

National Register of Historic Places
Farlow and Kenrick Parks District

(full text about Farlow Park)

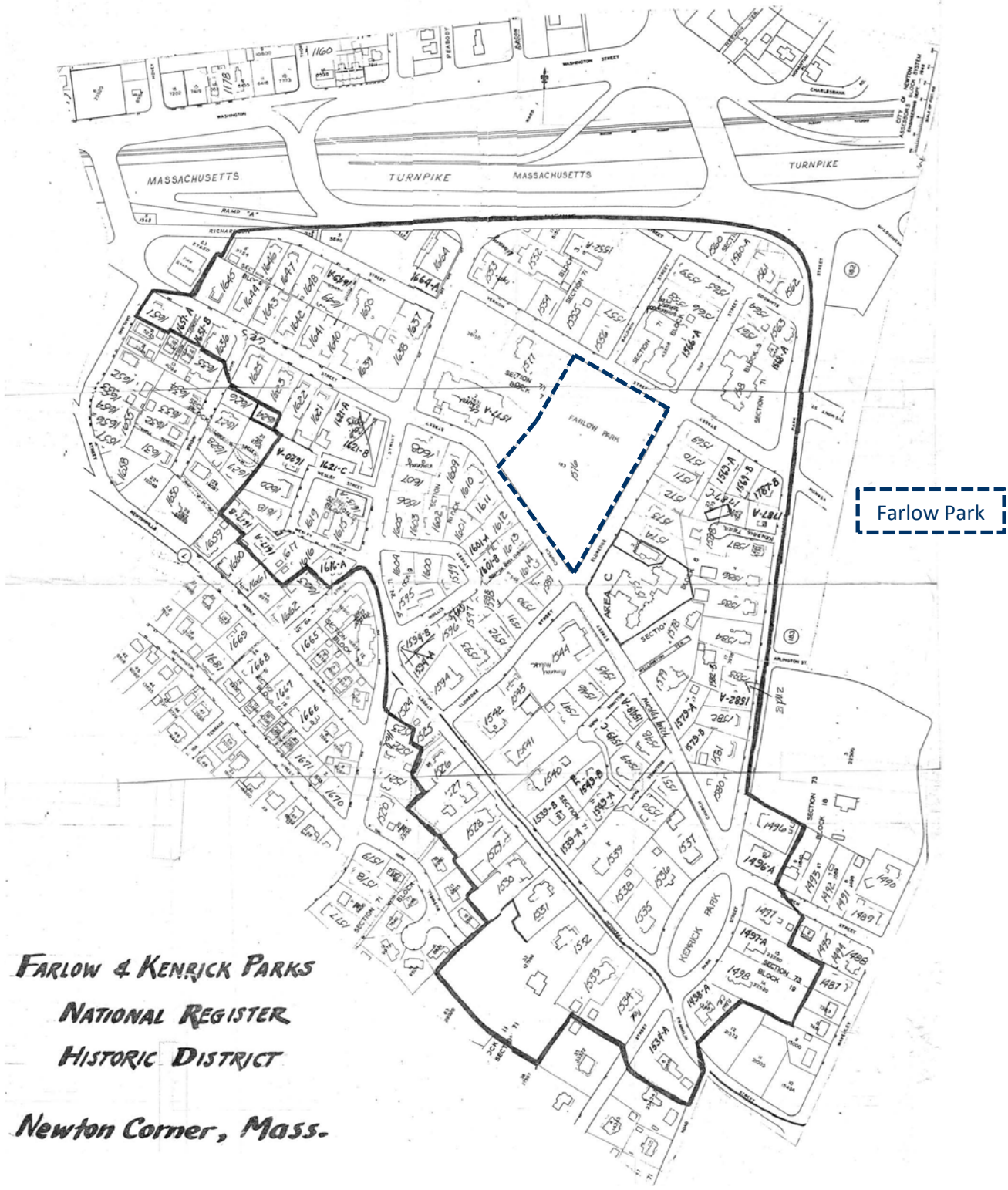
. . . **Farlow Park**, in the northern section of the district, is a rectangle bounded by Church, Eldredge and Vernon Streets. It was laid out between 1883 and 1885 on land that was donated to the City of Newton by John S. Farlow. Although small in scale, it was given many of the amenities of larger parks like the Boston Public Garden, including specimen trees and an artificial pond spanned by a rustic bridge. Many of the original trees remain but the pond has been filled, and the bridge replaced by one of crude, iron construction. *(The neighborhood has requested that Community Development funds be used for park restoration which would include the pond and bridge, and general landscaping as well as the addition of appropriate lamps and benches).*

(neighborhood context)

. . . The Farlow and Kenrick Parks Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship as well as associations with Newton's nineteenth century development as a fashionable Boston suburb. Taking its name from the two small parks within its boundaries, the district exemplifies the city's period neighborhoods in several important ways: the high quality of its architecture, the emphasis on picturesque planning and attention to landscape detail, and the siting of imposing civic and institutional buildings within a primarily residential setting. . . .

. . . The Farlow and Kenrick Parks Historic District remains as an excellent example of an upper-middle class, late-nineteenth century residential neighborhood. Preserving a number of outstanding structures, as well as two small parks, and the original curving streetplan, it has been identified as one of the best such examples in Newton and the Boston area.

See next page for sketch map of district boundaries.



Farlow Park

FARLOW & KENRICK PARKS
NATIONAL REGISTER
HISTORIC DISTRICT
Newton Corner, Mass.

National Register of Historic Places

State Historic Sites Historic Districts Travel Sites Vacant/Not in Use

MASSACHUSETTS - Middlesex County

Farlow and Kendrick Parks Historic District (added 1982 - District - #82002745)

Also known as See Also: Farlow and Kendrick Parks Historic District (Bounda

Roughly bounded by Franklin, Park, Church, Center and Wesley Sts. and Maple Ave., Newton

Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering

Architect, builder, or engineer: Multiple

Architectural Style: Greek Revival, Late Victorian, Colonial Revival

Area of Significance: Architecture, Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance: 1800-1824, 1825-1849, 1850-1874, 1875-1899, 1900-1924

Owner: Local Gov't, Private

Historic Function: Domestic, Landscape, Religion

Historic Sub-function: Park, Religious Structure, Single Dwelling

Current Function: Domestic, Landscape, Religion

Current Sub-function: Park, Religious Structure, Single Dwelling

Farlow and Kendrick Parks Historic District (Boundary Increase) (added 1986 - District - #86001739)

Also known as See Also: Farlow and Kendrick Parks Historic District 223, 226, 234, 237, 242, 243, 248, and 256 Park St., Newton

Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Event

Architect, builder, or engineer: Unknown

Architectural Style: Greek Revival, Late Victorian, Colonial Revival

Area of Significance: Social History, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1825-1849, 1850-1874, 1875-1899

Owner: Private

Historic Function: Domestic

Historic Sub-function: Single Dwelling

Current Function: Domestic

Current Sub-function: Single Dwelling

Farmer, Kimball, House (added 1985 - Building - #85001031) 1173 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington

Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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November 22, 2004

Community Preservation Committee
c/o Planning and Development Department
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

RE: Farlow Park and Chaffin Park Restoration Project

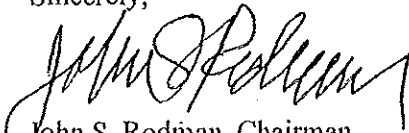
Dear Community Preservation Committee Members:

The Newton Historical Commission would like to express its strong support for the Friends of Farlow Park and the Parks and Recreation Department's grant application to complete a study which will provide plans for the preservation and restoration of Newton Corner's Farlow and Chaffin Parks. Both parks are historically and architecturally significant for their association with numerous prominent Newton citizens, with the development of the City's early recreation facilities, and with the development of their Newton Corner neighborhood. Both are also listed on the National Register as contributing properties within the Farlow and Kenrick Parks National Register District.

As the City's first park, and the only City park known to be associated with prominent 19th century architect George Frederick Meacham, designer of the Boston Public Gardens, Farlow Park holds a unique place in the history of the City's recreational spaces and the development of Newton Corner. Completed in 1888 on land donated by local philanthropist John Farlow, this was the first space in the City to be designed purely for the recreation and enjoyment of the surrounding residential neighborhood. While later alterations and the removal of the central pond and Victorian style bridge have impacted the park's original scheme, its general design and gently curving pathways are still readily apparent. In the same respect, as a surviving portion of the original Chaffin estate, Chaffin Park has close ties to the development of Newton Corner and while altered, has retained a close association with the estate's ca. 1845 Greek Revival style mansion, now the Newton Corner Branch Library. However, it too has lost several of its most notable original features. The proposed study will be an important first step in the preservation of the site's existing historic resources and the restoration of their lost design elements.

The Farlow and Chaffin Parks are unique neighborhood landscapes which have retained their historic setting, layout, and use. Their restoration will make a significant impact on the integrity of these historic City resources and the Newton Historical Commission hopes that you will look favorably upon this grant application.

Sincerely,



John S. Rodman, Chairman
Newton Historical Commission

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