

42-102, 42-0065,
45-0089

Salem

SAL.IN

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Table

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

Photograph



Photo 1. Camp Naumkeag (Cottage, Men's Cabin, and Volleyball Court), looking east.

Town/City: Salem

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Salem Willows

Name of Area: Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis Health Camp/Camp Naumkeag

Present Use: Recreational, Vacant

Construction Dates or Period: 1916–ca. 1920

Overall Condition: Good

Major Intrusions and Alterations: Removal of approximately 3 buildings (1930s, 1950–1955)

Acreage: 2.2 acres

Recorded by: G. Pineo; J. Chin; J. Miller; V. Adams; PAL

Organization: City of Salem

Date (*month/year*): September 2021

Locus Map



☐ see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

SALEM

CAMP NAUMKEAG

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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

This inventory form has been prepared to update documentation for Camp Naumkeag (SAL.IN) prepared in 1998 by Lisa Mausolf for the City of Salem. This documentation updates resource descriptions and expands the historic narrative to place Camp Naumkeag in context with other sites associated with the early twentieth century tuberculosis camps. The site does not appear to have been evaluated for National Register eligibility in 1998; a National Register eligibility discussion is at the end of this documentation.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis Health Camp/Camp Naumkeag, 85 Memorial Drive (1916–ca. 1920; SAL.IN) (Camp Naumkeag) is situated on the northern shore of the Salem Neck peninsula, on the north side of Memorial Drive and opposite Fort Lee. The 2.2-acre parcel contains four buildings (Figure 1). The highest elevation is at the western boundary, and the land slopes generally northeast toward rocky bluffs. The majority of the parcel consists of open grass with mature trees surrounding the parcel. An asphalt driveway leads northwest to a gravel square parking lot fenced in by simple log curbing. The parcel is bordered to the east and west by City of Salem-owned land. The parcel to the west is undeveloped consisting of an open grassed area and young-growth woodland. The parcel to the east is a level, grassed area dotted with a tree grove on the north along the coastline and trees and shrubs along the south edge. Its eastern boundary borders Dead Horse Beach, a natural sand and rock beach. The City of Salem maintains it as a public park, which includes a circa 1963 recreational building and a playground.

The four buildings are arranged in a U-shape open to the northwest (Figure 2). The buildings appear in a historic photograph view looking north from ca. 1920 (see Figure 3). The northernmost building is the Cottage, 85 Memorial Drive, (1916–ca. 1920, SAL.3886, Photos 1 and 2), a one-story, three-bay-by-three-bay, wood-frame building with a front-gable roof, a five-bay-by-five-bay porch with a pyramidal roof projecting from the southwest elevation and a full-width, flat-roof porch projecting from the northeast elevation. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and the walls are clad in wood shiplap. The building rests on concrete block piers. The entrance is in the southwest elevation (facade) and consists of a dimensional lumber surround and is filled with a one-light wood storm and a three-light wood Dutch door. The entrance is flanked by windows, and the facade is sheltered under the south two bays of the pyramidal roof porch. The porch has exposed rafters and is supported by plain wood posts and a simple balustrade. A full-width, shed roof porch projects from the rear elevation and has exposed rafters, plain wood posts, and a simple balustrade. Fenestration throughout mainly consists of six-over-six wood sash with plain wood surrounds. The building's framing members, like the other three buildings, are close to their nominal sizes, suggesting that it was built in the early part of the twentieth century (MDA Architecture 2016:3). The Cottage's interior is finished and consists of a combined kitchen-living room, a full bathroom, and a small bedroom.

Southeast of the Cottage is the Men's Cabin, 85 Memorial Drive, (1916–ca. 1920, SAL.3886, Photos 1 and 3), a southwest-facing, one-story, seven-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a side-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in wood shiplap siding, and the building rests on concrete block piers. The entrance is centered on the southwest elevation (facade) and consists of a multi-panel wood door and two-light wood screen door. The entrance is accessed by two wood steps leading to a small platform. Paired window openings are evenly spaced on the facade and have been boarded up with plywood. A wide entrance is centered on the northwest elevation and has a plain wood surround filled with two vertical board doors. The northwest entrance is accessed by a wide wood ramp. The interior contains a large, unfinished room in the north portion of the building, a multi-stall restroom in the southwest corner, and a storage and utility nook in the southeast corner. The interior is gutted to the studs, apart from the north wall of the kitchen and the restroom area.

South of the Men's Cabin is the Lodge, 85 Memorial Drive, (1916–ca. 1920, SAL.3888, Photo 4), a southeast-facing, seven-bay-by-two-bay, one-story, rectangular, wood-frame building. The building has a side-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles and is pierced by a brick chimney at the third bay from the southwest. The walls are clad in wood shiplap

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siding, and the building rests on wood piers. The southeast elevation (facade) has an entrance at the first bay from the southwest, windows in the second and third bays, and two boarded up windows in the fourth and fifth bays. The entrance consists of a plain wood surround filled with a one-light wood door and nine-light metal storm door. The interior contains three rooms: a large, eastern room with a brick fireplace; a western kitchen room with cabinetry and a cast iron stove; and a small storage closet in the southwest corner. The interior is gutted to the studs, except for the restroom and a segment of drywall on the east wall of the main room. A sand Volleyball Court (late 20th c., Photo 1) with wooden posts is located between the Lodge and the Men's Cabin.

West of the Lodge is the Women's Cabin, 85 Memorial Drive, (1916–ca. 1920, SAL.3889, Photos 5 and 7), a northeast-facing, one-story, seven-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a side-gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The walls are clad in wood shiplap siding, and the building rests on a concrete block piers. The entrance is centered on the northeast elevation (facade) and consists of a multi-panel wood door and two-light wood screen door. The entrance is accessed by two wood steps leading to a small platform. Paired window openings are evenly spaced on the facade and have been boarded up with plywood. An entrance is centered on the northwest elevation and has a plain wood surround filled with a vertical board door. The northwest entrance is accessed by a narrow wood ramp. The interior is gutted to the studs, except for a finished partition that contains a multi-stall restroom in the center of the building.

The northern part of the main parcel contains an archery range, log fences, and picnic areas. A metal Flagpole (1982, Photo 6) is at the summit of the hill west of the Cottage. A granite plaque dedicating the flagpole to Vietnam veterans is installed at its base. There are two Grills/Fire Pits (late 20th c., Photo 7) constructed of concrete blocks with a brick-lined hearth and metal grates. The north Grill/Fire Pit has a small brass plaque, inscribed "Built by Peter Casale-Mason." To the north, a grass path leads to a Beach Boardwalk and Stairs (late 20th c., Photo 8) that descends to a small sand beach. The boardwalk is constructed of unfinished lumber on wood posts.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis Health Camp/Camp Naumkeag, (1916–ca. 1920; SAL.IN) (Camp Naumkeag) was formerly the site of a tuberculosis day camp established here by 1910 (Mausolf 1998). During the early 20th century, tuberculosis was on the rise in American cities. By 1922, Massachusetts had five state sanitoriums, 20 municipal hospitals for tuberculosis, seven private sanitoriums, six county institutions, 56 clinics, and 20 preventoria camps (Beard et al. 2002). In 1905, the Boston Society for the Relief of Control of Tuberculosis proposed the idea of an open-air camps for consumptives. The camp was to be at the top of Parker Hill in Roxbury, the highest point of land in Boston. People with early cases of tuberculosis would be able to attend, free of charge. Patients were to be picked up in their neighborhoods and driven to the open-air camp where they would be fed two high-quality, healthy meals (New England Journal of Medicine 1905).

The Massachusetts General Court authorized the establishment of a tuberculosis sanitorium under Chapter 153 of the General Acts of 1915. Tuberculosis sanitoriums (alternately spelled sanitoria and sanitariums) had been introduced to the state in 1890, when the Sharon Sanitorium was constructed in Sharon (Bowditch 1908). At that time, it was believed that fresh air and sunshine were beneficial treatments for sufferers of the disease. The Massachusetts Medical Society encouraged Boston suburbs to establish associations that would employ district nurses, run day camps, and operate dispensaries. Although Salem had its Contagious Disease Hospital, an outdoor facility was not established until the early 1900s (*Boston Globe* 1909). Salem's Committee on the Prevention of Tuberculosis (later Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, hereafter 'the Association') was formed to establish an outdoor camp for those effected by the disease (Salem Public Library 2020). Incorporated in 1907, the Association was comprised of women from Salem who also operated the 'Dispensary' in the Donahue Building on Brown Street, a center for the diagnosis of Tuberculosis (*Boston Globe* 1915; SAPT 1916). The camp was established around 1905 at a site northeast of the Almshouse (not extant, where the present-day Settlers Way condominiums are) and the Salem Contagious Disease Hospital (not extant), which treated tuberculosis, Diphtheria, and Scarlet Fever. The site was located within the area generally known as Naumkeag Park, just north of Fort Lee and west of the community of Salem Willows (see SAL.GZ) (*Boston Globe* 1916; *Boston Herald* 1919).

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The Association's health camp, as it was often called, first consisted of temporary tents and chairs. About 1910, an open pavilion and a small 'portable house' were built to accommodate patients during poor weather and to provide necessary care to overnight campers. A water pipe was laid to the camp and a dining shelter was built (Salem Public Library 2020; SAPT 1916:7; Associated Charities of Salem 1910:21–22). The camp operated from June to October of that year, and meals were provided by the Salem Board of Health. Children were instructed in English and Hygiene and had access to a small library of donated books (Mausolf 1998; SAPT 1916:7–9). A historic photograph shows the original camp with tents, a few buildings, and an open pavilion ca. 1916 (Figure 3).

The Association held fundraisers for camp improvements through the 1910s and 1920s, most notably an annual carnation sale. In 1910, the women wrote a special edition of the Salem Evening news that focused on preventing and treating tuberculosis. Earning about ten cents for each sale, the newspaper raised \$3,502.04 (approximately \$80,000 in today's dollars) for the Association (Salem Public Library 2020; SAPT 1916). The Association offered use of the camp's grounds for public health conferences and other charitable needs. The camp was also briefly used as a refuge camp for sufferers of the 1914 Salem Fire (*Boston Globe* 1914). It hosted the conferences of the North Eastern District of Public Health Nurses and the Massachusetts Board of Health Association in 1916 (SAPT 1916:7–8).

In 1919, one of the permanent buildings (exact identity unknown) was lost to fire set by a young pyromaniac who was responsible for other fires on Salem Neck (*Boston Globe* 1919). By about 1920, the Cottage, the Lodge, a Men's Cabin, and a Women's Cabin were constructed at the camp (Figure 4). The western half of the Lodge may have been salvaged from an earlier building. A number of small outbuildings (not extant) were also constructed in the camp. In 1929, an August windstorm destroyed an open shelter at the camp (*Boston Globe* 1929).¹ The pavilion and building visible in a 1916 photograph (Figure 3) were not extant by 1938, but the currently extant buildings were present, in a less vegetated landscape than today (Figure 5). The Association continued to operate the camp until at least 1941 (*Boston Herald* 1941).

Treatment of tuberculosis at sanitoriums continued through the mid-twentieth century, when chemotherapy was introduced as an effective treatment for the illness (Murray et al. 2015:1751). Sanitoria and preventoria were either abandoned or put to other uses due to success in drug therapy and a vaccine that resulted in a massive decline of the disease (Beard et al. 2002). From 1944–46 the property was used by the Carpenter Street Home for Children, an organization originally founded in 1839 as an orphanage on Carpenter Street, Salem (*Boston Globe* 1878; *Boston Evening Transcript* 1889).²

In 1946, the Rotary Club purchased the property from the City of Salem on behalf of the Girl Scouts who renamed it Camp Naumkeag (Mausolf 1998). The Naumkeag Associates and groups like the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) cared for the property and utilized its buildings for various functions. In 1950, the Salem Council of Girl Scouts entered a five-year lease with the City for use of the camp (SEDRD 5/1/1950 3744:364). The Girl Scouts renewed the lease and continued to use the property until 1964. By 1955, a parking lot was added in the northwest part of the parcel (Figure 6). At that time, Naumkeag Associates, Inc., a non-profit group, was formed to operate a youth day camp, leasing the site from the City (Curley 2011; MA Corp. Files).

By 1969, the City of Salem Parks and Recreation Department had developed the parcel to the east as a public park. In 1963, the Salem Kiwanis Club built the Lower Restroom Building on the east parcel for the City. The building was dedicated in 1967 with the placement of a brass plaque, inscribed "The Salem Kiwanis Club By this Tablet Dedicates this

¹ Mausolf (1998) states that the camp's original buildings were reportedly destroyed by a fire caused by a lightning strike about 1930 and that the extant buildings were constructed soon after. However, the source is not documented, and no information about the fire was found during current research. The *Boston Globe* (1919) reported the loss of one building to fire in 1919. A photo dated to ca. 1920 (see Figure 2) shows the extant buildings. Therefore, the construction of the buildings pre-dates 1930. Comparison of the historic photograph, historic maps and aerials, and the current buildings on the site shows that these are the original buildings. Three small secondary buildings in the historic image have been removed. Possibly one or more of them was lost to a lightning strike fire ca. 1930. An archaeological investigation (Heitert et al. 2020) at the site found burned remnants that would be consistent with a small structure fire, potentially dating to the 1919 or ca. 1930 fire.

² Also known as Seamen's Orphans and Children's Friend Society of Salem. Its name changed multiple times in the mid- to late twentieth century: North Shore Children's Friend Society in 1949, Children Friend and Family Service Society of the North Shore in 1963, and Children's Friend and Family Services in 1999. The agency is currently active (*Boston Globe* 2021).

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Building for Youth Service Work to the City of Salem, Mass. Built 1963 Dedicated 1967." A Playground was added adjacent the building in the following decades. In the late twentieth century, recreational structures were added to the Camp Naumkeag parcel, including: a Volleyball Court (late 20th c.), Grills/Fire Pits (late 20th c.), and an archery range. A Flagpole (1982) was installed in the center of the lawn west of the Cottage. It was donated by V.F.W. Post No. 1524 and dedicated on August 15, 1982. Access to the beach at the north part of the main parcel was improved with the construction of the Beach Boardwalk and Stairs (late 20th c.) in the late twentieth century.

In 2002, the City took possession of Camp Naumkeag and operated it in-house. From 2011 to 2020, the Salem YMCA leased it for use as a summer day camp site (Curley 2011; Bracco 2011; Dalton 2002). The camp is currently (2021) unused and vacant.

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**Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis Health Camp/Camp Naumkeag
Salem, MA
Data Sheet**

MHC No.	Assessor's No.	Historic Name/Feature	Est. Date of Const.	Architectural Style/Type	Photo No.	C/NC
SAL.3886	42-102	The Cottage	1919–ca. 1920	Colonial Revival	1 and 2	C
SAL.3887	42-102	Men's Cabin	1916–ca. 1920	Colonial Revival	1 and 3	C
SAL.3888	42-102	The Lodge	1916–ca. 1920	Colonial Revival	4	C
SAL.3889	42-102	Women's Cabin	1916–ca. 1920	Colonial Revival	5 and 7	C
	42-102	Flagpole	Late 20 th c.	NA	6	NC
	42-102	Volleyball Court	Late 20 th c.	NA	1	NC
	42-102	Grills/Fire Pits	Late 20 th c.	NA	7	NC
	42-102	Beach Boardwalk and Stairs	Late 20 th c.	NA	8	NC

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2. The Cottage, looking east.

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Photo 3. The Men's Cabin, looking east.



Photo 4. The Lodge, looking northwest.

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Photo 5. The Women's Cabin, looking southwest.

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Photo 6. Flagpole, looking northwest.

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Photo 7. Grills/Fire Pits and Women's Cabin (L), looking southeast.



Photo 8. Beach Boardwalk and Stairs, looking south.

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HISTORIC FIGURES



Figure 1. Aerial and topographic map of Camp Naumkeag (Main Parcel) and flanking City of Salem parcels (Heitert et al. 2020).

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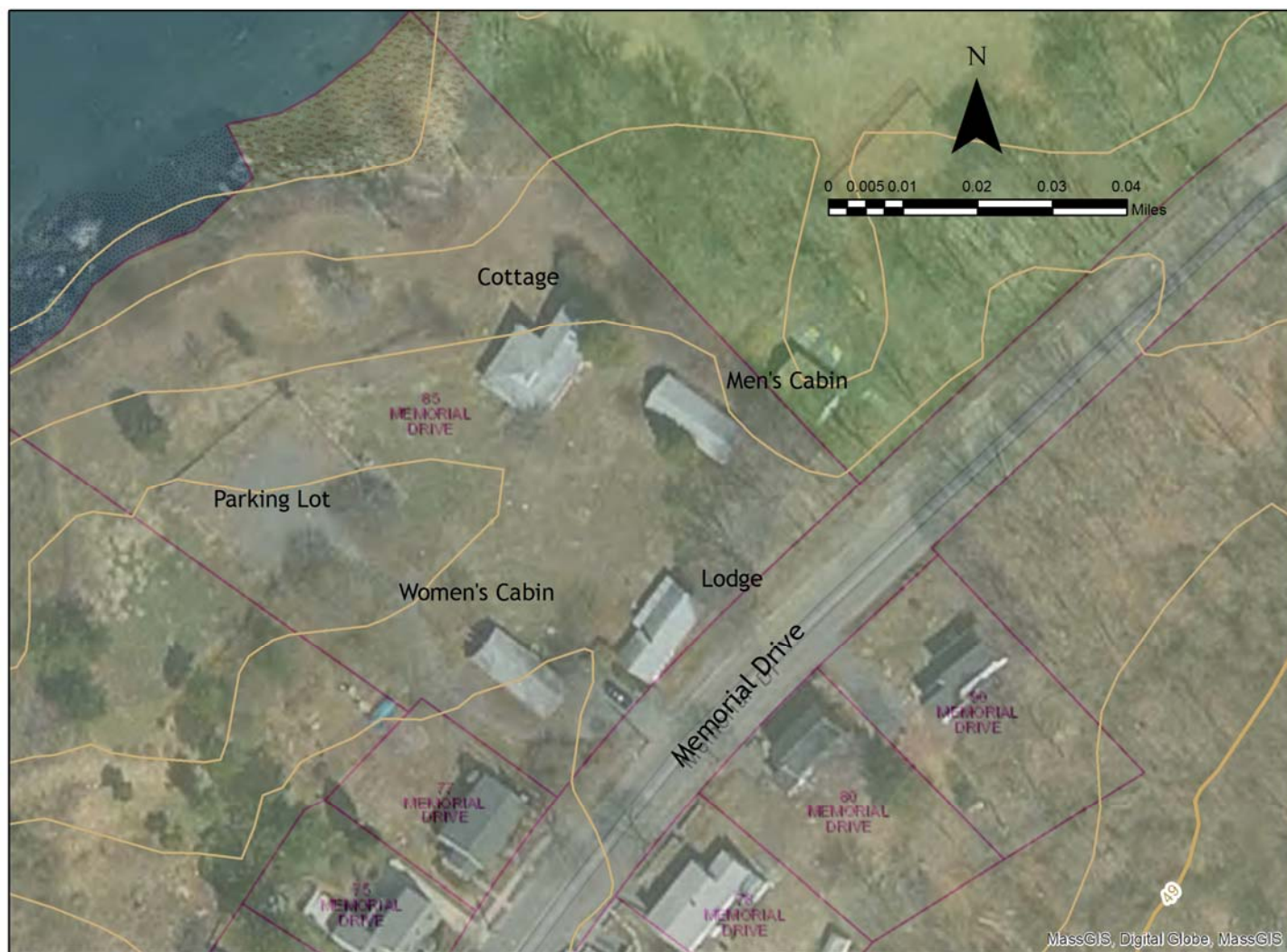


Figure 2. Site map of parcel, showing buildings (Heitert et al. 2020).

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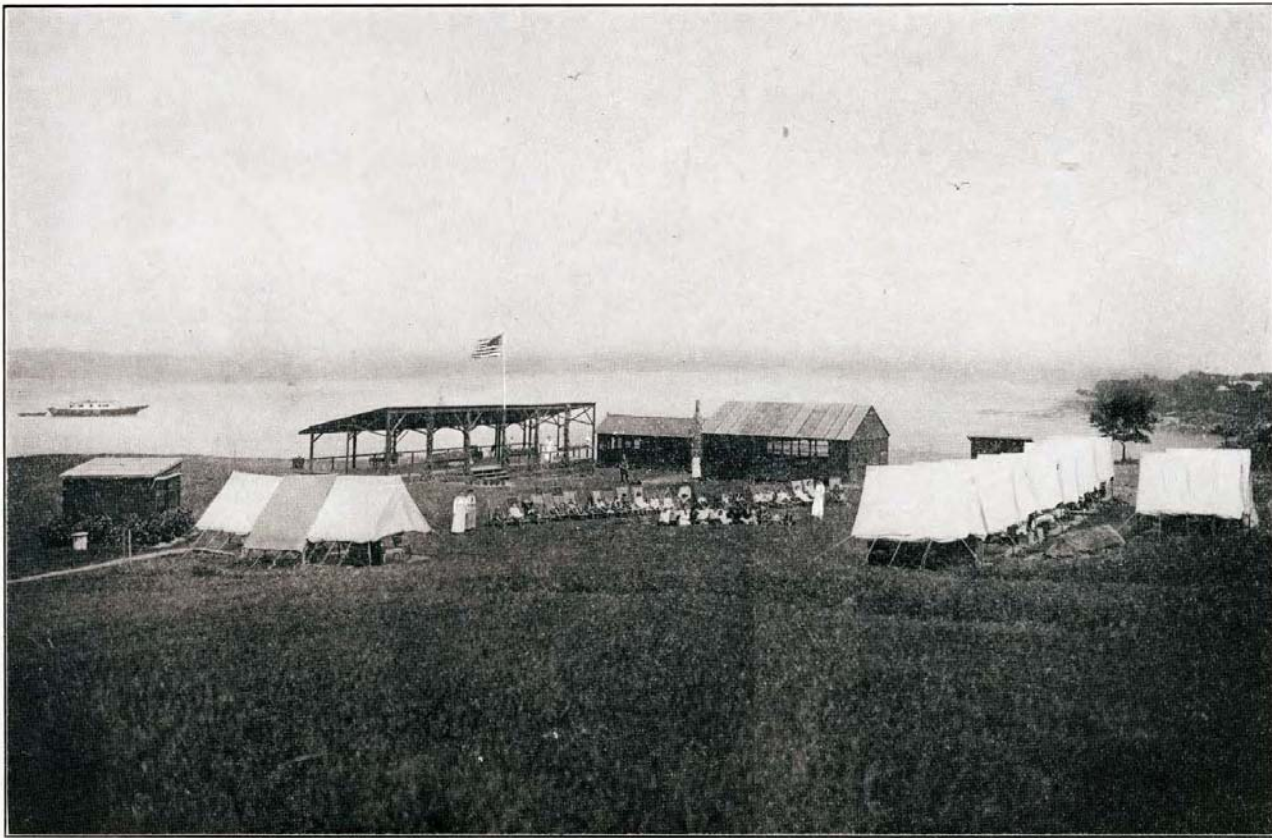
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DAY CAMP, FORT LEE

Figure 3. Tuberculosis camp, ca. 1916, looking northeast (SAPT 1916).



Figure 4. Tuberculosis camp, ca. 1920, looking north. The four largest buildings remain today (left to right): Women's Cabin, Cottage, Lodge, Men's Cabin. The two small buildings at the far left and the small building at the center are not extant (Camp Naumkeag Association Records, Salem State University Archives and Special Collection, Salem, Massachusetts).

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Figure 5. Aerial image of the camp in 1938 (NETR 1938).

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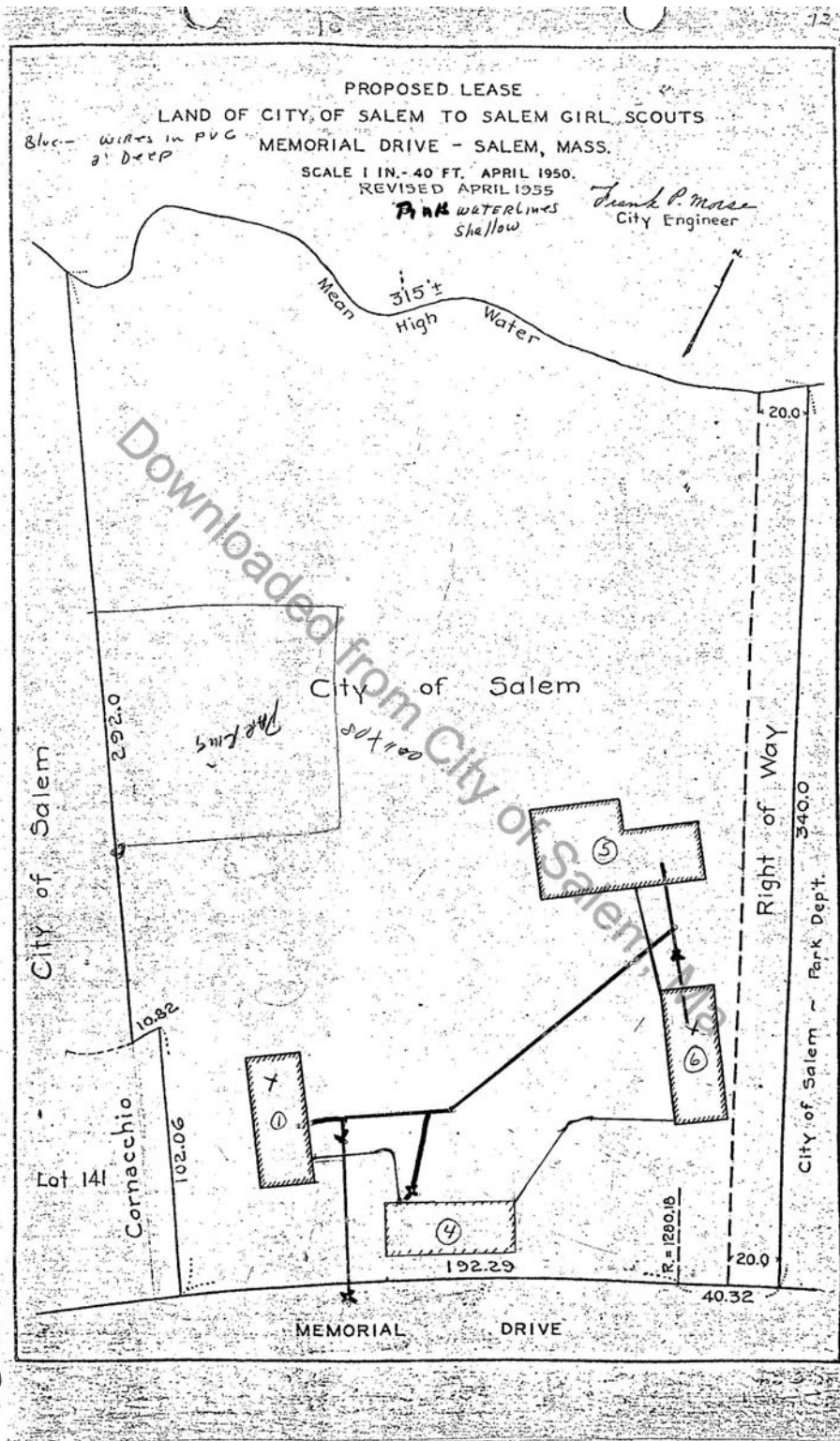


Figure 6. Plan of camp parcel and buildings, 1955 (City of Salem 1955).

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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☒ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Gretchen Pineo, Jill Miller, Virginia H. Adams, PAL,
September 2021

Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis Health Camp/Camp Naumkeag (SAL.IN) is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criteria A and C for its association with open-air tuberculosis camps in the early twentieth century and as an example of the simple open-air architecture that characterized such camps. In the area of Health/Medicine and Recreation, the camp is significant as the site of Salem's first camp for the treatment of children suffering from the ailments of tuberculosis, and for its continued use as a summer, health-oriented day camp for local children into the early twenty first century. It was organized about 1905 by the Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (Association) and employed treatment measures contemporary to the time. Established 1916–ca. 1920 with the extant buildings, it was the only camp of its type in the city.

The camp, built in 1916–ca. 1920 is potentially significant in the area of Architecture for its four extant, early twentieth-century wood-frame camp buildings and site layout constructed by the Association. The Salem Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis Health Camp/Camp Naumkeag retains the integrity of its location, setting, design, material, and feeling, with loss attributed to development of adjacent recreational facilities, degradation of condition, and minor alterations in the late twentieth century