900)

The original plantings have been replaced by grassy areas and a playground. It does, however, retain the original sense of open space and vegetation that gave Linden Place development its uniqueness in a developing area.

Linden Park meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C, as being a designed open space to complement the early 1843 Linden Place planned subdivision by Thomas Aspinwall Davis, once Mayor of Boston. Because of the later developments in the area, the components of the 1843 original plan are being nominated separately.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

Deeds: Norfolk County (Dedham) Book 105, p. 16 (1834); Book 109, p. 17 (1832); Book 139, p. 31 (1841); Book 141, p. 105 (1843 with Wadsworth plan); Book 149, p. 92 (1844); Book 865, p. 358 (1900).  
Brookline Maps: 1844 (Woodward); 1858, 1871.  
Brookline Atlases: 1874, 1884, 1888, 1893, 1897.  
Brookline Tax Lists: 1861, 1867-1900.  
Engineering-Plats: L12-C12 (Woodward 1841).  
Stearns, Charles H, "President's Annual Address," in Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society, 1920, pp. 5 & 6.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received 9/14/85  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

Continuation sheet Item number Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA  
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature	
51.	House <sup>at</sup> (156 Mason Terr.)	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
52.	Houses <sup>at</sup> (76--96 Harvard Ave.)	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
53.	Hotel Adelaide	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
54.	Hotel Kempsford	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
55.	Jackson, Thaddeus, House	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
56.	Kilsyth Terrace	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
57.	Linden Park	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
58.	Linden Square	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
59.	Lynch--O'Gorman House	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____
60.	Milestone (Harvard St.)	Entered in the National Register	f Keeper <u>Delores Byers</u> <u>10/17/85</u> Attest _____

85003297

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Linden Park (Brookline MRA)  
Norfolk County  
MASSACHUSETTS

SEP 4 1985

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 10-17-85  
 RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_  
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national    \_\_\_\_ state    \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Zinden Park

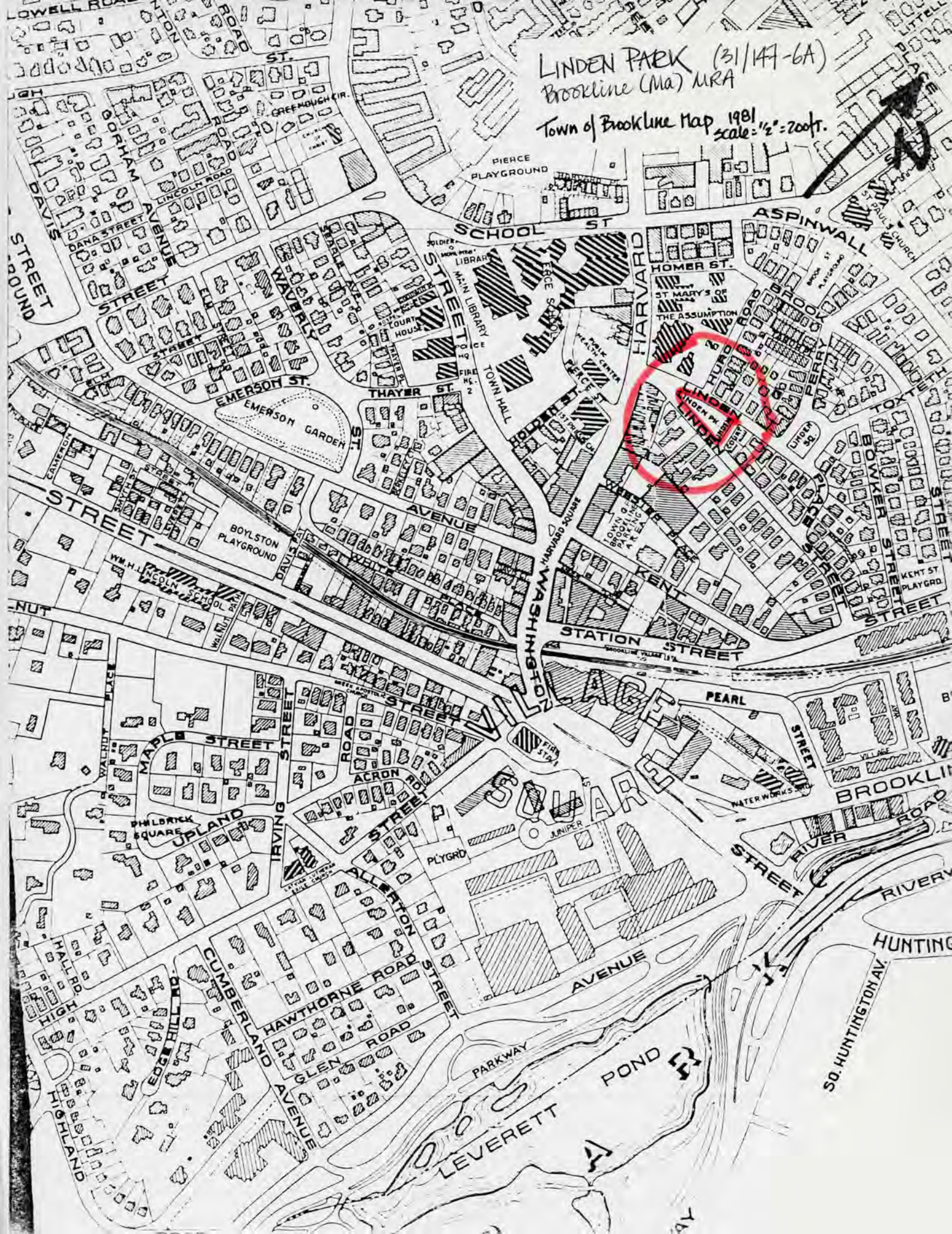
Brookline (Ma) MRA

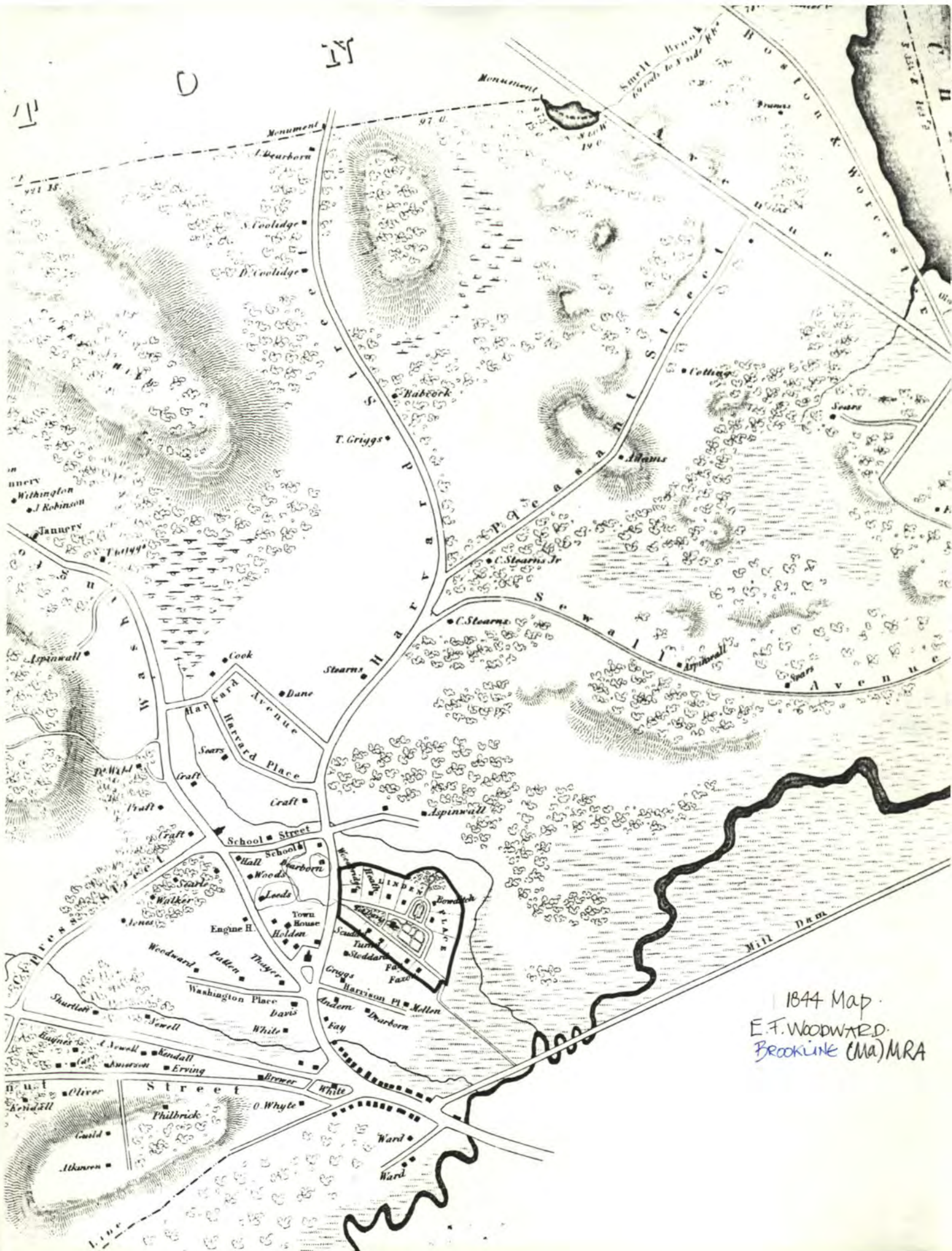


Linden Park

Brookline (Ma) MRA

LINDEN PARK (31/147-6A)  
Brookline (Ma) MRA  
Town of Brookline Map 1981  
scale: 1/2" = 200ft.





1844 Map  
 E. F. WOODWARD  
 BROOKLINE (MA) MRA