

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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: Highland Park

Other names/site number: _____

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: Roughly bounded by Butler St., Washington Blvd., Stanton Ave.,
Farmhouse Dr., Bunker Hill St., and Heth's Run

City or town: Pittsburgh State: Pennsylvania County: Allegheny

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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


I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

 <u>Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy SHPO</u> <u>10/3/2019</u> <u>Date</u> <u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission - State Historic Preservation Office</u> <u>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</u>	
<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<u>Signature of commenting official:</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Title :</u>	<u>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</u>

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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:)



Signature of the Keeper

11/25/19

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>6</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	sites
<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	structures
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/Park
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Work of Art
INDUSTRY/Waterworks
OTHER/Zoo

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LANDSCAPE/Park
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation
RECREATION AND CULTURE/Work of Art
INDUSTRY/Waterworks
OTHER/Zoo

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: designed landscape

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: _____

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 Highland Park is a large city park located on a hilltop and hillsides overlooking the Allegheny River in the east end of Pittsburgh, approximately 6 miles from downtown. It is roughly bounded by roads following the south banks of the Allegheny River to the north; by the ravines carved by the Negley Run and Heth's Run streams to the east and west, respectively; and by the residential neighborhood also known as Highland Park to the south. The park was formed around the Highland Reservoir No. One, situated on the top of the hill, in 1889, and city officials assembled its present area of 378 acres via numerous land purchases through the 1920s. All of the present area of Highland Park is included within the National Register boundary. Much of the park is comprised of former farmland which has been graded, heavily planted, and designed to include steep wooded hillsides, dramatic stonework, overlooks, water features, and open fields alternating with groves of trees. A mid-19th century house, known as the Farmhouse, predates the park and was used for many years as park offices. Curvilinear roads wrap around the hill and provide access the park's recreational attributes, such as a lake stocked with fish, a swimming pool, tennis courts, playgrounds, and picnic groves with shelters. At Highland Park's entrances, allegorical sculptures and formal plazas mark it as a major civic landscape. Beyond the "Welcome" sculptures at the Highland Avenue entrance lies a formal garden once elaborately bedded with ornamental plants. A reflecting pool and fountain at its center presage the importance of the reservoir just beyond. The current arrangement of rectangular panels of lawn and planting beds defined by a grid of walking paths dates to the mid-1930s and was rehabilitated with new paving, lighting, fountain, and perennial plantings in 2005. A zoo has occupied the northwestern sector of the park since 1898 but its original building and

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formal, terraced landscape have been replaced with a modern complex of exhibits and a large surface parking lot. Because the zoo is relatively isolated from the rest of the park by roads and topography, its contemporary character does not adversely affect Highland Park's integrity; the zoo is counted as a single non-contributing site. More intrusive are city facilities unrelated to park use which were added along Washington Boulevard at the park's eastern edge ca. 1960, but these are scheduled to be relocated out of the park in the near future. Overall, Highland Park retains all seven aspects of integrity as a City Beautiful-inspired park designed to uplift Pittsburgh's citizens with rarified nature and art, then later adapted to active recreational uses.

Narrative Description

Highland Park is a 378-acre city park located in the Pittsburgh neighborhood of the same name approximately 6 miles east of downtown. The park is situated on a promontory that falls steeply toward the Allegheny River to the north and the Heth's Run and Negley Run stream valleys to the east and west, respectively. Its primary landscape features and buildings are located on top of the hill and along narrow upland plateaus and terraces, linked by wide, winding drives and narrow footpaths through the woods. Principal among these noted features is the Highland Reservoir No. One, an open water feature which occupies the highest point on the hilltop and predates the dedication of the land around it as a park.

The park's northern boundary lies along Washington Boulevard (east of the Highland Park Bridge) and Butler Street (west of the Highland Park Bridge), two major roads that follow the south bank of the Allegheny River. The park's eastern and western boundaries are the steep ravines cut by Negley Run (east) and Heth's Run (west). Its southern boundary is formed by the streets of the adjacent residential neighborhood, primarily Bunker Hill Street. This neighborhood, also called Highland Park, is characterized by middle- to upper-middle-class single-family houses constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and was listed in the NRHP in 2007. A narrow peninsula of the park extends south between Washington Boulevard and Stanton Avenue to a mid-block boundary east of Heberton Street.

Highland Park's design provides formally-framed entrances to a romantic interior landscape that appears to be natural, but is actually the result of deliberate grading and extensive plantings designed to lend a feeling of wooded seclusion to some areas of the park and, in others, to emphasize expansive views and vistas. This naturalistic landscape is characterized by steep wooded hillsides, dramatic stonework, overlooks, water features, and open fields alternating with groves of trees. Curvilinear roads wrap around the hill and provide access to the park's recreational features.

The park contains 20 individual contributing resources, of which eight are structures, six are buildings, four are objects, and two are sites. The contributing resources are: the two reservoirs; three small service buildings around Reservoir No. One; Lake Carnegie; the casting cabin (originally a skating shelter) on the lake's shore; the Highland Park Pool bath house; the Farmhouse; the park's Negley Avenue entrance plaza; its Highland Avenue entrance plaza; the two formal sculptural groupings at the Highland and Stanton Avenue entrances; two stone arch bridges; three picnic shelters; one monument; and a sculptural drinking fountain. A number of

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uncounted stonework elements, such as stairs and retaining walls, also contribute to the overall rugged feeling of the steep and sloping park terrain.

The park also contains 20 non-contributing resources. The Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium has been counted as one non-contributing site because its 14 related buildings and structures are contained within discrete boundaries with restricted access, and the zoo is relatively isolated from the park's other use areas by roads, fences, and topography. At the same time, the zoo is completely surrounded by park roads and land, making it infeasible to separate the zoo from the Highland Park Historic District. Though non-contributing, the zoo is not incompatible with Highland Park. The zoo has lost its historic character, but it is a historic use in the park and utilizes the wooded landscape of the slope above Heth's Run to enhance its naturalistic animal habitats and visitor experience.

Highland Park's other non-contributing resources are its swimming pool, which has been redesigned and rebuilt since its original construction in 1932; the nearby sand volleyball courts; tennis courts; two modern playgrounds; the Bud Harris Cycling Track; five rudimentary picnic shelters; the Highland Park Community Gardens; the reconstructed Heth's Run Bridge; a metal-clad maintenance building near the Farmhouse; a modern Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority pumping substation; the 2002 microfiltration plant; the City of Pittsburgh Forestry Department building; the Pittsburgh Police Zone 5 Station; and the Police and Fire Training Academy.

Highland Park's main entrances—an upper entrance at the crest of Highland Avenue and a lower entrance on Stanton Avenue—are distinguished by ceremonial sculptural groupings. At Highland Avenue is "Welcome" (1896), a 56' tall neoclassical gateway (photo 1). This consists of a pair of granite shafts, each formed by four engaged Ionic columns and surmounted by heroic bronze figural groups of women and children beckoning visitors into the park, thought to have been designed by Chicago architect J.L. Silsbee.¹ Each shaft also has a bronze female figure holding a torch at its base, and flanking each is a curved ornamental balustrade. A bronze eagle with its wings spread sits on the end of each balustrade. These bronze sculptures are by Italian Giuseppe Moretti.

Just beyond this gateway lies the park's Highland Avenue entrance plaza (photo 2). Attributed to landscape architect Frances Xavier Berthold Froesch by the park's creator, Pittsburgh Public Works Director Edward Manning Bigelow, and completed by 1898, this was designed as a formal ornamental garden with a reflecting pool and fountain at its center. The current arrangement of rectangular panels of lawn and planting beds defined by a grid of walking paths is based on a modified design by landscape architect and Pittsburgh Parks Superintendent Ralph Griswold which replaced the original, semicircular composition in the mid-1930s. In the late 20th century, the plaza deteriorated, and its fountain was converted to a planting bed, but it was rebuilt in 2005 with a restored pool, new fountain, paving, and lighting, and perennial plantings.

¹ "[P]lans for the improvements in Schenley and Highland Parks have been completed and submitted to Director E.M. Bigelow by the architect, J.L. Silsbee of Chicago. The proposed improvements include... and ornamental entrance... for Highland Park." *The Engineering Record, Building Record, and the Sanitary Engineer*, Vol. 32, No. 1 (New York: Henry Meyer, June 1, 1895), 17.

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A bronze drinking fountain with a dolphin motif (visible in photo 21), located near the Highland Avenue entrance, is by Italian-born sculptor Frank Vittor (1888-1968). It is one of the only remaining examples of 30 such fountains commissioned by the city and placed throughout the parks in the 1930s.²

The park's second formal, ornamental gateway is at Stanton Avenue. Here, the "Horse Tamers"—bronze sculptures of men restraining wild horses—were erected in 1900 on two granite bases flanking the street (photo 3). These sculptures, also by Moretti, were modeled after ancient and French precedents and symbolize human control over the beauty and strength of nature.

A park entrance plaza at the northern terminus of Negley Avenue was designed by Ralph Griswold in 1934 and likely built by 1938 (photo 4). This consists of a stepped stone plinth with an integral bench set behind a small lawn beneath the southern flank of Reservoir No. Two. Unlike the park's earlier two formal entrances, which are scaled to permit carriages and cars, the Negley Avenue entrance provides pedestrian access only.

A double staircase at the northern end of the Highland Avenue entry garden leads up to the park's primary destination and use area, two-lobed Reservoir No. One (photo 5). This reservoir lies at the elevation of 1066 feet above sea level and contains 117 million gallons of water. Begun in 1871 and placed in service in 1879, Reservoir No. One predates the park itself. It was the impetus for the creation of Highland Park and remains its focal feature, providing an expanse of glassy water with a dome of open sky overhead. A 3/4 mile paved walkway circumnavigates the reservoir (photo 6) and once crossed the open water on a wall between its two lobes. Since the central segment of this wall collapsed in the late 1960s, water has flowed over it, and the former through path now consists of two dead-end segments from the perimeter toward the center of the water. At around the same time, the original scrolled wrought iron railing enclosing the reservoir was replaced by a metal railing of utilitarian design. This is installed on a short, paneled concrete base.

To the west of Reservoir No. One, and partway down the hill at an elevation of 972 feet, is Reservoir No. Two (photo 7). This was constructed between 1897-1903 and has a capacity of 125 million gallons. A stone watch house on its northern edge is integral to the reservoir's wall construction, while a pair of shallow stone staircases which provide pedestrian access to the footpath around this reservoir's edge was constructed in the 1930s (photo 41). Yet the limited landscape treatment around Reservoir No. Two suggests that it was never the scenic or recreational focus of the park in the way of Reservoir No. One. Reservoir No. Two received a utilitarian cover in accordance with federal clean water regulations in 2002 and is currently inaccessible to the public.

One major road (formerly known as Hill Road, now renamed One Wild Place) traverses Highland Park from north to south, climbing the hill from Butler Street near the Allegheny River (photo 8) past the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium (photo 9) to a point just east of Reservoir No.

² Marilyn Evert, *Discovering Pittsburgh's Sculpture* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1983), 278.

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Two, where it intersects with Bunker Hill and Mellon streets. Two other picturesquely winding roads encircle Reservoir No. One: Reservoir Drive (photos 10-11), which generally follows the contours of the reservoir in a loop beginning and ending at the park's Highland Avenue entrance, and Lake Drive, which connects to the park's lower entrance on Stanton Avenue (photos 12-13). Lake Drive follows a narrow, flat terrace about halfway down the hill east of Reservoir No. One and provides access to Lake Carnegie (photo 14), the swimming pool which replaced the north end of the lake in 1932, and sand volleyball courts installed north of the pool ca. 2000 (photo 15).

Picnic groves, most with simple shelters, are arrayed along Reservoir and Lake drives. The Elm Grove, Lake Point, and Rhododendron shelters have contributing architectural character. The Elm Grove shelter (photo 16) dates to the early 1940s and exhibits a rustic Craftsman style. The Lake Point shelter, an open pavilion with brick piers and a broad shingled gable, replaced an earlier, enclosed Lake Point Shelter House at an unknown date in the mid-20th century. The Rhododendron Shelter (photo 17) is exceptional as the largest of the park's shelters and the only one to be constructed entirely of masonry. This yellow-brick, Classical Revival pavilion near Lake Carnegie was designed by Harry Summers Estep and constructed in 1902. Its character is in keeping with the neoclassicism of the park's other early features. Its original wooden doors and transoms were removed at an unknown date, leaving it as an open arcade on three sides. The park's other shelters are rudimentary, pre-engineered structures from the 1970s and 80s (photo 18) with the exception of the Maple Grove Shelter (ca. 1960) near the Super Playground. This assembly of wooden play structures was added at the southwestern curve of Reservoir Drive in 1997 and is the largest playground in the park.

In Memorial Grove is the Negley monument, a simple neoclassical granite memorial marker erected in 1912 by Sarah Jane Negley Mellon. The Negley monument is the focal point of a hillside clearing between Reservoir No. One and the Zoo that contains the graves of the early settlers of the area (photo 19). The monument's inscription reads, "This monument marks the center of a burial ground located on the former home of Alexander Negley where are interred about 50 settlers of the East Liberty Valley." Early photographs of the Negley monument show that it was once encircled by shrubbery plantings and a simple, pipe-rail fence.

Foot paths and trails (photos 20-21), some following the roads and others through the park's forested sections, meander, climb, and descend among the major use areas of the park: the reservoirs, Lake Carnegie and the pool, the Highland Avenue entrance plaza, the Farmhouse play area, and Negley Run. At the highest point of the park's promontory is a clearing, known as Mt. Bigelow, an open, grassy hillside north of Reservoir No. One that slopes down from a ring of trees encircling its summit (photo 22). This area and the walking path around Reservoir No. One provide dramatic vistas up and down the Allegheny River. At the same time, the park's mature trees and isolated terraces and ledges create a sense of separation from the adjacent city.

At the park's northwestern corner is the entrance to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium (photo 23). The zoo property is owned by the City and is part of Highland Park, and the zoo has occupied its current site on the hillside below Reservoir No. Two since 1898. But since a separate non-profit entity was formed to run the zoo in 1993, the City has leased the attraction

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and its property to the Zoological Society of Pittsburgh. The current zoo is much altered from its original form. The zoo's original 1897 Romanesque building and formal landscape of terraced lawns and monumental staircases are gone, replaced by 14 modern buildings and structures and a complex of outdoor exhibits and pedestrian paths over 50 acres (photo 24). Stone bear dens from the 1930 are present in the zoo, but have no contiguous relationship to the historic landscape of Highland Park, nor to any other zoo features from the period of significance.

Most of the zoo—the portion open to the public—is consolidated in the area between the two reservoirs bounded by Lake Drive and One Wild Place (formerly Hill Road). Now accessed via One Wild Place just south of Butler St., the zoo's large surface parking lot lies atop the infilled former Heth's Run stream valley at the foot of the hillside, with the zoo itself being reached by escalators and elevators. Zoo staff and service buildings line the southern side of One Wild Place as it ascends the hill toward Reservoir No. Two. The zoo also leases a portion of the wooded hillside which wraps around the western side of Reservoir No. 2. This accommodates a former feature of the Pittsburgh Children's Zoo: a small-scale railroad, whose 1.5 mile route extends out and back around the western side of Reservoir No. 2. Along it are two wooden small-scale train sheds, located on wooded slopes below the reservoir. The miniature railroad and its appurtenances resulted from a 1949 gift of the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation to the Children's Zoo. They were built in the 1950s and operated until the early 2000s. They are situated away from park trails and use areas and so are not a part of the park visitor experience; even zoo-goers had to purchase a special ticket to experience them. The zoo train is part of the non-contributing zoo site as per the zoo boundaries designated by the City in its lease with the Zoological Society of Pittsburgh, but the wooded hillsides it occupies are visually contiguous with the park landscape.

Outside of the zoo, Highland Park contains a number of other buildings. The oldest contributing building in the park is the Farmhouse (photo 25), located near the corner of Grafton and Heberton Streets. A two-story, five-bay, side-gabled brick house, the Farmhouse is the former residence of Mary Negley and, like Reservoir No. One, predates the park itself. Some sources date the farmhouse to the 1840s or earlier,³ but it is first seen on property maps in 1872, and ornamentation typical of the Italianate period supports a date of construction (or renovation) shortly after the Civil War. More likely, this was the second Negley home, built by the widow Mary Negley to replace their first house, which was on the site of Reservoir No. One. Formerly used as park offices, its interior is now used only as a polling station and for recreational program storage, but its porch (rebuilt ca. 1940 in brick and concrete) serves as an ad hoc shelter for visitors to the nearby playground (2002) and ball field. The playground occupies the Farmhouse's gently-sloping lawn. At the foot of the slope are the ball field and a one-story metal-clad park maintenance building (ca. 1980) which do not contribute to the park's historic character.

³ See John F. S. Collins, *Stringtown on the Pike: Tales and History of East Liberty and the East Liberty Valley of Pennsylvania* (Ann Arbor: Edward Brothers, 1966), 43, and R. J. Gangawere, Marilyn Evert, and James Van Trump, "Highland Park" (*Carnegie Magazine*, vol. 54, no. 6, June 1980), 7.

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The other buildings in Highland Park are related to its reservoirs, lake, and pool, or serve the city departments of Public Works and Public Safety. Around the edges of Reservoir No. One are three small red-brick buildings built ca. 1930 in a vernacular Colonial Revival style (photos 26-28). These were built as a watch house, restrooms, and mechanical rooms for the reservoirs. A large new building, constructed in 2002-2003 at the rear of Reservoir No. One to house a microfiltration plant, is also constructed of red brick and slate in the manner of the earlier reservoir structures (photo 29). A modern, flat-roofed Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority pumping substation stands below Reservoir No. Two, just west of the Negley Ave. entrance to the park. Built in 1959, this is presently non-functional and slated for replacement.

A brick bath house, built in 1932 at the head of the Highland Park pool, has been painted and remodeled, but still contributes to the overall significance of the park (photo 30). Stone staircases at its rear lead to its original hillside entry. And on the shore of Lake Carnegie is a rustic log cabin (photo 31). This shelter was built in the 1930s and used for concessions, skating, and flycasting programs, along with a wooden fishing platform built in 1928. The cabin was moved slightly northward to its current location ca. 1950, at the same time that the wooden platform was replaced with the present concrete ones.

Three city facilities unrelated to park use were added to Highland Park's southeastern sector in the mid-late 20th century. The current brick City Forestry Division building of 1962 replaced an earlier Forestry building put up on the same site by the Department of Public Works in the 1930s (photo 32). Along Washington Boulevard, the Department of Public Safety built the Police and Fire Training Academy (1959) and the Pittsburgh Police Zone 5 Station (ca. 1960).

Other features of the eastern edge of the park include a complex of tennis courts, present along Stanton Avenue north of the Forestry Division by 1939 and expanded after 1967, and the Highland Park Community Garden at the park's southeastern tip. The community garden may be descended from victory gardens established in the park during World War II. Along Washington Boulevard, an oval track, built in 1942 by the WPA as a drivers' training course, was converted in 1999 into the Bud Harris Cycling Track (photo 33). This conversion entailed the addition of a small set of wooden bleachers and a wooden starting shed and the banking of the curved ends of the track to create a velodrome. North of the cycling track, a wetland habitat has been restored in the narrow strip between the base of the hillside and Washington Blvd. (photo 34). The Negley Run stream itself has been piped underground.

Heth's Run forms the park's northwestern boundary (photo 35). A former stream valley extending from the Allegheny River southward into the residential neighborhood of Morningside, Heth's Run encompasses more than 60 acres of Highland Park. Heth's Run was infilled with sewer lines and incinerator ash, slag, and other refuse in the early 20th century. Most of the ravine is currently covered by an extensive surface parking lot serving the zoo (photo 36). At its northern end, just west of the intersection of Butler Street and One Wild Place, the 1914 Heth's Run Bridge—which carried Butler Street over the ravine—was all but buried by the accumulation of infill material, but the landscape was re-graded and the bridge replaced in 2014. The new bridge replicates many of the features of the original (by engineer T.J. Wilkerson and architect Stanley Roush) and is compatible with the historic character of the park (photo 37).

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Three stone arch bridges, built in the first years of the park's development from stone quarried on the site, span some of the ravines within the park, but only two remain visible. The largest of these, a 60-foot-diameter arch, is located on Lake Road south of Lake Carnegie, but it was buried—along with the ravine it spanned—in the 1970s by City engineers to avert a threat to the bridge's structural stability caused by erosion. The second of the bridges spans 50 feet and carries One Wild Place over a pedestrian underpass in the zoo. The third, much smaller bridge is a twelve-foot arch which also provides separation of pedestrians—who move through the arch on the Ginkgo Trail footpath—and vehicles, which travel over the top on Reservoir Drive to the west of Reservoir No. One (photo 38). This arch is currently undergoing careful restoration. Other significant stonework in the park includes the steps into the park from Bunker Hill Street, stone staircases throughout the park, and stone retaining walls (photo 39-44).

Between Washington Blvd. and Lake Rd. is a steep, wooded slope facing north toward the Allegheny River (photo 45). Widened road surfaces have increased the actual distance between the park and the river since the park's creation in the late 19th century. This hillside was never a high use area, but remains an important visual link between the park and the river.

Integrity

Highland Park retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Its location on a hilltop overlooking the Allegheny River and the valleys carved by its tributaries to the east and west includes all of the original land proposed as Pittsburgh's first park in 1889 and subsequently assembled by Edward Bigelow. Later additions enlarged the park by increments, and its boundaries have been stable since about 1930. The park's integrity of setting is reinforced by the views afforded from its upland landscape.

The park's integrity of design, workmanship, and materials are found in the historic organization of its landscape around the reservoirs and other water features, both natural and human-made. Though Reservoir No. Two no longer features open water and the pathway around it is closed, this reservoir retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, and of its perimeter design. The rehabilitated reflecting pool at the center of the Highland Ave. entrance plaza presages the significance of Reservoir No. One directly to its north. Lake Carnegie has evolved in size and design to meet changing recreational demands, yet retains its essential character as a naturalistic, interactive body of water. Restoration of the Heth's Run landscape as a continuation of the park to the riverfront has begun and is ongoing. Only the zoo in the park is completely different from its original design, but as a self-contained institution with restricted access from public parkland, its contemporary character does not impact the historic feeling of the rest of the park.

The count of non-contributing resources in the park equals that of contributing resources, but this does not negate the overall integrity of the park for three reasons. One is that the park's landscape itself is its most pervasive feature and incorporates all of the counted resources, contributing and non, plus uncounted features, including an extensive system of stone walls and stairs, which reinforce Highland Park's historic character. Second is that certain resources—the microfiltration plant and the reconstructed Heth's Run Bridge—are counted as non-contributing

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because they post-date the period of significance, but have been sensitively designed in such a way as to accentuate the historic character of the park. Finally, several other features added or altered after the period of significance may lack historic character, but they fit in with the expected uses of a park. These include the zoo and many of the park's recreational elements such as its playgrounds, tennis courts, and pool. The most egregious non-contributing intrusions to Highland Park's landscape are those which don't relate to its public recreational function, such as the Zone 5 Police Station and the Police and Fire Training Academy along Washington Boulevard. A master plan prepared for Highland Park in 2000 calls for the eventual relocation of these facilities and enhancing the landscape treatment of this edge of the park to allow for recreational and stormwater management improvements.

Highland Park still exhibits its original design intent: at its entrances, sculptural gateways and formal plazas mark the park as a major civic landscape, while on its interior, rough-hewn stone arches, walls, and staircases connect features up, down, and across the distinctively western Pennsylvanian wooded hillsides and water features. This, along with Highland Park's intact setting and contributing resources, establish its integrity of feeling and association as a large city park linking public works, recreational features, an institutional destination (the zoo), finely-designed sculptures and gardens, outward vistas, and rugged interior landscapes.

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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.

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1889-1945

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Edward Manning Bigelow

Berthold Froesch

William Falconer

J.L. Silsbee

Guiseppe Moretti

Ralph Griswold

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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.)

Highland Park has local significance under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for its association with the establishment and definition of parks planning in the City of Pittsburgh. Dedicated in 1889, Highland Park was the flagship of Pittsburgh Public Works Director Edward Manning Bigelow's ambitious program to develop a network of parks connected by scenic boulevards in the East End of the city. The development of Highland Park created an oasis of open space and fresh air in the industrial city, achieving one of the great progressive planning goals at the turn of the 20th century. Bigelow was inspired by the City Beautiful movement, which held that an orderly and beautiful environment would exert a morally beneficial influence on the conduct and spirits of citizens. To this end, Highland Park was also adorned with allegorical sculptures at its entrances to transition visitors from the chaotic city outside to the idealized landscape inside the park. Once Highland Park's form and features had been established, later planning under Director of Parks Ralph Griswold reflected successful efforts to sustain Bigelow's vision while adapting to new demands on parks to provide active recreation. While different in its particulars, Griswold's New Deal era in many ways echoed the civic idealism of Bigelow's City Beautiful. Griswold successfully linked federal support for infrastructure improvements to local park planning, and the investments of the 1930s and early '40s guided the future use and maintenance of Highland Park. Highland Park's period of significance is 1889-1945. 1889 is the year the park was established by act of City Council. After the conclusion of Ralph Griswold's term as Director of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Parks in 1945, little additional planning for Highland Park occurred until the turn of the 21st century, so the period of significance ends in that year.

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

Historical Development Before Highland Park, 1788-1888

The site which is now Highland Park consists largely of land first assembled by the Negley family after the Revolutionary War. Alexander Negley (1734-1809), a German immigrant, moved his family west from Philadelphia in about 1788 and settled on a 300-acre farm, "Fertile Bottom," on the banks of the Allegheny River. His son, Jacob Negley, expanded the family's holdings to about 1500 acres. During the 19th century, Jacob sold off portions of this tract to his descendants and to individual farmers outside of the family, resulting in a patchwork of small farms by the time of the Civil War.

Aside from the land itself, two features associated with the Negley family have been incorporated into the modern Highland Park. One is the Farmhouse, a mid-19th century brick residence formerly of Alexander's widow, Mary Berkstresser Negley. Subsequent owners ran a dairy farm from the house. It was then utilized as the clubhouse of the Highland Park Country Club in the 1890s and, beginning in about 1900, as park offices. The other is the burial ground at

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Memorial Grove including the graves of Alexander Negley and other early settlers of the area. A monument erected by Sarah Jane Negley Mellon, Alexander's great-great-granddaughter, in 1912 marks the site, a hillside clearing between Reservoir No. One and the zoo.

The Allegheny Valley Railroad was constructed along the south bank of the Allegheny River in 1850 and a depot, Brilliant Station, stood near the mouth of Negley Run by 1872. Also nearby, in Negley Run, were an oil refinery and storage tanks built in the 1860s to receive oil shipped down the Allegheny from Oil Creek. In what is now Highland Park's northwest corner, near where Heth's (then spelled "Haight's") Run flowed into the Allegheny River, the Seely Plan of Lots had been laid out in 1872, but no houses had yet been built.

In 1871, the Pittsburgh Water Commission identified the high ground between Negley and Heth's runs as an ideal site for a new municipal reservoir for its expanding public water system. The city purchased 25 acres for this purpose from Caspar Negley, a son of Alexander Negley, and James McCully, owner of the oil refinery. Construction of the reservoir and pumping system took eight years. A Hopkins property map of the area in the 1872 shows two irregularly-shaped reservoirs—the Hiland Reservoir (now Highland Reservoir No. One; the spelling was changed in 1890) and the interim Brilliant Reservoir, downhill and to the east—surrounded by small farms and estates. A map of 1876 shows that the upper reservoir's shape had by this time been revised into two trapezoidal lobes with the alignment of Highland Avenue running uninterrupted between them and onward north to Butler Street. An 1882 map (Figure 1) shows the same conditions. The reservoir began delivering water on March 5, 1879.

At approximately this time, Edward Manning Bigelow, a city engineer, visited the Highland and Brilliant reservoirs with City Controller E. S. Morrow and, according to an account in his obituary, conceived the idea for Highland Park. Bigelow had joined the Department of Public Works as a surveyor in 1880 and went on to become its director in 1889, a position he used aggressively to bring his vision of a park system for Pittsburgh to fruition.

At the time, Pittsburgh had only one small public park near Grant Street and Second Avenue, downtown, a situation that placed it in embarrassing contrast to the other major cities with which it competed. First among these was Allegheny, its rival city across the Allegheny River, which had developed extensive public parklands after the Civil War. Elsewhere in Pennsylvania, Philadelphia's Fairmount Park Commission began purchasing land along the Schuylkill River in 1867 to simultaneously protect its water supply and offer public recreation. Bigelow's vision for Highland Park may have been directly inspired by Philadelphia's efforts to combine public works and parks.

Most histories of Highland Park state that the publicly-owned hilltop sites around the reservoirs soon became popular destinations for Pittsburghers to stroll, picnic, and enjoy the views, implying that the area effectively functioned as a park before it was officially dedicated. The 1916 account of Bigelow's and Morrow's visit paints a different picture, emphasizing Bigelow's vision of transformation:

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The banks were of clay, stone, and broken timbers[,] and debris of all kinds littered the ground. It was a desolate prospect. Mr. Bigelow thought the reservoirs ought to be surrounded by a grass plot, and that the high banks of the pools ought to be sodded, and Mr. Morrow agreed with him.⁴

Most likely, both versions are true, and Bigelow seized an opportunity to improve existing open space already under public control.

The Building of Highland Park, 1889-1910

With Morrow's support, in 1889, Bigelow persuaded City Council to set aside 46 acres of City-owned property around the Highland Reservoir and another reservoir on Herron Hill, about five miles west in the Hill District, as parkland and to authorize the Department of Public Works to add to and improve them. He then set about acquiring additional land to expand Highland Park by negotiating with some 120 individual property owners over 15 years.

Not all of them wished to sell or welcomed the idea of a public park which might attract visitors from all walks of life. Bigelow was able to make some purchases, such as the oil refinery and the nine-hole golf course of the Highland Park Country Club, readily and transparently with City funds. For other transactions, Bigelow resorted to unorthodox and controversial methods. He took out personal bank loans with his wealthy, politically-connected friends, his cousin Christopher Lyman Magee and Republican boss William Flinn, as guarantors. With these funds, he then purchased land for himself and other private citizens, all of whom resold it to the city at cost plus interest. (Whether Bigelow actually profited from these transactions is unknown, although he was accused of it.) Bigelow did not disclose that the purchases he made were for the park, nor did he divulge the extent of the park he envisioned.⁵ If a property owner did not agree to sell, Bigelow tried "inconveniencing" them by buying up all adjacent property so that they were surrounded by city-owned land.⁶ And if this did not work, Bigelow did not hesitate to invoke an 1891 Act of the Pennsylvania Assembly which gave cities the power to acquire land for public parks by eminent domain. It was in this manner that Bigelow acquired a small cluster of houses in what is now the zoo.⁷ Ultimately, Bigelow spent \$909,508 in city funds over 15 years to increase the acreage of Highland Park. The last area to be assembled was the southeastern sector of the park along Stanton Avenue and Washington Boulevard. Property maps show that the City of Pittsburgh owned most of this land by 1924, and all of it by 1939. (Figures 2-6)

Even as he embarked on the long, piecemeal process of assembling park land, Bigelow wasted no time in assigning his Public Works crews to park improvement. In 1890, Bigelow initiated a topographic survey and mapping of Highland Park. Early park development activities included

⁴ "Public Works Director and a Foremost Citizen Succumbs After Operation" (*Pittsburgh Gazette Times*, Dec. 7, 1916), np.

⁵ Rich Gigler, "The Man Who Collected Parks" (*Pittsburgh Press* "Family Magazine," April 26, 1981), 4.

⁶ Howard Stewart, "Historical Data: Pittsburgh Public Parks" (Pittsburgh: Greater Pittsburgh Parks Association, 1943), 16.

⁷ *Ibid.*

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curvilinear, tree-lined roadways around the reservoir and lower terrace of the hill; dense plantings of trees on the hillsides; and the definition of clearings and open fields, surrounded by groves of trees, at picnic and overlook sites.

In his annual reports, Bigelow credited Francis Xavier Berthold Froesch (1867-ca. 1920) with the design of Highland Park. Froesch was a German-born landscape designer who lived in the nearby neighborhood of Morningside. Froesch worked on the 1893 World Columbian Exposition, and in 1912 designed the landscape for Rea House, now part of Chatham University's campus. Along with Highland Park, Froesch also prepared designs for two smaller city parks which were exhibited by the Pittsburgh Architectural Club in 1900: Friendship Park, encircled by Friendship Avenue between Edmond and Gross streets in Bloomfield, and Holiday Park on Mt. Washington.⁸ However, what Froesch designed for Highland Park is not exactly known. His plan was not illustrated in the exhibition catalog, and the original is not known to have survived.⁹ In the absence of detailed records, Froesch's and Bigelow's respective roles in designing Highland Park are not well understood.

The involvement of Superintendent of Parks William Falconer further muddies the question of who designed what in the park. Falconer was a Scottish horticulturalist, arborist, and "a personal friend of Bigelow's and... the first man that Bigelow could actually trust to administer the parks."¹⁰ Bigelow brought Falconer to Pittsburgh from New York City in 1896 to supervise the simultaneous development of Schenley Park. Bigelow soon promoted Falconer to Superintendent of Parks, in which capacity he served until 1903, overseeing Highland Park as well. Such timing suggests that Falconer might have had input on the development of Froesch's plan, or he might have built upon its blueprint as Highland Park grew and evolved at the turn of the 20th century. A 1943 history of the Pittsburgh parks asserts that Falconer directed "[p]ractically all of the tree plantings" during this period.¹¹ However, other research suggests asserts that Falconer divided his horticultural responsibilities with other park managers and spent most of his own time on Schenley Park.¹² Falconer declined to be re-appointed parks director by Bigelow in 1903 and went on to work extensively on the romantic landscape of Allegheny Cemetery (NRHP 1980).

Most of the character-defining features of the present Highland Park were in place by the early 1900s. The park's main roads and Lake Carnegie (1892) were the first features to be engineered and constructed. Lake Carnegie was converted from the partially-completed Brilliant Reservoir. Built halfway up the hill between the Allegheny River and the upper reservoir, this was intended as an interim reservoir to aid in forcing water from the river to the top of the hill. In the midst of

⁸ Holiday Park was created out of the estate of Dr. A.G. Walter ca. 1900 and served as a park until 1939. In this year, the Pittsburgh Board of Education constructed a new elementary school, Whittier School, on the park, which has thereafter served as the school grounds.

⁹ Barry Hannegan, "Historical Summary: Highland Park," Pittsburgh Regional Parks Master Plan Stage Two Report (Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, 1999), np.

¹⁰ Stewart, iv.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Barry Hannegan, "William Falconer and the Landscaping of Schenley Park" (Pittsburgh: *Carnegie Magazine*, Vol. 63, No. 3, May/June 1996), <https://carnegiemuseums.org/magazine-archive/1996/mayjun/feat3.htm>

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construction, a strong-enough pump became available to eliminate this necessity, so Bigelow had the Brilliant Reservoir repurposed and redesigned as a naturalistic lake for recreational boating and ice skating. A donation from Andrew Carnegie aided this work and gave the lake its name. Also in 1892, a frame music pavilion was constructed on Mt. Bigelow, just north of Reservoir No. One. The music pavilion appears to have been short-lived, as it is absent from photographs of Mt. Bigelow taken in 1907. The Bureau of Parks report from 1914 refers to a band stand, but its location is unmapped. (Figure 7)

Public Works crews used stone that had lined the Brilliant Reservoir in constructing the circulation system up, down, and around the park's hilltop and sides. A stone quarry opened in the park in 1890 to provide additional foundation materials for the planned macadam roadways. Five and a half miles of winding roads were built between 1891 and 1896, spanning ravines and pedestrian paths on three rough-cut stone-arch bridges ranging from 12 to 60 feet in diameter. Stone salvaged from their excavation was used in other park projects, such as retaining walls terracing the steep hillsides and stone steps providing navigable paths up and down them. Overall, alteration of the original topography appears to have been relatively minor. Grading sculpted the terrain enough to accommodate the two reservoirs, Lake Carnegie, and the park's roads and trails.¹³ Grading was also used to soften the park's "[p]rominent, rigid, or abrupt banks or breasts of rock and clay... to allow the introduction of natural-appearing graceful sloping waves instead."¹⁴

Meanwhile, Bigelow and Froesch improved the landscape expansively. Since much of the land around the reservoir had been farms, the terrain Bigelow acquired for the park was relatively clear. An 1896 report describes Highland Park as "only a barren, almost treeless hill, crowned with a reservoir and encircled by a few carriage roads."¹⁵ Once the park's main roads had been established, Bigelow and Froesch undertook a Herculean planting campaign to attain the goal of a naturalistic park landscape. In 1897 alone, 800 trees were planted, and a greenhouse was constructed east of the reservoir for the propagation of shrubs and flowers. 3500 trees and 4000 shrubs were planted in 1897 and 6000 trees and shrubs in 1898, when Bigelow reported, "[v]isitors to Highland Park do not see the lonely, barren desert of a few years ago."¹⁶ In 1899, another 900 trees and 1200 shrubs were planted, and 6000 more in 1900.

Highland Park was too large and rugged to be designed entirely in a formal manner, but at its main entrance at the crest of Highland Avenue, Bigelow planned a City Beautiful-inspired formal plaza with a central reflecting pool and fountain and extensive, elaborate bedding of ornamental plants. (Figure 8) Just beyond this, the earthen bank of the reservoir was also planted with elaborate arrangements of flowers in formations such as the seal of the City of Pittsburgh. Planning for this plaza began in 1894, and the "Welcome" statue groups by Italian sculptor

¹³ Hannegan, "Historical Summary: Highland Park," np.

¹⁴ City of Pittsburgh, "Public Works Annual Report," 1896, 335.

¹⁵ Beulah Kennard, "The Playgrounds of Pittsburgh," in Paul Underwood Kellogg, ed., *The Pittsburgh District Civic Frontage: The Pittsburgh Survey, Findings in Six Volumes* (Russell Sage Foundation: New York, 1914), 307.

¹⁶ City of Pittsburgh, "Public Works Annual Report," 1898, 444.

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Giuseppe Moretti were in place by 1896. A historian of Pittsburgh's sculpture notes that the combination of sculpted figure groups on shafts with four engaged columns is typical of entrance groupings seen in several 19th century European World Expositions.¹⁷ The "Welcome" sculptures are also said to be modeled on unnamed "gates at Munich, Germany."¹⁸ Either antecedent suggests that "Welcome" may have been an indication of Froesch's European influence on Highland Park's planning and design as well as Bigelow's City Beautiful sensibility. The plaza was completed by 1898, when its photograph was published in a souvenir brochure. An annual spring flower show on the plaza soon became a regular event.

In the park's lower zone, the passage of residential Stanton Avenue into the park was marked by a less monumental, but equally symbolic sculptural gateway in 1900: Moretti's pair of bronze statues of young men taming horses, one on either side of the road, are dynamic representations of human efforts to influence and superintend nature. These sculptures also have a European precedent: they are modeled after a work in marble known as the "Horses of Marly" by French sculptor Guillaume Coustou (1677-1746).

Moretti designed two other works for Highland Park which have been removed. One was a bronze memorial to Stephen Foster, placed near the Highland Ave. entrance to the park in 1900. After frequent instances of vandalism, this was moved to a more prominent location at the entrance to Schenley Park in 1944.¹⁹ The other was a pink marble drinking fountain presented to the city in 1902 by Thomas Keenan and referred to in city records as "Child With Shell." This occupied a spot below the main entrance until sometime after 1934, when an inspection crew under the direction of the Art Commission advised that it should be "remove[d] to [a] less conspicuous spot and surround[ed] with low shrubs" as "the artistic value of the work is low."²⁰ What actually became of this fountain is not known.

The Highland Park Zoo in the northwest section of the park has been an important attraction since its opening in 1898. (Figure 9) Three years prior, Bigelow's cousin Christopher Magee and his fellow directors of the Fort Pitt Traction Company, William Flinn and Joshua Rhodes, offered \$100,000 for construction of a building to house a zoological garden "worthy of the City" if the City would provide the land.²¹ Of course, Magee and his associates believed their gift would ultimately profit them by inducing large numbers of people to ride the Fort Pitt company's streetcars to the end of the line. Though the zoo "never interested" Bigelow,²² the tremendous public investment in the Highland Avenue entrance plaza—where streetcar riders entered the

¹⁷ Evert, 277.

¹⁸ Stewart, 18.

¹⁹ The Foster memorial was permanently removed in 2018 amid criticism of its depiction of a fictionalized slave.

²⁰ *Physical Inventory of City Owned Buildings*, Pittsburgh, 1934, 291, 723. In Marilyn Evert, "Highland Park: Adorning the Park," (*Carnegie Magazine*, vol. 54, no. 6, June 1980), 15.

²¹ City of Pittsburgh, "Public Works Annual Report," 1895, 17.

²² Barbara Judd, "Edward M. Bigelow: Creator of Pittsburgh's Arcadian Parks" (*Pittsburgh: Western Pennsylvania History*, vol. 58, no. 1, January 1975), 59.

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park—might be viewed as Bigelow’s reciprocation of the support Magee and Flinn provided to his own ambitions to build Highland Park.

The Highland Park Zoo’s 700-foot long main building was designed by Chicago architect Joseph Lyman Silsbee. Construction began in 1896 and was completed in 1898. The zoo building was of brick with a shallow hipped roof and curved wings housing cages and exhibits on each end. The building sat astride the top of a long, rolling hill, accentuated by terraced lawns and monumental staircases. The zoo opened to the public—with Bigelow presiding over the ceremonies—on June 14, 1898. A small, pre-existing zoo in Schenley Park was closed and its animal tenants were moved to Highland Park shortly thereafter. By 1904, the Highland Park Zoo housed 665 animals. Upon annexation of the City of Allegheny to Pittsburgh in 1907, the animals in the zoo in Riverview Park were also moved to the Highland Park Zoo, which became the official Pittsburgh city zoo.

Two major shelter buildings, the Rhododendron Shelter (designed by Harry Summers Estep; Figure 10) and the Lake Point Shelter (a two-and-a-half story frame shelter house by Thomas Scott; demolished) were constructed in 1902-1903. Reservoir No. Two was begun in 1897 and put into service in 1903.

Growth and Adaptation During the Progressive Era, 1910-1933

In the early 20th century, Highland Park continued to develop, but no longer under the energetic leadership and particular vision of Edward Manning Bigelow. Where Bigelow had promoted a passive park experience that would uplift visitors through exposure to the beauty of art and nature, the Progressive movement promoted (among other things) the benefits of playgrounds for children and active sport and outdoor recreation for urban dwellers of all ages. A \$200,000 municipal bond funded recreational improvements to Highland, Schenley, and Riverview parks in 1910. As a result, in that year a swimming platform was added to Lake Carnegie; a running track was built north of the lake; and the park gained tennis courts and a playground. A pavilion containing a merry-go-round was also built in 1910, reflecting the park’s continued appeal as a wholesome family leisure destination. By 1915, the park had four tennis courts and three ball courts. None of these early athletic features remains.²³

The evolution of amenities on Lake Carnegie reflected the new recreational preferences of park users. A diving platform was added in 1913 and a second swimming platform in 1915. The lake was stocked with fish and a casting platform was built in 1927. The rustic log casting cabin was also built during this period, possibly at the same time as the fishing pier. The growing popularity of public swimming led to the conversion of the northern half of the lake into a swimming pool in 1932. The pool house was constructed in 1939. (Figure 11)

A modest frame boat house also existed on the south end of Lake Carnegie during this period (Figure 12). Curiously, no documentation can be found of its construction or removal. It appears to have been present by 1907 (the earliest date of a postcard on which it appears) and to have

²³ The location of the park’s first tennis courts is unmapped and unknown; the property which holds the current tennis courts was added to the park later.

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stood at least through the 1930s. Renderings exist of an elegant neoclassical boathouse proposed for Lake Carnegie in 1920, but this was never built; the city was, by this time, redirecting its investments to neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

One way in which the city sustained Bigelow's original vision of Highland Park was through maintenance of its flower gardens, which were lavish during the early 20th century. In 1915, a modern new greenhouse was built to replace the previous glass house. This helped supply the park's 45 flower beds, floral decorations, and several thousand feet of borders; flowers planted that year included 75,000 tulips, 45,000 bedding plants, and 5000 pansies. In addition, 35 trees and 500 shrubs were planted in 1915; 20 trees were removed; 2500 trees and 1500 shrubs were inspected; and 1500 trees and 2500 shrubs were pruned and sprayed.

The 1910s also saw two significant actions involving park land, one incorporating former private property, the other omitting public lands. In the first instance, the Seely Plan between the zoo and the Allegheny River was cleared of some 25 mostly frame houses, shops, a church, and a public school, and this area was integrated into the park. This may have happened adjunct to the city's construction of a new Heth's Run Bridge to replace the old wooden viaduct over the ravine in 1914. In the second instance, City Council voted to build a tuberculosis hospital on the former Leech Farm site east of Washington Boulevard. Edward Bigelow—now a state highway official—returned to Pittsburgh in 1913 to oppose this act along with a groundswell of citizens, civic organizations, and the press. Bigelow urged that he had made a deal with the Pennsylvania Railroad to deed the land to the city in exchange for a right-of-way easement for the Brilliant Cut-Off, and City Council had agreed to reserve the Leech Farm property for Highland Park.²⁴ Hopkins property maps from the early 1900s do show this area labeled "Highland Park," but City Council permitted the Pittsburgh Department of Public Health to build the hospital in 1915.

The New Deal, 1934-1945

Little subsequent activity is recorded in the park until the mid-1930s. In 1934, Ralph Griswold became superintendent of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Parks, a post he would hold until 1945. Griswold secured Works Progress Administration funding for park improvements during his tenure. In Highland Park, these included the double flight of stone steps at the Highland Avenue entrance to the upper reservoir and the small plaza at the north end of Negley Avenue including a stepped stone plinth, retaining walls, stairs, and walks. The earliest of Griswold's drawings for this feature dates to 1934, indicating that this was among the first of Griswold's contributions to Pittsburgh's parks.²⁵ Such features show the influence of the WPA Rustic style, a style of design promoted for parks by the National Park Service and characterized by the use of local materials, low silhouettes, and minimal demarcation between built and natural features. WPA funds also made possible the first City Forestry Division office building off of Stanton Avenue by 1939 and the driver test course along Washington Boulevard in 1942. The Elm Grove shelter is also of this era, as is the bronze drinking fountain near the Highland Avenue entrance. This is one of many such fountains by the sculptor Frank Vittor placed throughout the Pittsburgh parks in 1935, only a few of which remain.

²⁴ Stewart, 14.

²⁵ Hannegan, "Historical Summary: Highland Park," np.

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Drawings from the period 1934-1938 also exist to illustrate a number of proposed and executed changes in the design of Bigelow's entrance plaza. One of these replaced the original wide semi-circular walk with a rectilinear pattern of large and small flower beds and lawns with half-hexagonal beds terminating the east and west ends of the scheme. Pergolas defining these boundary beds were proposed, but not built. Planting schemes offered alternatives including roses; perennial beds and borders; and ornamental shrubs and trees.

The Elizabeth Kline Playground of the 1930s illustrates that the city tried to meet the recreational needs of its citizens in different ways. Located on Washington Boulevard in roughly the current location of the Police and Fire Training Academy, it was equipped with a small swimming pool, frame pool houses, a brick filter house, two baseball diamonds, and concession stands. Curiously, since the Kline Playground is documented as early as 1931, a 1947 report on recreational facilities in Pittsburgh noted that it was "not quite completed" in that year.²⁶ The Kline playground is featured on the 1939 Hopkins map, and aerial views show that its pool had been filled in by the mid-1950s.

Why did Highland Park need two swimming pools? According to the 1947 report, "The policy of the Bureau of Parks and Recreation is one of no discrimination in all of its centers, playgrounds, and pools, but the Highland Park pool is used only by white persons," whereas the Kline playground and pool on Washington Blvd. were "used mainly by Negroes for unsupervised play."²⁷ In the segregated geography of Pittsburgh in the 1930s and 40s, Highland Park was a white neighborhood, but adjacent neighborhoods of East Liberty and Larimer had African American residents who used the public park. Rather than enforce its written anti-discrimination policy, the city practiced de facto segregation. In 1951, a group of 10 African American Pittsburghers filed a civil rights lawsuit against the City, demanding that the Highland Park pool be closed until city officials determined to protect the rights of all of its users. The City conceded, and the Highland Park pool was eventually integrated. No trace of the Kline Playground remains. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the city repurposed the flat land along Washington Boulevard for two public safety facilities, the Zone 5 Police Station and the Police and Fire Training Academy.

In another sign of the times, in the 1930s and 40s, a "German trophy"—probably a cannon—briefly occupied the summit of Mt. Bigelow.

The 1930s also brought changes in larger transportation patterns which altered Highland Park's relationship to the Allegheny River. Originally, the park's northern slope was completely open to the river view and park land extended almost to the river's banks. However, the construction of the Highland Park Bridge in 1938 utilized the north edge of the park, and the extension of Butler

²⁶ "Recreational Facilities: Pittsburgh and Allegheny County, Vol. 1 Pittsburgh" (Pittsburgh: Bureau of Social Research, Federation of Social Agencies of Pittsburgh and Allegheny County and the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Jan. 1947), 98.

²⁷ Ibid.

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Street as Allegheny River Boulevard created a wide barrier of paving and traffic between Highland Park and the river frontage.

Decline and Rehabilitation, 1946-present

There is little record of park development after the 1930s except as pertains to the zoo. In the 1940s, the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation donated \$44,000 for the Children's Zoo, which opened in 1949. A miniature railroad attraction was added in 1955 to take visitors on a 1.5 mile out-and-back voyage through the woods on the western slope of Reservoir No. Two.

In the early 1980s, City government decided to upgrade the quality of the zoo, which lagged behind modern practices in animal management and display, and started to construct naturalistic habitats for the animals. The original Highland Park Zoo building of 1898, which had dominated the visitor experience of the zoo, was demolished and replaced by modern buildings and exhibits. A new zoo entrance station was built oriented to the parking lot atop the Heth's Run ravine, resulting in the abandonment of a serpentine road which previously linked Reservoir Drive below Mt. Bigelow to the original zoo entrance on the hillside. At the same time, Hill Road—which led up into the park from Butler Street—was realigned to provide zoo access and renamed One Wild Place. In 1993 the zoo transitioned from a city-operated organization to function as a private non-profit. The Children's Zoo reopened as Kid's Kingdom, an interactive facility with playground equipment and hands-on human-to-animal encounters, in 1995, resulting in the loss of most of its Storybook Style 1940s structure. The PPG Aquarium was constructed in the zoo in 1999-2000.

Outside of the zoo, Highland Park slowly declined between the end of World War II and the turn of the 21st century. Some early structures, such as the greenhouse, band shell, Lake Point shelter house, and boathouse were lost. A concession stand, built between the pool and Lake Carnegie by the New Deal National Youth Administration ca. 1940, was "derelict" in 1999 and subsequently demolished.²⁸ The City lacked funds to keep the fountain in the Highland Park entrance plaza in good repair and it was removed. The reflecting pool in the plaza was drained, though its stone coping remained. Without staff to cultivate plants and maintain the plaza's elaborate gardens, the beds were converted to lawns or overgrown with weeds. The Rhododendron Shelter lost its paneled wooden doors and multi-paned transoms to become an open pavilion. Lack of maintenance also rendered the longest stone bridge in the park—the 60 foot arch along Lake Drive—structurally unsound, so city crews buried it and the ravine it spanned; today, earthen fill supports the roadway.

Beginning in the 1990s, several repair and restoration projects advanced the incremental rehabilitation of Highland Park. Throughout that decade, users of the park opposed a plan to cover Reservoir No. One in compliance with federal regulations for the protection of public water supplies. Ultimately, park advocates were successful in their efforts to preserve the upper reservoir's open water. Reservoir No. Two was covered, but the City agreed to build a microfiltration plant to treat the water from Reservoir No. One so that it could remain open. The

²⁸ "Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan" Stage Two Report (prepared by LaQuatra Bonci, et. al., for City of Pittsburgh & Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, 2002), np.

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microfiltration plant was completed in 2003 in a style compatible with the historic character of the park. In 1998, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was formed. Modeled on the Central Park Conservancy in New York, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy undertook fundraising for park master planning and maintenance in partnership with the City. Early projects in accordance with the Master Plan included the restoration of the “Welcome” and “Horse Tamers” sculptures—funded and directed by the Highland Park Community Council—and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy-led rehabilitation of the Highland Avenue entrance plaza.

Significance: Community Planning and Development

Highland Park has local significance under National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development. Highland Park was the first major, permanent park planned for the City of Pittsburgh and served as a prototype for the inauguration of a public park system in the last decade of the 19th century. Even as another large city park, Schenley Park (NRHP 1985), was acquired shortly thereafter and developed simultaneously, Highland Park stood apart for its formal, sculptural gateways and its orientation to water, both the reservoir at its center and the Allegheny River, which it overlooks.

With its origins in a major public works project—the municipal water system—Highland Park initially developed as a public works project in its own right. Its development spanned the era of the professionalization of the specialized disciplines of park planning and landscape architecture. Highland Park was an achievement of progressive planning in the City Beautiful and New Deal eras: in a city polluted and degraded by its own industrial success, which propelled some citizens to fabulous wealth while providing little to alleviate the stresses afflicting the working poor, Highland Park was planned to provide a countervailing oasis of scenic landscape and public art. As the goal of park planning shifted from setting aside large acreages designed to resemble “the country in the city” to providing more, smaller, recreation-oriented parks, a new, professional corps of parks administrators ensured that Highland Park adapted.

Highland Park was Pittsburgh’s first response to a nationwide movement toward the integrated planning, design, and administration of urban public parks which emerged in the middle of the 19th century. In western Pennsylvania, the City of Allegheny—across the Allegheny River from Pittsburgh—was a leader in this regard, establishing the first park west of the Allegheny Mountains, Allegheny Commons Park (NRHP 2013), in 1867. Pittsburgh’s park system began with the establishment of Highland and then Schenley parks in 1889. Riverview Park in Allegheny was dedicated in 1894 and Frick Park (NRHP 2019) opened in 1927 (the two cities’ park systems joined when Allegheny was annexed to Pittsburgh in 1907). From about 1910 to 1940, Pittsburgh added numerous small, neighborhood parks and playgrounds to its system. A fifth regional park, Emerald View Park, was formed by assembling a network of smaller parks and greenways in 2012.

The deliberate planning and design of public parks emerged from a growing awareness of the benefits of public open space, especially in cities. The earliest urban public open spaces in America were town squares, like those in William Penn’s plan for Philadelphia in 1683 and at the center of the original town plan for Allegheny, drawn in 1788. As cities industrialized,

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crowding, pollution, and concerns about sanitation and safety highlighted the public health benefits of larger expanses of open space. The germ theory of disease was not yet well understood, but Victorians suspected the airborne transmission of sickness through “miasmas” and extolled the health benefits of pure country air. For urban residents who lacked access to the actual countryside, representations of nature in the city were the next-best thing. The city and the country also became associated with opposite moral poles, with cities seen as sinful and the country as virtuous.

Prior to the establishment of city parks, 19th century urban workers sought fresh air and natural beauty where they could, often seeking out the tranquil green spaces in cemeteries. This helped give rise to the rural cemetery movement, in which extensive, professionally-landscaped burial grounds were established outside of church yards. At the same time, the field of landscape architecture was differentiating from that of horticulture. Rural cemeteries designed by landscape architects, such as Pittsburgh’s Allegheny Cemetery (est. 1844), were an important precursor to the 19th century urban park movement, providing symbolic landscapes that artfully mimicked natural ones within urbanized areas.

However, Frederick Law Olmsted, a pioneer and foremost practitioner in the field of landscape architecture, argued that cemeteries should not be pressed into service as public recreation areas. His design (with Calvert Vaux) for Central Park in New York City in 1858 set a powerful example of a simulated natural “pleasure ground” in the middle of a dense, industrialized, modern American city. Admirers also saw an important democratic function in public parks. They could bring the benefits of a country escape to a landless class of urban immigrants and promote a harmonious social order by allowing citizens of all classes to mingle. Parks enjoyed widespread support: by the workers and families meant to enjoy them; by industrial leaders who anticipated more productivity from healthy, happy workers; and by Victorian reformers, who sought wholesome alternatives to taverns and street corners as places of leisure. Indeed, much of the advocacy for public parks was fueled by the rhetoric of moral uplift. This continued well into the 20th century, when it dovetailed nicely with the principles of the City Beautiful movement which animated the creation of Highland Park.

After the Civil War, the provision of urban parks became an important goal of American city planning. In 1867, the City of Philadelphia demonstrated ingenuity and foresight when it created Fairmount Park, combining the goal of protecting the source of its public water—the Schuylkill River—with that of providing extensive public open space for its citizens. In the same year, under the direction of city engineer Charles Davis, the City of Allegheny transformed the disused common grazing area adjacent to its downtown into an elegant, ornamental park, one of the first west of the Allegheny mountains. An even more sophisticated vision of park planning involved the development of park systems linked by greenswards and landscaped boulevards, such as Boston’s Emerald Necklace, conceived by Frederick Law Olmsted in 1878.

Meanwhile, Pittsburgh was planning for the expansion of its public water distribution system, begun in 1828 with a reservoir at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Grant Street, downtown. In the 1840s, it added additional pumping stations and a new reservoir on Bedford Avenue. Continued urban growth through immigration and annexation required additional capacity, leading to the

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city's acquisition of the Negley and McCully properties for the Highland and Brilliant reservoirs in 1871. The Highland reservoir opened in 1879. The land around it was unimproved, but, lacking public open space reserved for recreation, Pittsburghers began visiting the reservoir in their leisure time as they did cemeteries.

In the 1880s, ongoing planning for the city's water service combined with a new plan for parks under the leadership of Public Works Director Edward Manning Bigelow. Bigelow was "a city planner before city planning had a name,"²⁹ and Highland Park's early significance is intertwined with Bigelow's ambitions. Also often called the "Father of Pittsburgh's Parks," Bigelow in fact held an integrative view of public open space as part of the essential infrastructure of the city. Bigelow began working for the City of Pittsburgh as a city engineer in 1880 and, when the Department of Public Works was formed in 1888, was appointed its first director. Bigelow held this position until he was ousted over a political dispute in 1900, only to be reinstated in 1901, again from 1903-1906, and a final time shortly before his death in 1916. Bigelow went on to become a commissioner of the newly-formed Pennsylvania State Highway Commission from 1911-1915—a period during which, although no longer employed by the City of Pittsburgh, he continued to advocate for his vision of Highland Park. A resident of Highland Avenue, just a few blocks from the park entrance, Bigelow took a special interest in his personal neighborhood park. More broadly, an obituary of Bigelow in 1916 recounted that "[d]uring the period from 1880 until 1900, Mr. Bigelow played a big part in the development of the city. The building of the parks, the boulevards, miles of streets and sewers and the perfection of the water system are largely his work."³⁰

Bigelow regarded parks as public works on a par with water, sewers, and streets, and beginning with Highland Park, he planned for them with particular zeal. Providing public open space was a new idea for a city which at the time had only one small park, but it was an idea whose time had come. Pittsburgh's 19th century industrial boom intensified the need for "breathing spots for the people," as Bigelow called them, even as the city's growth rapidly consumed undeveloped tracts of land that could be set aside for public use. A 1981 retrospective of Bigelow's career makes clear the coincidence of his sweeping ambition and the closing window of opportunity to realize it: "Conserving any piece of property large enough to establish a public park of grand scale quickly became a now-or-never proposition."³¹

Pittsburgh's Gilded Age of growth as an industrial city also helped shape moral arguments for parks as wholesome settings for working-class leisure. Bigelow was motivated by the tenets of the City Beautiful movement, which held that the order and aesthetic qualities of urban environments shaped the conduct of citizens. Like the parks movement itself, the City Beautiful was conceived as a corrective to the crowding, chaos, and class tension of the post-Civil War immigrant-filled industrial city. Both movements had strong overtones of assimilating the foreign-born lower classes and newly-freed African Americans to the mores of middle-class

²⁹ William Magee in Stewart, 12.

³⁰ "Public Works Director and a Foremost Citizen Succumbs After Operation," *Pittsburgh Gazette Times*, Dec. 7, 1916.

³¹ Gigler, "The Man Who 'Collected' Parks," 1.

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America. Bigelow sought to use the beauty of designed landscapes, architecture, and sculpture to create stylized, naturalistic parks that would stand in contrast to the shabby tenements and mechanized factories of the industrial city. Harmoniously landscaped parks would exert a “civilizing influence” on the heterogeneous working classes and be symbols of moral and civic virtue. Pittsburgh City Controller Henry Gourley articulated this view in 1895: “Give the people attractive parks; show them beautiful things and give them innocent amusements to entice them away from degrading things.... Let us open the doors which lead to pure influence and to the better side of human nature.”³²

During his tenure as Director of Public Works, Bigelow would have been aware of the monumental “White City” at the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago. Its themes of neoclassicism, symmetry, allegorical sculpture, and water would have been fresh in his mind as he developed plans for Highland Park, in particular, and a larger scheme for a system of linked parks in Pittsburgh.

On a more pragmatic front, Bigelow also almost certainly thought of Philadelphia when he piggybacked his initial effort to plan a park for Pittsburgh on a public works project already on his docket, the expansion of the city’s public water system. City Council enacted Pittsburgh’s first initiatives concerning parks as a matter of policy in May 1889 when, at Bigelow’s behest, it appointed a committee on parks, set aside the land around the Highland and Herron reservoirs as parkland, and authorized the Department of Public Works to improve it. As the Herron Reservoir was in a part of the city that was already densely settled, it was Highland Park that provided the opportunity to sculpt a prototype for a large city park and a flagship for the interconnected park system he planned.

Six months later, Bigelow seized an opportunity to add a second major park to his prospective system. Upon learning that a real estate agent planned to purchase the 300-acre Mt. Airy tract in Oakland from its owner, the expatriate heiress Mary Schenley, Bigelow rushed to London to persuade her to give the land to the city for a public park instead. Schenley agreed to donate 300 acres to the city with an option to purchase 100.6 more to provide a park entrance, which the city exercised in 1890. Bigelow’s success in winning Schenley Park for Pittsburgh provided him, in addition to Highland Park, with a broad foundation to sculpt an east end park system by 1890. But “[e]ven before [Bigelow] charmed Schenley Park from its owner, and for many years after, he collected land around the reservoir for Highland Park.”³³

The Highland and Mt. Airy lands presented similar challenges. Both began as wastelands of rocky outcroppings, barren hillsides, and disruptive ravines.³⁴ As a civil engineer, Bigelow was especially concerned with circulation among and within the parks. In both Highland and Schenley parks, Bigelow prioritized the construction of roads and bridges to provide access to

³² In Michael Eversmeyer, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, Highland Park, Pittsburgh, PA (draft) (Harrisburg: PA SHPO, 2001) 8:1.

³³ Ruth Gigler, “City’s Parks Boast an Illustrious History” (*Pittsburgh Press*, July 16, 1989), 7.

³⁴ Eversmeyer, 8:4.

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the sites of the parks' various attractions.³⁵ Moreover, his integrative vision included linear connections for transportation among the parks themselves. His basic concept invoked a scenic boulevard, first called Grant Boulevard (later renamed Bigelow Boulevard in his honor) connecting downtown to the city's east end, running through Schenley Park and then turning north and east as Beechwood Boulevard and Washington Boulevard, which connected through Highland Park to the Allegheny riverfront. Bigelow described this plan for a linked system of parks and boulevards in 1897: "Pittsburgh will then have a great arterial driveway beginning in the heart of the city and extending to its furthest park, and offering to the eye at every turn scenes of unsurpassed beauty."³⁶ During his tenure at the City, Bigelow initiated work on these boulevards.

Bigelow's plans also held that the main entrances to his parks should impress visitors and prepare them for the transition from the "mechanized world" of the city to the "natural world" of the park interior.³⁷ He was unable to achieve a monumental entrance to Schenley Park, despite the august institutions—including two universities and the Carnegie museum, library, and lecture hall—that established their presence at the park's edges in the late 19th century. However, Bigelow left a lasting imprint of City Beautiful ideals on the Highland Avenue entrance to Highland Park. The "Welcome" sculptural gateway exemplifies the neoclassical standards of beauty, symmetry, and allegory prescribed by the City Beautiful movement. The reflecting pool was a symbolic miniature of the reservoir, the park's focal feature, directly to its north. For decades, the entrance plaza was also distinguished by extensive and elaborate bedding. Not only were the walks and fountain pool lined by massed formal arrangements of tender plants, but the earthen bank of the reservoir was used as a support for further demonstrations of carpet bedding, with floral scrollwork linking such features as the date and seal of Pittsburgh. "Early photographs and picture postcards of the entrance plaza reveal it to have been the finest public space in Pittsburgh and a first-rate example of the kind of municipal enrichment associated with the City Beautiful movement."³⁸

At Highland Park's lower entrance on Stanton Avenue, the Horse Tamers sculptures provided a gateway that was less imposing in scale and more naturalistic in execution. Yet their allegorical theme of nature being controlled by humans is both ancient and perfectly suited to a park, where deliberate activities of grading, landscaping, and cultivation shaped the natural features of the land for human use and enjoyment. Sculptor Moretti modeled the Horse Tamers after an 18th century work in marble, the "Horses of Marly," commissioned by Louis XV. Rather than let the landscape speak for itself, the Horse Tamers called upon European culture and art history to announce that Highland Park was a planned and designed civic experience.

In the 1890s and early 1900s, planning and developing its parks became an integral function of Pittsburgh city government. Bigelow assigned his Public Works staff to labor on park

³⁵ Barry Hannegan, "Historical Summary: Schenley Park" in "Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan" (Prepared by LaQuatra Bonci, et. al., for City of Pittsburgh & Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, 2002), 99.

³⁶ Department of Public Works Annual Report, 1897, 10.

³⁷ Judd, 58.

³⁸ Barry Hannegan, "Historical Summary: Highland Park," np.

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construction and created the post of Superintendent of Parks in 1892. By 1902, parks merited their own dedicated sub-division of the Department of Public Works, the Bureau of Parks. The establishment of a municipal staff concerned solely with parks marks the beginning of a movement toward parks planning as a profession separate from engineering and recognition of parks as a special kind of public works necessitating their own specialized personnel.

Bigelow's departure from city government in the early 1900s coincided with a shift in the national view of park planning and the local focus of civic development. Nationally, the playground movement questioned the City Beautiful's exalted goal of elevating morality through art and nature, insisting on a more practical investment in recreational parks within easy access of lower-income communities. In terms of local development patterns, the Oakland area of the city emerged as an eminent educational and cultural center, focusing more attention on Schenley than on the more remote Highland Park.³⁹ Highland Park was criticized as being inaccessible to working families, and three independent evaluations of Pittsburgh's park system between 1910s and 1923 (by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., the Pittsburgh Survey, and the Citizens Committee on a City Plan) all called for the expansion of more accessible neighborhood parks; Olmsted's 1910 report emphasized the "urgent civic need" for parks for "healthful recreation."⁴⁰ His observation underscored the Reform Era's emphasis on the physical and moral benefits of vigorous outdoor activity and organized athletics rather than the passive uplifting qualities of nature and art. Park planning during this period focused on playgrounds for children and sports facilities for adults. The 1910s and '20s were a "difficult period of growth" for the Pittsburgh Bureau of Parks, during which the city acquired many new neighborhood parks, added recreational facilities to them and to existing parks, and absorbed the annexation of the former independent city of Allegheny.⁴¹

Far from writing Highland Park off during this period, park planners invested in its adaptation. In addition to creating new neighborhood parks, city leaders in 1910 called for expanded recreational uses in Pittsburgh's existing parks. Voters showed their support by approving a \$200,000 bond issue to provide play facilities in the city's large parks. As a direct result, Highland Park gained the swimming and diving platforms at Lake Carnegie, a merry-go-round, and tennis courts and ball fields. The city also continued to acquire land for Highland Park during this period, adding the Seely Plan of Lots in the northwestern corner and the Negley Run area in the park's southeastern peninsula. By extending Highland Park farther into the neighborhood, park planners increased not only its net area but its interface with potential users. New recreational features, such as the Elizabeth Kline playground and pool (in place by 1931), took up residence in the southeastern sector of the park. With no other parks in or near the popular East Liberty section of the city, Highland Park continued to be an important focus of public open space planning in the early 20th century and reflected that era's values.

³⁹ Gangawere, et. al., 15.

⁴⁰ Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. "Pittsburgh: Improvements Necessary to Meet the City's Present and Future Needs" (Report to Pittsburgh Civic Commission, 1911), 113.

⁴¹ Stewart, iii.

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The appointment of Ralph Griswold as Superintendent of the Bureau of Parks in 1934 ushered in the last important period of planning for Highland Park in which Griswold linked national goals to strengthen public infrastructure to local efforts to improve and sustain the previous century's investment in Pittsburgh's parks. Griswold's planning was characterized by a modern approach to park use and design, combined with and informed by an appreciation for the parks' historical development.

Griswold (1894-1981) was both an active administrator and an accomplished landscape architect in his own right. He served as superintendent of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Parks from 1934-1945 and was the first professional landscape architect hired by the city as an agency director. He had studied landscape architecture at Cornell and, under Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., for three years in Rome. He moved to Pittsburgh to establish his own private landscape architecture practice in 1927. He was a strong advocate for the city park system, which by this time also included Riverview Park (established by the former City of Allegheny in 1894), Frick Park (bequeathed to the city by industrialist Henry Clay Frick in 1919 and opened in 1927), and numerous neighborhood parks and playgrounds.

If Highland Park's first era was indelibly marked by the personal vision of Edward Manning Bigelow, the Griswold era epitomized the professionalization of park planning in Pittsburgh. In many ways, the civic idealism of Griswold's New Deal era echoed that of Bigelow's City Beautiful: parks were, again, seen as essential public works. During the Great Depression, budgets were tight, but public infrastructure took on enhanced importance under the economic relief policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Griswold capitalized on this by planning durable improvements for Highland Park and securing WPA funding for their execution.

In 1942, funding for Pittsburgh's city parks transferred from the WPA to the City's Public Works reserve, and the Buhl Foundation funded an "advance planning program for parks and playgrounds."⁴² This effort was sponsored by the Greater Pittsburgh Parks Association, the forerunner of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, founded in 1932 along the lines of the WPA to alleviate employment through public works programs, but with a particular emphasis on natural resources. The city may not have had the capacity to undertake such intensive planning itself, but Griswold was certainly involved, given that its outcome was essentially a work program for his department: the initiative produced 109 drawings for 56 work projects in the Pittsburgh parks, forming the basis for a capital improvement program of between two and three million dollars. Copies of the material were delivered to the Bureau of Parks and the Pittsburgh City Planning Commission. As part of the project, Griswold provided access to his department's resources to a researcher, Howard B. Stewart, who compiled the first written history of Pittsburgh's parks, *Historical Data: Pittsburgh Public Parks*. In a foreword to this document, Griswold expressed his hope that the historical information would be useful "as an aid to future park planners and administrators."⁴³ Griswold's understanding of the importance of the parks' histories marks him as an exceptionally thoughtful planner of his time.

⁴² Ralph Griswold, "Supplementary Foreword," in Stewart, np.

⁴³ Ibid.

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Highland Park was now a mature landscape with established use patterns. Park planning during this period demonstrated confidence in the landscape and features already in place. Griswold used WPA funds to make elegant improvements, such as the Negley Avenue entrance plaza, that reaffirmed the City Beautiful vocabulary of the original park without quoting it directly. The Bureau of Parks under Griswold also implemented sensitive changes to existing park features, such as the Highland Avenue entrance garden and double staircase leading from it to the upper reservoir. The planning of these years bridged Highland Park's ambitious origins and its straitened modern circumstances. It took a realistic approach to making the park more relevant to more people.

In trying to do more with less, city officials of the Depression and war years were forced to be opportunistic. They may not have foreseen the long-term consequences of building the City Forestry Division office and driver training course in the park in the late 1930s and early '40s. In doing so, planners took advantage of available public land to provide facilities needed by citizens. But the construction of city facilities not directly related to recreation in the park established a precedent that would lead to the degradation of the character of Washington Boulevard 20 years later, when the Zone 5 Police Station and Police and Fire Training Academy were built there. Washington Boulevard, conceived by Bigelow as a verdant park drive, became in the 20th century a busy highway past some of Highland Park's least sightly features, one of which—the fire training facility—is not even open to the public.

The Griswold administration of 1934-1945 was the last era of active planning for Highland Park, characterized by thoughtfully-considered, high-quality investment in the features established as Highland Park's most valuable: its water, its recreational amenities, and its landscapes, both formal and informal. Park planning in these years also transitioned Highland Park's idealistic, magnanimous past to a more pragmatic, efficient future. Even that was tested by 50 subsequent years of decline, but preservation-informed planning of the present has set out to reverse these deleterious effects.

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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: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 378

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 590993 Northing: 4482539

2. Zone: 17 Easting: 592805 Northing: 4482613

3. Zone: 17 Easting: 592837 Northing: 4480174

4. Zone: 17 Easting: 592837 Northing: 4480158

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

Highland Park consists of City of Pittsburgh tax parcel 82-H-1 and part of parcel 121-L-128, available from the Office of Property Assessments, 542 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. The boundary is shown on the enclosed map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries correspond to the historic boundaries of Highland Park during the period of significance.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Angelique Bamberg
organization: Clio Consulting
street & number: _____
city or town: Pittsburgh state: PA zip code: 15206
e-mail clioconsulting@me.com
telephone: 412-956-5517
date: August 28, 2019

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.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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.

Name of Property: Highland Park
City or Vicinity: Pittsburgh
County: Allegheny
State: PA
Photographer: Angelique Bamberg
Date Photographed: Nov. 7, 2018
Location of Original Digital Files: 233 Amber St., Pittsburgh, PA 15206

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

Photo 1 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0001)
"Welcome" sculptures at Highland Ave. entrance to park, view to NNE

Photo 2 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0002)
Highland Ave. entrance plaza (ca. 1896, rehabilitated 2005), view to SSW

Photo 3 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0003)
"Horse Tamers" sculptures at Stanton Ave. entrance to park, view to N

Photo 4 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0004)
Negley Ave. park entrance (1934), view to NNW

Photo 5 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0005)
Reservoir no. 1, view to N

Photo 6 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0006)
Walking path around Reservoir no. 1, view to SW

Photo 7 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0007)
Reservoir no. 2, view to W

Photo 8 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0008)
One Wild Place, intersection with Butler St., view to SW

Photo 9 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0009)
One Wild Place curves around Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, view to NE

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Photo 10 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0010)
Reservoir Dr., view to E

Photo 11 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0011)
Reservoir Drive and former connecting road to Lake Drive, view to N

Photo 12 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0012)
Lake Drive from Linden Grove, view to SW

Photo 13 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0013)
Lake Drive and Lake Carnegie from Reservoir Drive, view to E

Photo 14 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0014)
Lake Carnegie, view to N

Photo 15 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0015)
Pool and sand volleyball courts, Lake Drive, view to NE

Photo 16 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0016)
Elm Grove Shelter, view to E

Photo 17 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0017)
Rhododendron Shelter, Lake Drive, view to S

Photo 18 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0018)
Bigelow Grove Shelter, Reservoir Drive, view to NW

Photo 19 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0019)
Negley Monument, Memorial Grove, view to S

Photo 20 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0020)
Bigelow Trail, view to E

Photo 21 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0021)
Bunker Hill Trail along Reservoir Drive near Highland Ave. park entrance, view to NW

Photo 22 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0022)
Mt. Bigelow and Reservoir No. 1, view to S

Photo 23 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0023)
Main entrance to zoo from Heth's Run/parking level, view to SE

Photo 24 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0024)
Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium and Lake Drove from Bigelow Grove, view to W

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Photo 25 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0025)
Farmhouse, Farmhouse Drive, view to E

Photo 26 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0026)
Reservoir service building, Reservoir No. 1, view to N

Photo 27 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0027)
Reservoir service building, Reservoir No. 1, view to S

Photo 28 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0028)
Former comfort station building, Reservoir Drive, view to N

Photo 29 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0029)
Microfiltration plant, Reservoir Drive, view to W

Photo 30 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0030)
Pool house (1932; remodeled), Lake Drive, view to W

Photo 31 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0031)
Casting cabin, Lake Carnegie, view to W

Photo 32 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0032)
Department of Public Works City Forestry Division, Stanton Ave., view to E

Photo 33 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0033)
Bud Harris Cycling Track, Washington Blvd., view to NE

Photo 34 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0034)
Restored wetland along Washington Blvd., view to S

Photo 35 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0035)
Heth's Run, Allegheny Valley RR, Allegheny River, and Highland Park Bridge from Heth's Run Bridge, view to NE

Photo 36 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0036)
Zoo parking lot atop Heth's Run and stone retaining wall of One Wild Place, view to S

Photo 37 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0037)
Heth's Run Bridge carries Butler St. over the Heth's Run ravine, view to E

Photo 38 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0038)
12' stone arch carrying Reservoir Drive over Ginkgo Trail, view to SE

Photo 39 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0039)

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Stone wall and park entrance at intersection One Wild Place and Bunker Hill St., view to E

Photo 40 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0040)

Stone wall and steps, Bunker Hill St., view to N

Photo 41 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0041)

Stone steps at Reservoir no. 2, One Wild Place, and Bunker Hill St., view to N

Photo 42 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0042)

Stone staircase from Reservoir Drive to Reservoir No. 1 loop walk, view to W

Photo 43 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0043)

Stone staircase from Lake Drive to Memorial Grove, view to SW

Photo 44 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0044)

Stone staircase from pool parking lot to Lake Carnegie Walk

Photo 45 (PA_AlleghenyCounty_HighlandPark_0045)

Northern hillside of Highland Park from approach to Highland Park Bridge, view to S

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

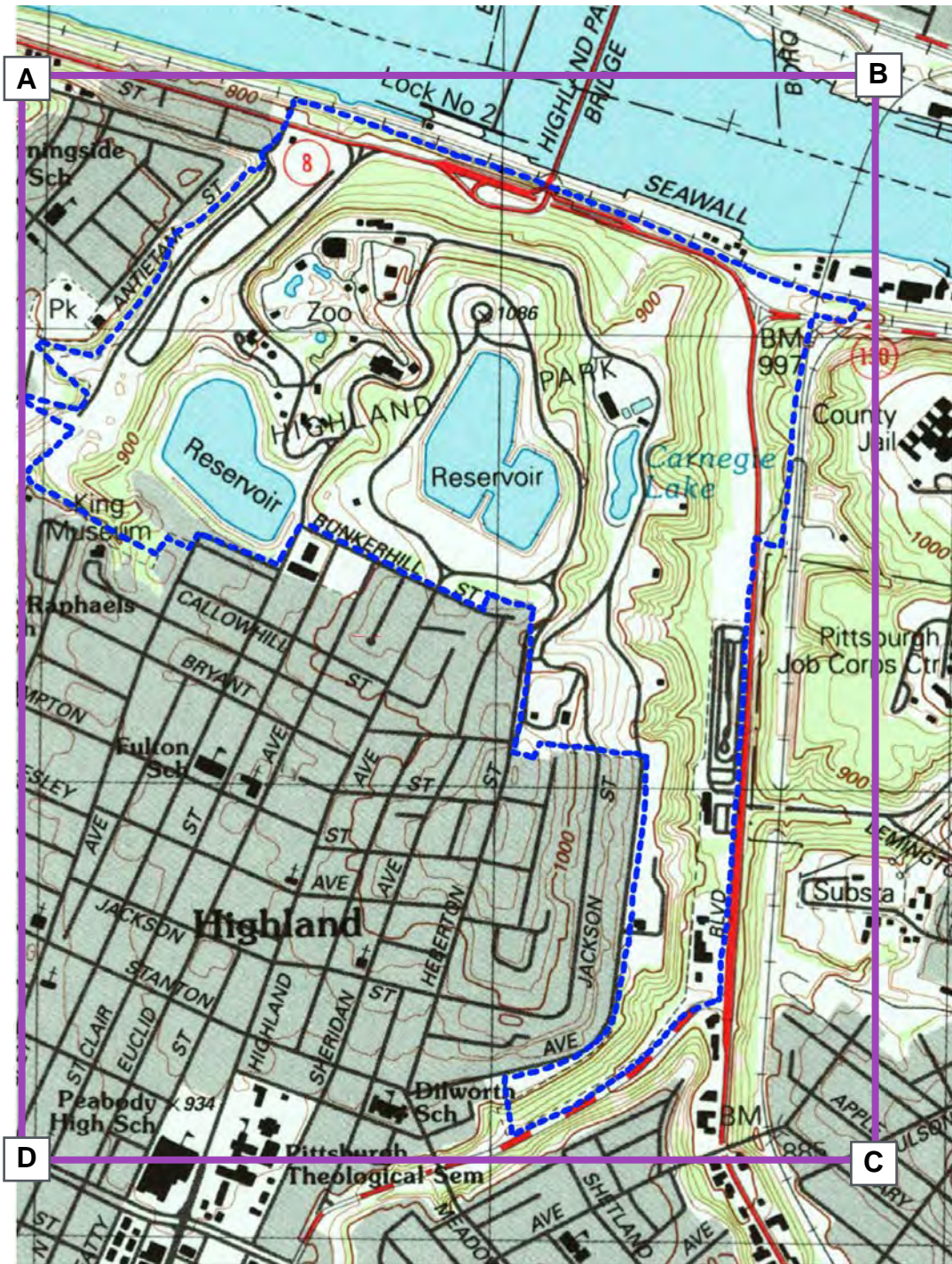
Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Highland Park
 Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA
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Excerpt: USGS Pittsburgh East

UTM References

----- Highland Park
 National Register
 boundary

- A 17/590993/4482539
- B 17/592805/4482613
- C 17/592837/4480174
- D 17/592837/4480158



HIGHLAND PARK

Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, PA
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Site Plan & Photo Key

United States Department of the Interior

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Photo 1. "Welcome" sculptures (1896) at Highland Ave. entrance to park



Photo 2. Highland Ave. entrance plaza (ca. 1896, rehabilitated 2005)

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Photo 3. "Horse Tamers" sculptures (1900) at Stanton Ave. entrance to park



Photo 4. Negley Ave. park entrance (1934)

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Photo 5. Reservoir No. 1



Photo 6. Walking path around Reservoir No. 1

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Photo 7. Reservoir No. 2



Photo 8. One Wild Place, intersection with Butler Street

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Photo 9. One Wild Place curves around Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium



Photo 10. Reservoir Drive

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Photo 11. Reservoir Drive (left) and former connecting road to Lake Drive (closed)



Photo 12. Lake Drive, view from Linden Grove

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Photo 13. Lake Drive and Lake Carnegie from Reservoir Drive



Photo 14. Lake Carnegie

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Photo 15. Pool and sand volleyball courts, Lake Drive



Photo 16. Elm Grove Shelter, Lake Drive

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Photo 17. Rhododendron Shelter (1902), Lake Drive



Photo 18. Bigelow Grove Shelter, Reservoir Drive

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Photo 19. Negley Monument (1908), Memorial Grove



Photo 20. Bigelow Trail

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Photo 21. Bunker Hill Trail along Reservoir Drive near Highland Ave. park entrance



Photo 22. Mt. Bigelow and Reservoir No. 1

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Photo 23. Main entrance to zoo from Heth's Run/parking level



Photo 24. Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium and Lake Drive from Bigelow Grove

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Photo 25. Farmhouse, Farmhouse Drive



Photo 26. Reservoir service building, Reservoir No. 1

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Photo 27. Reservoir service building, Reservoir No. 1



Photo 28. Former comfort station, Reservoir Drive

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Photo 29. Microfiltration plant, Reservoir Drive



Photo 30. Pool house (1932; remodeled), Lake Drive

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Photo 31. Casting cabin, Lake Carnegie



Photo 32. Department of Public Works City Forestry Division, Stanton Ave.

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Photo 33. Bud Harris Cycling Track, Washington Blvd.



Photo 34. Path through restored wetland along Washington Blvd.

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Photo 35. Northern end of Heth's Run, Allegheny Valley RR, Allegheny River, and Highland Park Bridge from Butler St./Heth's Run Bridge



Photo 36. Zoo parking lot atop Heth's Run and stone retaining wall of One Wild Place

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Photo 37. Heth's Run Bridge carries Butler Street over the Heth's Run ravine



Photo 38. 12' span stone arch carrying Reservoir Drive over Ginkgo Trail

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Photo 39. Stone wall and park entrance at intersection One Wild Place and Bunker Hill St.



Photo 40. Stone wall and steps, Bunker Hill St.

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Photo 41. Stone steps at Reservoir No. 2, One Wild Place and Bunker Hill St.



Photo 42. Stone staircase from Reservoir Drive to Reservoir No. 1 loop walk

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Photo 43. Stone staircase from Lake Drive to Memorial Grove



Photo 44. Stone staircase from pool parking lot to Lake Carnegie Walk

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Photo 45. Northern hillside of Highland Park from approach to Highland Park Bridge

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Figure 1. Highland and Brilliant Reservoirs and surrounding property in 1882. Excerpt from *Atlas of the Cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Company, 1882)

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Figure 2. Highland Park in the first year after it was established. Excerpt from *Atlas of the City of Pittsburgh* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Company, 1890)

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Figure 3. In 1904, Highland Park’s major features were in place, but the Seely Plan of Lots (NW corner) and park’s southeastern section had not yet been incorporated. The small village which once stood northeast of the zoo was also still present. Excerpt from *Real Estate Plat Book of the City of Pittsburgh* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Company, 1904)

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Figure 4. Highland Park in 1911 included undeveloped property east of Negley Run. Excerpt from *Real Estate Plat Book of the City of Pittsburgh* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Company, 1911)

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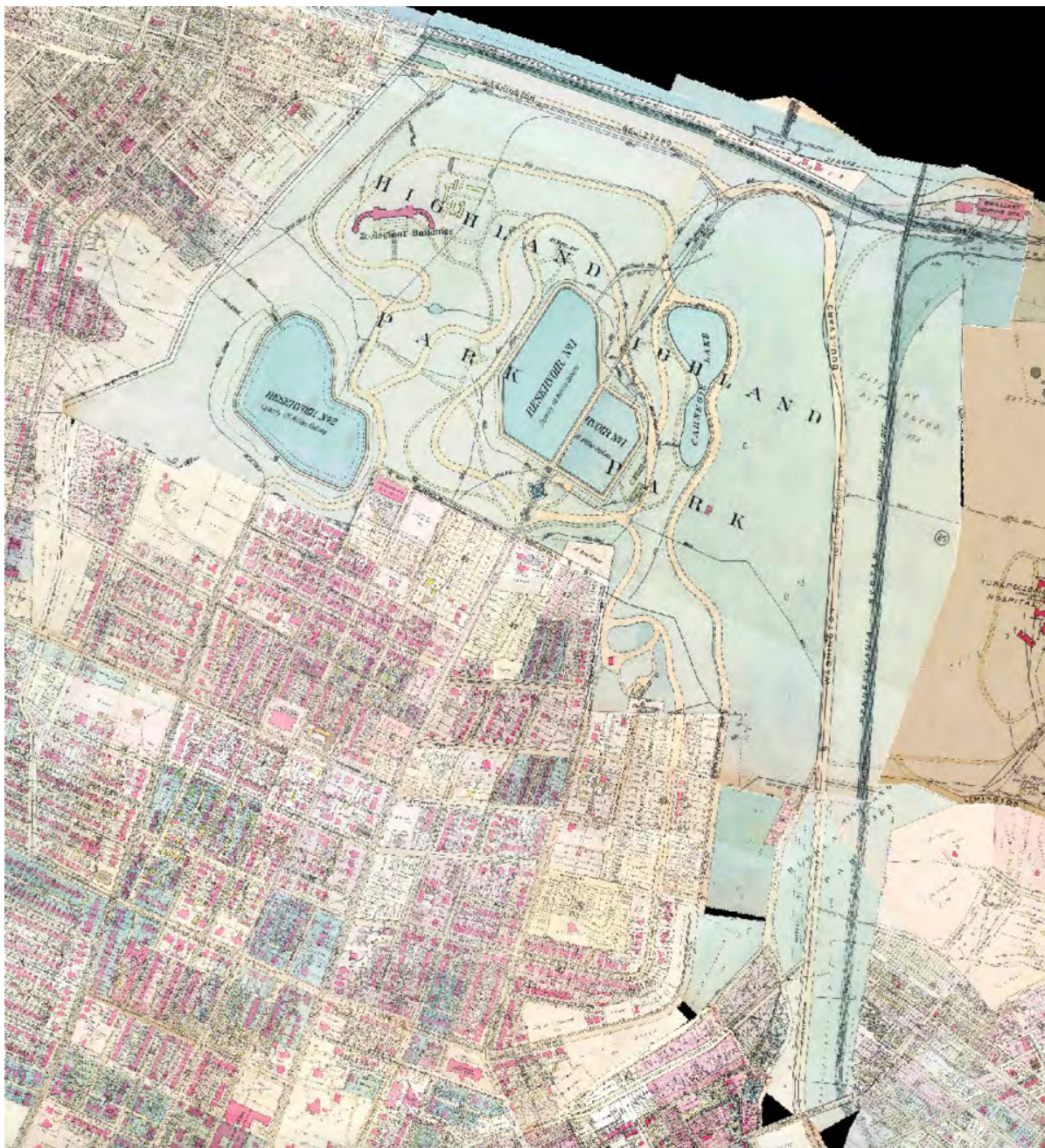


Figure 5. Highland Park in 1924 contained almost all of its present area. Excerpt from *Real Estate Plat Book of the City of Pittsburgh* (Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins Company, 1924)

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Figure 6. Aerial view of Highland Park in 1937. pennpilot.psu.edu

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Figure 7. Highland Reservoir No. One with Mt. Bigelow in the foreground, 1907 (Historic Pittsburgh)

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Figure 8. Highland Park entrance plaza in 1900 (Historic Pittsburgh)

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Figure 9. Highland Park Zoo ca. 1900 (Historic Pittsburgh)

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Figure 10. Rhododendron Shelter in 1937. (Historic Pittsburgh)

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Figure 11. Lake Carnegie, 1937. The casting cabin, fishing platform, and boathouse can be seen at the distant (south) end. (Historic Pittsburgh)

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Figure 12. Boathouse at south end of Lake Carnegie, undated postcard



Bunker Hill St

WEIGHT
LIMIT
40
TONS

STOP
2-807



































Bigelow Grove
Shelter

NO OPEN FIRES

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THOSE HONORABLE
CHRISTIAN PIONEERS WHO MOULDED THE
CHARACTER OF THIS COMMUNITY IN ITS
STRUGGLING AND FORMATIVE PERIOD.
THIS MONUMENT MARKS THE CENTER OF A
BURIAL GROUND LOCATED ON THE FORMER
HOMESTEAD OF ALEXANDER REEB/
WHERE ARE INTERRED ABOUT FIFTY EARLY
SETTLERS OF THE EAST LIBERTY AREA.













Highland
Hall

SOUTHEAST









Highland Reservoir No. 1
Membrane Filtration Plant
MMU







FORESTRY BUILDING
CITY OF PITTSBURGH



GROVE TRAIL







CRUG!
CRUG!
CRUG!





Highland Park

12



DANGER
NO TRESPASSING

DANGER
NO TRESPASSING





us
stop



Highland Park



Zoo



One Wild Place

WEIGHT
LIMIT
4 1/2
TONS









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Highland Park

Multiple Name:

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Allegheny

Date Received: 10/9/2019 Date of Pending List: 11/1/2019 Date of 16th Day: 11/18/2019 Date of 45th Day: 11/25/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004665

Nominator: Other Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/25/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary: NR Criterion A.
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria: AOS: Community Planning & Development; POS: 1889-1945; LOS: local

Reviewer: Lisa Deline

Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2239

Date: 11/25/19

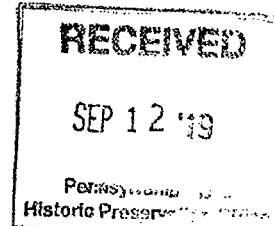
DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

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



September 9, 2019

David Maher
National Register Reviewer
State Historic Preservation Office, PHMC
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093



RE: Highland Park National Register Nomination

Dear Mr. Maher:

As requested in your letter dated August 2, 2019, the following is meant to fulfill the City of Pittsburgh's obligations as a Certified Local Government for providing comment on National Register Nominations. The public involvement process included emailing notices to interested parties of both the Historic Review Commission and the Planning Commission of the City of Pittsburgh, including members of the press. Written comments from the public were requested at that time. The nomination was also posted on the City's website. The City's position on the nomination is outlined below.

Highland Park, Pittsburgh, Allegheny County

The City of Pittsburgh supports this nomination because the property meets the requirements of National Register Criterion A in the areas of Community Planning and Development. We agree that the park is unique in the City of Pittsburgh and that it retains a high degree of integrity, and thus should be protected and preserved. In fact, the "Horse Tamers" sculptures are listed and locally historic landmarks.

I can be contacted at 412-255-2243 or via email at: Sarah.Quinn@pittsburghpa.gov.

Regards,

Sarah Quinn

Sarah Quinn
Senior Preservation Planner
City of Pittsburgh



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

October 8, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240

Re: Highland Park, Allegheny County
Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1, Montgomery County
Stoehr & Fister Building, Lackawanna County
Wilkes-Barre Silk Company Mill, Luzerne County

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the National Register of Historic Places nominations for the above properties. Included is the signed first page of each nomination, CDs containing the true and correct copies of the nominations and letters of support, and CDs with tif images. The proposed action for the properties is listing in the National Register. Our Historic Preservation Board members support the nominations.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations or our request for action, please contact David Maher at damaher@pa.gov or 717-783-9918. Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

David Maher
National Register Reviewer

enc.

