



## Public Streets of Hyde Park, Massachusetts - How They Were Named.

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### Streets/Avenues

### Name Origin

Albion Street	Named by the late Thomas Hammond, formerly postmaster of Hyde Park. He purchased a block of land in the locality, built the street, constructed several houses on it, and gave it the name Albion St. <i>Albion is an old name for Great Britain.</i>
Allen Street	Hyde Park Ave to Winter St, where the bridge was built over the New York New Haven & Hartford Railroad (NYNH&HRR)). <i>Now it dead ends where Reservation Road crosses the tracks.</i> Named for the Allen Brothers Thomas and John, who for many years lived in the locality.
Austin Street	Extends from Gordon Ave to West St. Named for Charles Austin White, a large landowner in that vicinity. He was prominent in the movement for the organization of the town and active in all public affairs. His home for many years was the stone house at the corner of Austin St and Gordon Ave, later occupied by the Col. Batchelder. Charles Austin White died in 1883.
Barry Street	River St to Business St. Formerly called Barry Pl, was named for Michael Barry, who moved to Hyde Park before the settlement at Fairmount. He died in 1892.
Beacon Street	Formerly a part of Water St. Residents petitioned to have the name changed to Beacon St. <i>Water St became Truman Parkway built in 1931 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2005.</i>
Blake Street	<i>Off River Street, past Price Rite.</i> Named for Sargent Blake who owned a farm in that locality. He died in 1870. <i>No relation to Alpheus Blake.</i>
Bradlee Street	From Thatcher St to <i>Collins St</i> named for John D. Bradlee of Milton. He was a large stockholder in the Land Company and built many houses in that vicinity.
Brainard Street	Located in the Sunnyside district and was named in honor of Amos H. Brainard, a prominent citizen. He resided in Hyde Park for forty years and held many public offices. He was a trustee of the public library and an officer of the Hyde Park Savings Bank. He has the distinction of having served on the Board of Selectmen more years than any other citizen of Hyde Park. At the organization of the historical society in 1887, he was chosen as the first president.
Childs Street	Located in the Sunnyside district, it was named for Charles T. Child of Providence, who owned land in that section. The street was originally called Child St. Custom has made it Childs by adding the s. <i>It is once again labeled as called Child Street.</i>

Church Street	Located in the Sunnyside district, it was given its name because part of the land on the street was formerly owned by a church in Dorchester and the land was known as the church <i>lot</i> .
Collins Street	From Clarendon Hills Square ( <i>Hyde Park Ave and Metropolitan Ave</i> ) to the <i>base of High Rock, now known as Crane Ledge Woods</i> . Named in honor of James H. Collins of Boston who spent more than twenty-five years as president of the Real Estate & Building Company.
Dana Avenue	First laid out about 1860 from Water St to Summit Ave and extended years later to Brush Hill Rd. Named in honor of Dana Tucker, who was a prominent farmer on Brush Hill Rd in Milton.
Davison Street	Runs parallel to Pierce St. Named by Gordon H. Nott in honor of a Mr. Davison, who owned most of the land on which the street is located.
Easton Avenue	Named for the Easton Brothers Douglas M. and Fergus A who were prominent in town affairs and carried on an extensive tannery business at the corner of Easton Ave and Bridge St, in a <i>residential</i> building known as Ward's Block.
Ellis Street	Near the cotton mill, it runs through what was formerly a part of the Ellis farm. Charles Ellis died at the old homestead in 1872.
Erie Street	Located in the Fairmount district, on the banks of the Neponset River, near the New England Railroad bridge. Named because it is located near the railroad, which was then called Boston, Hartford and Erie.
Foster Street	Named after Alfred Foster, one of the prominent citizens of that time. He was a director and large stockholder in the Real Estate & Building Company.
George Street	<i>See Pierce St.</i>
Gordon Avenue	Named for Gordon H. Nott who was one of the prominent citizens in the early days of the town and a large landowner in the Sunnyside district. Nott St, off of Fairmount Ave, was also named for him.
Greenwood Avenue	<i>From the NYNH&amp;HRR to Greenwood Square and Metropolitan Ave by New Mission High School</i> . Named in honor of the Greenwood family, who were living here before the settlement of Fairmount. Elihu Greenwood died in 1871. His sons Frank and Herbert and a daughter continued to live in Hyde Park.
Hilton Street	Extends from West St to Arlington St. Named in honor of the Hilton family; the father, Isaac, and the sons Warren, William and James, were large landowners in that locality and prominent builders.
Hubbard Street	Runs parallel to Safford St <i>next to the Greenwood School, now Another Course To College</i> . Named for George Hubbard, who formerly lived at the corner of Metropolitan Ave and Thatcher St.
Huntington Avenue	Extends from East River St to the Boston line. Named in honor of Lynde A. Huntington, one of the original trustees of the Real Estate & Building Company, and one of the largest stockholders. He was a prominent merchant tailor in Boston.

Hyde Park Avenue	Originally laid out from the center of town to Forest Hills. Named by Alpheus P. Blake, the founder of the town. Blake was president of the Twenty Associates and the Fairmount Land Company. He was also a director and general manager of the Real Estate & Building Company. Most of the streets laid out in the early settlement over the lands of these companies were suggested by Blake and adopted by the companies. He later moved to Revere <i>but was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Hyde Park.</i>
Loring Street	Staked out in 1856 from Williams to Dana Ave, later extended to Tyler St in 1860. Named in honor of A. M. Loring, a carpenter who came with the early Fairmount settlers and built one of the first houses on Williams Ave, number 37, occupied by Mr. Timothy Clark.
Maple/Oak/Pine/ Walnut Streets	<i>These streets are on Mt. Neponset, the location of Most Precious Blood Church.</i> Laid out in 1858 and were accepted by the town in the first year of incorporation in 1868. Named by the directors of the Real Estate & Building Company because of the various kinds of trees found in that locality.
Mason Street	Extends from Hyde Park Ave to the Neponset River. Named for William A. Mason, who at one time owned considerable land bordering on the street and was the first to build there. Mason was a veteran of the Mexican and Civil wars. He later moved to California.
McKenna Street	Off Hyde Park Ave near <i>West Glenwood Ave and labeled Dacey St on an 1899 map.</i> Named for Edward McKenna, who for many years kept a grocery store and market in the block at the corner of the street.
Metropolitan Avenue	Laid out from Brush Hill Rd to West Roxbury, across the entire length of the town. Now separated into three parts, the proposed bridges over the two railroads never having been built. The name was selected by the Land Company as an appropriate one for an avenue which they expected would be a great thoroughfare.
Milton Avenue	Beacon St to the Milton line <i>in Fairmount. In 1868 Hyde Park was formed from Dorchester, Milton and Dedham land.</i> Named in honor of the old town of Milton. Milton St <i>in Readville</i> was also named for the town.
Mount Pleasant Street	First laid in 1870 by Jarius Pratt who owned most of the land through which the street was built. He selected the name as one thought most appropriate of its location. Pratt was a member of the Board of Assessors of Hyde Park in 1872. He passed away in East Boston, in April 1883.
Neponset Avenue	Named in 1860 by the Real Estate & Building Company, Neponset, on account of being near the Neponset River.
Page Street	Arlington St to Central Ave. It was named by the late Benjamin Chipman for Charles J. Page, a resident of Boston. Mr. Page was the treasurer of the Real Estate & Building Company, owners of the land in the vicinity of this street.
Parrott Street	<i>Very short street</i> between Austin and Summer St. Name for George B. Parrott, who settled in Fairmount in 1857. He was a civil engineer, who surveyed and laid out many of the first streets and building lots in town. He was on the Board of Assessors of Hyde Park in 1870 and at one time was chief engineer of the fire department. In March, 1882, at the age of sixty-three, he died in the house at the corner of Austin and Parrott St where he had lived for many years.

Perkins Avenue	Between <i>West River St</i> and Childs St. Named for the Ezra G. Perkins, a contractor, who built and occupied the house at the corner of Childs St and Perkins Ave where James E. Cotter, Esq. later resided. Mr. Perkins was a member of the Board of Selectmen in 1874.
Pierce Street	Fairmount Ave to Arlington St. Named in honor of the <i>three</i> Pierce Brothers who formerly owned most of the land and built several houses on the street. Charles came to Hyde Park in 1867 and died in 1875. George moved to Hyde Park in 1856 and was one of the original members of the Baptist Church and a war veteran. He died in 1895. John later became a resident of Hyde Park. George St, near the River Street Station was named for George Pierce.
Pond Street	Originally extended from Warren Ave across Fairmount Ave, on a curve, to Williams Ave, near the <i>original</i> Fairmount School, <i>now the Boston Police Academy</i> . A portion of this street was changed to Highland St. Named Pond St on account of a pond of about half an acre, at the corner of Fairmount Ave, on the land owned by the Putnam and Weld families. The pond was filled-in around 1865.
Prospect Street	<i>Its</i> name was chosen because of its location <i>in the Fairmount district</i> , from which the landscape view is one of the best in town.
Providence Street	This street <i>runs parallel to the NYNH&amp;HRR from behind</i> the Central Fire Station <i>now Police Station, to the former</i> Clarendon Hills station <i>on Metropolitan Ave</i> . The street was never completed, and the only part in use for a period was West St to the Clarendon Hills station. Named Providence St for the railroad then called Boston & Providence Railroad.
Railroad Avenue	Originally laid out to extend from Fairmount Ave to Metropolitan Ave but was discontinued beyond <i>Walter St</i> . Named because it was to run parallel to and adjoining the railroad. <i>Not on the 1899 map</i> .
Readville Street	One of the oldest streets in the town, <i>laid out in 1856</i> . Named for James Read, who at one time was a part owner of the cotton mills. The section of town has been called Readville since about 1850.
Richhood Street	Named after A. J. Rich and John Hood, both of whom lived on the street.
Safford Street	Near the <i>former</i> Greenwood school. It was named for Aaron H. Safford of the firm Safford, Nute & Wilson, woolen goods merchants of Boston. Though he resided in Cambridge, he purchased several acres of land near the Greenwood School and laid out this street that was named after him.
Sanford Avenue	Located in the Readville district and named for the townsman, Oliver S. Sanford. He was a large landowner in that section.
Shepard Court	Located in the Sunnyside district and named for Nathaniel Shepard. He was an extensive landowner and prominent builder in that vicinity. In 1874 he served on the Board of Selectmen. He later moved to Dedham.
Summit Street	Named by the Land Company by reason of its elevated location at the top of Fairmount Hill.
Thompson Street	Located in the Sunnyside district and named in honor of B.F. Thompson, a prominent builder, who moved to Hyde Park in 1864. He built and occupied the house at the corner of <i>West</i> Glenwood Ave and Sunnyside St. Mr. Thompson died in 1874.

Thatcher Street	Extends from Hyde Park Ave to Bradley St. It was named for William T. Thatcher, one of the early settlers, who came to Hyde Park in 1858. He was a director in the Real Estate & Building Company and one of its agents. Thatcher was a prominent member of Christ Church, and treasurer of the parish in 1865. He was one of the incorporators of the Hyde Park Savings Bank. Thatcher served in a Rhode Island regiment in the Civil War and died in Boston in 1884.
Vose Avenue	Located in the Fairmount district near the Milton line. Named for the Vose families of Brush Hill Rd, who formerly owned the land through which the street was built.
Wolcott Street	Located in Readville and named in honor Roger Wolcott, the Governor of the Commonwealth.
Warren Street	Named in honor of Hon. Daniel Warren, treasurer of the Twenty Associates. He moved to Fairmount from Boston, was prominent in politics, and in the Massachusetts Senate in 1855. Mr. Warren built the house at 215 Fairmount Ave, where he moved with his family in the Fall of 1856. His son, James, was the first baby born in the new Fairmount settlement. Warren organized the Fairmount Sunday-school, June 28, 1857, and was the first superintendent. They met in the parlor of his house for several years, until it consolidated with the Methodist Sunday-school. Warren passed away on May 26, 1867, he was 47 years old.
Water Street	Named by the Land Company, on account of the location near the river.
Webster/Clay/Everett/ Winthrop/Lincoln Streets	These streets form another group near the center of the town. They were named about 1860 by the Land Company in honor of noted men of those days.
Williams Avenue	Built in 1857 in honor of John Williams, one of the Twenty Associates. He built the house at 281 Fairmount Ave, where he lived for a number of years.

### Additional Information (2024)

*In 1856 with the commencement of the Fairmount settlement, the streets of importance were River, West, Readville, Milton (now the Neponset Valley Parkway) and Back, (now Wood Ave).*

*In the early Hyde Park days, the sections/ districts were the town's center (HP), Readville, Sunnyside, Fairmount, and Clarendon Hills.*

**East River Street** - Everett Square, now Logan Square to the Mattapan which was formerly Dorchester then Boston.

**West River Street** - Everett Square to the Dedham line. In the 1912 Atlas of the City of Boston, Ward 12 Hyde Park, the terms East and West are no longer used for River Street or Glenwood Avenue.

**East Glenwood Avenue** began at Hyde Park Avenue and continued on the Fairmount side of the Neponset River by the Glenwood Station.

**West Glenwood Avenue** began at Hyde Park Avenue and continued on the other side of the railroad tracks to the Stony Brook Reservation. Sometime after 1912 the street was changed to Reservation Road with a bridge over the train tracks.

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