

FORM H - PARKS AND
LANDSCAPE FEATURES

USGS Quad

Marlboro

Area(s)

D

Form No. Forms within

910

Assessor's #s: 68-52
68-53

Massachusetts Historical Commission
80 Boylston Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116

Town Marlborough

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Sligo Hill

Address Martin Street

Historic Name Stevens/Howe Playground

Ownership: [private] [X] public

Type of Park or Landscape Feature
(check one):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | park | <input type="checkbox"/> | farm land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | green or common | <input type="checkbox"/> | mine or quarry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | garden | <input type="checkbox"/> | training field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | boulevard/parkway | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | other <u>park/playground</u> | | |

Date of Construction ca. 1913-14

Source Centennial '90

Landscape architect N/A

Location of Plans _____

none

Alterations/Intrusions (with dates) _____

modern playground structures, tennis courts

and ball court in north section

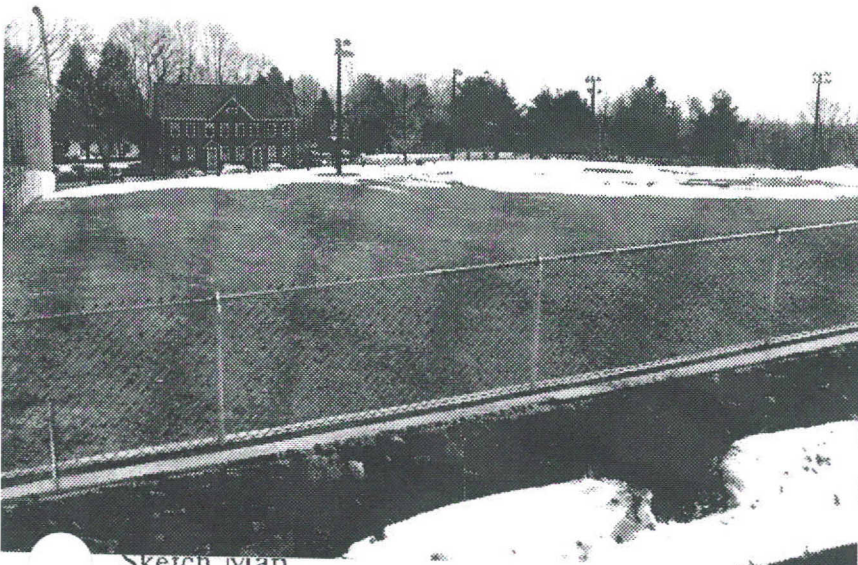
Condition fair

Acreage 8.8 acres

Setting On south slope of Sligo Hill in

primarily late-19th-C neighborhood 1895

water tower and modern tank to north



Sketch map

Draw a 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. Attach a separate sheet if space is not sufficient here. Indicate north.



Recorded by Anne Forbes, consultant

Organization for Marlboro Hist. Comm.

Date 8/30/94

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.

Commanding one of the most beautiful views in Marlborough, Stevens-Howe Playground occupies an 8.8-acre site near the top of the highest point in the city, Sligo Hill. It was laid out here in ca. 1913-14 between the dense neighborhoods of "French Hill" (see Area Form D) to the east and south and the more sparsely-developed line of residential Winter Street to the west. At its north edge, at the very crest of the hill, are the 1895 standpipe (Form #909) and large modern storage tank of the Marlborough Waterworks.

The playground is entered from the southeast, at the end of Martin Street, where the line of the road continues southwest as a dirt drive, widening to a small parking area at the playground's southern corner. A grove of young pine trees shelters the parking area. The southeastern section of the playground is a large grassed field with a modern baseball diamond abutting the parking lot. To its northwest, above a rubblestone retaining wall topped with a chain-link fence, are two tennis courts, a basketball- and a handball court, which were added in 1975. West of the courts is a small grassed lawn with a few wooden benches; beyond it is a children's playground with a variety of play structures.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE [] *see continuation sheet*

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

Stevens-Howe Park and Playground is the oldest major playground in Marlborough. The property for it was given to the city by Mrs. O.H. Stevens (see Form #151, 32 Pleasant Street) in 1913. Mrs. Stevens, the former Charlotte Adelaide Howe, was the daughter of Marlborough's first mayor, shoe-manufacturer S.H. Howe, and the wife of box-manufacturer Oscar Herbert Stevens, and named the playground in honor of both families.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES: Centennial '90: Marlborough the City. 1990.

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