

FORM H PARKS AND LANDSCAPES

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
 220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Map	Area(s)	Form No.	Forms within
44-1	Marble-head N		BEV.965	BEV.966 BEV.967

Town/City: Beverly

Place: Montserrat

Photograph



Photo 1. Southwest corner of Wardell Park, looking northeast. Essex Street on right; Brimbal Ave on left.

Address or Location: 171 Colon Street

Name: Earle T. Wardell Park

Ownership: *Public* *Private*

Type of Landscape (check one):

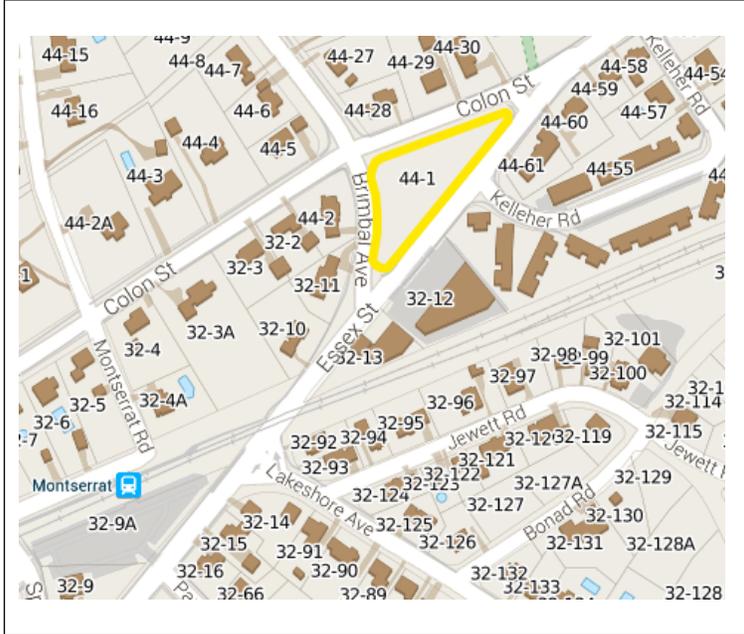
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> x park | <input type="checkbox"/> farm land |
| <input type="checkbox"/> green/common | <input type="checkbox"/> mine/quarry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> garden | <input type="checkbox"/> training field |
| <input type="checkbox"/> boulevard/parkway | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify): | |

Date or Period: 1907

Source: Engineering Department

Landscape Architect: n/a

Locus Map (north at top)



Location of Plans: City of Beverly Engineering Department

Alterations/Intrusions (with dates): n/a

Condition: Good

Acreage: 0.80

Setting: Triangle at the intersection of Essex, Brimbal, and Colon streets, one block north of Montserrat Train Station. Largely residential neighborhood with small commercial area across Essex Street.

Recorded by: Pamela Hartford and Wendy Frontiero

Organization: Beverly Historic District Commission

Date: September 2016

INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET

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BEV.965

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

VISUAL/DESIGN ASSESSMENT

Earle T. Wardell Park, 131 Colon Street (1907) is a three quarter acre park in the Montserrat neighborhood. The Park is a triangular island formed by the intersection of three main arteries - Essex and Colon Streets and Brimbal Avenue.

The northeastern point of the triangle is formed by Colon and Essex Streets, which intersect at a 45 degree angle before spreading apart to straddle the Montserrat Train Station a few hundred yards to the southwest. Brimbal Avenue runs north-south between the two streets, creating the southwest edge of the Park. (Photo 1)

The longest side of the triangle (350 feet) lies along Essex Street, a major thoroughfare between Beverly and Wenham. Opposite the Park on Essex Street is a small one-story shopping plaza and the entrance to the one-story buildings of the mid-20th century Kelleher Road Apartments complex. (Photo 2) The shortest side of the Park's triangle (200 feet) lies along Brimbal Avenue, which curves slightly inward toward the Park. (Photo 4) Across Brimbal Avenue from the Park are two mid-20th century houses. The north side of the park extends 260 feet along Colon Street, whose opposite side is occupied by three dwellings, two dating from the mid 20th century and one built ca. 1898. (Photo 3)

Wardell Park has an informal spatial organization. It largely open turf on the northeast half (Photo 5), with sugar maple trees (*Acer saccharum*) along the north end of Colon Street, and a European beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) toward the center of the space. Along Essex Street, ten large white pine trees ranging in size from 14" to 25" caliper create a tall dark canopy opposite the shopping plaza. These pines are the oldest trees on the Park, likely dating from its inception. The only two benches in the Park are placed near each other, facing Essex Street and Kelleher Road.

At the end of the Park near Brimbal Avenue are several groupings of shrubs, a young Kousa dogwood (*Cornus kousa*), and several spruce trees (*Picea abies*), creating a shadier, more intimate environment than the north end of the Park. (Photo 5) Between the evergreens in the center of this area stands a rustic, rectangular World War I Monument (1918). The monument is constructed of rounded fieldstones set with deep reveals; it measures six feet tall and four feet by three feet wide. (Photo 8) On the side of the Monument facing Essex Street is a brass plaque (Photo 9), which reads:

ERECTED TO THE MEMORY
OF THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO
GAVE THEIR LIVES IN THE
DEFENSE OF THEIR COUNTRY.
"THE NATIONS SHALL SEE AND BE
ASHAMED OF ALL THEIR MIGHT." Micah 7:16
1917 1918

Twenty feet from the Monument, toward the center of the Park, is a Flagpole (1942). At its installation, it was dedicated by the School Children of Beverly for the National Civilian Defense Program by the Earle T. Wardell Unit 12 American Legion Auxiliary.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

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

The triangle of land that became Wardell Park was formed when Brimbal Avenue was created, sometime between 1880 and 1890. The Montserrat Train Station was the first stop north of Beverly Depot on the Gloucester branch of the Boston and Maine Railroad, and the electric street trolley ran along Essex Street and crossed over the railroad tracks one block southeast of the

Continuation sheet 1

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Wardell Park triangle. In 1896, the area had begun to be platted out from land largely in control of the Montserrat Syndicate, whose primary stakeholder was Henry W. Peabody. A Boston merchant with a home in Salem, Peabody had two summer houses built in Beverly. Peabody hired Olmsted Brothers to help lay out the grounds for the train station and residential areas on the Colon Street side of the tracks (BEV.AC) and on the east side of Essex Street. While the Wardell Park triangle was at the edge of this development, it was not incorporated into any design concept for the area. Despite its desirable location, the Montserrat neighborhood grew slowly and incrementally with a range of modest houses built from the 1920s through the 1960s. The houses around Wardell Park demonstrate this mixed evolution.

The first plan by the City addressing Wardell Park appears on May 1, 1917. This "Plan of Land for Gardens at Juncture of Essex, Colon and Brimbal", executed by City Engineer H. C. Whitney (Plan # 1177) is simply a plot plan with no spatial layout indicated.

The stone Monument was erected in 1918. The Park was dedicated to Earle T. Wardell, who was the first Beverly man killed in action in World War I. A well-known citizen of Beverly, Wardell played for Beverly's Sunday School League, as well as for local semi-pro baseball teams. He was a member of Battery F of the 101st Field Artillery and was made corporal after arriving in France. Wardell's name appears on the back of the World War I Memorial Marker at Odell Park, on the corner of Rantoul Street and Broadway in downtown Beverly. Wardell's name is also attached to American Legion Post 127 in Beverly.

A 1928 plan by City Engineer Albert H. Richardson shows a granolith path bisecting Wardell Park from Essex to Colon streets, encircling the monument. No trace of this path remains today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Municipal Records & Reports

Department of Engineering plans

Maps & Atlases

George H. Walker & Company. *Atlas of City of Beverly*. Boston: 1897.

George H. Walker & Company. *Atlas of City of Beverly*. Boston: 1907

Yeager & Klinge Co. *Atlas of the North Shore, Beverly to Magnolia*. Boston: 1919.

Archives & Repositories

National Park Service/Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site Archives

Secondary Sources

"The Parks of Beverly Massachusetts: A Survey of the Parks of Beverly and the Work of the Beverly Improvement Society."
Beverly Improvement Society publication, 1973.

"Who is Earle Wardell?" *Beverly Evening Times*, July 26, 1981.

DATA SHEET

MHC #	Parcel ID	Address	Historic Name	Date	Style
BEV.965	44-1	171 Colon St	Wardell Park	1907	NA
BEV.966	44-1	171 Colon St	World War I Monument	1918	Arts and Crafts
BEV.967	44-1	171 Colon St	Flagpole	1942	NA

SKETCH MAP (north at top)

Continuation sheet 2

INVENTORY FORM H CONTINUATION SHEET

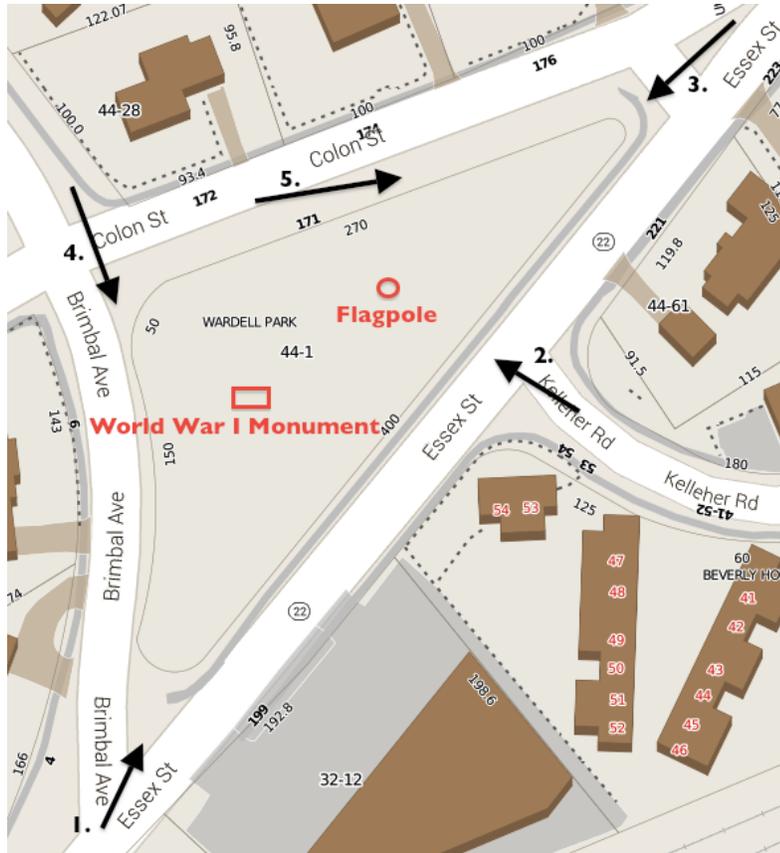
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Numbers by arrows refer to photos in Supplementary Images



Source: City of Beverly Assessors Map

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SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES



Photo 2. Essex Street edge of Wardell Park. View northwest.



Photo 3. Northeast corner of Wardell Park looking southwest. Colon Street on right; Essex Street on left.



Photo 4. Corner of Colon Street and Brimbal Ave, looking southeast.



Photo 5. Looking northeast on Colon Street edge of Wardell Park, towards Essex Street.

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Photo 6. Looking northeast from center of park toward intersection of Essex and Colon streets.



Photo 7. View west towards Brimbal Ave. World War I Monument in center background.



Photo 8. World War I Monument with bronze commemorative plaque inset. View northwest.



Photo 9. Plaque on World War I Monument.