

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

B	
Form numbers in this area	Area letter
533-536	OK

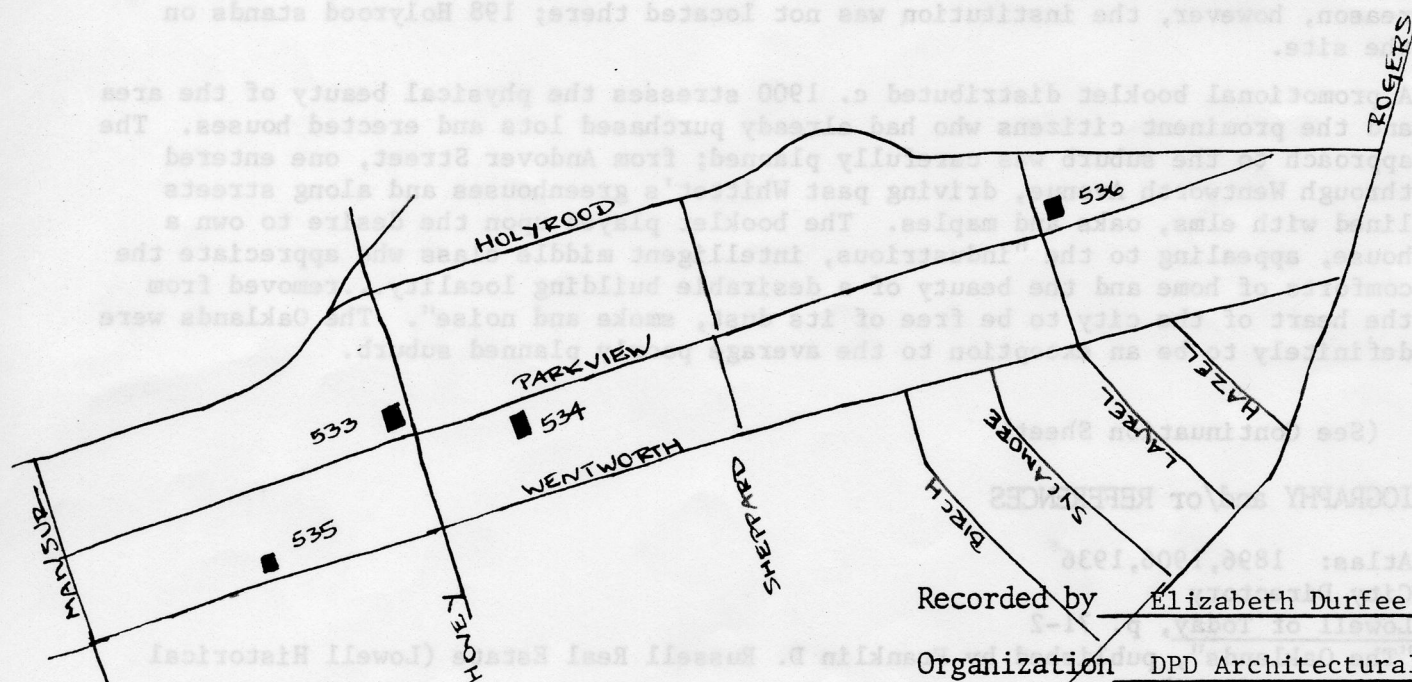
Town Lowell

Name of area (if any) The Oaklands

General date or period 1891-1920

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

← N



Recorded by Elizabeth Durfee Hengen

Organization DPD Architectural Survey

Date 1/81

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Houses built in the Oaklands are typical of turn-of-the-century structures designed for affluent professionals. The Colonial Revival style dominates, although 1890's houses were usually modified Shingle Style. A required setback of 50' creates a uniform, spacious atmosphere to the area.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

In 1890 the area known as the Oaklands was subdivided by Shepard, Russell and Fuller. Taking full advantage of the natural topography, the 165 acres included a ridge overlooking Belvidere Hill and east toward Tewksbury. At the time the plan was filed, the Oaklands formed the eastern boundary of the city, abutting Butman Road, an early road.

Until its sale in the late 1870;s, the land had been part of the Hovey Farm. At the crest of the hill where a farmhouse stood, a crescent of 2 acres was set aside for an Episcopal College, an expressed wish of Hovey's. For some reason, however, the institution was not located there; 198 Holyrood stands on the site.

A promotional booklet distributed c. 1900 stresses the physical beauty of the area and the prominent citizens who had already purchased lots and erected houses. The approach to the suburb was carefully planned; from Andover Street, one entered through Wentworth Avenue, driving past Whittet's greenhouses and along streets lined with elms, oaks and maples. The booklet played upon the desire to own a house, appealing to the "industrious, intelligent middle class who appreciate the comforts of home and the beauty of a desirable building locality...removed from the heart of the city to be free of its dust, smoke and noise". The Oaklands were definitely to be an exception to the average poorly planned suburb.

(See Continuation Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlas: 1896,1906,1936

City Directory

Lowell of Today, p. 71-2

"The Oaklands", published by Franklin D. Russell Real Estate (Lowell Historical Society files)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Lowell	Form No: OK
Property Name: The Oaklands (area)	

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The developers laid out 450 lots averaging 6,000 square feet. North-south routes were designated avenues and were a spacious 50' wide; east-west routes were termed streets. Being only 1½ miles from the post office, the suburb was easily accessible by a 12 minute electric car ride. Restrictions placed on the lots required that only substantial houses could be erected with a uniform setback of 50'.

Enthusiasm for the area was high. Anticipating rapid growth, a primary school was erected in 1892. By 1893, 150 lots had been sold and two years later, several dozen houses built, mostly Shingle or Colonial Revival buildings with barns. The 1906 atlas shows about ½ of the lots built upon and the remainder sold.

HOUSES INVENTORIED IN THE AREA INCLUDE:

90 Parkview Avenue
141 Parkview Avenue
276 Parkview Avenue
144 Wentworth Avenue

Staple to Inventory form at bottom