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December 1, 2010**

**Robert P. Emrick Collection at Forbes Library, Northampton, Massachusetts**

**Frank Newell Look Memorial Park photographs and archives 1912-1961.**

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Series E  
Sub-series E2  
2 Boxes; 1 Linear Foot

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**Scope and Content:**

The Frank Newell Look Memorial Park Collection consists of black and white photographs taken by Robert P. Emrick (1890-1982) of Leeds, Massachusetts over a period spanning five decades beginning in 1912 when the land was known as the Warner Farm to the inception of the park and the dedication ceremony on July 4, 1930 up to the early 1960's. Included in the collection are various park features such as the swimming pool, the children's wading pool, the "Japanese" bridge to "picnic island", the paddle boats, the entrance fountain in summer and in winter, the totem pole, the Mill River, fireplaces for picnics, the very first Christmas tree (at night) and finally the beloved swans. There is a complete set of photographs devoted to the construction of the Pines Theatre in the late 1930s as well as a copy of the architect's plan.

Mr. Emrick's camera captured the essence of what a nature park should look like in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Mostly devoid of people, the landscape photographs invite and entice the viewer to come and experience the park first hand. Indeed, many of his photographs found their way into the local newspapers accompanying human interest stories including curious ducks and swim meets, archery competitions and winter wonderland scenes to mention a few.

Along with the photographic collection, Mr. Emrick retained copies of the legal proceedings when the land was gifted to the City of Northampton in 1926 by Fannie B. Look (1856-1936), the widow of Frank Newell Look (1885-1916). Also included in these papers are the Board of Alderman minutes, communications with the mayor's office, the voting record, maps and brochures.

This collection is valuable as a historic document to the cultural heritage of Northampton and the surrounding community. Originally the collection was housed in

scrap books that were decaying and posed a threat to the photographs. The photographs have been removed and placed in protective sleeves inside two archival storage boxes. Box 1 contains the legal paperwork as well as newspaper clippings, postcards made from the photographs by Mr. Emrick, and the 1965 inventory. Box 2 contains all of the photographs arranged in chronological order from the earliest photograph in 1912 to March 1961. The negatives for some of the photographs, particularly the construction of the Pines Theatre, are now located at Look Park. The others are in the Emrick Collection Series F.

Mr. Robert P. Emrick died in 1982 at the age of 91.