

Area	Form No.
	31/150

(62)

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

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

Photo number _____

1. Town Brookline MRA
Address Linden Place
Name Linden Square

2. Ownership:
 Public
 Private
Present owner Town of Brookline

3. Type:
 Park
 Green
 Training Field
 Boulevard or Parkway
 Other

SKETCH MAP

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

4. Description:
Date: 1844
Size (approx. acreage) Less than 1 acre
Architect (if known) Alex. Wadsworth
Location of Plans (if known) _____
Dedham Courthouse

Setting Linden Square is an open
space surrounded by single, double
family houses & small, brick*
Current Condition good

Recorded by Greer Hardwicke
Organization Brookline Hist. Comm.
Date January 1985

*apartment buildings.

Boston South Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/325560/4688940
Map #: 40

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.

The layout of Linden Place consists of 2 paths, which form an X pattern. In between are grass areas and several trees. There is one bench at the top of the park. Totally flat, it is enclosed by a chain-link fence.

There were originally hedges and probably a wrought iron fence. On the 1844 map, there was a path echoing the horseshoe shape within the park with a straight path dividing it in half. A late 19th century plan, however, shows the present configuration.

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

Linden Square 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.) 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 David. . . ." The next year, 1843, T. A. Davis laid it out in lots on a plan drawn by A. 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 . . . and whereas for mutual benefit of all said lots and proprietors the space should be forever kept free, open and unencumbered for benefit of light, air, and prospect of the surrounding lots . . ." 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 appurtenances 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 Jan. 1, 1850, as stated in an addition to the deed.)

(continued)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BROOKLINE	Form No: 31/150
Property Name: Linden Square	

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

Of the three original spaces set aside in the plan of this controlled suburban development, Linden Place and Linden Park remain. (The other was across Harvard Street near the site of the Health Building.) 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 by Charles Stearns in 1920; its houses, he said, were "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."

This particular lot remained connected with Davis' house. By 1869, it belonged to Asa Goodnow. In 1895, his daughter, Mary G. Stone, and her husband, Leonard, conveyed the property to the Town of Brookline with the intention that it "shall remain as a public ornamental open space or park. . ." At the April 1, 1895, Town Meeting, the Park Commissioners were authorized to accept the gift of land, "known to many as 'the horseshoe lot,'" on behalf of the Town.

This open space and its creation reflect the earliest planned early Victorian suburbs as advocated by Downing. Unlike the Cottage Farm and Longwood areas, this property was located in the much denser, more urban section of town, Brookline Village, which was having a spurt of development due to transportation routes and the building of the Town Hall. It did not remain in the hands of an individual family for an extended period.

Originally surrounded by a three-foot fence, Linden Square now has a chain-link fence. There are two walkways through the area that make an X-shaped pattern. It provides open space relief in an area surrounded by single-family houses, three-deckers, and brick apartment houses.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

Linden Square meets National Register Criteria A, B, & C as being one of the open spaces of an 1843 planned residential development. It was an integral part of the plan of Thomas Aspinwall Davis, once Mayor of Boston, and is one of the earliest subdivisions in Brookline. (Because of later infill, the components of the Linden Place development are being nominated individually.)

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 9/4/85
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 ^{at}
(156 Mason Terr.)

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

52. Houses ^{at}
(76--96 Harvard Ave.)

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

53. Hotel Adelaide

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

54. Hotel Kempsford

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

55. Jackson, Thaddeus, House

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

56. Kilsyth Terrace

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

57. Linden Park

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

58. Linden Square

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

59. Lynch--O'Gorman House

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

60. Milestone
(Harvard St.)

Entered in the
National Register

f Keeper
Attest

Delores Byers 10/17/85

85003298

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Linden Square (Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ACCEPT 10-19-85
 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

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION OF HERITAGE
CIVIL RIGHTS

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

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 _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Linden Square
Brookline (Ma) MRA



Linden Sq.



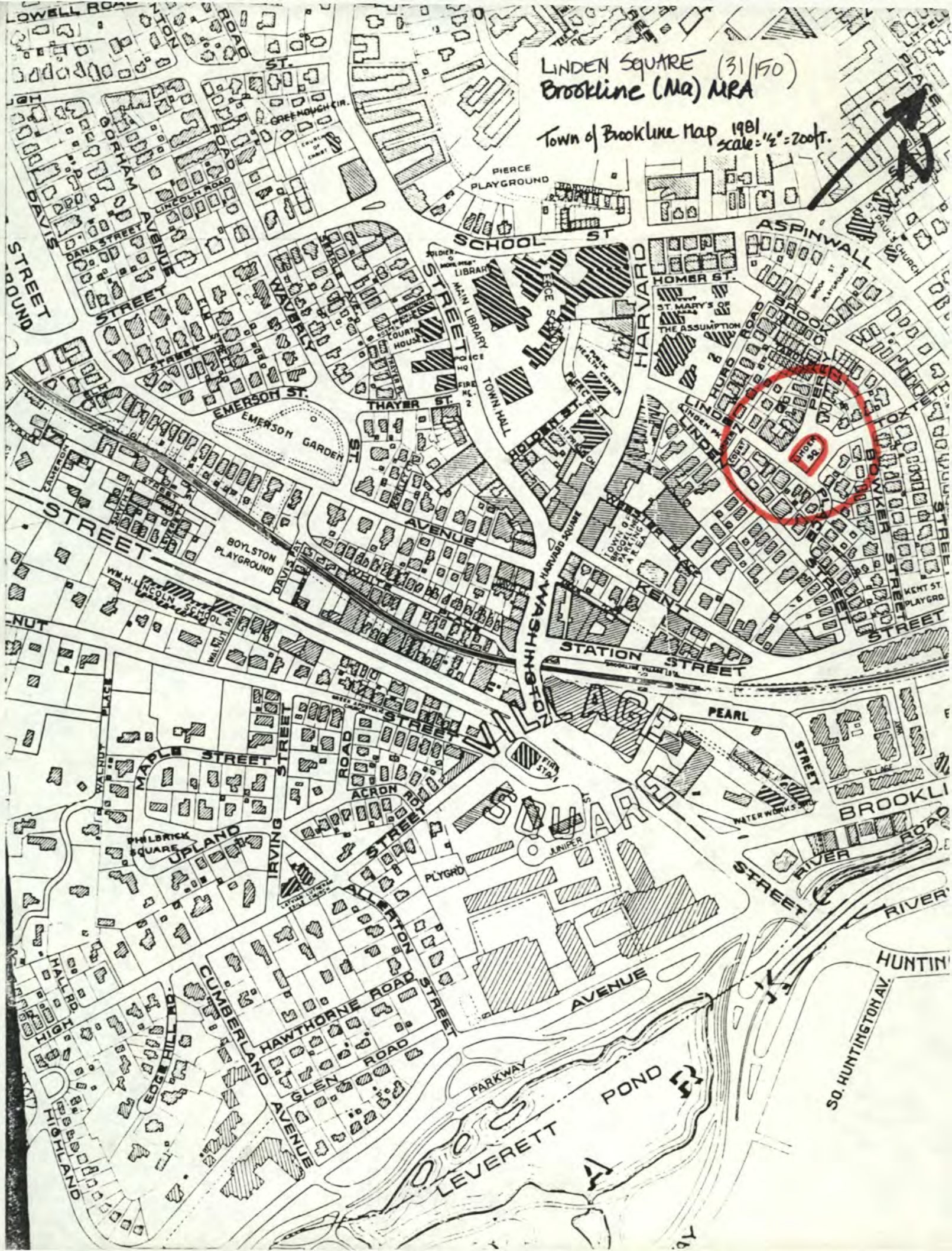
Linden Sq

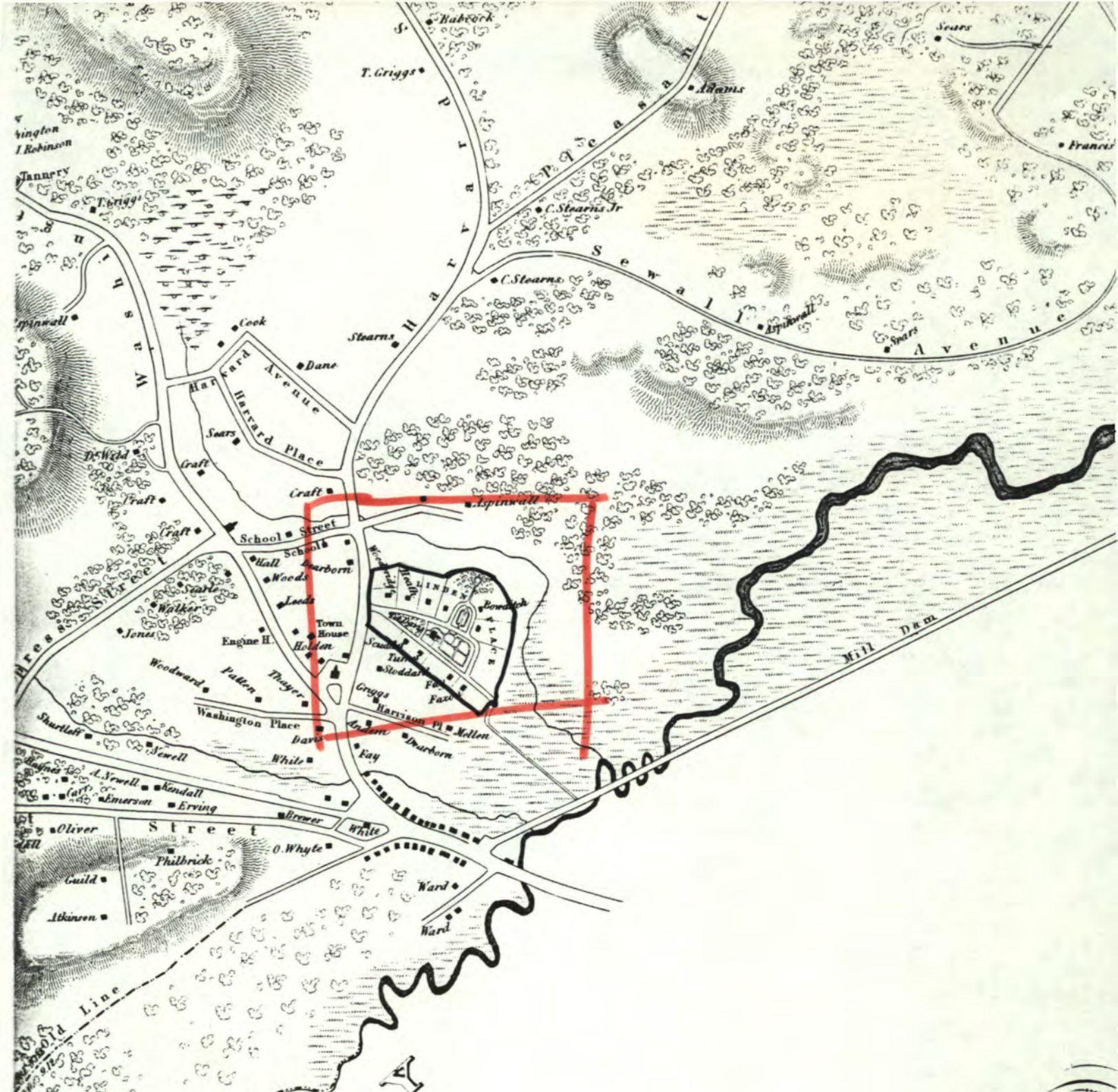
6/85

Brookline (Ma) URA

LINDEN SQUARE (31/150)
Brookline (Ma) MRA

Town of Brookline Map 1981
scale = 1/2" = 200ft.





Thomas Aspirwall Davis
 Subdivision Area:
 Linden Place
 Linden Square
 1844 Brookline Map,
 E.F. Woodward
 Brookline (Ma) MRA

MA

OF

THE TOWN

BROOKLINE