

FORM H-PARKS
AND LANDSCAPES

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Assessors's number

USGS Quad

Areas

Form No

Forms within



Address.
the
space.

its
nd/or
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ngs

between the landscape and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

Town Winthrop

Place(neighborhood or village) Between Washington
Ave/Thornton Park and Winthrop Beach

Address or Location Opposite 229-241 Washington

Name Lewis Lake Park

Ownership ☒ Public ☐ Private

Type of Landscape (check one)

- ☒ park ☐ farm land
☐ green/common ☐ mine/quarry
☐ garden ☐ training field
☐ boulevard/parkway
☐ other (specify)

Date or Period c.1920's?

Source Clark's History of Winthrop

Landscape Architect undetermined

Alterations/Intrusions (with dates) intact

Condition good

Acreage

Setting Lake(really a pond) bordered by wetlands
and grassy lawns. Drains into Boston Harbor
across Wash. Ave to west through a culvert

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Winthrop Historical Commission

Date (month/year) September 1993

PARKS AND LANDSCAPES FORM

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Describe topography and layout. Note structures such as bandstands, gazebos, sheds, stone walls, monuments, and fountains. Note landscaping features such as formal plantings, agricultural plantings, and bodies of water. If possible, compare current appearance with original.

Lewis Lake Park consists of a large pond bordered on the south by Washington Avenue, and North, East and West by wet lands containing reeds. A large grassy lawn is located on the west side of the park with a narrower grassy area of high ground on the east side. On the north is a small stone bridge which separates Lewis Lake from a smaller pond. On the other side of the small pond is the Winthrop Golf Club. The rear walls of the early 1900's houses bordering River Road overlook Lewis Lake Park.

The Veterans road borders the park on the east. The great expanse of the c. 1912 Georgian Revival brick apartments at 229-241 Washington Avenue, overlook the south side of the park. This park seems to have been set out with an eye towards leaving much of its original, "wild" appearance with wet lands bordering three sides of the "lake". Evidently, this park serves, in part, as a bird sanctuary. This park is a product of the first half of the 20th century. Originally Lewis Lake was open to Boston Harbor. It originally had the appearance of a cove or mouth to a system of creeks which have been filled in to accommodate Winthrop Golf Course to the north.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Discuss history of use. Evaluate the historical association of the landscape/park with the community.

Originally Lewis Lake was open to Boston Harbor, separating the Washington Ave/Thornton Park area from Winthrop Beach. During Colonial times this area contained Fisher's Creek which was really a cove into which fed a system of creeks. For years Fisher's Creek was the seasonal home to white swans, the sand hill crane, the heron, the brant, snow geese, Canada Geese as well as a variety of ducks. By the mid 19th century, Fisher's Creek was called Crystal Cove. One might trace the beginnings of Lewis Lake Park to the construction of the Washington Ave pile bridge in 1883-84. this bridge stretched from Washington Ave to Sturgis and Shirley Streets at Winthrop Beach. This bridge, for the first time, introduced a barrier across Crystal Cove and set a precedent for the eventual enclosure of this waterway. The cove seems to have become a lake or large pond c. 1907-1912, with the filling in of land on either side of Washington Ave. This area was set aside as a park c late 1920's when extensive improvements were being conducted along several parts of the town's shore line. (further research is needed here.) It was named for Winthrop real estate developer Orlando E. Lewis, who served as a Town Selectman and had a great appreciation for the natural beauty of the town..

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Maps Atlases-1637-38, 1690, 1852, 1873, 1886, 1896, 1906, 1914

Clark, William H., History of Winthrop, Massachusetts (1952)

Our Streets Names-Winthrop Constitutional Bicentennial Committee-1987

☐ Recommended for listing in National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Winthrop, MA

905

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

