Heathfield and Shattuck Hospital
Named for a Boston bookseller, Lemuel Shattuck Hospital was built in the 1930s to treat the chronically ill. The hospital resides on what was once Heathfield, a meadow that featured a footpath to the summit of Rock Morton—once given the nickname Lover’s Leap.

The original General Plan for Franklin Park did not include a permanent water feature. At the request of the public, the city of Boston requested that Olmsted design what would become Scarboro Pond. Today, waterfowl and other wildlife make the pond a park favorite.

Golf Clubhouse and Course—Schoolmaster Hill
Golf has a long history in Franklin Park dating back to 1896. The first official course was planned in Olmsted’s Country Park. The current Golf Clubhouse is the only publicly accessible venue that offers a food concession and restrooms in the park.

The Refectory, meant to be the main building to provide refreshment for park users, was designed by Boston architects Hartwell and Richardson in Italianate style. From its construction in 1896 until its ultimate decline and demolition in 1976, the building had many incarnations, including public library branch and hospital.

Schoolmaster Hill was named for Ralph Waldo Emerson who was a schoolmaster in Roxbury from 1823-1828. Designed using the natural puddingstone surroundings, the site offers sweeping views of the Country Park and Great Blue Hills.

Zoo—99 Steps
Located in Long Crouch Woods, the Bear Dens were built in 1912 and housed bears up until 1971. Popular among park visitors, the exhibit opened to a crowd of 10,000 people. During hard financial times and World War II, children of Boston formed the “Save the Animals Club,” saving their pennies to buy food for the bears.

Designed as a low-slung rustic lodge, the Overlook Shelter featured a refreshment stand, locker rooms and a stone viewing promontory or overlook, combining fine form with considerable function. In the 1960s, arts educator, Elma Lewis gave the space new life as Playhouse in the Park.

65 contiguous acres compose a typical New England forest known as the Wilderness that provides park visitors with a tranquil setting. Olmsted favored harmonious groups of trees and irregularly scattered plantings of shrubs that have matured into lush, natural woodlands.