

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000066 Date Listed: 2/16/96

Property Name: Grant City Park

County: Platte State: Wyoming

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda M. Clelland
Signature of the Keeper

February 16, 1996
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10. Geographical Data

The acreage for Grant City Park is, hereby, amended to be 8.5 acres.

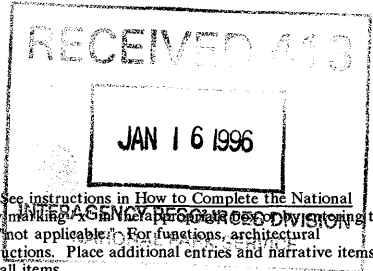
Bill Callahan, National Register coordinator, Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment on February 14, 1996.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking X in the appropriate box. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Grant City Park

other names/site number NeHBS #PR04-023

2. Location

street & number a partial block bounded by Central Avenue, 9th Street, alley line & 8th Street not for publication [n/a]

city or town Grant vicinity [n/a]

state Nebraska code NE county Perkins code 135 zip code 69140

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. ({} See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Lawrence Sommer
Signature of certifying official

12/3/95
Date

Director, Nebraska State Historical Society
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 certifying official/Title

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): _____

Linda McClelland

2/16/96

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Grant City Park
Name of Property

Perkins County, Nebraska
County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
8	1	sites
1		structures
10	4	objects
		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/music facility,
outdoor recreation/park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/music facility,
outdoor recreation/park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, stone
walls concrete
roof asphalt
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)

- [x] 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.)

Property is:

- [] 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1935-1939

Significant Dates

1935

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other
Name of repository:

Grant City Park
Name of Property

Perkins County, Nebraska
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14	270400	4525210	3.			
2.				4.			

[] 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 Carol Ahlgren, Architectural Historian, Damon Jones, Grant High School
organization Nebraska State Historical Society date Sept. 1995
street & number 1500 R Street telephone (402) 471-4773
city or town Lincoln state NE zip code 68501

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 Grant
street & number Box 614 telephone (308) 352-2100
city or town Grant state NE zip code 69140

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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RECEIVED 413	
JAN 16 1996	
Grant City Park	
INTERAGENCY RECORDS DIVISION	
NATIONAL ARCHIVES	
Perkins County Nebraska	
County and State	

Description

The Grant City Park is located four blocks north of the central business district of Grant, the Perkins County seat in southwestern Nebraska. The park, which encompasses almost an entire city block, was developed between 1936 and 1939 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The nomination includes one contributing building: the band shell; and eight (8) contributing structures: band shell benches, concrete fountain, stone entrance arch, west entrance posts, a rock cove, tennis court, rock garden, and south entrance posts/wall. The nomination includes three (3) non-contributing buildings: a c.1970 shelter, a c.1961 bathhouse; a pump house (1953) and one non-contributing structure, the pool. Overall, the park retains a high degree of historic integrity.

The Grant City Park is located four blocks north of the central business district of Grant, a small county seat town in southwestern Nebraska (1990 population: 1,259). The park encompasses almost an entire city block and is bordered by a single row of evenly spaced Chinese elm trees. The park is located in a residential area bordered to the north by 9th Street, the east by an alley fronting Hancock Street, and the south by 8th Street. The west side of the park is bordered by Central Avenue/State Highway 61 which also passes through the central business district.

The Grant City Park was developed on vacant land from 1936 to 1939 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. With its cast concrete band shell, benches, and rustic stone walls, the park is an excellent example of the type of recreational facilities made possible by the WPA and other New Deal public works programs. Typical of WPA construction projects, the stone used for the walls, rock garden and water features was obtained from an area quarry. One of the most distinguishing visual features of the park is the border of Chinese elm trees. Planted by WPA workers in an evenly spaced single row (see photos # 9 and 10), the trees are approximately 30 feet apart. Similar plantings are found along the major pedestrian walkways and an additional row of trees is located inside the park near the northern boundary.

The main entrance arch, constructed of rustic stone and concrete, is located at the southwest corner of the park. A wide flagstone sidewalk, lined with Chinese elms and benches, curves away from the entrance arch in a gradual decline toward the band shell. The west boundary of the park features a parking area with two stone and concrete entrance posts. The cast concrete band shell which faces west toward the parking area and Central Avenue is located at the base of a gentle slope. Directly west of the band shell is an oval-shaped cast concrete fountain, approximately 33 by 20 feet with a depth of three feet. Ten rows of cast concrete and wood benches are located on the slope west of the fountain. Immediately north of the benches is a small cast concrete drinking fountain, approximately three feet tall with a flared base.

A second pedestrian entrance to the park is located southeast of the band shell on 8th Street. The entrance area, which features rustic stone walls, leads to a circular two tier rock garden accessed on the east and west sides by three steps. The area which contains the rock garden is bordered by low stone walls, evenly spaced elm trees and cast concrete and wood benches. North of the stone walls is the non contributing (c.1961) bathhouse and pool. Although indicated on the original WPA park plan (1936), due to their later date of construction, they are considered non-contributing.

The area north from the band shell to the 9th Street boundary of the park is open space with scattered plantings. The 9th Street perimeter is bordered with evenly spaced Chinese elm trees and to the south, a second line of elm trees. Approximately 30 yards northwest of the band shell is a circular rock "cove" which originally fed a lily pond. The lily pond was filled in during the 1950's.

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Description (continued)

Twenty cast concrete and wood benches are located throughout the park along the major pedestrian walkways and for seating at areas such as the tennis courts, swimming pool, and rock garden. The benches are identical to the band shell seating, but are only 8 or 12 feet in length.

The non-contributing features within the park boundaries such as a c1970 shelter, the bathhouse and pool, do not detract from the overall high integrity of the park. The shelter is located at the extreme northeast edge of the park and, like the bathhouse and pool, is obscured by trees and the band shell. A non-contributing small pump house (1953) is also located near the edge of park, south of the tennis courts. Features such as playground equipment, barbecue grills, and a basketball court north of the tennis courts are not considered to be of a size or scale sufficient to affect integrity.

The contributing features are described as follows (see site plan):

- 1. Band shell** (Photos 1, 2, 3, 4) The cast concrete band shell is located at the base of a slope facing west toward Central Avenue, and features a raised stage, interior storage, a basement and a crawl space beneath the stage. The main portion of the building measures approximately 50 by 30 feet; the east (rear) facade features a 27 1/2' by 6 1/2' rest room wing. The area behind the stage is accessed by steps which are located at the southeast and northeast corners of the building respectively.

The semi-circular arch of the shell measures approximately 29 feet in diameter and is 29 feet high with a depth of 19 feet. The arch has a border of flat, blond brick. Small squares of the same brick are located beneath the parapet on the north and south facades of the building. Historic photographs indicate paired windows at the north and south sides of the building; these have since been in-filled. The area beneath the concrete stage contains a crawl space which was originally used for props and stage lighting; it is now used for storage.
- 2. Fountain.** An oval shaped cast concrete fountain which measures approximately 33 by 20 feet is located immediately west (the primary facade) of the band shell stage. The sides of the fountain are two feet tall and approximately one foot thick. The fountain has a 10,000 gallon capacity, and its spray can reach a height of approximately 10 feet. The controls to the fountain are located in the basement of the band shell. During the 1950's it was filled in and used as a flower bed. In 1995 the fountain was restored by a local Boy Scout for use during a Chautauqua which was held in the park.
- 3. Benches** (Photos 1, 2) Thirty (30) cast concrete and wood benches are located directly west of the band shell. The benches, which consist of three sections with concrete sidewalks in between, were built on a slight hill which provides natural inclined seating. The benches are approximately three feet in height and 25 feet long with wooden runners for seats. The benches represent the seating system for the band shell and are therefore considered to be one contributing structure.
- 4. Entrance Arch** (Photo 3) The stone and concrete entrance arch is located at the southwest corner of the park. Constructed of area stone, the arch features 10 foot tall stone columns that are approximately two feet square. The eight foot span between the columns is topped by a cast concrete arch that mimics the arch of the band shell and frames a view of the building which is located northeast of this structure.
- 5. West Entrance Posts** (Photo 4) Two rustic stone entry posts are located on the west or Central Avenue boundary and lead to the parking area. The posts are approximately 5 1/2 feet tall and are topped by flat concrete slabs. Similar to other stone walls and the entrance arch, they are approximately 2 by 2 1/2 feet in diameter.

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Description (continued)

- 6. **Rock Cove** (Photo 5) The rock "cove" is located approximately 30 yards northwest of the band shell. Constructed of the same stone as the walls and rock garden, the cove was originally the water source for a lily pond located to the east, which was filled in during the 1950's. The cove was cut into the side of a small rise and measures seven feet at its highest point and slopes in a circular formation to a height of four feet. The structure is approximately 35 by 25 feet in diameter.
- 7. **Tennis Court** (Photo 6, 7) The tennis court, located in the southeast edge of the park, retains its original chain link fence with decorative metal entry gates. The court measures 150 by 120 feet.
- 8. **Rock Garden** (Photos 7, 8) A large raised circular rock garden is located west of the tennis courts. Constructed of rustic stone, the garden is 34 feet in diameter and its stone walls are approximately 2 1/2 feet tall. The raised garden features a circular flagstone walkway which is accessed by symmetrically located steps on the west and east sides. The center flower bed is 18 feet in diameter.
- 9. **South Entrance Walls** (Photo 8) Two stone posts which measure approximately 4 1/2 feet in height, flank the south pedestrian entrance to the park. A sidewalk with cast concrete benches, interspersed with Chinese elm trees, leads from the entrance posts to the circular rock garden. A low stone wall extends east 45 feet along the 8th Street boundary of the park.

Statement of Significance

The Grant City Park is being nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The park, with its band shell, benches, rustic stone walls, entrances, and landscape trees is an excellent example of the type of recreational facilities constructed by the WPA and other New Deal public works programs. The period of significance, 1935-1939 includes the date park development began through completion of the major features.

.....

The Grant City Park, which encompasses almost an entire city block in Grant, a small southwestern Nebraska town, was constructed between 1936 and 1939. The park and its recreational features were developed through labor and funds made possible by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Established during the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the WPA was the most extensive and far-reaching of several nation-wide work relief programs designed to alleviate the unemployment of the Great Depression. The WPA was established by Executive Order in May, 1935. In cooperation with state and local government and private businesses, the WPA conducted broad programs of public works and other community services.

Approximately 80 percent of the WPA's activities were in the fields of public works and construction. Projects included building or improving more than 644,000 miles of roads, 750 airports, 24,000 miles of sewage lines, and 120,000 buildings (Cutler, 1985). Public buildings constructed by the WPA included libraries, schools and recreational and administrative buildings used for local communities and the armed forces. Other construction included recreational areas such as playgrounds, swimming pools, and parks. The WPA was liquidated in June, 1943.

Prior to 1935, parks and recreational areas in the city of Grant were limited to a small municipal swimming pool and a softball field at the north end of town. The areas were maintained by a group of women organized as the Grant Garden Club, an organization which still exists today. Realizing the need for better recreational facilities the Garden Club addressed the issue to the Village Board of Trustees

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Statement of Significance (continued)

(later named the City Council) at the July 22, 1935 meeting (Village Board Minutes, July 22, 1935; Grant Tribune Sentinel, 9/12/35). The Board agreed and voted unanimously to find a suitable place for a park.

At the September 2, 1935 Trustees meeting, the park issue was again discussed. Following unanimous vote, the Chairman of the Board appointed a committee consisting of B.K. Lyon and F.V. Dodge to locate a suitable place for a new city park (Minutes, Sept. 2, 1935). A week later the Board unanimously approved a motion to purchase a tract of land for the park site. The area, which encompasses the present park site, was purchased for \$400 from W. H. Griffith.

The Grant City Park received funds and labor through the WPA, which had its regional office in Sidney, Cheyenne County. The park project was initiated under the direction of O.B. Bush, Grant City Treasurer, who was later appointed WPA Director for the city. The original park plan dated September 20, 1935, was designed by the WPA regional office. After the park site was laid out, stone for the entrances, gate posts, and flower beds were hauled from a quarry north of Ogallala. The use of trucks to haul the stone was donated by area residents.

Following the construction of features such as the stone entrances, trees were planted within the park boundaries and at evenly spaced distances around the entire perimeter (Tribune Sentinel, 5/21/36). Work on the band shell began in November, 1936 (Tribune Sentinel, 11/19/36). The concrete and brick band shell has a prominent central location in the park and faces west toward Central Avenue/Highway 61. The band shell was completed less than a year after construction began and the Grant High School Band performed at the first concert on June 8, 1937 (Tribune Sentinel 6/3/1937)

Construction of the park and the individual features occurred over a four year period, providing employment for 15 workers from the local relief rolls. By creating a public park with a variety of recreational opportunities, the Grant City Park fulfilled the WPA goal of providing employment in a project that would benefit the public. With the completion of the tennis courts in early 1939, the WPA project was designated as officially completed (Minutes March 13, 1939). There was no official dedication of the park or band shell although a small metal plaque with the words, "WPA 1936" is located on the south side of the band shell.

The Grant City Park has served as an important recreational and cultural facility for area residents since its completion in 1939. Free public band concerts were held from 1937 through the 1960's. In the summer of 1995, Grant was selected to host a regional Chautauqua; over 600 area residents attended the performances which were held in the band shell. The current city manager initiated National Register listing for the park and worked with a local Boy Scout on the fountain restoration. Current plans call for a similar restoration of the rock cove feature.

The Grant City Park was determined to be eligible at the local level of significance. The Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS) did not identify other WPA era parks within the county. Further, in neighboring Deuel and Keith counties, no WPA parks or individual recreational structures were recorded. Further east in Lincoln County, the c.1935 Cody Park (LN06-564) with its WPA bathhouse was recorded in North Platte. As a comparatively large city for the region, however, it is expected that North Platte would have one or more public parks, and some WPA development. The Grant City Park, therefore, is a significant local example of a WPA park which retains a high degree of historic integrity.

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Name of Property

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Bibliography

Cutler, Phoebe. The Public Landscape of the New Deal. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1985.

Grant Village Board. Minutes, 1935-1939. On file, City Clerk's Office, Grant, Nebraska.

Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey (NeHBS), files. Nebraska State Historical Society, 1500 R Street, Lincoln, NE.

Perkins County, Jewel of the West. Grant Tribune Sentinel, Grant, NE, 1962.

Richter, Robert and Gauthier, Larry. Plainscape: Portrait of Perkins County. Grant, NE: Perkins County Historical Society, 1987.

Newspapers:

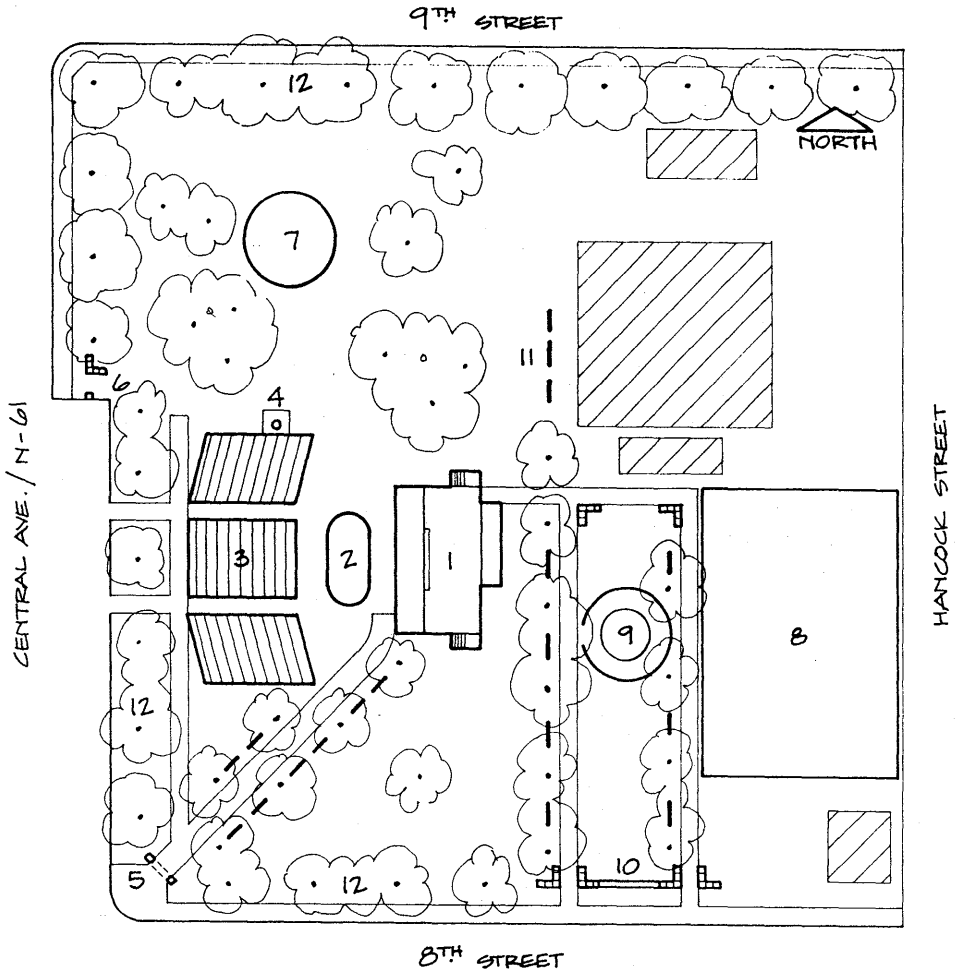
Grant Tribune Sentinel, 1935-1939.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Grant City Park is located in a tract of land located in the SouthWest Quarter of Section 12, Township 10, Range 39 North, west of the 6th Principal Meridian, described as follows: Beginning at a point where the east line of Central Avenue, is projected in a straight line north, would intersect with the south line of 9th Street, thence east 588 feet to the center of the alley line thence south 600 feet to the north line of 8th Street, thence west 588 feet to the east line of Central Avenue thence north to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains the tract of land historically associated with the Grant City Park.



GRANT CITY PARK (NEHBS #PRO4-23)
 GRANT, PERKINS
 COUNTY, NEBRASKA

SITE PLAN - NO SCALE

DRAWN BY DELL DARLING FROM FIELD NOTES
 BY CAROL AHLGREN, NEHS
 AUGUST 1995

KEY

1. BAND SHELL
2. FOUNTAIN
3. BENCHES
4. DRINKING FOUNTAIN
5. ENTRANCE ARCH
6. WEST ENTRANCE POSTS
7. ROCK COVE
8. TENNIS COURT
9. ROCK GARDEN
10. SOUTH ENTRANCE WALLS
11. BENCHES
12. LANDSCAPE TREES