

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SWN.903
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Shady Isle Park
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	Ocean Grove Ave
<b>City/Town:</b>	Swansea
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Ocean Grove; Gardner's Neck;
<b>Local No:</b>	130;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1902
<b>Use(s):</b>	Park;
<b>Significance:</b>	Landscape Architecture; Recreation;
<b>Area(s):</b>	SWN.G
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials:</b>	
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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FORM H - PARKS AND LANDSCAPE FEATURES

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

USBS - FALL 6  
PL - Ocean  
CARD

AREA FORM NO.

E 130

903

Town

SWANSEA

ESS Ocean Grove Avenue

Shady Isle Park

Ownership: Private Yes

Public

State Federal

of Park or Landscape Feature  
(check one):

island park

n/Common

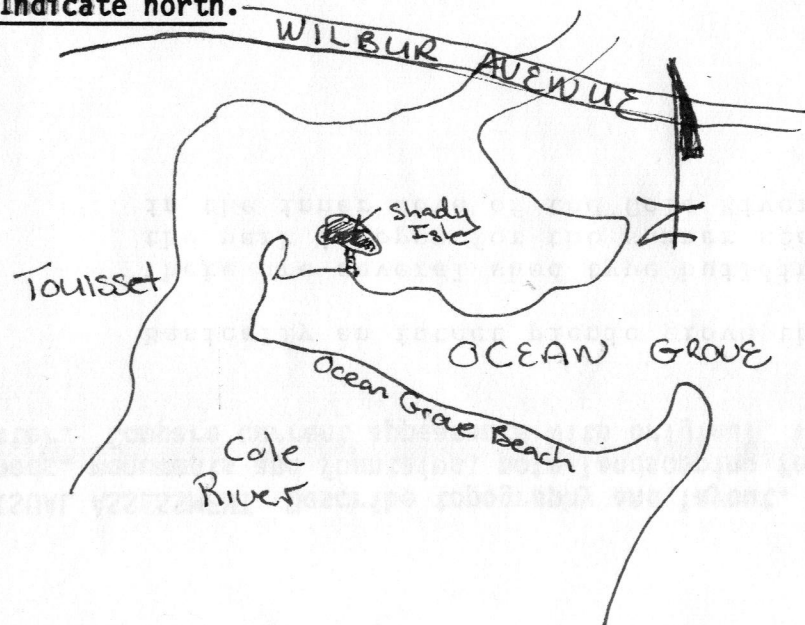
en

ning Field

eward/Parkway



Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relationship to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all structures within inventoried property and buildings between it and nearest cross street. Indicate north.



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE Fall River, MA.RI, 1967/79

SCALE

DESCRIPTION

Date 1902

Source Swansea Tercentenary

Landscape Architect (if known)

Location of Plans (if known)

Unknown

Alterations (with dates)

Unknown

Condition Completely intact including bridge (foot).

Acreage approx. 1 acre

Setting Situated in the inner cove

of The Cole River - a leeward site.

Recorded by Kay Flynn

Organization Swansea Historical Comm.

Date May, 1986

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable):**

An interesting possibility for a thematic nomination candidate, if picnic groves were considered.

**VISUAL ASSESSMENT Describe topography and layout. Note structures such as bandstands, gazebos, sheds, monuments and fountains; note landscaping features such as formal plantings, bodies of water. Compare current appearance with original, if possible.**

Basically an intact picnic grove that is reached by a wood footbridge. There are several shed type buildings on the island that are used when the park is open for the summer season. It is situated on an island in the inner cove of the Cole River. There is no formal landscaping.

**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Discuss types of use and major period of use, evaluate importance within town.**

This was the most important event and catalyst for the development of Ocean Grove. A park, grove and sandy beach attracted crowds for picnics and outings. The Wilbur Land Development Company surveyed the many acres of uninhabited land to the west of Gardner Neck Road some of which bordered the shore and beaches and the railroad. The Company started a development and called it Ocean Grove. "Balloon ascensions created a stir especially when deeds to lots came floating down to earth for lucky finders."<sup>1</sup>

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Swansea Tercentenary, 1967, Swansea, pg. 17.