

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

56-714

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Memorial Park

Other names/site number: Cold Spring Grove Park

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1200 West Park Drive

City or town: Huntington State: IN County: Huntington

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 X A B X C D

<u>Paul C. Dahl</u>	<u>1-19-2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Indiana DNR-Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain: _____)

Joe Esau H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

3.9.17
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	sites
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	objects
<u>22</u>	<u>12</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE / park

LANDSCAPE / garden

RECREATION AND CULTURE / outdoor recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE / monument/marker

TRANSPORTATION / road-related (vehicular)

TRANSPORTATION / pedestrian-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE / park

LANDSCAPE / garden

RECREATION AND CULTURE / outdoor recreation

RECREATION AND CULTURE / monument/marker

TRANSPORTATION / road-related (vehicular)

TRANSPORTATION / pedestrian-related

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER: Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE / Limestone

CONCRETE

walls: STONE / Limestone

STONE

BRICK

WOOD / Weatherboard

METAL / Steel

roof: WOOD / Shingle

ASPHALT

other: METAL / Cast iron

BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Memorial Park is located at 1200 West Park Drive in the City of Huntington, the governmental seat of Huntington County, Indiana. Historically, West Park Drive was known as Matilda Street within the city limits and Maple Grove Road outside the limits. It was also the former route of U.S. 24, the main east-west highway through the city. Today the park covers approximately 45.5 acres and offers numerous recreational facilities including two ponds, flower gardens, horseshoe courts, walking trails, outdoor grills, restrooms, basketball, pickleball, and tennis courts, a

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sledding hill, playground, picnic shelters, disc golf course, and an outdoor pavilion. In addition, an impressive Veteran's Memorial was dedicated in 2015, honoring the service of local veterans. Although the park has evolved since its establishment in 1919, it exhibits a number of design features that convey its master plan that city engineer Paul V. Smith developed in 1929. It also retains a number of extant resources dating to its significant period of 1919-1968. Arguably its most important resource, the Sunken Gardens, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

Narrative Description

Memorial Park extends north of West Park Drive along the east side of Bartlett Street to St. Felix Drive, reaching all the way to Dimond Street only at the very south end of the park in the area of the Sunken Gardens and the former Shakespearean Gardens. Additionally, a portion of the park is located on the west side of Bartlett Street between West Park Drive and Memorial Lane, extending to Hitzfield Street on the west. South of West Park Drive, the boundary includes the stone bridge walls, piers, and wing walls that lead into the Sunken Gardens. The park's landscape consists primarily of gentle elevation changes with grassy, open areas dotted by mostly mature trees. Portions of the park, especially surrounding the south pond and the neighboring residential area to the east, are more heavily wooded. Most of the resources listed below are located in relatively level areas of the park.

A number of resources are located in the portion of the park bordered by West Park Drive to the south, Memorial Lane to the north, Hitzfield Street to the west, and Bartlett Street to the east (Exhibit A). These include:

(1) Mark C. Seibold Horseshoe Courts, 1968/1973/1982/2015, Contributing Site, Photo #0001

Two regulation-sized horseshoe courts were first built west of the tennis courts in 1928. In 1968, the courts were moved to their current location on the south side of Memorial Lane. At the time, they were presented by the Huntington Jaycees in memory of Samuel E. Riddile. In 1973, the courts were rededicated in honor of Mark C. Seibold, the 1966 and 1969 Junior World Champion and 1965-1970 Junior State Champion. In 1982, the courts were expanded at a cost of \$2,308.95 with additional labor donated by the Huntington Horseshoe Club. In 2015, the courts were updated with concrete walks to make them ADA accessible and in 2016, new scoreboards were installed to meet National Horseshoe Association standards.

Today the 12 courts are surrounded by a chain link fence. Each court has its own chalk-type scoreboard and pairs of backboards, pits, and stakes.

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Standing to the east of the courts within the fenced-in horseshoe area is a new (c.2015) concrete pillar that replaced an earlier brick pillar that had sustained spalling damage due to improper repointing. There are two plaques on the south side of the pillar; the first reads, "1968, DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE OF HUNTINGTON, IN MEMORY OF SAMUEL E. RIDDILE, OUTSTANDING JAYCEE." The second reads, "MARK C. SEIBOLD COURTS, JR. WORLD CHAMPION, 1966 & 1969, JR. STATE CHAMPION, 1965 THROUGH 1970, DEDICATED 1973."

Standing to the south, just outside the fenced-in horseshoe courts is a small, one-story storage shed on a temporary foundation dating to 2015. It has a standing-seam metal gambrel roof, vertical wood siding, and a garage-style single-entry door. It is painted green and is in good condition. It is not counted as a resource due to its impermanent nature and insignificant scale.

The horseshoe courts are considered a contributing site because the sport has a long history at the park in this and other locations. They are also significant because they demonstrate how local social organizations, such as the Jaycees and Huntington Horseshoe Club, contributed to the development of Memorial Park.

(2) Court Sports Complex, 2015, Non-contributing Site, Photos #0001-0004

On April 29, 2014 the Huntington Common Council approved a \$350,000 appropriation to fund a major renovation at Memorial Park.¹ The project included moving tennis courts from their former location north of W. Park Drive to a new Court Sports Complex southeast of Memorial Lane and Hitzfield Street. The complex also included new pickleball and basketball courts, a new shelter, and a new parking lot. The project also included creation of a new Veterans' Memorial where the tennis courts had formerly been located.

The area of the Court Sports Complex was formerly home to a softball diamond that existed prior to 1938 (as seen in a 1938 aerial photo, Exhibit B-1) until it was abandoned, c.2012. In 2015, the Court Sports Complex was dedicated, having two basketball courts, three tennis courts surrounded by a tall chain-link fence, and three pickleball courts also surrounded by a tall chain link fence. To the north of the tennis courts, between the tennis courts and the horseshoe courts, is a new shelter (2015) featuring four picnic tables shaded by a blue canvas canopy. Additionally, a new parking lot sits to the north of the pickleball courts, accessed from both Memorial Lane and Bartlett Street.

¹ *Huntington County (Ind.) TAB*, "City plans park renovations, paving projects," 30 April 2014.

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(3) Outdoor Pavilion, 1921, Contributing Building, Photos #0005-0008

The outdoor pavilion was constructed in 1921 and has hosted numerous picnics and family reunions throughout the last century (Exhibit D-4). According to newspaper articles at the time, local contractors Carey and Robinett won the bid to build the structure.²

The pavilion is aligned parallel to Hitzfield Street, which provides access to an adjacent parking lot that is approximately 78 by 110 feet. The rectangular pavilion structure has a gabled, asphalt shingle roof. Vertical wood slats create the gable ends resting above the cobblestone-faced pillars. The eaves are decorated with similar vertical boards having diamond cut ends. From the exterior, the 16 massive stone pillars are the most striking feature of the pavilion. At each gable end, the central entrance is flanked by two of the pillars and each corner is supported by a pillar. Along the long sides of the pavilion, the central entrances are each flanked by two pillars on each side; additionally, the roof extends out further over the entrances at these locations. Between the pillars, except where entrances are located, are short walls faced in matching cobblestone. In addition to providing visual beauty and structural support, the walls serve as additional seating along the perimeter of the structure. The footprint of the pavilion is approximately 40 by 60 feet. The interior floor is concrete and four wood posts provide further structural support. East of the pavilion, the land slopes down. When approached from the east, the pavilion appears to be resting atop a hill and the entrance on the east side is accessible via concrete steps.

The present condition of the pavilion is fair to good. In recent years, efforts have been made to stop deterioration of the structure caused by water infiltration, which had caused the temporary closure of the pavilion due to safety concerns. As a result of these repairs, the paired stone pillars flanking each entrance along the long sides of the structure have been capped where they extend through the roof to prevent moisture infiltration. Otherwise, the historical integrity of the structure is excellent. The pavilion is considered contributing as it is the oldest extant resource in the park and has been an important social gathering spot for Huntington residents for nearly a century.

(4) Restroom Facility, c.1935, Contributing Building, Photo #0009

The restroom facility is clearly visible in the 1964 aerial photo (Exhibit B-2) but judging by the three-over-one double hung windows, the building likely dates to several decades earlier. The building has a rolled asphalt shingle hipped roof with large, overhanging eaves that are reminiscent of the Prairie style. The exterior is symmetrical, having a men's and women's

² Cindy Klepper, *Huntington (Ind.) Herald*, "Approve contract for new pavilion," 6 July 1921.

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entrance at each short end and two window openings with brick sills on each long end. The walls are also brick in a running bond, which extend down to the ground. The doors are modern steel replacements but otherwise the building retains its historic material integrity and is considered contributing because it dates to the period of significance. It is in poor to fair condition; several panes of glass are broken from the windows and the doors are kept locked and the facility unused. The interior features glazed tile on the walls.

Tucked into a hillside on the slope leading down from the restroom facility to Bartlett Street is a small storage building. It has an asphalt shingle gabled roof, vertical wood siding, and a permanent foundation. It is not believed to date to the period of significance and is not included in the resource count due to its insufficient scale.

(5) Washington Memorial Tree Group, 1932, Contributing Object, Photo #0010

Between the restroom facility and Bartlett Street, there is a small stone pier with a plaque that reads: "THIS GROUP OF TREES PLANTED IN MEMORY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BY THE HUNTINGTON ROUND TABLE CLUB 1932." There are a number of mature trees in the area but it is unknown if any of these date to the time of this memorial planting.

(6) Picnic Shelter, 1982, Non-Contributing Building, Photo #0011

This open shelter is located on the west side of Bartlett Street, just east of the playground. It was built in 1982 and has an asphalt-shingle gabled roof supported by 8 simple wood posts. Vertical wood boards are located in the gable ends and the floor is poured concrete.

(7) Sledding Hill, pre-1937, Contributing Site, Photo #0011

The sledding hill is located northeast of the intersection of Hitzfield Street and West Park Drive. The hill is located south of the outdoor pavilion, sloping down toward the area of the playground and West Park Drive. Sledding has been a favored activity since at least 1937 when the newspaper mentions the park providing a safe place for sledding, but it has likely been occurring here since even before the park was established. Repairs to the sledding fence were noted in a 1983 newspaper article, but today there are no permanent fences; instead, bales of straw and temporary fencing are placed seasonally to provide a cushioned buffer.³

(8) Playground, 2005, Non-Contributing Site, Photo #0011

³ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, "Weather Forces to Stop Memorial Park Work," 15 December 1937; "City park improvements, repairs outlined," 11 June 1983.

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Located northwest of the intersection of Bartlett Street and West Park Drive, the new playground was built in 2005. The old playground was located on the east side of Bartlett Street and all of the historic fixtures were removed for expanded parking.

(9) Memorial Park Sign, 2016, Non-Contributing Object, Photo #0012

This sign was installed as part of the 2015 improvements. It is located near the park's entrance, north of West Park Drive and west of Bartlett Street. The sign has a base of concrete block with five inset round medallions, each representing a branch of the U.S. armed forces: Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. The sign features a round illustration showing a flag at half-staff and reads: "MEMORIAL PARK, HOME OF SUNKEN GARDENS, *Established 1922*" on both sides. It is topped by a segmental arch "canopy" that gives the sign a modern look. Similar signs were installed at each of the City's parks in 2016.

Resources in the main part of the park, bordered by Bartlett Street to the west, West Park Drive to the south, and Dimond Street to the east include (Exhibit A):

(10) Box Culvert, 1938, Contributing Structure, Photos #0013-0014

A small stream that drains the neighborhood to the north trickles through the northern portion of Memorial Park before reaching the north pond. Initially, this area contained one of the three fish hatchery ponds, which were removed sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s. One of the ponds was reconstructed in the 1980s, but this land was left a grassy area divided by the stream.

The concrete box culvert was constructed over the stream in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and includes stonework lining what once would have been the stream channel. It is located at St. Felix Drive just south of Parkhill Drive. That same year, the WPA also constructed St. Felix Drive using similar stonework in ditches. Although extant and in reasonable condition, it appears a newer corrugated pipe that runs under St. Felix Drive just to the west of the culvert now carries the water. It is considered a contributing resource for its association with the WPA.

There are currently plans to replace the headwall where the storm water comes out from under St. Felix Drive. It is unknown how this future work may impact the WPA stonework, if at all.

(11) Waltonian Gardens, c.1929/1988, Contributing Site, Photos #0015, 0017

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When the park was rededicated as Memorial Park in 1922, civic organizations were encouraged to contribute to its amenities. One such organization, the Huntington chapter of the Izaak Walton League, created the “Waltonian Gardens” near the fish hatchery ponds. The group was lauded as being instrumental in making the fish hatchery possible. Over the decades, the Waltonian Gardens were neglected and forgotten. In 1988, an effort to renovate the park based on city engineer Paul V. Smith’s 1929 master plan resulted in the Waltonian Gardens’ reconstruction.⁴ The original date of construction is uncertain for these gardens; however, they do appear on Smith’s 1929 master plan for Memorial Park and are mentioned as existing in a 1932 newspaper article.

The gardens are rectangular in shape, approximately 48 by 110 feet. In the center is a square fountain. Its basin’s concrete walls are approximately 18 inches tall and each side has recessed panels; in the middle is a diamond-shaped panel engraved with the letter “W” flanked on each side by four square panels. The east half of the gardens consist of four beds that are rectangular in nature while the west half consist of three beds that are trapezoidal. A variety of shrubs and flowers fill the beds. Pavers create the walkways that surround the gardens and provide paths between the seven beds. To the east and located on the center line of the fountain, a pedestrian bridge extends from the gardens over a channel that carries water from the stream to the north pond. The bridges have wood handrails and wood decks. On the other side of the channel, the bridge connects to a pathway leading to the Arboreal Gardens.

The gardens appear to be maintained and although they are not the original gardens dating to the 1930s, they are an excellent reconstruction that conveys the historic design and plan for Memorial Park.

(12) Arboreal Gardens, c.1929/1988, Contributing Site, Photo #0016

Prior to 1988, no mentions were found of the Arboreal Gardens except that they were part of city engineer Paul V. Smith’s 1929 master plan for Memorial Park. In 1988, the city set about reconstructing the Arboreal Gardens, along with the Waltonian Gardens, according to Smith’s plans. A 1988 article provides a clue that the Arboreal Gardens did in fact exist prior to the reconstruction, stating that a circular reflecting pool was salvaged from undergrowth.⁵

Today, the gardens consist of the circular reflecting pool that has a cobblestone border—the pool itself is recessed into the ground. It is surrounded by a circular pathway of pavers; at each cross spoke, the pavers extend outward. Four benches surround the circular pathway.

⁴ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, “Rustic Pavilion Being Built Near Fish Ponds,” 26 June 1932; “Rustic Pavilion at Park Dedicated to Waltonians,” 7 August 1932.

⁵ Dan Coplen, *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, Dan Coplen. “Finishing touches put on park,” 28 August 1988.

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The western spoke pathway leads to the pedestrian bridge that connects with the Waltonian Gardens on the other side of the pond channel. A second pedestrian bridge is located farther north along the channel carrying a pathway that intersects with the path leading to the Waltonian Gardens. Both bridges have wood handrails and wood decks.

The gardens appear to be in fair to good condition and like the Waltonian Gardens, are an excellent restoration/reconstruction that convey the historic design and plan for Memorial Park. According to City officials, there are currently plans to plant a tree within the reflecting pool.

(13) North Pond, c.1929/1988, Contributing Site, Photos #0015, 0018

This pond appears on city engineer Paul V. Smith's 1929 master plan for Memorial Park. It was one of the three fish hatchery ponds and it was removed in the late 1940s or early 1950s. In 1988, the city reconstructed the pond to act as a retention pond, controlling runoff from a large portion of the city's north side. Star Excavating of Bippus excavated the pond and an earthen dam with spillway at its southeastern end holds back the water.

The pond is located east of Memorial Lane and south of the Waltonian and Arboreal Gardens. It covers approximately 1.2 acres. There is a small island in the pond covered with grass and small trees. Paths made from either brick or pavers circle the pond, its channel to the north, and the Waltonian Gardens, connecting to Memorial Lane on the west side.

The pond has a natural appearance, is clean, and well maintained. Like the other features on the north side of the park that were reconstructed in the 1980s, the north pond helps convey a sense of the 1929 design plan for Memorial Park.

(14) Memorial Lane, c.1937, Contributing Structure, Photo #0019

In 1933, an auto driveway along the west side of the hatchery ponds was graveled so that patrons could see the hatchery without leaving their cars. The 1938 aerial photograph (Exhibit B-1) clearly shows this driveway—the portion of Memorial Lane lying east of Bartlett Street.

Today, the winding road is paved with asphalt and provides vehicular access to the gazebo and closer views of the ponds. It appears to follow the same path today as shown in the 1938 aerial photo. Its continuous presence is the best tie in the northern area of the park to the park's historic design.

(15) Gazebo, 1988, Non-Contributing Building, Photo #0020

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The 1938 aerial photo (Exhibit B-1) appears to show a shadow of a gazebo-like structure in approximately the same location as the current gazebo, though no mention of a historic gazebo was found. The current structure was built in 1988 at a cost of \$3,000, well under its \$6,319 value. The gazebo's construction was part of the \$110,000 redevelopment project of the north side of Memorial Park that also resulted in the reconstruction of the Waltonian and Arboreal Gardens and the north pond.

The hexagonal gazebo has a flared conical roof with overhanging eaves and asphalt shingles. It is approximately 24 feet in diameter and is supported by six wood posts. A wood balustrade is between the posts. It has a concrete floor/foundation. It is considered non-contributing because it does not date to the period of significance, nor is there evidence that its construction was based off a historic plan for the park.

(16) South pond, c.1929/1986, Contributing Site, Photos #0021-0022

The south pond is located on the east side of Memorial Lane and Bartlett Street and covers approximately 2.5 acres. It is also one of the original fish hatchery ponds. However, unlike the other two ponds that apparently were removed in the late 1940s or early 1950s, the south pond appears to have existed in some form since the fish hatchery days, although its level of maintenance and also its water level throughout the decades varied. A 1979 newspaper article discusses the installation of a \$10,000 spillway at the pond to replace the earthen dam that collapsed due to erosion in 1977. At that time, the pond was drained in the summer to prevent stagnant water and mosquitos, and then raised to a level of three feet in the fall to provide skating facilities. Later, a 1983 newspaper article refers to the pond being redug; it was still under "reconstruction" in 1986, when a new dam was constructed. From the dam south, runoff is carried to Park Drive via the stone water race (Resource #17).⁶

Two pedestrian bridges were constructed c.2005 for pedestrians along the new pathway (distinguished by its crushed asphalt surface) in the wooded area on the east side of the south pond. The bridges have wood handrails and wood decks. They are not counted as resources due to their scale and impermanent wooden construction.

Additionally, several rustic stone steps exist along the old dirt pathway leading to the pond. During the 1988 pond restoration, these steps were referred to as original features and were salvaged from the overgrowth as areas were cleared.⁷

⁶ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, "Spillway to Replace Dam at Pond in Memorial Park," 12 January 1979; "City park improvements, repairs outlined," 11 June 1983; John Klingenberg, "Park ponds will collect runoff," 7 September 1983.

⁷ *Ibid.*, Cindy Klepper, "Memorial Park renovation drive launched," 15 April 1988.

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The pond has a natural appearance, is clean, and well maintained. Its continued presence is a reminder of the fish hatchery legacy and the historic plan for Memorial Park.

(17) Stone water race, 1937, Contributing Structure, Photos #0023-0025

A 1937 newspaper article describes that the WPA was working on imbedding large flat stones into the sloping banks of the park, just north of the playground.⁸ At that time, the playground was located on the east side of Bartlett Street in the vicinity of the basketball courts. It seems reasonable to assume that the stone water race that carries water from the dam at the south pond to West Park Drive is what was being described, as its construction is typical of the work done by the WPA.

The water race is in fair to poor condition. There are places where deterioration has caused some of the stones to collapse. The channel itself would benefit from the clearing of debris and vegetation. Concrete appears to have been poured forming the bottom at one point in time, but much of it is deteriorated or missing. Small, metal footbridges cross the water race in several locations. The water race is one of the most significant historic features of the park, especially given its association with the WPA.

(18) Shuffleboard court, date unknown, Contributing Structure, Photo #0023

This shuffleboard court is situated on the east side of the stone water race (Resource #17), near where the water race begins south of the south pond. The markings are extremely faded and the poured concrete surface appears rough, though it is minimally maintained with the surrounding grass trimmed back. Granted the sharply waning popularity of outdoor shuffleboard after 1970, it is reasonable to guess that this resource dates to the period of significance.

(19) Basketball court, date unknown, Non-Contributing Site, Photo #0024, 0028

The lighted basketball court is located on the east side of Bartlett Street, situated between the parking lot and the stone water race (Resource #17). The court has two goal hoops on each end. In addition, there is a small practice shot area with one hoop. There are currently plans to remove this court sometime in the future.

There is a small storage building located east of the basketball court (Photo #0028). It has a pyramidal hipped roof with asphalt shingles and overhanging eaves. It has been resided with vertical hardie boards and appears to have no permanent foundation. There are several openings, including a door and service window. The wood in the eaves indicate a c.1950 construction date but the small building has been altered and does not maintain historic

⁸ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, "Weather Forces Stop to Memorial Park Work," 15 December 1937.

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integrity. It is not included in the resource count due to its insignificant scale and impermanent nature.

There is also a parking lot located on the east side of Bartlett Street, just north of Park Drive that occupies approximately 0.2 acre. It is situated to the west of the basketball court and stone water race. It was expanded in 2005 when the old playground was removed.

(20) Sandbox, c. 1937, Contributing Structure, Photo #0024, 0026

This sandbox is located on the east side of Bartlett Street, just west of the basketball court and north of the parking lot. It is believed to have been constructed by the WPA at about the same time the water race was built. It is built into the hillside and has stone walls matching those in the water race (Resource #17). It is significant for its association with the WPA.

The following resources (#21-24) are part of the new Huntington Veteran's Memorial dedicated in 2015. From above, the Memorial is circular. At its center is a jet (#22). The western half of the circle features 7 flagpoles and the GAR Flag Pole Memorial (#21). The eastern half includes a Sherman Tank (#23) and the new Purple Heart Memorial (#24).

(21) GAR Flag Pole Memorial, 1933, Contributing Object, Photos #0029, 0031

In 1933, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) installed a memorial flagpole. The metal pole was anchored in a concrete base and next to it was a concrete memorial that strongly resembled the shape of the Indiana War Memorial that was constructed in Indianapolis in 1923. A cube with recessed panels sits atop three stepped concrete bases. Resting atop the cube are two concrete steps topped by a third having a pyramidal top. A plaque is affixed in one of the recessed panels of the cube that reads "DEDICATED IN MEMORY OF OUR FATHERS, GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, BY THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR 1861-1865, 19TH CONVENTION, JUNE 13, 1933." In 2015, the concrete memorial was moved from its former location south of the current playground to be a part of the new Veteran's Memorial, which was installed in the area west of the Sunken Gardens. A new flagpole bearing the U.S. flag now sits directly behind (to the east of) the GAR Flag Pole Memorial. To its north are three flagpoles, bearing the following armed forces flags: POW-MIA, Air Force, Coast Guard; to the south are three more flagpoles, bearing the following armed forces flags: Navy, Marine Corps, Army.

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(22) Lockheed T-33A Shooting Star Training Jet (Serial Number 01-51-4271A N271AP), 1953/2015, Contributing Object, Photos #0029-30

This jet was manufactured by the Lockheed Corporation in 1953. It was used by the 3525th Pilot Training Wing at Williams Airforce Base in Mesa, Arizona, as well as the 4347th Combat Crew Training Wing at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kansas, before being sold to the Chicago (Illinois) Board of Education in 1964.⁹ It was brought to Huntington in 2015 to be a part of the new Veteran's Memorial, having previously been preserved in Manassas, VA. According to a plaque located at the base of its display, Lockheed manufactured 5,691 T-33s between 1948 and 1959. Pilots who trained in the T-33 flew combat missions in the Korean and Vietnam Wars. This training was essential to the military's efforts and transitioned pilots from the propeller driven planes of World War II to the jet fighters of later conflicts. It is displayed as the centerpiece of the Huntington Veteran's Memorial, atop a pedestal surrounded by a large, circular flowerbed with concrete walls. This installation is meant to discourage climbing/vandalism. The jet is steel gray in color and painted: "U.S. AIR FORCE" near its nose. Additionally, military aircraft insignia decorate its rear and wings.

This jet replaced a 1951 F-80 Shooting Star aircraft (Serial number 1951-6745) that had been brought to Memorial Park in the early 1960s. That jet had been on loan from the United States Air Force Museum and has since been returned. The City of Huntington purchased the current T-33 as a permanent fixture and it is therefore considered a contributing resource due to its age, its significance, and its position as the centerpiece of the new Huntington Veteran's Memorial that further realizes the "memorial" nature of Memorial Park.

Another plaque located on the base of the display is titled "HUNTINGTON VETERAN'S MEMORIAL" and describes why the new Memorial was dedicated on November 7, 2015: "In 1922, the Common Council of Huntington and members of the Huntington American Legion Post No. 7, were 'moved by the passion of profound Americanism to forever perpetuate the memories of the war dead whose names are now and shall ever be a part of Huntington's history. Therefore, as a fitting tribute...the public park space known as Cold Spring Park...' was rededicated on May 30, 1922 as Memorial Park."

(23) World War II Sherman Tank, c.1945/1958, Contributing Object, Photos #0029, 0032

⁹ Million Monkey Theater, "Forgotten Jets Amateur Aircraft Research, Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star," accessed 19 August 2016, <http://www.millionmonkeytheater.com/T-33.html>.

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This M4A1 Medium Tank is displayed in the northeast quadrant of the Huntington Veteran's Memorial, having been moved from its previous location south of the playground, near the intersection of Bartlett Street and West Park Drive. A plaque indicates that it features a 76mm wet gun from the Yorktown (Watertown) Arsenal, that it was overhauled in 1950, and bears No. 68091; it was dedicated to the men and women of Huntington County who answered their country's call. A second plaque reads "TO THE MEN AND WOMEN OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY WHO ANSWERED THEIR COUNTRY'S CALL --- DEDICATED NOVEMBER 11, 1958 --- BY THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON AND BATTERY a 138TH AAA (AW) BN (SP) INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD." The tank is in good condition and maintains historic integrity.

(24) Purple Heart Monument, 2015, Non-Contributing Object, Photo #0033

Occupying the southeast quadrant of the Huntington Veteran's Memorial is the Purple Heart Monument designed by artist Rob Holzinger, a Purple Heart recipient. Rob's mother Gloria Holzinger organized community donations to cover its cost.¹⁰ The monument has a rough-cut granite base with five round, colored medallions, each representing a branch of the U.S. armed forces (top to bottom): Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard. Out of the left side of the granite, a squat obelisk rises, having a beveled white marble base, topped by a smaller beveled purple granite base, and then by the black granite obelisk. Etched into the top and side of the obelisk are the image of stars and stripes and the words "COMBAT WOUNDED." Beneath those words is a color etching of the Purple Heart medal. Brick pavers in front of the monument are engraved with the names and details of service of recipients of the Purple Heart who have ties to Huntington County. Currently there are 51 personalized bricks with space for a total of 120 personalized bricks at this location.¹¹

The Purple Heart was originally created on August 7, 1782 by George Washington, then commander-in-chief of the Continental Army. Secretary of War, Douglas MacArthur, reinstated the award in 1932. Today, the medal is awarded to those wounded or killed while serving in the United States Armed Forces as a result of enemy action on or after April 5, 1917.

(25) THE "LIME CITY" Historical Marker, 1979, Non-Contributing Object, Photo #0034

¹⁰ *Huntington County (Ind.) TAB*, "City dedicates new Memorial Park monument to those wounded or killed in battle for their country," 9 November 2015.

¹¹ *Huntington County (Ind.) TAB*, "1st Purple Heart bricks now in place," 30 May 2016.

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Installed in 1979, this Indiana Historical Bureau Marker was sponsored by the Huntington County Historical Society. It reads:

Huntington, The "Lime City," so named for its many limestone quarries and kilns, the first kiln being built in this vicinity by Michael Houseman in 1843 or 1844. By 1885 there were 31 kilns in operation; eight were perpetual kilns, the others were occasional kilns. The lime was of such high quality it was shipped out of the state as well as being used locally.

This marker is currently under review by the Indiana Historical Bureau for containing "one obvious error and some claims that cannot be verified with primary sources."¹²

(26) Sunken Gardens, 1923-1929, National Register Listed Site, Photos #0035-0037

For a complete description of the Sunken Gardens, please consult the 1997 National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Sunken Gardens prepared by Adrian Scott Fine for the Huntington Historic Review Board.

After visiting a sunken garden in San Antonio Texas, Huntington resident E.M. Wasmuth proposed a similar garden for the abandoned Keefer Stone Company quarry, which had become an eyesore and happened to be located right next to Memorial Park. The Inter-Club Park Committee was formed and quickly hired the Chicago Landscaping Company to prepare the gardens' design. Work began in 1923 and in 1929 the Sunken Gardens were officially dedicated. The gardens have long been Memorial Park's most notable attraction since their heyday in the 1920s and 1930s.

Unfortunately, by the 1960s the gardens had deteriorated from a lack of maintenance and were once again seen as an eyesore. In 1964, an effort was undertaken to make repairs to the gardens and another effort began in 1979. At that time, landscape architect William Eviston of Louis C. Petro and Associates presented a plan for the renovation of the Sunken Gardens and work continued on the gardens through 1983.

Additional restoration efforts have taken place since the Sunken Gardens were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997. In 1999, the Huntington Historic Review Board (HHRB) received a \$25,000 Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant that was matched by the city for the reconstruction of the West Park Drive Bridge. Amos B. Schwartz Construction of Geneva completed the work and the bridge was rededicated in June 2001. Between 2009 and

¹² Indiana Historical Bureau, "The "Lime City,"" 2010, accessed 6 December 2013, <http://www.in.gov/history/files/35.1979.2LimeCity.pdf>.

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2011 the HHRB was awarded HPF and Efroymsen Family Fund grants to repair stonework in the footbridges, retaining wall, and staircases of the Sunken Gardens. Starr Masonry of North Manchester completed the work and in May 2012, the Sunken Gardens were rededicated.

(27 & 28) Former Shakespearean Garden, c.2007, Non-Contributing Building and Structure, Photo #0038

The most significant loss to the park in recent years is that of the Shakespearean Garden, which had been located northwest of the intersection of Diamond Street and West Park Drive since 1927. The garden featured a bust of William Shakespeare and plants described in his works.

In about 2007, the city reconfigured this portion of Memorial Park, removing the Shakespearean Garden and installing new concrete footpaths, a shelter, and a pergola.

The shelter (27) has a hipped roof with wood shingles. It is supported by eight square wood posts with a wood balustrade running between the posts, except for the entrances on the short ends. The foundation/floor is concrete.

The pergola (28) is also of wood construction. The trellis roof consists of seven pairs of wood beams, each with decorative ends and carvings, which span two "walls" consisting of four tall posts; wood balustrades run between each post and the structure is open on each short end. The foundation/floor is concrete.

Other resources not yet mentioned include (Exhibit A):

(29) St. Felix Drive stonework, 1938, Contributing Structure, Photo #0039

Although not typically thought to be a part of Memorial Park today, St. Felix Drive between Dimond and Hitzfield Streets was declared to be part of the public park system in 1938. That year, the WPA removed top soil and filled dips. Remnants of the WPA handiwork is still visible today in several spots along the north side of St. Felix Drive where drainage ditches are lined with stone; also, a stone retaining wall exists on the west end of St. Felix Drive. The stonework is similar to what is observed along the water race in Memorial Park (Resource #17). The stonework and the road itself is considered a contributing resource due to its association with the WPA.

(30) Memorial Hills Disc Golf Course, c.2010, Non-Contributing Site, Photo #0028

The Memorial Hills Disc Golf Course is an 18-hole course located throughout Memorial Park.

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(31 & 32) Entrance Lions, c.1882/1933, Contributing Objects, Photos #0027, 0040

In 1933, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dick gave the city two cast iron lions to guard the Memorial Park entrance gate at Bartlett Street. The lions were bought in New York City by Jacob Dick and brought to Huntington between 1882 and 1885 as decor for the F. Dick and Son clothing store, which had been located at 312-320 N. Jefferson Street. Today, the gold-painted lions still stand guard, sitting on raised pedestals in mini-flower beds delineated by stones flanking each side of Bartlett Street.

(33) Brick Pathways, c.1988-Present, Non-Contributing Site, Photo #0041

Beginning as part of the park improvements made in 1988 and 1989 and continuing through the 2000s, many bark pathways throughout the park were converted to pavers or brick. Some of the brick used more recently to upgrade paths are salvaged, historic brick.

(34) Bartlett Street Stone Gutters, c.1937, Contributing Structure, Photo #0042

Barely visible beneath overgrown grass are the remnants of what appear to be stone gutters lining both sides of Bartlett Street. The stonework can be seen near the location of the sandbox and it is likely that this structure is the result of WPA work done in the park in the late 1930s.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1919-1968

Significant Dates

1922

1929

Significant Person (last name, first name)

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder (last name, first name)

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Smith, Paul V.
Chicago Landscape Company
Carey and Robinett

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance, 1919-1968, covers the historic period of the park, from its establishment when the land for the park was purchased in 1919 until 1968, when the Jaycees presented horseshoe pitching courts to the City of Huntington.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Memorial Park is significant at the local level under Criterion A for its importance to the social history of Huntington and for the entertainment and recreational opportunities it provided local citizens. Memorial Park is significant at the local level under Criterion C for its distinctive characteristics as a planned historic landscape representing the work of multiple professionals. The periods of significance 1919-1968 covers the time that Memorial Park was established, planned, and built according to its 1929 master plan by city engineer Paul V. Smith. The park contains the City's best extant WPA resources and the Park Rustic style of architecture is well-represented.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Memorial Park is significant in the area of Social History to the City of Huntington. At the time of its establishment in 1919, Memorial Park's promoters were concerned that the citizens of Huntington were not provided facilities to meet their recreational and "beauty" needs, despite the industrial and commercial progress the community was experiencing. When the city council proclaimed that the park be dedicated as a memorial to the soldier and sailor dead of the county, they invited veteran organizations to, in effect, make it happen. Not only did veterans' organizations step up and do just that, a number of other community clubs and groups stepped forward to improve the amenities and beauty of the new park. Over the years, a number of social organizations contributed to the park's development. The following is just a sampling:

- (1923) The Inter-Club Park Committee (made up of members of the American Legion, Rotary, Kiwanis, Exchange, and Huntington Community Clubs) formed to create the Sunken Gardens
- (1927) Shakespeare Club dedicated the Shakespearean Gardens
- (c.1929) Izaak Walton League created the Waltonian Gardens

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- (1931) The Round Club planted five walnut trees in a circle in significance of the organization
- (1931) The Daughters of the American Revolution planted an American elm in observance of the 200th birthday of George Washington
- (1933) The Grand Army of the Republic installed a memorial flagpole
- (1958) Indiana National Guard presented the World War II Sherman Tank
- (1968) The Jaycees presented horseshoe pitching courts
- (1978) Tri Kappa Sorority donated funds for the Sunken Gardens
- (1979) Huntington County Historical Society installed a historical marker
- (1988) Pathfinder Services, Inc. provided labor for the restoration of the park

Additionally, the facilities at the park encourage community gatherings. These include the outdoor pavilion (1921), picnic shelters (1982, 2007), and gazebo (1988).

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was a federal social program designed to put people to work. The WPA was extremely active at Memorial Park in the late 1930s, completing the following projects: Stone Water Race (1937), Sandbox (1937), Box Culvert (1938), St. Felix Drive Stonework (1938), Bartlett Street Stone Gutters (c.1937).

Entertainment/Recreation is another area of significance for Memorial Park. Even before its establishment in 1919, the park's site (the former Cold Springs Grove) was a long-time recreational destination for locals. After the park's establishment, recreational facilities were given a great deal of attention. Amenities now include a sledding hill, playground, and disc golf course, as well as horseshoe, shuffleboard, tennis, and basketball courts. The sledding hill, horseshoe, shuffleboard, and basketball courts were in use during the main period of significance, while the tennis courts have been relocated. In addition, local and touring bands and other acts have provided entertainment at events and festivals held in the park. Memorial Park was established as one of three inaugural parks making up Huntington's new City Parks system. The other two, Elmwood and Hiers Parks, were much smaller than Memorial Park and did not offer as many amenities. Over the years, Memorial Park has remained Huntington's premier park.

Memorial Park is also significant in the area of Landscape Architecture. The overall design of Memorial Park is most in keeping with the picturesque movement promoted by Frederick Law Olmstead and carried out in Indiana by contemporaries such as Jens Jensen, who designed a number of Hoosier landscapes. The Chicago Landscape Company's design for the Sunken Gardens (Resource #26) included "meandering pathways, changes in grade, plantings suggesting an almost tropical setting, and the artificially created horseshoe-shaped pool" and "expresses intimate private settings as well as open areas where large numbers of the public can gather."¹³ Picturesque elements are also found in Paul V. Smith's 1929 master plan for Memorial Park,

¹³ Fine, Adrian Scott. National Register of Historic Places nomination: "Sunken Gardens." 1997. Available from the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology.

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particularly in the area of the fish hatchery ponds, which were created to suggest a natural setting and to provide an “escape” from the city. City Beautiful ideals can be found in the more formal aspects of Smith’s master plan, including the formal Waltonian (Resource #11), Arboreal (Resource #12), and Kil-so-quah Gardens. It is also seen in the Shakespeare Club’s 1927 contribution of a Shakespearean Garden east of the less formal Sunken Gardens.

Finally, Memorial Park is significant in the area of Architecture. The outdoor pavilion that was constructed in 1921 by local contractors Carey and Robinett (Resource #3) particularly conveys this significance. The building is the oldest feature built in the park and is an excellent example of the Park Rustic style of architecture. Its cobblestone walls and pillars fit well into the setting at Memorial Park, conveying the naturalistic ideals of the Picturesque movement. In addition, features that express the structural purity of the building, such as the pillars’ extension through the roof are in keeping with ideals promoted by the Craftsman style and the Arts and Crafts movement, which was popular at the time.

Developmental History/Additional historic context information

The Indiana Legislature organized Huntington County in 1834. General John Tipton of Logansport offered to donate lots in the newly platted town of Huntington, provided that the town be established as the county seat. Tipton’s offer was accepted and Huntington became the seat of government for Huntington County. Advancements in transportation and Huntington County’s natural deposits helped sustain Huntington’s development throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century.

The first major advancement in transportation was the Wabash and Erie Canal’s construction from Fort Wayne to Huntington in the summer of 1835. The canal attracted many speculators who bought extensive tracts of land in the area, holding on to them and perhaps even impeding development for a time. The canal was eventually completed to Terre Haute in 1843. Although the heyday of the canal was short-lived, Huntington’s location along its route provided a business advantage to early inhabitants. In 1848 Huntington officially incorporated as a town with a population of less than 600.

The arrival of the Lake Erie, Wabash and St. Louis Railroad (later known as the Wabash) in 1853 ushered in a new era of growth. By 1870 Huntington had grown to a population of nearly 3,000 and was incorporated as a city in 1873. The following year, the canal was abandoned, having succumbed to the competition of the railroads, the decay of locks, and the gradual filling in of the canal channel. In 1882 a second railroad, the Chicago and Atlantic (later known as the Erie) was completed through Huntington. It connected Marion, Ohio and Chicago, Illinois. This line was particularly important because Huntington became the Erie Railroad Company’s headquarters, meaning that all employees were based in Huntington. By 1920, an estimated 13%

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of Huntington men worked directly for the Erie Railroad. A third line, the Cincinnati, Bluffton and Chicago (CB&C) Railroad was completed to Huntington in 1907 with plans of eventually connecting Cincinnati and Chicago. However, the line only made it from Portland, Indiana to Huntington and was plagued by financial trouble and accidents; it lasted just a decade with its last train running in 1917.

Huntington County is drained by three principle streams: the Wabash, Salamonie, and Little River. Along these watercourses laid fine-quality lime and building stone. An 1877 county history boasted, "The lime produced from the quarries at Huntington is justly celebrated throughout a very extensive region of the central northwest. It underlies about six square miles of territory, and is practically inexhaustible."¹⁴ Early on, the lime industry was one of Huntington's most important economic forces and the city earned the nickname of "Lime City." Hard lime rock was burned in kilns to become white lime used in manufacturing and agriculture. The first lime was burnt along the Wabash & Erie Canal west of the city and shipped primarily to Fort Wayne. As the industry grew, so did its markets with Huntington lime product reaching Chicago and Indianapolis as railroad transportation improved. Leading operators formed the White Lime Association. An 1887 county history noted, "The output of the kilns is an average of thirty car loads per day, and the industry gives employment to about 200 men."¹⁵ By the early 1900s, the county was one of the largest lime-producing areas in the state. Many of the quarries and kilns were located along Maple Grove Road. One of the earliest quarries, the Keefer and Bailey Lime, Brick, Tile and Cement Company, abandoned its Maple Grove Road quarry and rock crushing machinery sometime between 1914 and 1920. Many regarded the abandoned quarry as an eyesore, especially due to its prominent location along the main east-west road through Huntington.

Although most often associated with large cities, the ideals of the City Beautiful movement trickled to even smaller communities like Huntington in the early 20th century. The movement's leader, architect Daniel Hudson Burnham, impressed the nation as the director of works for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago. His vision for the fair's "White City" promoted the grand formality typical of European city planning and the classicism promoted at Paris's École des Beaux-Arts. However, his design for the fair also included an informal lagoon area, not dissimilar to the picturesque ideals held by Frederick Law Olmstead, designer of New York City's Central Park. The popularity of the City Beautiful ideals can be seen locally in Huntington in the public buildings constructed near the turn of the twentieth century, such as the Neoclassical Carnegie Free Library (1902) and Huntington County Courthouse (1904-1906). Parks were also an essential element to the City Beautiful ideal and Burnham believed that civic

¹⁴ Huntington County Board of County Commissioners. *Historical Sketch of Huntington County, Indiana*, (Huntington, Ind.: Herald Printing Company, 1877), 38.

¹⁵ *History of Huntington County, Indiana*, (Chicago: Brant & Fuller, 1887), 436.

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renewal “could provide healthy activities to those citizens who could not afford extensive traveling and who thus depended on the city for recreational and cultural enrichment.”¹⁶

Burnham’s ideas would be echoed by the early promoters of a city-owned park in Huntington.

Local historian Dale Francis made the interesting observation in 1983 that Memorial Park may not have existed had it not been for the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the resulting discontent in the United States. This discontent led to demonstrations of support for the Communists in Russia. In Huntington, a socialist rally was held at the courthouse led by the Reverend Fred Strickland of Defiance, Ohio in 1919. Strickland had been involved with the Christian Socialist League, a group seeking to distance the Socialist movement from atheism. During his speech, he encouraged “sympathetic understanding and intelligent investigation” of the Communist revolution. Less than a month after Strickland’s rally, J. M. Triggs of the Huntington Commercial Club—a “lively organization of Huntington businessman”— began promoting the need for a community park. He argued that the city was experiencing industrial and commercial progress but nothing was being done to meet the recreational and beauty needs of the people. More to the point, the local Reverend E. W. Cole argued that “If the nation was going to meet the Bolshevistic challenge...there must be provision for the people. Especially, he emphasized, there must be recreation facilities for the young people, parks where youngsters could learn the American way on the playing fields.”¹⁷

The city council named J. W. Caswell head of a committee to raise \$5,000 towards a parks and beautification program. In June 1919 the top 100 businesses in town agreed to contribute to a fund in the amounts of 50, 25, or 15 cents per employee on an annual basis. The city council eventually rejected a proposal to locate the community park at the site of Central School and instead purchased Cold Spring Grove, a lot west of the city and adjacent to the Keefer and Bailey quarry on Maple Grove Road. Even before its acquisition by the city, Huntington residents had long used the Cold Spring Grove as a picnic ground and for celebrations and public gatherings (including political rallies). During the next two months in 1919, the city also acquired the land needed to create Elmwood and Hier’s parks.

The park was originally called Cold Spring Grove City Park. The initial purchase of land to create the park was approximately 43 acres; later, an additional 2+ acres were added, including one acre in 1920 located along Matilda Street (West Park Drive) and owned by the Beeson estate. That acre was purchased to give the park a regular shape because without it, the park “had a hole in it.”¹⁸ The Cold Spring Woods park plat was recorded in the city’s name the same year.

¹⁶ Chicago Historical Society, “Architecture: The City Beautiful Movement,” *The Electronic Encyclopedia of Chicago*, 2005, accessed 10 December 2013, <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/61.html>.

¹⁷ Dale Francis, *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, “A most special parcel of real estate,” 12 October 1983.

¹⁸ *Huntington (Ind.) Press*, “Beeson Acre May Be Part of City Park,” 6 April 1920.

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The old canal bed was located to the south of the abandoned stone quarry and by 1919 had been designated as interurban right-of-way, linking Huntington with both Fort Wayne and Indianapolis via Wabash, Peru, and Kokomo. The new park's location served as a gateway to Huntington and made it easy for local and non-local visitors to access it via foot, automobile, interurban, or railroad.

Improvements at the park began in earnest in the early 1920s and during this decade many of Memorial Park's most important features were installed or imagined. For example, in 1921 local contractor Carey and Robinett won the bid to build the outdoor pavilion. Today the pavilion is the park's oldest extant resource (with exception of the Milligan Slave House, which was moved to the park in 1984 and dates to 1860). Since its construction it has been an important social gathering space for community events, family reunions, afternoon picnics, and numerous other happenings throughout the last century (Resource #3).

May 30, 1922 was an important date in the park's history. The park played host to an elaborate Memorial Day observance at which it was rededicated as "Memorial Park" in honor of the First World War dead from Huntington County. The official City Council proclamation stated:

Resolved, by the common council of the city of Huntington, Ind., that we approve of the beautifying of the Huntington county highways with trees in memory of those who have given their service in the defense of our country, and Resolved further, that in appreciation of those services we offer the city park usually know [sic.] as the Cold Spring Woods to be dedicated as a memorial to the soldier and sailor dead of Huntington county, and we invite the veteran organizations of the city of Huntington to take such steps as they deem advisable to this end.¹⁹

After its rededication, newspaper articles describe more than 1,800 plants of 107 varieties that were to be planted in the park by J.H. Prince, a landscape artist from Troy, Ohio and the "Memorial Avenue" that was planted in rows along Maple Grove Road, having approximately 200 trees. Located between the Sunken Gardens and Mt. Hope Cemetery, the memorial avenue was dedicated to the memory of soldiers and sailors of all wars from Huntington County. The memorial is no longer extant, probably due to utility/road work and the natural loss of the trees over the decades.

The most notable improvement to Memorial Park in the 1920s was the proposal, design, and execution of the Sunken Gardens (Resource #26).²⁰ By all accounts, the new Memorial Park was a success and popular destination. However, citizens attempting to reach the park had to pass by

¹⁹ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald*, "City Council Offers Park for Memorial," 10 May 1922.

²⁰ The Sunken Gardens were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 with a period of significance of 1923-1947. For a more detailed account of their historical significance and physical description, please consult the nomination prepared by Adrian Scott Fine for the Huntington Historic Review Board.

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the abandoned Keefer Stone Company quarry, which was partially filled with water by 1920 and infamous for the drowning of a prize steer that had fallen into it. Huntington resident E. M. Wasmuth, who later became a state Republican chairman, vacationed in San Antonio, Texas in 1922. There he visited a sunken garden that inspired his vision for Huntington's abandoned, eye-sore quarry.

Wasmuth's inspiration was San Antonio's Japanese Tea Garden, which had taken shape in an abandoned rock quarry in 1917-18. The San Antonio City Parks Commissioner, Ray Lambert, used prison labor to construct walkways, stone arch bridges, an island, and a Japanese pagoda in the garden. First called the lily pond, local residents donated bulbs, the city nursery provided exotic plants, and the city public service company donated a lighting system to beautify the area. The effort gained national attention in 1919 when *The American City* magazine reported that "the city of San Antonio has recently completed a municipal lily pond and a Japanese garden which we believe are unique."²¹

Upon Wasmuth's return home, the American Legion, Rotary, Kiwanis, and Exchange clubs solicited individuals who endorsed notes for the purchase of the quarry and lots on the south side of West Park Drive at a cost of \$4,500. Along with the Huntington Community Club, the previously mentioned organizations formed an Inter-Club Park Committee to shepherd the sunken gardens vision and raise the estimated \$11,000 needed to complete the project. The Committee quickly hired the Chicago Landscaping Company and its architects, Blarry and Rary, to prepare the gardens' design. In 1923, the Inter-Club Park Committee purchased a full-page advertisement featuring a birds-eye rendering of the proposed gardens and promoted the project as a "beautiful addition to Memorial Park." A plea requesting pledges from the public accompanied the ad, which heralded the project as a "gift of the people."²²

Work on the Sunken Gardens began in late 1923 with the clearing of the quarry, construction of a horseshoe-shaped pool, and the planting of trees and flowers. The Inter-Club Park Committee transferred ownership of the gardens to the City of Huntington on February 22, 1924. An initial dedication by Mayor Clarence Juillerat took place in 1924 as work continued under the City's supervision. Local contractor Martin Koch constructed two limestone foot bridges and a fountain. Additionally, two stone stairways were built at the northeast and southeast corners of the quarry to complement the only other entrance via a tunnel located under West Park Drive. Today, the slightly modified tunnel is the most prominent feature retained from the time the site was an active quarry. Excess limestone from the construction of the LaFontaine Hotel had been

²¹ San Antonio Parks and Recreation, "Japanese Tea Garden," accessed 27 November 2013, http://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/directory_japanese.aspx.

²² Fine, Adrian Scott, "Sunken Gardens," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 1997.

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dumped near the quarry and was used to build the stone wall on both sides of West Park Drive over the Sunken Gardens between Dimond and Bartlett Streets.

The Sunken Gardens and Memorial Park were widely promoted as a tourist attraction and destination. Hundreds of visitors traveled U.S. 24 as more and more families owned their own automobiles. The Sunken Gardens were reported to be listed in all the major maps and guide books for Indiana as a “natural” detour. Federal highway acts of 1916 and 1921 required improved road conditions and the highway network expanded into its own sort of national landscape. Adrian Scott Fine notes in the Sunken Gardens nomination that, “As part of the Sunken Gardens project, the bridge at West Park Drive over the quarry was reconstructed to include rustic, fieldstone knee walls and pillars with light standards. Creating a monumental gateway, the new bridge design was a signal to the approaching motorist of a unique sight not to be missed.”²³

Other improvements in the 1920s at Memorial Park included playgrounds, tennis courts, teeter boards, upgraded lights, benches, and a tourist camp. Given the boom in car ownership, many Americans were setting out on motor vacations. The more adventurous vacationers would stop at public campgrounds set aside for motorists in municipal parks. Between 3,000 and 6,000 of these camps were reported to exist in the country, with 233 identified in Indiana in 1926.²⁴ The City of Huntington established a tourist camp at Memorial Park in 1926 and located it opposite of the park on the south side of West Park Drive. It included a shelter house and outdoor furniture where tourists could seek protection from storms, but did not include any overnight facilities. The camp was operated by park caretaker, Henry Kramer. Today there are no known remains of the tourist camp. Tourists were a boon to the local economy because they spent money in town on gas, oil, food, supplies, and souvenirs. The E. C. Kropp Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin made color postcards of a photograph of the Sunken Gardens, which were available for purchase by tourists. The same year the tourist camp at Memorial Park was established, Huntington Mayor Charles W. Snider planned to construct a huge amphitheater that would seat 4,000 at a cost of \$7-8,000 and provide parking for 500 automobiles. Although never realized, the plans demonstrate the optimism associated with Memorial Park at the time.

In 1927, the Shakespeare Club of Huntington planned a Shakespearean Garden for Memorial Park, located east of the Sunken Gardens. A two-story house that had been located at the site and occupied by Hezekiah Fair, a blacksmith for the Keefer and Bailey Stone Company, was moved up Dimond Street to German Street. The Shakespearean Gardens featured plants described in William Shakespeare’s works and the club secured seeds for flowers from London. The initial design was a formal, rectangular plot surrounded by shrubbery on all four sides. Five angular

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

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beds contained specimens of flowers and herbs and to the left of the bed a mulberry tree was planted, typical of one Shakespeare sat under to write “Here’s flowers for you.” Beds of zinnias and gladiolas and a latticed archway with seats shaded by wisteria, climbing roses, and honeysuckle, were also part of the design. At the time, Shakespearean gardens were gaining popularity throughout the United States with a purpose of bringing “knowledge of the classical herbs and flowers and to bring recreation and enjoyment to all.”²⁵ Sadly, the Shakespearean Gardens’ c.2007 removal from Memorial Park is the most recent loss of a significant resource.

In 1928, finishing touches such as a flag, fountain, and wooden pump house were added to the Sunken Gardens and in 1929, after seven long years of planning and executing, the City of Huntington considered the Sunken Gardens complete and held an official dedication. The Sunken Gardens quickly gained national exposure when the November 1929 issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* featured them with before and after photographs in a short piece titled “Conquering the New Frontier of Civilized Ugliness.” Into the 1930s, the City of Huntington employed two retired men to work and maintain the Sunken Gardens year round.

1929 also marks the year that Huntington’s city engineer, Paul V. Smith, created a landscape design for Memorial Park. Smith’s master plan outlined a grand vision for the park and included many of its most significant features: the fish hatchery ponds, formal gardens near the ponds, and features already established such as the Sunken and Shakespearean Gardens. Smith, a veteran of the First World War, began his career in about 1916 with experience in surveying, planning, and drafting. He was elected as Huntington County Surveyor on the Democratic ticket, serving in 1923-24 and again in 1927-30. During his tenure, notable projects included the Murphy Bridge, a 204-foot steel span over the Salamonie River in Warren and the “spiderweb system of public highways entering the city of Huntington from all directions.” These, in addition to dozens of smaller bridge and street projects.²⁶ Smith’s master plan for Memorial Park would be consulted for restoration efforts in the 1970s and 1980s.

Memorial Park arguably reached its heyday during the 1930s. By that time, it was an established destination boasting beautiful, well-maintained gardens, a variety of recreational facilities, venues for social gatherings, and a municipal fish hatchery that supplied small-mouth black bass to local streams. Improvements continued in earnest throughout the decade. Tree-planting was a popular activity among local groups such as the Round Table Club, who planted five walnut trees in a circle in significance of the organization in 1931 and later a grouping of trees in memory of George Washington (Resource #5). The mayor at the time encouraged such activity stating, “any organization in the city may aid in the beautification of the city parks by the

²⁵ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald*, “Shakespear [sic.] Garden Here, Planned about a Year ago, Becomes Part of Local Park,” 7 August 1928.

²⁶ *Huntington (Ind.) Press*, “Smith is candidate for county surveyor,” 1 April 1922; “Paul V. Smith is candidate,” 14 Feb. 1928.

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donation of trees or shrubbery.”²⁷ The following month the Huntington chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution planted an American Elm in observance of the 200th birthday of George Washington.

Also in 1931, the Westinghouse Electric Company of Fort Wayne was awarded a contract to light the Sunken Gardens, tennis courts, and playground. Such displays of lighting were wonderments at the time and some controversy arose over the lighting of the fish hatchery ponds; citizens objected to the extravagant costs associated with the proposed illumination.

Apparently, quite a bit of attention was given to the fish hatchery, which was beautifully landscaped and seen as a local attraction. In 1932, a rustic pavilion called the Waltonian Pavilion (no longer extant) was dedicated to the Huntington chapter of the Izaak Walton League, which played a big part in making the fish hatchery at Memorial Park possible. Located near the hatchery’s upper pool, the pavilion was a cross shape and each wing was 68 feet long. Paul V. Smith, the city’s engineer who created the park’s master plan, also designed the pavilion. At its center was a goldfish pond having a diameter of 20 feet. Four lily ponds were spaced equally around its perimeter and a number of seats were provided within. A 2-foot wide, winding lane of crushed stone was placed about the entire hatchery and between various pools. The pavilion quickly became a popular spot for picnicking and family reunions.

The park also played host to well-advertised entertainment acts. For example, the park hosted the “famous” 50-piece Kellogg Band of Battle Creek, Michigan (sponsored by the cereal manufacturer) in 1932. During the winter, the Huntington County Recreation Association would create an outdoor skating rink by flooding an area of Memorial Park to let freeze. In 1936, Bartlett Street was widened to a 2-lane road providing better access through the park and several improvements were made to the sunken gardens. These included new iron railings built along each footbridge and a gateway to the south entrance.

The U.S. Congress created the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935, appropriating nearly \$5 billion for public works projects. The WPA’s goal was to provide employment through projects that would have a long-term benefit to local communities. In the late 1930s, the WPA completed projects at Memorial Park including work at the south pond of the fish hatchery and stonework in the sloping banks north of the playground (Resource #17). In 1937, the WPA, working under the direction of W.S. Skinner of the Parks Department, built a new road through Memorial Park. In 1938, St. Felix Drive between Dimond and Hitzfield Streets was declared part of the public park system (Resource #29) and the WPA’s handiwork can still be observed today in the stonework that creates a retaining wall and lines drainage ditches on the north side of St. Felix Drive. The WPA also constructed a box culvert over the open ditch at the north side of the

²⁷ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, “Trees Planted in City’s Park to Add Beauty,” 7 April 1931.

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park to drain lands to the north (Resource #10). Elsewhere in Huntington County, another New Deal agency, the Civilian Conservation Corps, was active constructing shelters and other amenities at the Salamonie River State Forest near Andrews in 1936-38.

After the U.S. entered the Second World War in 1941, money became tight and the Sunken Gardens and other park amenities began to be neglected. Natural deterioration and vandalism compounded the problems over the next decades. Sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s, the fish hatchery was removed.²⁸ During the following decades, the park faced decline, not only in maintenance but also patronage.

As late as 1955, the Sunken Gardens were still praised in the “Newcomer’s Key to Huntington” as “one of the beauty spots of the state. Each year it is visited by hundreds of tourists and visitors who marvel at its artistic beauty.”²⁹ However, by the 1960s the Sunken Gardens had deteriorated from a lack of maintenance and vandalism. A newspaper article described the bleak conditions: “The Sunken Gardens attained the height of beauty around 1928 to 1930 and were beautiful for several years near that period but have sunk into a state of degeneration becoming an eyesore to the community.”³⁰ In 1964, repair plans for the gardens were unveiled to fix steps and walkways, place a reinforced sea wall around the lagoon, reactivate the fountain, repair the foot bridges, install lights, clean the pools of fungus and plant growth (because the banks had been eroding into the pools), restock the pool with fish, and place a fence around the top of the gardens to increase safety. The Road Side Council undertook the restoration project and launched a drive to raise \$1,000 for the gardens’ renovation. This effort was the first of many dedicated to restoring the Sunken Gardens.

The period of significance for Memorial Park extends to 1968, when the Jaycees presented horseshoe pitching courts and an adjacent fountain to the City of Huntington in memory of Samuel E. Riddile. Riddile died in 1965 while serving as the Jaycee president. Initially placed on the fountain, the plaque is now found on a concrete pillar near the horseshoe courts and the fountain has been removed. The horseshoe courts are in keeping with the park’s historic precedent of local organizations contributing to its amenities. Today the expanded horseshoe courts still exist and retain a historic feeling suggestive of those times (Resource #1).

After 1968, much of the efforts at the park were focused on restoring what it once was during its 1930s heyday. In 1978, Huntington’s Tri Kappa Sorority donated funds to provide attention to the Sunken Gardens. The following year, landscape architect William Eviston of Louis C. Petro

²⁸ The date of the fish hatchery’s closure is undetermined. A 1986 newspaper article (*Huntington [Ind.] Herald-Press*, 7 September 1986) states that the hatchery was removed “nearly 40 years ago.” However, a history in the 1951 *Huntington City Directory* indicates that the hatchery was still a local attraction at the time.

²⁹ Huntington Chamber of Commerce, “Newcomer’s Key to Huntington,” booklet, Huntington Chamber of Commerce and Civic Activities Association, 1955-56.

³⁰ *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, “Repair Plans for Sunken Gardens Told,” 8 June 1964.

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and Associates presented a plan for the renovation of the Sunken Gardens. Repairs based on Eviston's suggestions began and continued for several years. One of the few new elements introduced at Memorial Park, an "exercise trail," was installed in 1979 by the Huntington Jaycees.

In 1981, a lot of work was completed at the Sunken Gardens, including the alteration of the archway under West Park Drive—the only feature in the park dating to the time the site was a quarry. To address weakness concerns, a liner was fit inside and cemented into place, strengthening the arch and reducing the size of the opening. The work at the Sunken Gardens was still underway in 1983 when a new seating fixture was installed on top of the old well house and a door was installed so it could be used for storage. Meanwhile, other improvements were taking place throughout the park including the expansion of a parking lot, planting pine trees, painting the basketball court and adding backboards, expanding the horseshoe courts, redigging the pond, constructing an open pavilion, adding two new drinking fountains and a sandbox by the softball diamond, and repairing the sledding fence and exercise trail. 1983 also marked the first year that the Sunken Gardens were lit for Christmas. The very first "Garden of Lights" display boasted 22,000 lights. The tradition, although interrupted for several years, continues today.

In 1986, the City announced plans to reconstruct Memorial Park's former fish hatchery ponds to collect runoff from a large portion of the city's north side. From the dam in the south pond, south to Park Drive, the runoff would be carried by the historic stone water race (Resource #17). The following year, a \$150,000 restoration effort to carry out Paul V. Smith's 1929 master plan for Memorial Park was announced as part of the city's participation in "Hoosier Celebration '88." Most of the work was to be done by Pathfinder Services, Inc. with additional work from the Parks and Recreation Department and local civic organizations. The short-lived exercise trail was eliminated at this time.

In 1988, many of the features in Paul V. Smith's master plan were recreated and the park began to resemble again its 1930s appearance. It was eventually decided that only one of the two additional ponds would be restored; the second was left as a grassy area divided by the stream in the northernmost portion of the park. In addition, gardens, a gazebo, and ornamental street lights were added and bark pathways were converted to brick. The Waltonian Gardens (located on the west side of the new north pond) were to have a fountain surrounded by flowers (Resource #11) while the Arboreal Gardens (located on the east side of the new north pond) were to have a fountain and various shrubs and decorative bushes (Resource #12). The Kil-so-quah garden was to consist of rows of planted flowers (this garden is no longer extant). The garden names were taken from Smith's plan for the park. Memorial Park was rededicated during a city-wide picnic

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and fireworks show on Labor Day, 1988. The following year the Shakespearean Gardens were renovated.

In 1997, the Sunken Gardens were listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The designation allowed the Huntington Historic Review Board (HHRB) to apply for Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) grant money to address necessary restoration work in the gardens. In 1999, the HHRB received a \$25,000 HPF grant that was matched by the city for the reconstruction of the West Park Drive Bridge. Amos B. Schwartz Construction of Geneva completed the work and the bridge was rededicated in June 2001. Between 2009 and 2011 the HHRB was awarded additional HPF and Efroymsen Family Fund grants to repair stonework in the footbridges, retaining wall, and staircases of the Sunken Gardens. Starr Masonry of North Manchester completed the work and in May 2012, the Sunken Gardens were rededicated.

In 2005, a new, “safer” playground was installed on the west side of Bartlett Street (Resource #8) and the old playground on the east side of Bartlett Street was removed. Approximately two years later, the city reconfigured the Shakespearean Gardens portion of Memorial Park, removing the gardens and installing new concrete footpaths, a shelter, and a pergola in its place (Resource #27 & 28).

In 2015, major improvements were undertaken to establish a Veteran’s Memorial at Memorial Park, in keeping with its founders’ intent. The Huntington Common Council had approved a \$350,000 appropriation to fund the major renovation.³¹ In addition to the Veteran’s Memorial, the project included moving tennis courts from their former location west of the Sunken Gardens to a new Court Sports Complex southeast of Memorial Lane and Hitzfield Street (Resource #2). The Court Sports Complex also included new pickleball and basketball courts, a new picnic shelter, and a new parking lot. The new, circular Veteran’s Memorial was installed where the tennis courts had formerly been located. The G.A.R. Flagpole Memorial (Resource #21) was moved to occupy the western half of the circle and seven new flagpoles were erected. A T-33A training jet is the centerpiece of the memorial, displayed on a pedestal surrounded by a concrete-walled flower bed (Resource #22). The World War II Sherman Tank was moved to anchor the northeast quadrant of the Memorial (Resource #23) and a new Purple Heart Monument occupies the southeast quadrant (Resource #24).

Within the City of Huntington, Memorial Park is unique as the oldest and most deliberately “planned” park. It is also the second largest park after Evergreen Park, which has 85 acres of open space in a rural area south of town. The Huntington Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains ten city parks: Drover, Elmwood, Erie, Evergreen, General Slack, Hier’s, Laurie, Riverside, Yeoman, and Memorial. The Department’s mission is “to develop and

³¹ *Huntington County (Ind.) TAB*, “City plans park renovations, paving projects,” 30 April 2014.

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maintain quality parks and facilities, to preserve open/natural spaces and to provide recreational programs and services to enhance the physical, social and emotional well-being of the residents of Huntington.”³²

Memorial Park may be compared to other historic design landscapes in Indiana. Although a much larger example at 123 acres, Garfield Park in Indianapolis is similar to Memorial Park in several ways. Garfield Park is one of three large city parks landscape architect George Kessler planned for Indianapolis and it contains more built features than any other park in the city that was master planned by Kessler. Kessler designed the master plan for Indianapolis’s system of parks and boulevards in 1909. Like Memorial Park, Garfield Park is the City of Indianapolis’s oldest public park; it is also one of the city’s largest parks; it contains several “memorial” elements including a grove of trees planted in 1920 to honor the local dead from the First World War; over the years it has offered many of the same amenities as Memorial Park including a large shelter pavilion (in the form of a pagoda), playgrounds, a softball diamond, horseshoe and tennis courts, a sledding hill, and an ice skating lagoon; and it too, has a “Sunken Gardens,” which is considered its most important formal landscape feature. Dating to c.1915, Garfield Park’s Sunken Gardens were built below street level in the flood plain of Bean Creek. Unlike Memorial Park’s Sunken Gardens, the Sunken Gardens at Garfield Park are formal with garden beds planted along a central axis with a shorter cross axis featuring raised fountain basins. They were designed by the Indianapolis firm Vonnegut and Bohn.³³

Garvin Park in Evansville is another park that is similar to Memorial Park in several ways. Dating to 1915, it is the city’s oldest park and its design incorporated many picturesque elements, including curving drives and a naturalistic pond as its central element. Like Memorial Park, the land had formerly been a privately-owned “pleasure ground” known as Garvin’s Grove in an unincorporated area at the edge of town. The City of Evansville also hired Chicago-based architects to help with the park’s design. The American Park Builders designed a dam to be built along a polluted creek, which created the five acre artificial lake stocked by the federal government that became the park’s centerpiece. Like Memorial Park, the WPA was also active at Garvin Park, building a bandstand in 1940.³⁴

As noted in the National Register nomination for Memorial Park’s Sunken Gardens, there are no other known examples of an early limestone quarry being adaptively reused as a sunken garden in the state of Indiana. Its creative and unique reuse incorporating design principles of

³² City of Huntington, Indiana, “Parks & Recreation,” accessed 10 December 2013, <http://www.huntington.in.us/city/department/?fDD=11-0>.

³³ Storrow Kinsella Group, “Indianapolis Park & Boulevard System,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 2002.

³⁴ Joan Marchand and Douglas Stern, “Garvin Park,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, 1979.

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picturesque theory lend a degree of significance to Memorial Park as a whole that is unique in the state.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory #069-049-28127

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 45.5

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Use the UTM system

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 16 | Easting: 625074 | Northing: 4526906 |
| 2. Zone: 16 | Easting: 625512 | Northing: 4527093 |
| 3. Zone: 16 | Easting: 625995 | Northing: 4526345 |
| 4. Zone: 16 | Easting: 625614 | Northing: 4526198 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Please see Exhibit A-2, Boundary Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all of the resources and areas of land that have historically been considered to be a part of Memorial Park, including the public right-of-way of St. Felix Drive to the north and a portion of the parcel on the south side of West Park Drive that includes the stone bridge walls, piers, and wing walls that lead into the Sunken Gardens.

11. Form Prepared By

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date: 27 August 2016

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Memorial Park

City or Vicinity: Huntington

County: Huntington

State: Indiana

Photographer: Brian P. Zuercher (unless otherwise noted)

Date Photographed: October 20, 2013 (unless otherwise noted)

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 42: View west showing concrete pillar with plaques and Mark C. Seibold Horseshoe Courts. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

2 of 42: View west showing 2015 picnic shelter and storage shed. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

3 of 42: View north from basketball courts showing tennis courts in Court Sports Complex. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

4 of 42: View northeast from basketball courts showing pickleball courts in Court Sports Complex. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

Memorial Park

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- 5 of 42. View northwest showing parking lot and south and east elevations of outdoor pavilion.
- 6 of 42. View east showing north and west elevations of outdoor pavilion.
- 7 of 42. View east showing detail of west elevation of outdoor pavilion.
- 8 of 42. View northwest showing south and east elevations of outdoor pavilion.
- 9 of 42. View east showing restroom facility and storage building.
- 10 of 42. View southeast showing Washington Memorial Tree Group stone pier and plaque. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.
- 11 of 42. View southeast showing picnic shelter, playground, and a portion of the sledding hill. Please note that the jet has been moved and replaced and the tank has been moved from this location.
- 12 of 42. View northwest showing Memorial Park Sign and playground. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.
- 13 of 42. View north showing box culvert. Date Photographed: December 15, 2013.
- 14 of 42. View northwest showing stream and box culvert.
- 15 of 42. View east showing Waltonian Gardens, north pond, and pedestrian bridge.
- 16 of 42. View east showing Arboreal Gardens.
- 17 of 42. View southwest showing pedestrian bridge over channel leading to north pond.
- 18 of 42. View northwest showing north pond.
- 19 of 42. View southeast showing Memorial Lane.
- 20 of 42. View northwest showing the gazebo.
- 21 of 42. View northwest showing south pond.
- 22 of 42. View northwest showing pedestrian bridge on pathway east of south pond.
- 23 of 42. View southeast showing stone water race and shuffleboard court.

Memorial Park

Huntington County,
Indiana
County and State

Name of Property

24 of 42. View west showing stone water race, basketball court, and sandbox.

25 of 42. View north showing stone water race and storage building.

26 of 42. View west showing WPA sandbox. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

27 of 42. View northeast along West Park Drive showing intersection with Bartlett Street, entrance lions, and parking lot.

28 of 42. View northeast showing storage building.

29 of 42. View south showing the Veteran's Memorial. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

30 of 42. View south showing the Lockheed T-33A Shooting Star Training Jet within the Veteran's Memorial. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

31 of 42. View east showing the GAR Flag Pole Memorial within the Veteran's Memorial. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

32 of 42. View northeast showing the World War II Sherman Tank within the Veteran's Memorial. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

33 of 42. View southeast showing Purple Heart Monument within the Veteran's Memorial. Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

34 of 42. View northeast along West Park Drive showing historical marker.

35 of 42. View northeast looking down into Sunken Gardens from above.

36 of 42. View southwest looking down into Sunken Gardens from above.

37 of 42. View north showing southern entrance into Sunken gardens (including bridge over Gardens) from the south side of West Park Drive.

38 of 42. View north of former Shakespearean Gardens area.

39 of 42. View west showing WPA stonework along north side of St. Felix Drive. Date Photographed: December 15, 2013.

40 of 42. View east of entrance lions that flank Bartlett Street.

Memorial Park

Huntington County,
Indiana
County and State

Name of Property

41 of 42. View southwest showing one of many brick pathways in the park, the fence surrounding the Sunken Gardens, and the former tennis courts.

42 of 42. View northwest showing stone gutters along the east side of Bartlett Street.
Shannon H. Zuercher, Photographer; August 9, 2016.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Memorial Park Huntington, Indiana

Exhibit A Sketch Map

- ⊛ Contributing Resources
- Non-Contributing Resources

Photo
Numbers

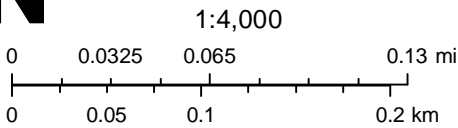
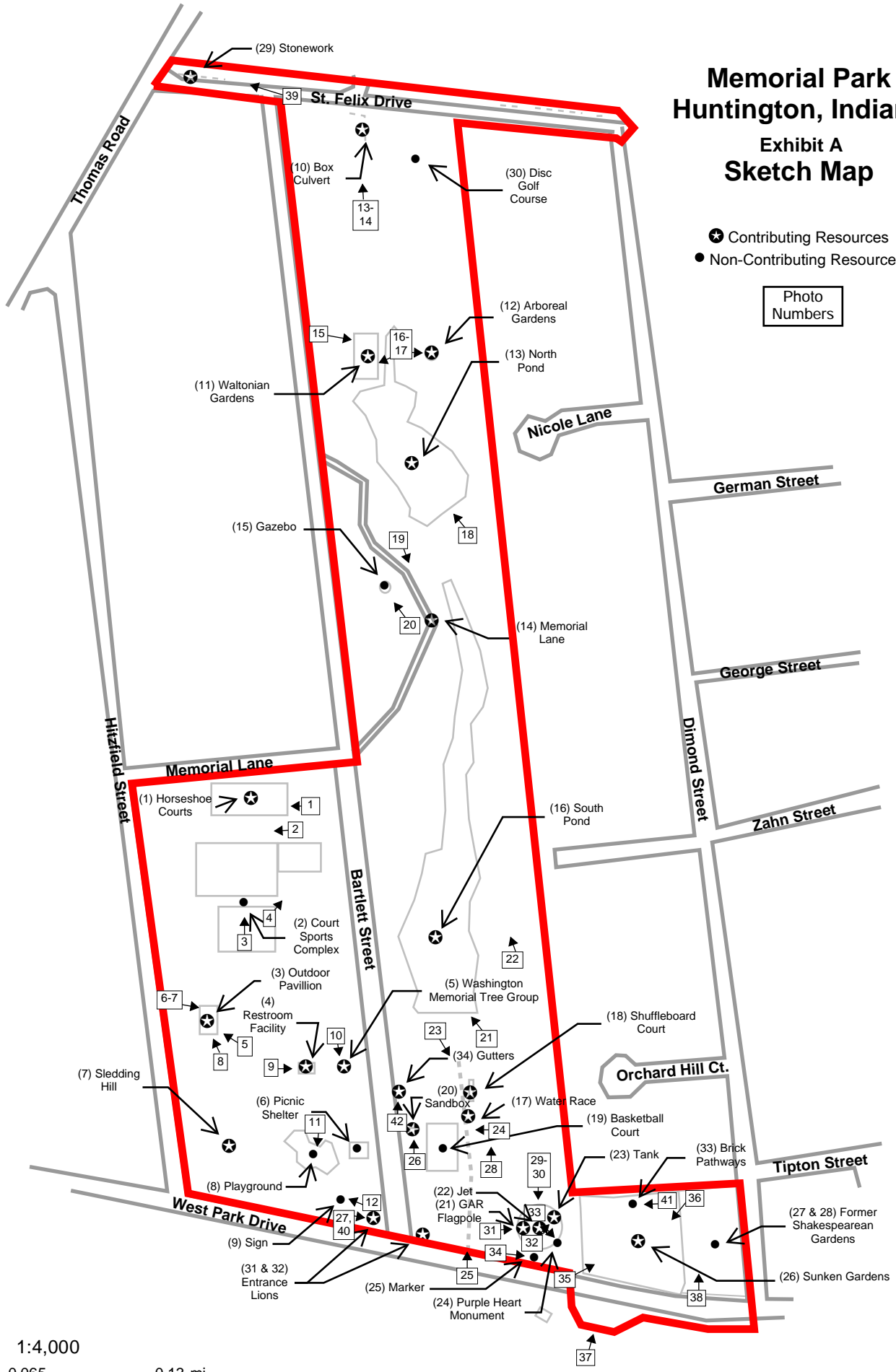
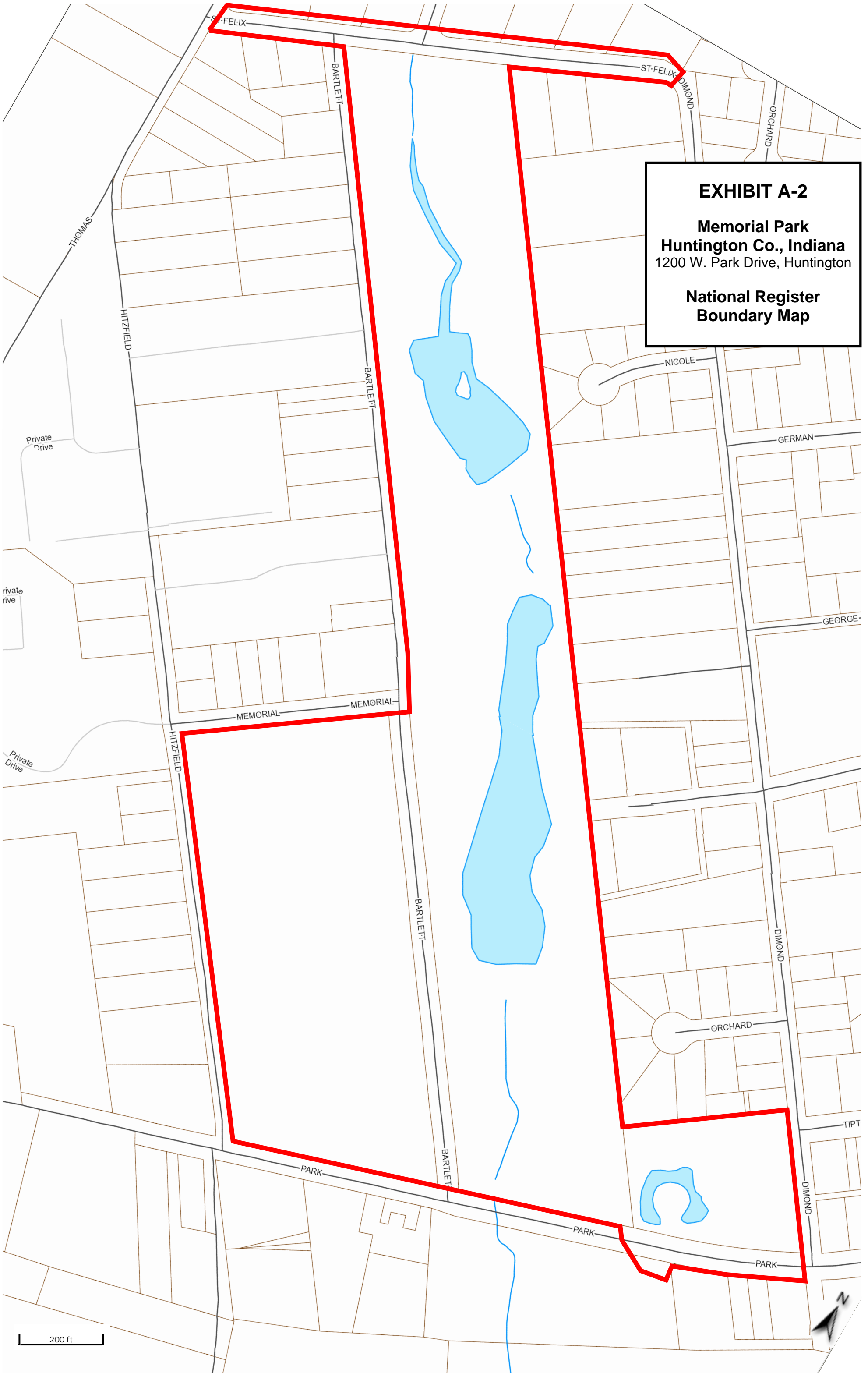


EXHIBIT A-2
Memorial Park
Huntington Co., Indiana
1200 W. Park Drive, Huntington

National Register
Boundary Map

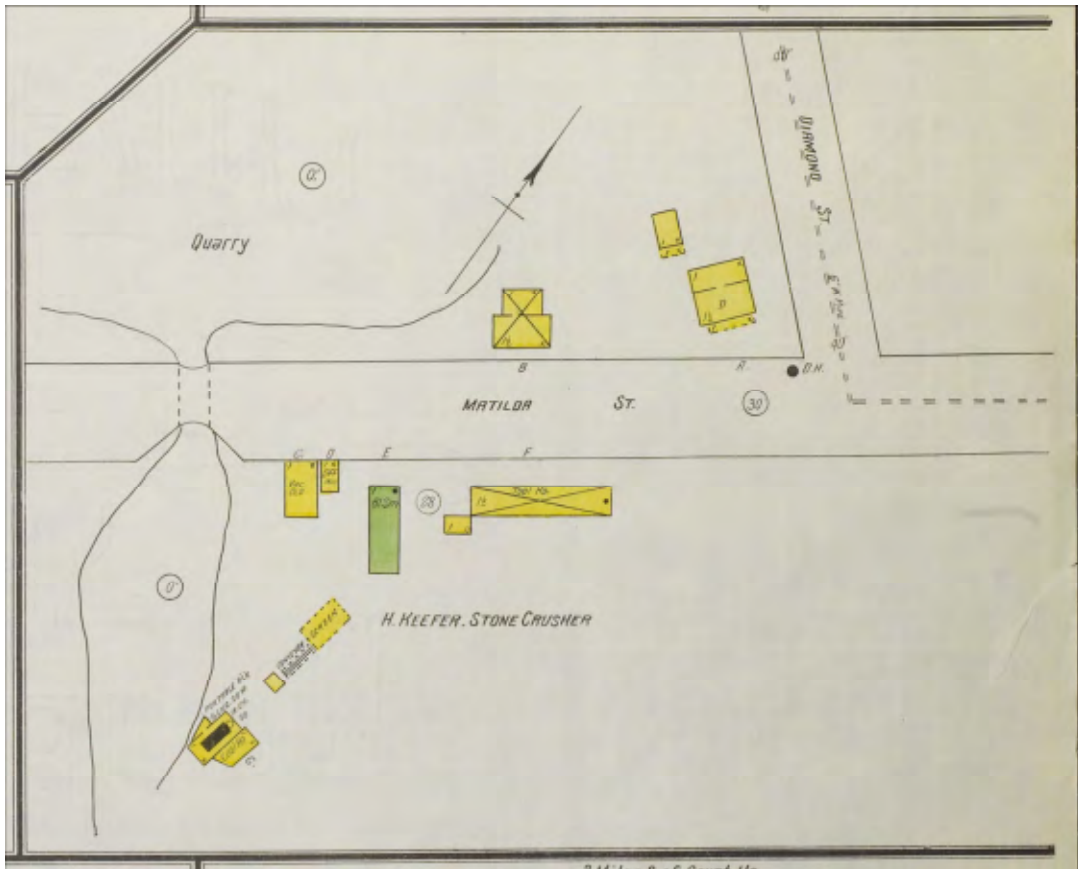




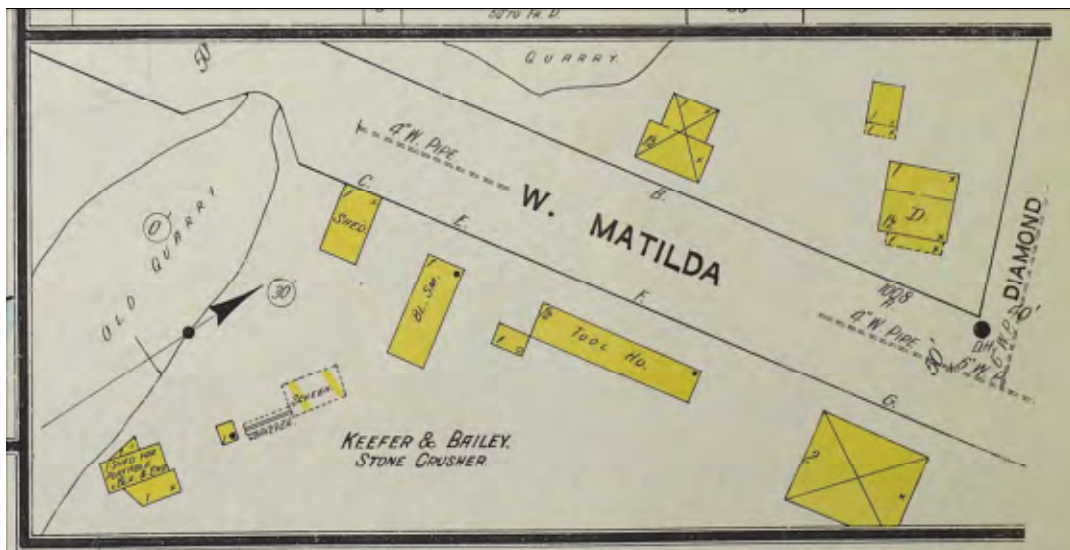
1938 Aerial Photograph (Source: Huntington Parks and Recreation Department)



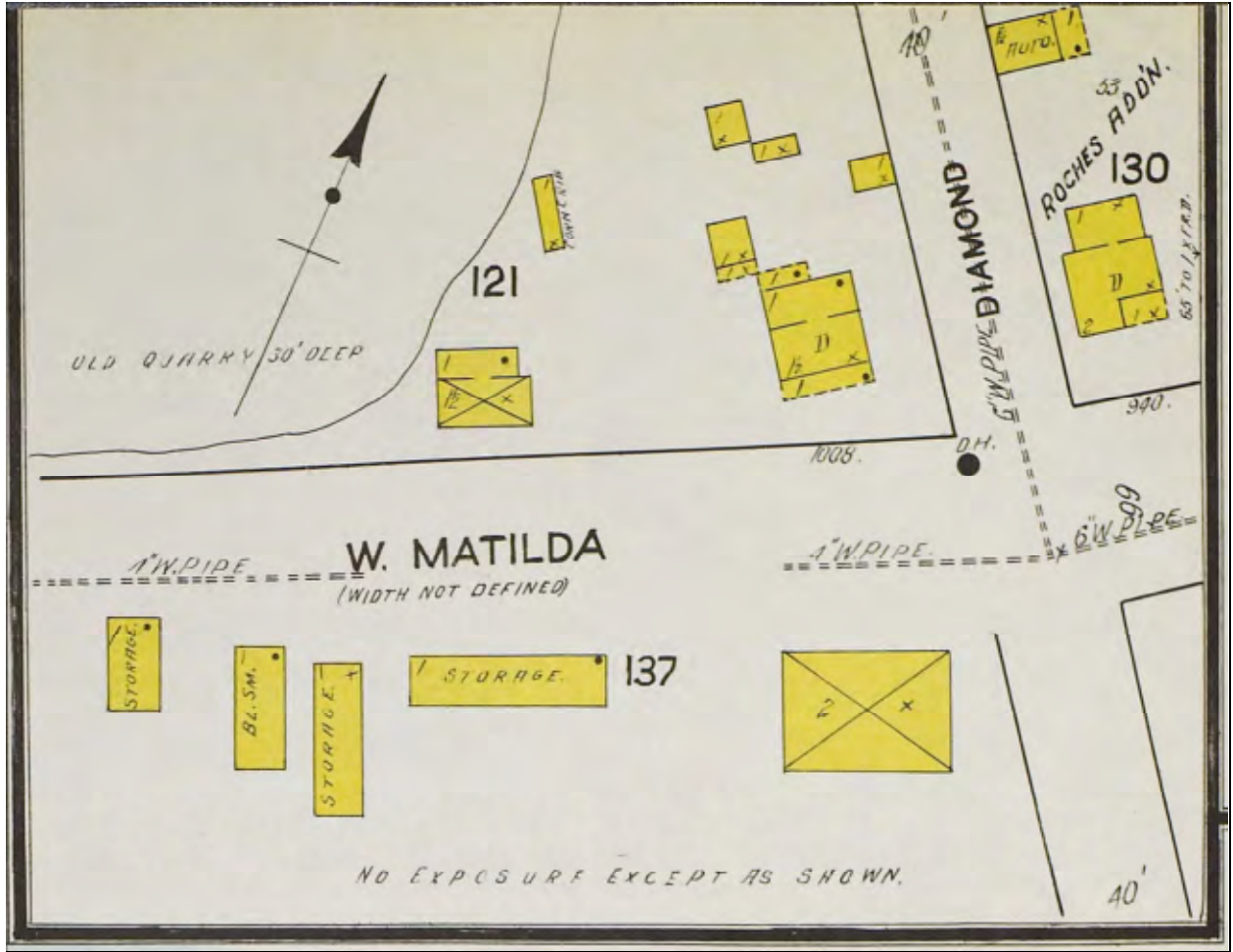
1964 Aerial Photograph (Source: Huntington Parks and Recreation Department)



“Huntington” Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1904, Page 21. Showing Sunken Gardens site.



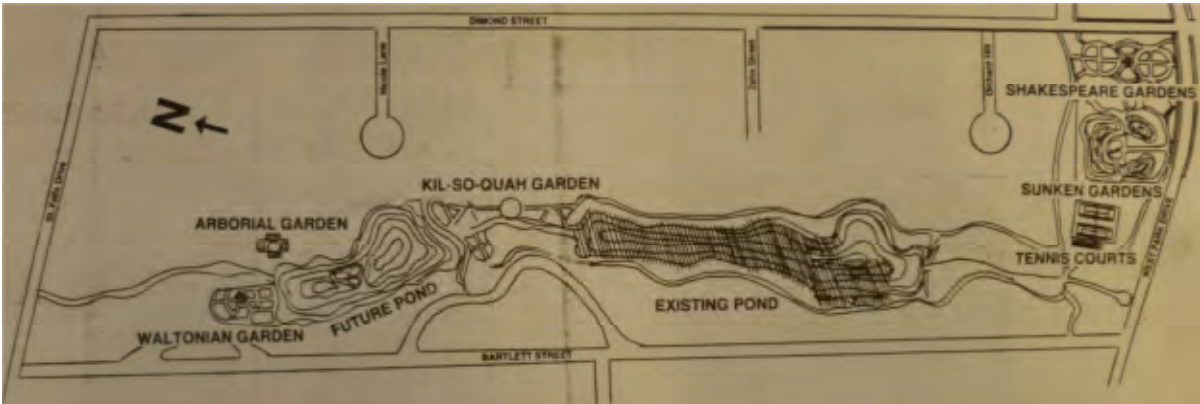
“Huntington” Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1912, Page 23. Showing Sunken Gardens site.



“Huntington” Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1919, Page 24. Showing Sunken Gardens site.



1979 photograph showing 1929 Master Plan for Memorial Park by Paul V. Smith (Source: *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, 30 August 1987, "Restoration to carry out 1929 plans.")



1988 Memorial Park Renovation Plan (Source: *Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press*, 15 April 1988, "Memorial Park renovation drive launched.")



Historic postcard showing fish hatchery pond at Memorial Park, date unknown (Source: <http://www.ebay.com/itm/Fish-Hatchery-St-Felix-Capuchin-Monastery-HUNTINGTON-IN-Vtg-Indiana-Postcard-/181101995690>, accessed 6 December 2013)



c.1940 postcard showing fish hatchery pond. Source: ("Huntington Co., IN Photographs, Dec. 1940," scrapbook available at Indiana Room, Huntington City-Township Public Library).



Historic photo showing Sunken Gardens in 1928, (Source: Indiana Room, Huntington City-Township Public Library)



Historic photo showing Sunken Gardens (Source: Huntington Parks and Recreation Department)



Bickel Family Reunion, 1957. showing north side of outdoor pavilion (Source: Indiana Room, Huntington City-Township Public Library)



Historic photo of family reunion showing Outdoor Pavilion, date unknown (Source: Huntington Parks and Recreation Department)





















THIS GROUP OF TREES PLANTED
IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON
BY THE
HUNTINGTON ROUND TABLE CLUB
1952





MEMORIAL PARK

HOME OF SUNKEN GARDENS

Established 1922





























PARK
BARTLETT ST









N271AP

U.S. AIR FORCE

3000

DEDICATED BY MEMBERS OF
OUR FATHERS
GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC
BY THE HONORABLE DEPARTMENT
BOARDS OF VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
1861 - 1865
CIVIL WAR DEPARTMENT, WASH. D. C.





DO NOT
CLIMB



COMBAT WOUNDED



DO NOT
CLIMB



THE "LIME CITY"

Huntington, the "Lime City," so named for its many limestone quarries and kilns, the first kiln being built in this vicinity by Michael Houseman in 1843 or 1844. By 1885 there were 31 kilns in operation; eight were perpetual kilns, the others were occasional kilns. The lime was of such high quality it was shipped out of the state as well as being used locally.



HUNTINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY









STOP







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: Date of Pending List: Date of 16th Day: Date of 45th Day: Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Edson Beall Discipline Historian

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology • 402 W. Washington Street, W274 • Indianapolis, IN 46204-2739
Phone 317-232-1646 • Fax 317-232-0693 • dhpa@dnr.IN.gov • www.IN.gov/dnr/historic



January 19, 2017

Re: Memorial Park, Huntington County, Indiana



Dear Dr. Toothman,

Enclosed is a National Register of Historic Places nomination for Memorial Park, Huntington County, Indiana. The application was processed, approved, and forwarded to our office by the Certified Local Government of Huntington, Huntington County, Indiana. The Indiana Historic Preservation Review Board reviewed the application and voted to recommend its approval to the National Register of Historic Places.

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Memorial Park, (Huntington County, Indiana) to the National Register of Historic Places.

Please address any questions you or your staff may have about this nomination to my National Register staff members, Paul Diebold or Holly Tate.

Sincerely,

Cameron F. Clark
State Historic Preservation Officer

CFC:PCD:pcd

enclosure: nomination package