

The Town of Brookline

Preservation Commission

Historic Neighborhood Brochure

Augustus W. Soule Playground Historic Neighborhood Brochure



2006

The Augustus W. Soule Playground, named for a Brookline Park Commissioner, is located on the former estate of John G. Wright, a Boston wool merchant who had bought the property from Thomas Quimby, a farmer. The residence, a larger brick Tudor manor house, stood on the rise near Heath Street. The carriage house, which still stands, is used by the Recreation Department. Both were designed by the architectural firm of Chapman & Frazer in 1896-97. The original landscape design of the estate was by F.L. and J.C. Olmsted and contained a formal rose garden with a turn-stile, a cow paddock, a hen house and vegetable gardens as well as a potting

shed. The Hammond Street wall and gatehouse at number 648 Hammond were added in 1908, also designed by Chapman & Frazer. A greenhouse was built in 1916. Andrew Adie, a subsequent owner, was the president of the Scotia Worsted Mills with an office at 60 Federal Street in Boston.

In 1942, the carriage house and main building were bought by the Rivers School, now located in the Town of Weston. The building was converted into classrooms and administrative offices. The Rivers School had previously been located at what is now the Warren Field and the Eliot Recreation Center on Eliot Street. The school built a gymnasium in 1944. The small house at number 648

Hammond was sold as a private residence in 1942.

In 1961, the town bought the property for recreational purposes. The main house burned down in 1963. The soccer field was rededicated in 1980. in memory of Nicholas E. Robson. The 160 year old Beech Tree by the Robson field was preserved. The site was renovated in 1997 with funds from an Urban Self-Help grant. The Augustus W. Soule Playground and its buildings are listed in the National and State Registers of Historic Places.



Soule Field, C. 2000



**Soule Playground, with Recreation
Department Building in back, C. 2000**



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