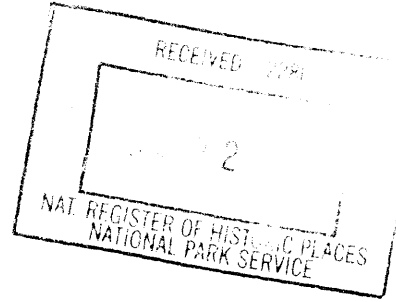


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Randlett Park


other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number: Washita River south to Central Blvd. and east to 7th Street not for publication: N/A
city or town: Anadarko vicinity: N/A
state: Oklahoma code: OK county: Caddo code: 015 zip code: 73005

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (~~NA~~ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 2-21-03
Signature of certifying official Date

OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

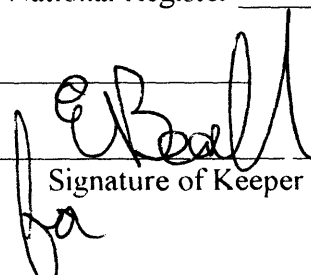
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, _____, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined eligible for the _____
 National Register
- ___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined not eligible for the _____
 National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register _____

other (explain): _____

 SEP 2 2003
Signature of Keeper 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 11	<input type="checkbox"/> 10 structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12	<input type="checkbox"/> 11 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: outdoor recreation
GOVERNMENT public works

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: outdoor recreation
GOVERNMENT public works

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____
roof _____
walls _____

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance 1904-1939

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _ approximately 40 acres _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	_____	_____	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
x	See continuation sheet.				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name / title ___ Michael Cassity _____

organization ___ Michael Cassity Historical Research and Photography _ date ___ March 30, 2003 _

street & number ___ 304 West Albuquerque _____ telephone_ 918 451-8378 _____

city or town ___ Broken Arrow _____ state _OK_ zip code ___ 74011 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Anadarko

street & number 501 West Virginia telephone (405) 247-2481

city or town Anadarko state OK zip code 73005

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Randlett Park
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Description

Summary

Randlett Park is located on the south bank of the east-flowing Washita River, on the northwest edge of the city of Anadarko. Approached from the east, from town, the park begins on a level plain with an elaborate entrance over the driveway through the park. At one time, the corner on which the National Guard Armory stands formed a part of the park, but that corner was separated from the park in 1935 so that the building could be constructed. To the west of the armory pedestrian entrances open onto a high, level field with playing grounds. Because of the height of the land, the municipal water tower rises within the park at the north edge of the playing fields and the building that was used as the city's first power plant, and also for its water system, is directly north of the tower. The terrain drops dramatically in elevation from this high point, with the swimming pool located west, and below, the water tower. West of the swimming pool is an open area with modern recreational vehicle camping pads and hookups. Along the bank of the river, north and west of the pool, lies the city's second power plant, a hydroelectric facility with dam, watergates, and turbines. The remainder of the park, east from the dam, includes more open fields and follows the south bank of the river along its flood plain.

Located on the northwest edge of Anadarko, with a boundary long defined by the meander of the Washita River, Randlett Park is a distinct feature of life in the community and its structures, built over a long range of time, have been shaped by changing community needs rather than constructed at one moment and frozen in time. Randlett Park is a landscaped complex that contains within its boundaries a range of recreational facilities and public utility structures that have provided the community with important service for nearly a century. The grounds include an unusual, but sensible, mix of activities that take advantage of the park's proximity to the town and its location on the banks of the Washita River. Thus, in addition to the usual and ever-changing features of urban parks like picnic areas and playgrounds, this park includes on the one hand an elaborate swimming pool, croquet courts, and fishing facilities, and on the other hand a municipal power plant and dam, a water tower, and a water treatment plant. While some of the evolution of this park has resulted in changes to the park and its facilities, a variety

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of features, large and small, still retain a high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Feature 1. Municipal Power Plant and Dam Complex

Constructed in 1909 and put into use on the first day of 1910, this feature shaped the park conceptually and physically as it became one of the defining elements of the park. It is composed of a steel-reinforced concrete dam that reaches completely across the Washita River, the power plant located at the south end of the dam, and two separate small buildings directly adjacent to the power plant. The dam is approximately a hundred feet long, is supposed to be hollow with a continuous underwater passageway, and historically it served two functions. By blocking the flow of the river, the dam creates an impoundment west of the dam and in this way a continuous flow of water was assured during times of low water level in the river. Because of the dam, water was forced through the two water gates of the adjacent power plant on the south end. The dam also, however, because of its height, serves as a spillway for excess flow to be released during periods of high water. On the north end of the dam, it is anchored to concrete abutment panels. These panels are contributing aspects of the dam and appear in early postcard views of the structure. Because the power plant is no longer used, and the dam thereby lost its power function, the river itself was diverted in the late 1980s to an older channel and the river ceases to flow; this channel now forms a lagoon.

The power plant itself was built in several stages. The earliest structure, integral with the dam, and located at the south end of the dam, is a concrete panel structure of two levels with a gable roof on a north-south axis; exactly half of this structure sits on the bank while the northern half projects into the river and adjoins the dam. The lower level, in the river, consists of three water gates, rectangular concrete bays that open on the west by means of a system of manual gears located directly above, for the inflow, and house waterwheels in the middle that then release the water on the east side of the dam. A significant portion of the watergates, of course, is below water level and the water level has varied historically according to the amount of rainfall and runoff in the river. The entire structure is approximately thirty feet on its north elevation (in the river), excluding the abutments extending the gates beyond the east and west elevations about eight feet. Above the watergates is the main portion of the structure, the floor of which is level with the riverbank

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upon which it is built. The south elevation on the ground level (as opposed to the level partially underwater) is divided into three equal and distinct sections consisting of poured concrete panels. The westernmost panel includes a twenty light metal window (five up and four across). Although this window gives the elevation an asymmetrical appearance, again, early postcard views indicate that this was an original feature of the structure. A large circular opening in the south gable reveals what at one time was a clerestory for light inside the structure and also possibly for ventilation. That window is now gone.

The east elevation is similarly divided, and given its greater width, is partitioned into six bays of equal dimensions. Five of these panels include the same fenestration as the south elevation (large four by five light metal windows) while the sixth, that closest to the river but on the bank, includes a single-door entrance. A metal pipe rail and concrete bank abutment extend out from the structure on the bank. Above the southernmost panel a small gable dormer, not original to the structure, but added early in its period of historic significance, probably in 1921, extends to the east; the dormer is enclosed, and may never have had a window. Given the lack of fenestration in the dormers, speculation about their function centers on the necessity of accommodating internal equipment; in 1921 the building was enlarged and diesel engines added inside.

The west elevation also consists of six distinct sections of poured concrete, but the arrangement is different in part to accommodate the devices for controlling the watergates beneath. Only two panels contain the four by five light windows and a third panel includes a single door entrance. A combination of concrete panels and steel grating above the watergates allow for access along that elevation. The panels support two gear-driven cranks for raising and lowering the two gates on the north and a hoist with block and tackle is positioned at the third gate. These machines are no longer in use, but appear surprisingly complete. On the roof above the sixth bay from the north, mirroring that on the east, an enclosed gable dormer projects to the west.

The south elevation of the original power plant structure is now concealed because of two additions to the south. The first addition, in 1921, simply extended the original concrete building to the south and widened it on the west; that addition clearly shows because of its concrete structure and seams. In addition, a second enlargement in the power plant, both physically and in its generating capacity, came in 1938-1939. A bronze plaque on the south elevation of this approximately fifty feet square brick structure recognizes the

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addition. This red brick building, in fact, itself was added onto with yet one more stage, a smaller wing, in the early 1950s; and in the years since then a modern, metal structure was attached to the southeast of the brick power plant structure.

The north elevation of the square red brick enlargement added to the concrete power plant structure in 1939 is obscured by the original building, and the east elevation is partially obscured by the new, noncontributing structure. The west elevation, which mirrors the east elevation, however, is clearly exposed and reveals the structural qualities of the building. A two-story building, the west elevation is divided into equal sections by a pilaster in the center which matches those on the corners. On the ground floor, each section contains a large bay of nearly the same dimensions as those on the original concrete structure; the north bay contains a multi-light window like those in the original structure. The window in the south bay, however, has been enclosed with sheet metal and poured concrete. The window sills are brick in rowlock courses. The south elevation uses the same basic design except that it is divided by pilasters into three sections. The metal windows in the upper level are three lights up and six across in each. The window in the center section on the ground level is eight lights up and six across, and this is the only original window on the ground level remaining. The sections on that level on each side of the center have been modified, and both evidently were modified during the period of historic significance. On the east side of the south elevation, an oversize vehicle entrance with vertically sliding door replaces the window that once occupied that section. On the west side of the south elevation, a single story addition projects south from the elevation. Although the brick is a slightly different color from the larger building, the design of this addition is exactly consistent with the older structure. It has pilasters that match those on the main building, it has concrete coping at the top of each wall just like the other building, and the window and sill, though now enclosed, are identical to the earlier building. There are no windows on the east and west of this single story addition, but a small service entrance is located on the west adjacent to the older structure and an opening for an air conditioning unit has been created low on that west elevation too. While noncontributing by virtue of its age, this early 1950s addition does not impair the integrity of the larger structure.

On the east elevation, a modern, noncontributing, metal structure has been added to the power plant. Completely different in style and design, this unit is, however, attached to the older, historic, structure only by an enclosed metal corridor approximately ten feet

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long. This corridor thus serves the contradictory functions of attaching the buildings and also separating them. For that reason, this modern noncontributing building does not compromise the integrity of the older brick power plant.

Immediately to the west of the original concrete building and west of the added brick building, two small gable-roofed frame structures remain. Covered with stucco, the two buildings on different north-south-oriented axis lines served as storage for as long as knowledgeable modern parties can recall. They may have served other functions earlier, and, in fact, despite their secondary importance in the operation of the power plant and despite their small size, these two buildings are clearly visible in the 1930 Sanborn map drawing of the power plant. They are therefore contributing parts of the power plant complex.

Feature 2: Water Works and Electric Light Plant (“Old Plant”)

This structure, constructed in 1904, served as the original City Water Works and Light Plant, housing both the pumping station for drawing water from the river (and then from wells) and as early as 1916 it was referred to on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as the “Old Plant.” Facing the south, the red brick building has been altered, especially as a result of its replacement as a power plant by the system of water turbines located on the river in 1910, and the structure is in poor condition with the roof especially in need of repair, but the integrity of the structure generally remains good. A red brick structure in an L shape, it has a gable roof along its east-west axis and the L addition projecting to the south has a hipped roof. The roof is currently asphalt shingles, although the roof is missing some sections. It is not an elaborate structure, serving explicitly utilitarian purposes, but its details sometime show attention to craftsmanship. Originally it was surrounded and supported by other specialized buildings and structures, most of which are absent now, although their concrete pads and footprints remain, and the water plant functions have been transferred to a modern building to the east inside a solid protective fence.

The south elevation of the “Old Plant” is approximately forty-five feet wide and consists of two sections formed by the main elevation and the projecting L addition. This wing, projecting about twelve feet beyond the main elevation, was added at an unknown date likely in the 1930s. Some documentation implies its enlargement in 1930, but the 1930

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Sanborn map does not show it; the next revision to the Sanborn map, in 1950, depicts the addition. A large vehicle entrance with vertically sliding door is flanked by a single door entrance to the west and a wooden frame double-hung window to the east. What is especially notable of the three openings, however, is the massive block lintel above each. Painted white, these contrast dramatically with the red brick. (The sliding door in the vehicle entrance is clearly modern and has replaced an earlier door.) There are no windows in the west elevation of this addition. The rest of the south elevation, as it extends west from the post-1930 addition, includes two vehicle-size entrances flanking a window. The brickwork in this section is distinctive and indicates the age of the structure. About two feet below the overhanging eaves, two projecting and parallel courses of brick, separated by two courses on the plane of the elevation, form a corbel that reaches across the elevation and merges with graceful brick arches over the east entrance and over the window. The window, unusually tall, is a double-hung four-light over four-light, and is further enhanced by a rough-cut red sandstone sill. The entrance east of the window retains its brick arch with a wooden-frame fill above the recessed wooden double doors. Those doors, either original or replacement, are consistent with the original design of the structure. The entrance west of the window, however, was added at an unknown later date. Quite likely it was added in order to remove the huge steam pump and boilers inside. Indeed, this entrance actually appears to be an enlargement of an earlier entrance. While this entrance rises all the way to the eaves, the left (west) side of the entrance shows original bricks stacked up to the corbel. The right side, however, lacks that stack. The vertical sliding door in this entrance is paneled and sectioned.

The east elevation of the "Old Plant" is obscured by the fence surrounding the adjacent new water system to the east, and also by a rising embankment, but can be partially seen from within the grounds of the new facility. A hipped roof extends along this elevation from north to south. The L addition to the south also projects slightly to the east, clearly indicating the junction of the two parts. In the older section, a single door is located about midpoint, but there are no windows on this elevation. The west elevation includes two windows with arched brick lintels that have been enclosed with brick; the north elevation is obscured by growth and fencing, but still reveals a combination of original fenestration with arches in good condition and windows that have been filled with brick.

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The "Old Plant" is a contributing feature; the modern water treatment facility immediately east of the "Old Plant" is not.

Feature 3: Swimming Pool

Constructed in 1926, the above-ground swimming pool continues to form the recreational jewel of Randlett Park both because of its size and its location. Its distinctive oval shape also gives it an impressive appearance. The pool structure, about one hundred feet wide (west to east) and about one hundred fifty feet long (north to south), is almost entirely constructed of poured concrete, with concrete walls, floors, and roof in an oval-shaped structure surrounding the pool itself. The structure is constructed so that the open-air pool is inset into the center of the building, with the surrounding concrete deck forming the roof for the bathhouses, concessions, offices, utility rooms, storage facilities, and hallways in the structure.

The north elevation of the structure is a red brick front approximately ten feet wide, the edges of which extend beyond the curvature of the oval. Two symmetrical double-door entrances dominate the lower level of the front and each entrance has a soldier-course brick lintel. Above the entrances, the brickwork is broken by the projecting rim of the concrete decking, and above it, the words PUBLIC SWIMMING POOL are placed in metal letters inside a brick panel formed by rowlock courses of brick. The date 1926 in similar, but smaller, metal characters, is divided into two parts beneath the panel, so that the 19 is at the left margin and the 26 is at the right. On each side of the panel, pilasters project outward and near their tops, bricks are stepped out to form the ornamental bases for tapering electric lamp posts that rise above the elevation.

The remainder of the pool structure exterior is a continuous series of poured concrete panels, approximately ten feet wide, joined by rounded concrete pilasters that rise above the decking to form posts in a railing system that completely encircles the perimeter of the building and that also hold lamp posts. Each panel is itself divided into upper and lower panels, with the lower panel being a horizontal rectangle inset into the concrete. The upper portion of each side panel, however, usually contains two square metal windows, two lights up and three lights across, with metal framing and opaque glass. The upper portion of a smaller number of panels includes, instead of windows, three

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additional, smaller, inset rectangles. Two panels on the south end of the oval contain entrances, one a rising vehicle-size entrance and the other a single door. The panels are painted a light green and the pilasters are dark green.

The pool level of the structure is a flat concrete court with the swimming pool vaulting down into the interior of the building. The pool, about sixty feet wide and a hundred feet long, ranges from about three feet deep on the south to more than nine feet on the north end. A low diving board is located at the deep end. Stairs rise from the building's interior to the surrounding decking on both sides of the north end; the exterior elevation on the north end therefore projects out about three feet from the rest of the elevation. The railing that surrounds the stairwells continues around the entire perimeter of the decking, with two horizontal metal rails connecting posts formed by the pilasters below. Every third post in the rail system also holds a lamp post; many of the lamps are missing and the posts hold fabric pennants instead. Originally the pool design featured a fountain in its center with lights to illuminate the spray, a feature which at some point has been removed.

The swimming pool, still in use during the summers, is in excellent condition and a 1991 restoration succeeded in preserving the structure without altering its appearance and the pool is a contributing feature.

Feature 4. Park Entrance at 7th and Oklahoma Avenue

The arched entrance that reaches across Oklahoma Avenue as it enters Randlett Park from the east is a striking Art Deco construction made of brick and concrete. Constructed by the city with funds from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration in 1934, two mirror-image brick piers, approximately forty-five feet apart, support a horizontal concrete span with ornamentation and lettering welcoming visitors to the park. Immediately north and south of the arch, two additional piers, much shorter, lend the illusion of mass to the structure. The arch is approximately fifteen feet tall.

The east elevation of the gate contains the greatest detail since it is the elevation viewed by the approaching visitor. The brick piers emphasize vertical lines on this elevation by alternating a central projecting column of three bricks in soldier course with three bricks

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in stack bond, the soldiers painted white and the stack dark, to create a dashed vertical line; that line is then flanked by brick headers stacked, which is a middle step out from the main plane of the brick column. Decorative electric light globes project from near the top of each brick pier and the vertical lines of the corbeling continue above the brick in the concrete caps which then step up toward the arch. The flat arch, of poured concrete, reaches across the street connecting the two piers and bears the name **RANDLETT PARK** in the center with diamond shaped ornaments on either side and above the text.

The same black-white vertical line that marks the east elevation is also located on the outside (the south elevation of the south pier and the north elevation of the north pier) elevations above a buttress that uses the same motif and which is angled up toward the column with a concrete cap. The west elevation is similar to the east in that it also has the same vertical black-white line in its center, but it is not corbeled. The arch panel is simpler and contains only the date of construction, 1934, and diamond ornamentation along the top. The inside elevation of the two piers lacks distinguishing masonry, except that the south elevation of the north pier includes a stone tablet recording the Anadarko mayor and Park Board members and date of construction.

Adjacent to the arch are smaller piers, about two feet square and three feet tall. Built on concrete foundations, these piers echo the vertical lines of the main piers by including on each elevation a base of three soldier course bricks (white) and stacked bricks (dark) rising above them. The white concrete cap of each pier is a nearly flat square pyramid.

This entrance is a contributing feature.

Feature 5. Park Entrance at 7th and Broadway

This entrance, constructed at the same time as the main entrance on Oklahoma Avenue (Feature 4), repeats some of the characteristics of the larger entrance but with some modifications. Although the piers are shorter, there is no arch, and some of the details have been changed; each pier includes once again the horizontal – vertical, dark – light pattern in the center axis, and a white-capped buttress on the outside. The cap of the pier, however, is a bulbous ribbed dome. In addition, an attachment to the outside buttress extends the structure horizontally and an even shorter decorative buttress made of a

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concrete section and open wrought-iron panels attach to a small brick pier. Outside and adjacent to the entrance piers are electric lamp globes atop square metal posts.

This entrance is a contributing feature.

Feature 6. Pedestrian Entrance near 8th and Central

In 1937 the National Youth Administration added this arched entrance to the park at its southeast entrance, directly opposite the armory to the east, allowing passage to the upper playing area of the park. The arch consists of two brick piers, similar to those on other entrances but without the decorative lines, and a concrete arch overhead connecting the two. The piers are about two feet square on concrete foundations, and about six feet tall to the point at which the poured concrete arch begins, the total structure being about nine feet tall. Small buttresses on the outside elevations with white concrete caps repeat elements of the main park entrances. The arch itself, painted white in contrast to the dark red brick piers, includes on the east elevation the text RANDLETT PARK 1937, embossed and painted dark green. In the center of the arch, and interrupting the text, is a faux keystone element that projects upward and outward and includes the letter A (for Anadarko). The west elevation includes only the letter A in the keystone portion of the concrete and no other text. The concrete walkway passing through the entrance includes the embossed letters NYA. The arched entrance is flanked by two original electric lights and posts outside. Moreover, two smaller red sandstone square posts about two feet high are directly east of the piers; documentation does not exist for these small posts, but they form part of a larger sandstone curbing element and were installed either at the same time as the arch or earlier and are therefore part of this feature.

This entrance is a contributing feature.

Feature 7. Pedestrian Entrance near 8th and Oklahoma

This small entrance, near the water tower, opens onto the upper playing area and was clearly constructed at the same time as its counterpart, Feature 6. It consists of two piers about four feet tall made of dark red brick with ornamental scroll buttresses on the

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outside elevations and with white concrete caps that are nearly flat pyramids. They are located about five feet apart. A pair of cedar trees, positioned directly west of this entrance, appears to be part of the 1930s landscaping, although they could predate this feature.

This entrance is a contributing feature.

Feature 8. Croquet Court Sign

The croquet court sign is located near Central Avenue and the south driving entrance to the park; although the park has long extended west, all the way to the Washita River, this sign indicated the western boundary to the upper level playing area. While the original croquet courts that the sign served were subsequently removed (and in recent years replaced), this sign was constructed by the National Youth Administration between 1935 and 1937. The sign is on the west elevation of the impressive structure, a low brick wall about six feet long, connecting two concrete piers. The piers and connecting panel are about four feet high and are made of dark red brick with a continuous cap of white concrete; the two piers support bulbous ribbed domes, also painted white, and each supports a small sphere on its top. In the center of the west elevation of the connecting section is a rectangular panel that holds the text RANDLETT CROQUET COURTS and above that text, the letters NYA for National Youth Administration. The east elevation of this sign is similar to the west, except that the center panel is blank and beneath the panel is a concrete bench that connects the two piers, which bookend the bench. The bench thus faces the croquet courts.

The croquet court sign is a contributing feature.

Feature 9. Stepped Entrance on North Side of Playing Ground

The upper playing ground, directly west of the armory, is a generally level area that overlooks the remainder of the park in the river valley below to the north and west. With entrances on the east side and with the croquet courts on the west side of that upper playing ground, an additional approach (and exit) was created on the grounds' north side.

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Because of the slope of the terrain, this entrance required steps. Six steps, with curbs on each side, lead from the street level to the playing fields, and include a walkway that passes between two short red brick piers with white pyramid caps made of concrete. The curb joins with the foundation of the piers on their inside elevations. The piers are about two feet square and less than three feet tall. The east pier includes on the north plane of the square pyramid cap the engraving, NYA 1936, signifying its construction by the National Youth Administration in that year.

This stepped entrance is a contributing feature.

Feature 10. Ozark Giraffe Style Utility Structure

Most of the bathroom facilities and utility structures in the park, widely dispersed throughout the area, are of modern construction and are therefore noncontributing. The one exception is the small structure constructed in an Ozark giraffe stone design situated against the slope of the hill directly beneath and north of the water treatment facility. Documentation does not exist for this structure, but because of its construction method from the 1920s—and also different from any other construction in or near the park— and because of its notable location where it could serve both the projected auto camp and the girls' camp in that area, this distinctive structure retains its original appearance except for the addition of a concrete block barrier on the west side. A rectangular structure, made of large irregular-shaped stones with mortar extruded between each piece, the building has an entrance on the east and the west elevations, no windows, and a slightly arched metal roof. Positioned into the hillside, a stone retaining wall continues the hidden south elevation to the east and then turns north in an L-shape to provide a barrier. A similar wall on the west performs the same function except that it is constructed of concrete block, replacing the earlier stone wall.

This utility structure is a contributing feature.

Feature 11. Water Tower

A water tower has been positioned in the park just north of the extension of Oklahoma Avenue and west of the armory since the earliest maps of the area were made, and in this

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location it clearly served the water pumping and treatment facility directly to the north. This tower is not the original, but it dates from the 1920s, within the period of historic significance and it, and its predecessors, clearly served the system of community planning and development because of its association with the water treatment and distribution facility in the park.

Noncontributing Features

Railroad Bridge Pier

Throughout the period of historic significance, the Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific Railroad operated on tracks immediately north of the park and crossed the river at a point where the northern boundary of the park leaves the Washita River. Originally there were two of these impressive stone structures but since 1986 the east pier has been removed. Although clearly eligible for the National Register of Historic Places independently, either as architecturally significant or for its association with transportation contexts, this pier does not represent a clear association with Randlett Park facilities, either in their recreational or public utility aspects, and is therefore a noncontributing feature to the park's historic significance.

Footbridge

The steel arched footbridge crossing the Washita River is an attractive addition to the park and it makes the area of the park north of the river, developed since the 1960s, accessible; since it was constructed well after the period of historic significance it is noncontributing.

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RV Camping Area

The original 1917 Craven design for the park included a campground in the far west segment of the park, and that area clearly was used as such by scouts, day-campers, and others through the period of historic significance and beyond. The installation of the facilities for recreational vehicles at that location, however, is a modern development outside the period of historic significance. This includes the pavilion, an open-air picnic shelter with a roof, not to be confused with the historic pavilion located in the central portion of the park and now removed.

Tennis Courts

Although there are numerous references to tennis courts at various points in the period of historic significance, the location, appearance, materials, and origin of the courts remain obscure. The documentary record, at this point, does not seem to ascertain whether these tennis courts are the original, if they are replacements, or if they are in a different location from the historic tennis courts. If these tennis courts can be determined to have been constructed during the period of historic significance, they would then become contributing features for Randlett Park.

Boy Scout Hut

This L-shaped structure, directly west of the croquet courts and sign, appears to date from the post World War II period and is therefore outside the period of historic significance. It is adjacent to a large metal utility structure used by the city parks department, which is also noncontributing.

Domino Building

Located south of the croquet courts, this rectangular concrete block building was added after the period of historic significance.

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Assorted Bathroom and Utility Facilities

Most of the bathroom facilities in the park, widely dispersed throughout the area, are of modern construction and are therefore noncontributing. A few strictly utilitarian structures, of varying sizes and uses, usually nondescript, and of modern construction are likewise scattered in the park. The largest of these are water tanks near the tower and water treatment facility and two picnic shelters, one in the RV camp and one near the croquet courts. The only structure in this category that meets eligibility requirements is Feature 10, the Ozark Giraffe Style Utility Structure. In addition some utilitarian structures associated with power plant and water plant operations, such as settling tanks and basins, are also located near the two major utility sites; so far as can be discerned, these generally concrete structures and objects have been modified and altered, either through dismantling or through modernization, sufficiently to erode their integrity and make them noncontributing.

Park and Playground Equipment

The variety of park-associated equipment located in Randlett Park ranges from impermanent features such as park benches and swings that simply rest on the ground and can be moved to more permanent features such as the croquet courts and larger playground equipment. These are modern facilities. Widely visible in the park, since they are ordinary recreational features of parks everywhere, they do not compromise the integrity of the historic features of the park even if they are noncontributing themselves.

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Significant Dates, cont'd

1921
1926
1934
1936
1937
1939

Architect/Builder, cont'd

Craven, J. H., landscape architect

FERA, builder

NYA, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary

Randlett Park in Anadarko, Oklahoma, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of its association with the patterns of community planning and development in Anadarko. The park had its beginnings informally shortly after the founding of the town of Anadarko at the start of the twentieth century, and soon became a formal park, although its structural development and landscaping lay in the future. Because of its location on the northwest edge of town and along the banks of the Washita River, the park served a dual purpose in community development, providing opportunities for recreation and also facilities for public utilities. The park thus developed two power plants (at first coal and then hydroelectric and diesel) and a water treatment facility on its grounds. Adjacent to those utility functions were the recreational facilities that were developed in a process that culminated in the 1920s and 1930s. Throughout its period of historic significance, from 1904 to 1939, the park thus reflected and generated processes of community development in Anadarko.

Historical Background

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The Washita River, a very substantial stream that begins its eastward course in the high plains and hills of the Texas panhandle, winds its way for hundreds of miles through western Oklahoma before finally pouring its waters into the Red River that separates Oklahoma from Texas in the eastern part of the state. Along the way, the river skirts the north edge of the modern city of Anadarko. In the nineteenth century the Washita River was an important stream for native inhabitants, and various tribal groupings frequented the area prior to white penetration into the region, but official ownership to the land north and south of the river was given by the United States government to the Choctaws and Chickasaws, two of the Five Civilized Tribes, when they were relocated to Indian Territory. In 1855 the government negotiated with those tribes for what it called the "Leased District" as a reservation for Plains Indians. And indeed four years later the Wichita Agency was established in that "Leased District" on the north bank of the Washita River near the present city of Anadarko.

That site soon became a magnet for activity and the agency served an array of tribes including the Waco, Tonkawa, Anadarko, Tawakoni, Ioni, Keechi, and Caddo tribes and also some Comanche groups. The agency itself was burned during the Civil War which not only pitted tribes against other tribes and thereby increased already deep divisions, but generated conflicting factions within each. After the war, the government took the "Leased District" lands away from the Choctaws and Chickasaws, and, at the 1867 Medicine Lodge Council, assigned Kiowas, Comanches, and a group of Kiowa – Apaches to a reservation on that land south of the Washita River.¹ These relocations and confinements came against great resistance and bloodshed and with a consequent demoralization and sorrow but the course of the coming years had been permanently charted.

In the final third of the nineteenth century, the Wichita – Caddo Agency, as the agency north of the river was renamed, became the locus of missionary and education efforts. In the early 1870s Thomas C. Battey, a Quaker, began a church and school at the agency, and in 1883 J. B. Wicks opened an Episcopal church there, followed in 1887 by J. J. Methvin's M.E. Church, South, in 1887. In 1888 (or 1892, according to some sources) S.

¹ Arrell Morgan Gibson, *The American Indian: Prehistory to the Present* (Lexington, Massachusetts: D. C. Heath and Company, 1980), 409-410.

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V. Fait established a Presbyterian church there followed by the Baptists with their church, Mautame, about four miles east of what would become Anadarko. In addition there were government schools in the area, but both church-affiliated and public schools shared the goal of transforming the Native Americans of the reservations north and south of the river into farmers who would assimilate into white society.

The final step in that transformation, in the eyes of the government, was the dismantling of the reservations themselves and the distribution of the reservation land to the individual members of the tribes. Congress divided the primary lands into three counties—Comanche, Kiowa, and Caddo—required the allotment of lands to the tribal members, and opened the land for sale and settlement by outsiders through a lottery in 1901. The official in charge at the agency, Colonel James R. Randlette, was assigned the responsibility of locating a new townsite and he identified the area that became Anadarko. The town was established on August 1, 1901 and on August 6 the lots in the community were sold. The old order had passed away and a new order was ascendant.

Randlett Park and Anadarko, 1901-1939

One of the witnesses, and participants, in this process of social change was Reverend J. J. Methvin, who had established his Methodist Methvin Institute there in 1890. The new community, he said, was amazingly diverse in the origins and outlooks of its citizens:

From every direction the people came—from the north and the south, from the east and the west, from every State in the Union and from nearly every country beneath the sun; of all castes and colors and creeds; Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, Democrats and Republicans, Socialists and Soviets, Holy Rollers and shouting Methodists, staid and placid Presbyterians and elected and aggressive Baptists—all a conglomerate mass of live, restless, writhing, eager humanity.²

² J. J. Methvin, *In the Limelight, or History of Anadarko [Caddo County] and Vicinity from the Earliest Days* (Oklahoma City: Walker-Wilson-Tyler, 192?), 102.

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The priorities of this diverse group of people in creating the town immediately became evident as they set about the process of planning their public infrastructure. Recalling the particulars of the beginning of Anadarko community development, J. J. Methvin noted that "The proceeds of the lot sales afforded ample funds for the erection of a courthouse and jail, and a light and water system for the new city."³ The utility system Methvin mentioned was located immediately west of the city on Oklahoma Avenue, on the land that would soon become Randlett Park, a piece of land near the Washita River still owned then by the United States.⁴ By the time the city of Anadarko officially acquired the land in 1904 and named it Randlett Park, the process was underway for constructing the coal-fired power plant and the water system. In 1904 bonds were issued to buy a steam engine and build the plant housing it.⁵ This building remains one of the historic features of Randlett Park. At this early point in the history of the town, the linkages between the park as a location of recreation and utility service in the development of the community had been permanently established.

The recreation facilities of the early park were modest and the park seems to have been primarily used because of its open spaces and public access, with special occasions drawing people into its area more than daily activities. One account notes, retrospectively, in a caption to an early photograph, that "Shortly after opening of this territory, Anadarko residents began to choose Randlett Park for picnic and holiday outings. This is a July 4 picnic with the 'Welcome' sign out for everyone in Caddo

³ Methvin, *In the Limelight*, 103.

⁴ The legal document transferring land from the United States to the city of Anadarko in 1904 has been copied in a survey of the area, John D. Northcutt, for the Association of South Central Oklahoma Governments (ASCOG), *Randlett Park Historic Study: Historic and Architectural Survey Report* (Duncan, Oklahoma [1986]), copies of which are available in the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office and in the administrative offices of the City of Anadarko.

⁵ I. N. Brown, *Anadarko, Okla.: An Important Agricultural Center* (n.p., n.d.; locally published c. 1930), 15.

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county.”⁶ In 1908, in a celebration timed to observe the seventh anniversary of the creation of the town and the selling of lots on August 6, the local newspaper anticipated the festivities in Randlett Park:

Lines, arches, and circles of incandescent lights will adorn the park everywhere—above the main entrance a [huge] arch of fire will spell to every visitor the word welcome; on the water tower a mammoth searchlight will announce the beginning of the evening program when the master of ceremonies presses the button. All up and down the river and along the lagoons, over which electric boats will play like swift floating swans, festoons of many colored lights will reflect their exquisite beauty in the water. The ferris wheel will be illuminated like a [huge] circle of fire revolving in the sky. The Shacklett Alexander Amusement Co.’s big tents will loom up like mountains of snow. Other attractions too numerous to mention will cause the visitors to stand in awe and bewilderment. The air ship like a [huge] white [winged] bird, will sail away among the clouds issuing volley after volley of beautiful colored rockets and candles, the occupants leaping finally from the ship and descending in parachutes amid showers of glowing fire.⁷

The newspaper doubtless overstated the splendor of the occasion, and there is evidence to suggest that some visitors were disappointed by the actual event, but the same report accurately described the park “as a most suitable place for the great celebration, with its large areas of shade, its splendid driveways and abundance of good water, will afford ample accommodation for the great multitude expected.”⁸

⁶ Anadarko *Daily News*, August 5, 1951.

⁷ J. M. Tanner, “Electrical the Features of Celebration,” *Anadarko Tribune*, July 31, 1908.

⁸ J. M. Tanner, “Electrical the Features of Celebration,” *Anadarko Tribune*, July 31, 1908; “Celebration a Success,” *Anadarko Tribune*, August 14, 1908.

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From its very beginning, the nearly forty acres of land that constituted Randlett Park appear to have served equally well the recreational and the public utility needs of the community, although the recreation was less institutionalized and less fixed to permanent structures. And the public utility structures began a speedy and impressive evolution which suggests that they dominated the area initially. Some of that evolution came as a result of increased demand from a growing city, some as a result of the high cost of coal, and some resulted from inadequacies in the original plant, or at least in its vulnerability to corrosion.⁹ As one source commented about the first system, "... it was a losing proposition as the consumption was small and the cost of operation too high."¹⁰ Some, as early as 1908, argued for moving the power plant in order to secure coal at a lower cost.¹¹ The O'Neil Engineering Company of Dallas, however, advised the city that its short term and long term interest required the development of a new and different electric power system and modifying its water treatment facility. The firm noted that the power plant used by the city was limited by the same inefficiencies that plagued the water system, namely the impurities of water; while the consequence of such water for public consumption were obvious, they also included the calcification in the boilers which generated steam for running the electric turbines. Moreover, the cost of coal as a fuel for the system made an alternative system necessary. The proposed plan involved three steps: (1) replace the scaled boilers in the existing water and light plant, (2) develop a new water softening system so that the water would be better for every use, including in the boilers, and (3) develop a hydroelectric power generating plant on the river. Essentially, the proposal was not so much to replace the existing system as it was to duplicate it and to continue to use the improved older system as a backup for the cheaper, more efficient hydroelectric plant.¹²

⁹ "Council Meeting," *Anadarko Tribune*, May 22, 1908

¹⁰ Brown, *Anadarko, Okla.: An Important Agricultural Center*, 15.

¹¹ "Council Meeting," *Anadarko Tribune*, May 22, 1908

¹² "What the Bonds Are For," *Anadarko Tribune*, December 24, 1908.

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The proposal was accepted and in 1909 the bond issue was approved so that the new facility in Randlett Park could be constructed. In that year work proceeded to build the power plant on the river. The dam of reinforced concrete was planned to reach completely across the river, raise the water level to about fourteen feet, and divert the flow through three water turbines under the power plant on the south side of the river. By October 1909 the lake had filled to a level of about twenty feet and the water began to flow over the spillway, the watergates being still closed. At that time the city sent a crew to clear timber for five miles upstream to assist the flow of the river and to prevent wood rotting where the river had widened.¹³ Those waterwheels behind the gates went into service in the first days of January 1910.¹⁴ The system worked marvelously, both from an engineering and cost-effective perspective, and the old steam plant was used less and less, serving mainly as an auxiliary system during low water and floods.

The dual use of the park continued, but its development, like that of the city, was slow. By 1916 it had acquired a large Chautauqua building, or pavilion, located well to the west of the water tower. This open air auditorium, however, as the *Anadarko American* reported, "was used but very little—within our own knowledge but once in the past three and a half years, which was in 1813 [1913] when a week of Chautauqua was held."¹⁵ Faced with the possibility of losing the auditorium, some citizens, especially on the west side of town, sought to improve the site's facilities more, to "utilize the auditorium and convert it and the park into something useful instead of ornamental."¹⁶ The Ladies Improvement Society was created specifically for that purpose in that year and planned a special showing of a movie, "The Nation's Peril," to raise funds for the park. The

¹³ "Water Runs over the Dam," *Anadarko Tribune*, October 28, 1909. The article also noted that "This makes a total of about ten miles where the timber has been cut away"

¹⁴ Brown, *Anadarko, Okla.: An Important Agricultural Center*, 15.

¹⁵ "Park Proposition Finally Settled," *Anadarko American*, July 16, 1916.

¹⁶ "Park Proposition Finally Settled," *Anadarko American*, July 16, 1916; "Improvement Club to Control Park," *Anadarko American - Democrat*, July 27, 1916.

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announcement in the paper made clear the purpose: "This is a great feature, and everybody should keep it in mind and make preparation to attend it as there will be plenty of good music, both vocal and instrumental, and, by your attendance, you will also be indirectly contributing to Randlett Park."¹⁷ This group, a coalition of representatives of church and social organizations, did not yet have a plan, but was committed to improving the park. Its first victory was to convince the city council not to move the auditorium out of the park.

The next victory was to develop exactly such a plan and to do this they secured the aid of a professional landscape designer. In 1917, at the request of the Ladies Improvement Society and the City Park Board, J. H. Craven, Landscape Gardener at the University of Oklahoma, agreed to develop a plan for the park.¹⁸ That plan, now hanging on the wall of the Anadarko City Hall, incorporated all of the public utility features in the park into an aesthetic arrangement of foliage, paths, and drives. It provided for an auto camp near the river in the northeast section and a girls' camp to the east of it. As far away from the girls' camp as possible, on the extreme southwestern corner, he placed a boys' camp. Shrubs and trees lined all the drives and paths and a square garden of shrubs and flowers with concentric circles and radiating spokes was planned for the high ground on the southeast corner. A swimming pool was located in the plan immediately west of the water treatment center and the news report announcing the cooperation of the landscape gardener predicted its installation of a swimming pool in the park the summer of 1917.

The plan was bold, and looked as much to providing a scheme for future growth as it did an agenda for immediate change. Indeed, while Craven was able to plan the general contours of the park, especially its drive loops and some of the shrubbery, a 1922 report on the park bemoaned a shortage of funds that prevented further progress. Even so, the auditorium had been saved, at least for the time being, the lawn and flowers and shrubbery on the high ground constituting the southeast corner represented the

¹⁷ "Randlett Park Gets Help from Showing of Film," *Anadarko American*, September 28, 1916.

¹⁸ "Park Board Gets Help of University Gardener," *Anadarko American*, February 22, 1917.

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“remarkable success of the beautifying scheme,” and the blueprint for growth, quite literally, had been set forth.¹⁹ A lack of funds may have impeded the immediate attainment of the landscape design of Professor Craven, but the park continued to grow, almost in an organic way, and Craven’s plan provided general guidance as that growth unfolded according the needs and opportunities of historical patterns.

The public utility facilities took precedence in their expansion. In 1917 the water works gained a new filter system, and in 1921 the power plant was added onto slightly, at the south end of the building, to accommodate new diesel turbines to augment the hydro system, with the consequence that the old steam power plant on the hill above was abandoned. (It does appear, however, that the building continued to be used for other purposes associated with the water treatment system.)²⁰ These two systems, at one point almost completely integrated, were becoming separate functionally and physically—and geographically.

If recreational development came slow, when it came the addition was dramatic. In May 1926 the city council approved the construction of a new swimming pool.²¹ The building, operated by the Dixon Brothers firm, and constructed by R. J. Estep Company of Dallas at an initial cost of twenty-five thousand dollars, included the above-ground pool and also dressing rooms and concessions built into the poured concrete walls, and was nearly ready by the middle of July that year.²² The pool opened to great fanfare and became perhaps the premiere attraction of the park. A 1930 assessment of the park in the

¹⁹ “Anadarko’s Big Municipal Park,” *Anadarko Tribune*, July 20, 1922.

²⁰ “Pure Water Supply now on the Way,” *Anadarko American*, July 13, 1916; “Large Diesel Engines Here,” *Anadarko Tribune*, March 24, 1921; “Improvements at City Power Plant,” *Anadarko Tribune*, April 28, 1921.

²¹ “Contract Is Let for new Swimming Pool,” *Anadarko Tribune*, May 20, 1926.

²² “Anadarko’s Bathing Pool Is nearing Completion,” *Anadarko Tribune*, July 15, 1926.

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community noted that "The new \$30,000 swimming pool installed in 1926, is one of its most attractive features."²³

As attractive as the pool was in 1930, the real gem of the park, indeed the gem of the city, in the eyes of some, was the power plant. A promotional booklet issued that year for the community boasted:

. . . with its latest type equipment, economical operation from waterpower and three separate units of diesel [sic] engines, and efficient management without high-salaried executives, the plant has grown to be Anadarko's "Million dollar bonanza." And the service it gives Anadarko consumers is not only cheaper and with less interruption than a high-line corporation could offer, but returns a handsome profit, which is utilized to retire the bonded indebtedness and lower the city tax levy.²⁴

The key to the success of the operation, according to business promoters, was municipal ownership, a fact of community planning, local economics, and social policy that kept public service high and operating costs low. The same report noted,

Earnings for the fiscal year 1929-30 equaled returns on a valuation of one million dollars at standard interest rates, besides furnishing lights for the city hall, street lighting, park, armory and the churches without cost. Moreover, Anadarko's citizens and industries enjoyed the lowest light, power and water rates of any city in the southwest. Municipal ownership pays big dividends in Anadarko.²⁵

When people spoke of Anadarko's Randlett Park as a public resource, it carried a deeper and more fundamental meaning than just referring to the public swimming pool; it

²³ Brown, *Anadarko, Okla.: An Important Agricultural Center*, 3.

²⁴ Brown, *Anadarko, Okla.: An Important Agricultural Center*, 15.

²⁵ Brown, *Anadarko, Okla.: An Important Agricultural Center*, 15.

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included the utility system as well, and, even more than the buildings and physical plant, it included a commitment to meeting community needs.

Those needs increased, too, in the ensuing years of the Depression's economic despair as unemployment climbed and farm foreclosures and evictions increased. People looked to public agencies for relief. Again, the public commitment emerged again, this time with sponsorship and funding in Washington, D.C. The Franklin Roosevelt administration offered a response that reached across the nation to towns like Anadarko and that resulted in both putting people to work and also improving the public infrastructure. In Anadarko, that relief effort especially took the form, at first, of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and in 1935 that organization transformed to the Works Progress Administration, both agencies with a variety of subordinate, specially targeted programs.

By 1934, nearly a fourth of the population of Caddo County was receiving direct relief, a monetary stipend, but that program was being replaced with work relief, so that people would be able to earn the money they received and the community would benefit from their labors. By 1934, shortly after the inception of the FERA, a hundred fifty people were employed in Anadarko by that agency, and in that year the agency embarked upon a program to enhance Randlett Park. In 1934 the city and FERA drew plans and built the elaborate arch over the entrance to the park on Oklahoma Avenue.²⁶ It probably also installed the companion entrance to the north on Broadway, but the documentary evidence is not explicit on this point; the structures hold basic design and material similarities. Shortly after this, other features emerged in the park. In 1934 formal croquet courts were added to the park, evidently by FERA-funded workers, on the west side of the high ground making up the southeast corner of Randlett Park. Although those courts were later removed, the sign, a wide brick structure matching the entrance arch, indicates the location of the courts and also bears the initials "NYA" for National Youth Administration, a sub-agency of the Works Progress Administration. The exact date the sign was added to the courts is not known. The National Youth Administration, launched in 1935, hired young men between sixteen and twenty-five years of age in part-time jobs so that they could also continue their education. National Youth Administration programs, usually small projects, continued to enhance Randlett Park. In 1936 the NYA built the stepped entrance on the north of the southeast playing ground and in 1937 NYA

²⁶ Anadarko *Tribune*, July 18, 1934.

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workers built the arched pedestrian entrance at the southeast corner. The smaller entrance near the water tower—two small brick piers—was doubtless also a NYA project.

The largest work project came at a loss to the park with the construction of a new armory by the WPA in 1935-1937. The city deeded a portion of the southeast corner of the park to the state in 1935 so that the armory could be constructed. This represented the loss of some garden area. It also explains why pedestrian entrances were added to the park west of the armory in 1937; they represented not only new entrances but also the new eastern boundary of the park. The armory, an impressive WPA structure, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Randlett Park since 1939

The public work projects of the 1930s and the 1938-1939 addition to the power plant represented the culminating alterations and improvements in the development of Randlett Park until a later generation expanded the park north of the river. But in a time span of three and a half decades, the park had moved from an open, undeveloped space on the edge of a brand new town to a developed site that both generated and reflected community development and that provided opportunities for public pleasure as well as public power and water.

Changes to the park in the years since this formative period have been both large and small, but they have generally left the historic structures intact as visible reminders of the contours of past growth and development. The open-air pavilion is gone, and the auto camp that Professor Craven envisioned is now an RV camp on the opposite end of the park. The power plant and its additions no longer generate power; in the 1970s the city turned to private suppliers of electricity. The water treatment plant continues to operate from a plant directly east of the old plant. The other power plant structures, except for the vacant "Old Plant," now serve utilitarian needs for the Parks Department. The swimming pool, closed for a while, was restored in 1991 and once again welcomes swimmers during the summer. The open fields of the southeast corner continue to provide space for people to run and play, and even the croquet courts have been rebuilt. The area north of the old park between the river and the now-removed railroad, long a

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County and state

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dumping ground, has been developed into ball fields. The river itself was diverted into an older channel so that it no longer streams through the park, but provides a lagoon popular for fishing on both sides of the dam that once directed its flow across the land, giving the city its water and its power. Once a busy location that hummed with the force of turbines and pumps at the same time that crowds of people walked its paths, gathered on its grounds for amusement and relaxation, Randlett Park is as significant now for understanding the town's past as it once was for understanding the city's future. In that way, Randlett Park in its period of historic significance, 1904-1939, qualifies for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

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Geographical Data

UTM References

Point A: 14 568093E 3881275N
Point B: 14 568004E 3881275N
Point C: 14 568004E 3881136N
Point D: 14 567299E 3881136N
Point E: 14 567848E 3881508N
Point F: 14 568093E 3881523N

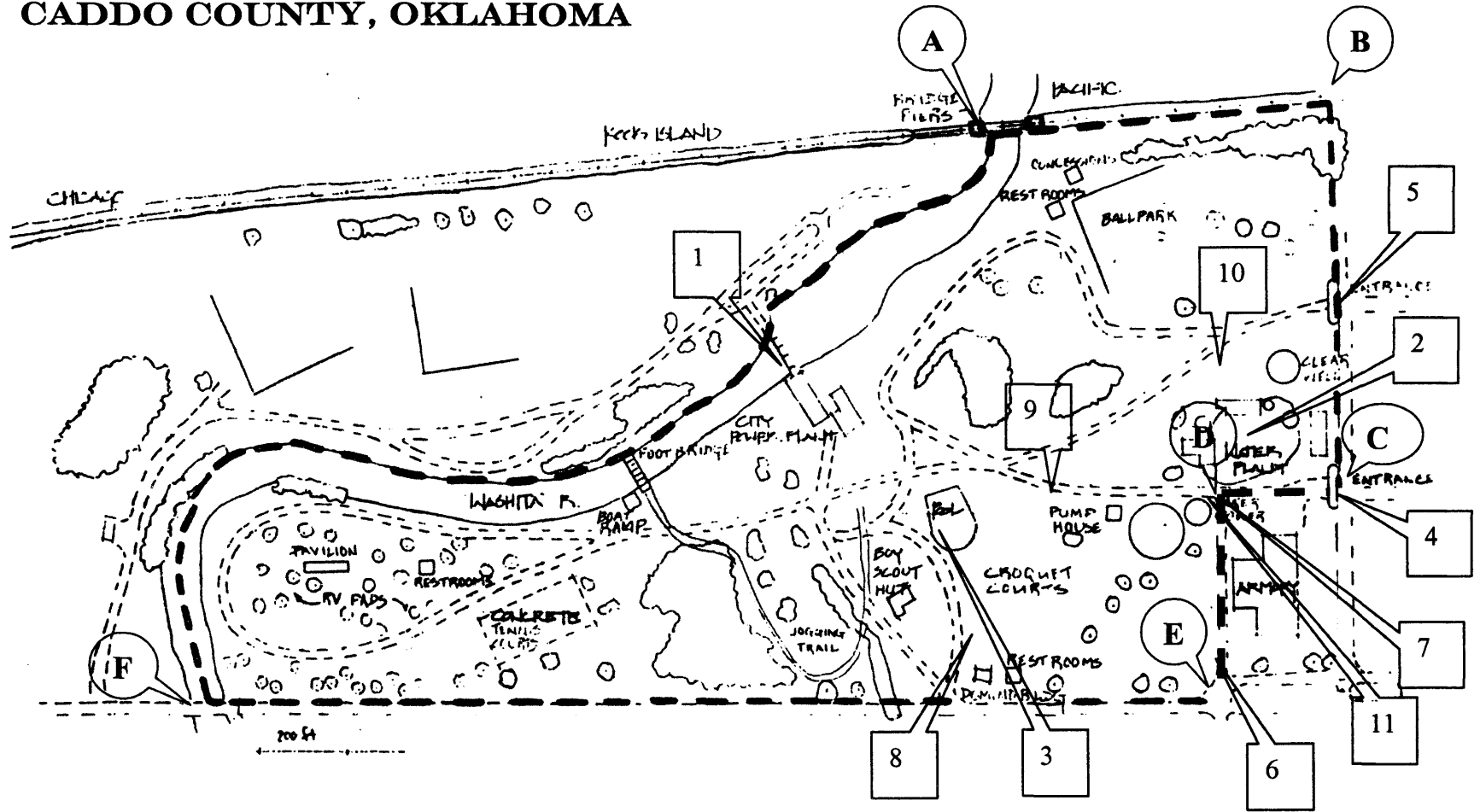
Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary starts at Point A, the park entrance on Oklahoma Avenue, and from there proceeds west to Point B, at the intersection of Oklahoma Avenue and Ninth, then south to Point C, at the intersection of Ninth and Central Boulevard, and then west to Point D where Central Boulevard intersects the Washita River. The boundary then follows the north bank of the Washita River northeast until Point E, where the river intersects the former railroad bed at the railroad bridge pier, and then northeast to Point F on Seventh, and then south to Point A.

Boundary Justification

The boundary corresponds to the original boundary of Randlett Park and includes all of the park associated with the historic features of Randlett Park, except for that portion removed in 1935 for the construction of the National Guard Armory in the southeast corner. It does not include the portion of the modern park added north of the Washita River in recent years.

**RANDLETT PARK
ANADARKO
CADDO COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**



Features

Boundary Points



Sketch map adapted from John D. Northcutt, *Randlett Park Historic Study*, 1986

Randlett Park
Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

Contributing Site
Randlett Park

Contributing Structures

1. Dam
2. Power Plant Complex
3. "Old Plant"
4. Swimming Pool
5. Entrance at Oklahoma
6. Entrance at Broadway
7. Pedestrian Entrance 1
8. Pedestrian Entrance 2
9. Stepped Entrance
10. Ozark Giraffe Structure

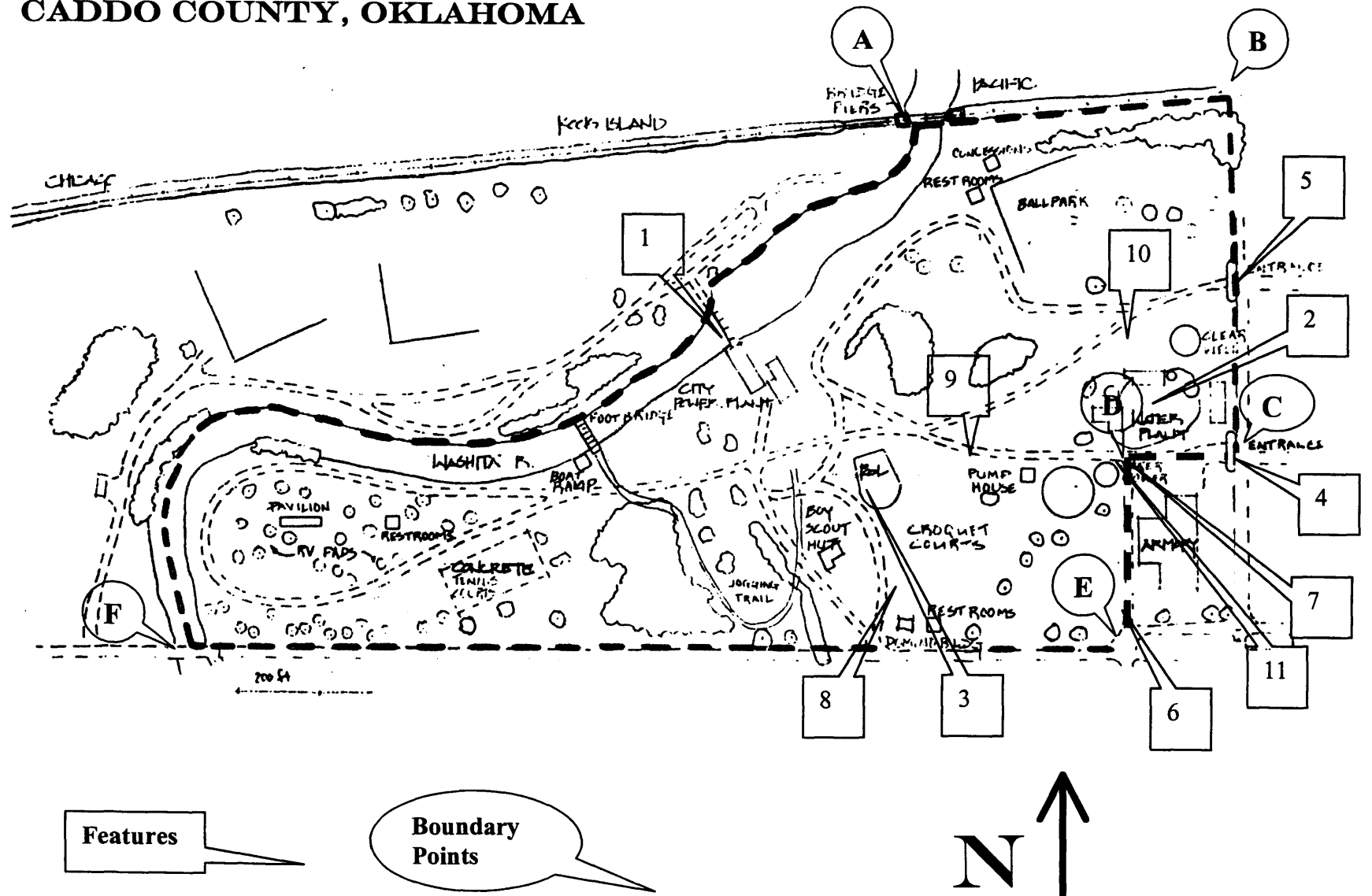
Noncontributing Structures

1. Metal Power Plant Addition
2. Water Treatment Facility (east of "Old Plant")
3. Water Tower
4. Bridge Pier
5. Footbridge
6. RV Camping Area
7. Tennis courts
8. Boy Scout Hut
9. Domino Building
10. Metal Parks Department Utility Structure (near Boy Scout Hut)
11. Assorted Bathroom and Utility Facilities
12. Park and Playground Equipment

Contributing Objects:
Croquet Court Sign

Noncontributing Objects:
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**RANDLETT PARK
ANADARKO
CADDO COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**



Sketch map adapted from John D. Northcutt, *Randlett Park Historic Study*, 1986