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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

by SHPO

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



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Parker's Woods Park Historic District

Other names/site number: Parker's Woods Park

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: North Jackson Avenue between 1st Street Northwest and 4th Street Northwest

City or town: Mason City State: Iowa County: Cerro Gordo 033

Not For Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

		<u>26 AUG 2014</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>DEPUTY SHPO</u>		Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

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In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: _____ **Date** _____

Title : _____ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

For Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

10-15-14
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation/Culture: Outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Recreation/Culture: Outdoor recreation

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone, wood, asphalt, concrete

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Parker's Woods Park Historic District (hereinafter Parker's Woods Park), is located in Mason City, (2010 population: 28,079) Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. The 13 acre park is a one block tract bounded by 4th Street Northwest to the north, North Jackson Avenue to the east, and 1st Street Northwest to the south. The park's western boundary is formed by Willow Creek which flows through the area in a northwesterly to southeasterly direction. Approximately two-thirds of the park is wooded with deciduous trees, predominantly mature oaks. The eastern section of the park features a Rustic style limestone and wood shelter and limestone entrance bollards constructed by the National Youth Administration (NYA) between 1939 and 1941. The nomination consists of three (3) contributing resources: one (1) site, the park; one (1) building, the shelter house; and one (1) structure, the entrance bollards. The park, shelter house, and bollards exhibit a high degree of historic integrity for all seven aspects: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Map of Parker's Woods Park

Narrative Description

Parker's Woods Park is located approximately six (6) blocks west of the central business district of Mason City, Iowa, the Cerro Gordo County seat. The park was established in 1939 when the 13 acre site was donated to the city. The east boundary of the park is formed by North Jackson Avenue which features scattered one or two story storage and light industrial buildings; the Union Pacific railroad tracks which extend north -south through the area are located at the rear (east) facades of these buildings. North of the Park is a residential area which consists of predominantly one story modest houses.

South of Parker's Woods Park, across the main thoroughfare of 1st Street Northwest, is the five (5) acre West Park which features four (4) circa 1937 Works Progress Administration (WPA) constructed tennis courts. Park land and deciduous woods continue northwest of Parker's Woods Park along the banks of Willow Creek. MacNider's Woods Park, located immediately northwest of Parker's Woods, is a 28 acre wooded tract donated to the city in 1958 which includes a hiking trail that extends along the banks of Willow Creek at the western edge of the nominated area.

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Neither West Park nor McNider's Woods Park are part of the present nomination since they are outside the boundaries of the original 13 acre tract and do not share the history and significance of Parker's Woods Park.

The following resource descriptions for the Parker's Woods Park Historic District are keyed to the accompanying site plan followed by photo numbers.

1) Parker's Woods Park (Photos: 1, 2, 8 & 9 of 9)

Parker's Woods Park, a 13 acre tract located approximately six blocks west of downtown Mason City was donated to the city in 1939 for "park purposes." A.T. Parker acquired the tract in 1874; it was part of a larger agricultural holding which included farm buildings (*MCGG*, 3-24-1939). It is not known where the farm buildings were located or when they were removed from the site which was subsequently used as public pasture and circus grounds.

Within months after its donation to the city, a site plan for development of the park was completed by landscape architect Floyd Sapp. The 1939 plan (Figure 1) indicated retention of the "existing timber line" The plan included shrubs along the east or Jackson Avenue edge of the park and retention of an "existing wild crab-wild plum thicket" at the northeast edge of the park. Curved pathways were shown that extended northeast and southeast of the shelter house respectively, with another "nature trail" located west of the shelter house in the wooded area along Wilson Creek (*MCGG* 8-4-1939).

The 1939 plan was implemented to a remarkable degree of completeness. The stone shelter house and entrance bollards, as indicated, are located near the eastern or North Jackson Avenue, boundary of the park. The concrete sidewalk extends the entire length of the block along North Jackson between 4th Street Northwest and 1st Street Northwest. The east boundary of the Park along North Jackson Avenue features the 1939 plan for a parking area with 18 angled parking spaces approximately 25 feet east of the shelter house. The asphalt walkway, as indicated in 1939, extends perpendicular from the center of the parking area and leads to the limestone and wood frame shelter.

Near the shelter, the pathway splits to the northwest, leading to the north restroom, and to the southwest to the south restroom. The stone drinking fountain indicated on the 1939 plan is currently a simple metal pipe with basin in the area indicated. The 1958 Mason City annual report included a photograph of Parker's Woods Park with the stone fountain; it was apparently removed at an unknown date.

Additional deviations from the 1939 plan include open lawn areas instead of the wild plums and shrubs that had been indicated at the northeast edge of the park and to the east near the parking area. Further, the pathways indicated to the west, north and south of the shelter are no longer visible. Playground areas, of more recent construction including swings, slides, basketball hoop, and fixed benches are located to the south and west of the shelter house; these resources are

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insignificant in scale and massing, do not detract from overall integrity, and are therefore not included in the resource count (see photo # 8 of 9).

2) Parker's Woods Entrance Bollards (Photos: 3 & 4 of 9)

From the north/south sidewalk along North Jackson Avenue, an asphalt paved pathway extends east/west, perpendicular from the sidewalk, leading to the shelter house, approximately 25 feet westward from the sidewalk. On the north and south sides of the pathway are two limestone entrance bollards spaced ten and one-half feet apart. The bollards are approximately three and one-half feet in height and approximately four feet square. The south bollard has an affixed bronze plaque which commemorates the donation of the park land to the city:

Parker's Woods
Given to the
City of Mason City, Iowa
For Park Purposes
By
Martha J. Parker
And
Belle Parker Jackson
June, 1939

Although the entrance bollards retain their historic integrity, a "gate at the entrance posts" was apparently removed at an undetermined date (MCGG 12-30-1939; 7-16-1941).

3) Shelter House (Photos: 5, 6 & 7 of 9)

The Parker's Woods shelter house is located in the eastern section of the park. The limestone and wood frame shelter rests on a concrete slab that measures 33 by 21 feet. The combination gable and shed roof building is oriented north-south. The shelter house features two identical, seven by ten foot enclosed limestone restrooms that form the northeast and southeast corners of the building. The gable ends of the building feature horizontal painted wood siding; the roof forms a shed extension to the west to cover a pavilion area supported by four free-standing, eight foot tall limestone columns, one and a half feet square, and eight and ½ feet apart. The east, or Jackson Avenue North façade of the shelter house features one centrally located limestone column 11 feet from each of the restrooms. The shelter house roofline extends to the west and features painted wooden roof trusses that rest on four limestone columns spaced eight and one half feet apart.

On the east façade, the two restrooms feature small, centrally located open windows approximately one foot in length near the roofline with simple metal bars, and painted wooden lintels. The north and south facades of the shelter house repeat the small open ventilation windows located near the roofline at the southwest and northeast corners of the restroom cores, respectively. The north and south facades of the building feature a single doorway approximately three by seven feet, topped by painted wooden lintels. The interiors of the

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restrooms feature tile walls, toilets, and suspended wall sinks. Few if any changes have been made to the shelter house since its completion in 1941, with the exception of the asphalt shingle roof which dates from 1999 (Mason City Parks Department records).

In its original location along the banks of Willow Creek, Parker's Woods Park has remained relatively unchanged since the donation of the 13 acre tract to Mason City in 1939, thereby retaining its integrity of location, setting, and feeling. With the exception of the removal of the gate at an undetermined time, the stone shelter house and entrance bollards retain integrity of materials and workmanship. As indicated by the original 1939 site plan, the area was developed in accordance to the plan; the site therefore retains its integrity of design and association.

Parker's Woods Aspects of Integrity

Parker's Woods Park Historic District retains its integrity from the period of significance, 1939 to 1964. The seven aspects of historic integrity which apply to the property are discussed below.

Location: Parker's Woods Park is located six blocks west of downtown Mason City, on the east side of Willow Creek. Since its establishment in 1939, the Park has retained its original size of 13 acres and therefore retains its integrity of location.

Design: The Park retains its integrity of design; with its size, and placement of features, parking area as indicated on the original 1939 landscape plan, retaining its size, and placement of features such as the shelter house, sidewalks, entrance bollards, and parking area.

Setting: Parker's Woods Park retains its integrity of setting. Since the Park was established in 1939, the surrounding neighborhood has consisted of light industrial buildings to the east, and a residential neighborhood to the north. The Park's historic setting has witnessed little deviation from the original landscape plan characterized by open lawn and bordered to the west by the wooded banks of Willow Creek.

Materials: The contributing resources in Parker's Woods Park Historic District retain their integrity of materials. The entrance bollards and shelter house retain their limestone construction. At an undetermined time, a gate was removed from the entrance bollards. The roof of the shelter house was replaced with asphalt shingles in the 1990s. These changes however, do not detract from the overall integrity of materials.

Workmanship: The contributing resources in Parker's Woods Park Historic District, limestone entrance bollards and limestone shelter house, retain their stone construction, executed in the Rustic style.

Feeling: The original acreage, setting, shelter house and entrance bollards of Parker's Woods Park combine to convey the original ambience of the park, and thereby, its integrity of feeling.

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Association: From the 1870's, the privately owned area was known as Parker's Woods and used as community pasture and circus grounds. In 1939, the 13 acre tract was donated to the city and became Parker's Woods Park, retaining its historic association which continues to the present.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Entertainment/Recreation

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Period of Significance

1939-1964

Significant Dates

1939

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Sapp, Floyd W.

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

Parker's Woods Park, located in Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, is being nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with Social History and for its association with Entertainment/Recreation. Since its establishment in 1939 with land donated to the city, the 13 acre park has provided recreational opportunities and green space in its relatively unchanged location along the banks of Willow Creek. The park's initial plan and landscaping, including the construction of a shelter house and entrance bollards, were completed by the National Youth Administration (NYA), a New Deal program which existed from 1935-1943. Although the area was used as a pasture and circus grounds prior to its donation to the city, the period of significance, 1939-1964, encompasses official establishment of the park, its development by the NYA, and its continued use as a city park. An archeological investigation was not a part of this nomination; additional research may identify archeological sites that could contribute to the overall historical significance of the property.

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

Criterion A: Social History

Parker's Woods Park, a 13 acre tract donated to Mason City in 1939, is eligible at the local level under National Register Criterion A for its association with the public works programs of the New Deal. Established during the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1933-1945), "New Deal" has come to refer to the vast array of federal agencies created to alleviate the social and economic crises caused by the Great Depression. Public works programs such as the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the National Youth Administration (NYA) were in operation from 1933-1943 and were created to provide employment in work that would benefit society as a whole.

The CCC and the NYA were created specifically to provide employment to young adults. The CCC, created in 1933 under the prevue of Emergency Conservation Work, provided employment to young men, ages 17-23 (later extended to 28) in camps managed by the Army at project sites. Projects were administered and developed by various government agencies such as the Department of the Interior, for national and state park work; the Department of Agriculture, for work in National and State forests; and the Soil Conservation Service for erosion control work. Project work included reforestation of the nation's cut-over areas, planting shelterbelts and other measures to prevent erosion, and the development of state and national parks including trail and road systems, and the construction of buildings and structures in a naturalistic or Rustic style (Conard, 1997, p. 119).

The National Youth Administration (NYA) was created in 1935 by Executive Order number 7086 in June, 1935 (Reiman, 1992, p. 121) to provide employment to both young men and young women from local relief rolls between the ages of 16 and 25. Unlike their CCC counterparts, NYA workers typically lived in their own homes although seasonal camps and training centers were built or established, typically for vocational training or at construction project sites. The NYA was predecessor to the still existent "Work Study" program; federal funds matched by colleges and universities provided employment and loans to keep students enrolled during the Depression. The NYA also served high school and unemployed young adults in a vast array of projects designed to provide life skills and vocational training.

Unlike the CCC, with its gender restriction and implementation through Army managed camps at project sites, the NYA was a more decentralized agency, which received less funding. When the program ended in 1943, approximately four million young men and women had been employed and received vocational training in a vast array of jobs (Reiman, 1992, p. 143). Employment ranged from vocational and/or domestic skills such as furniture making, welding, canning, sewing; work in hospitals, schools, and city parks; painting murals, and constructing or repairing

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street signs. A portion of the work was in park development: for example, the development of new highway wayside rest areas, and the development of new or existing state and local parks (Lindley, 1938, pp. 225-227).

The NYA in Iowa

To date, there is a dearth of information about the impact and implementation of the NYA in Iowa. In c.1941, however, a booklet was prepared by the Iowa NYA showing examples of work and training throughout the state. Entitled "Pictorial Highlights on the Iowa NYA," the booklet consisted of 102 photographs. In keeping with the goal of providing training, it was noted that the photographs had been "processed by NYA youth learning this skill" (Eslick, c. 1941). The photographs were organized under project types: building construction; woodworking; metal working, welding; sewing and home-making; concrete products, roads, sidewalks; and park improvement (Eslick, c.1941). Unfortunately, the captions did not always provide project locations; nonetheless, it is a valuable document showing the range of the NYA work and training projects throughout the state.

The c.1941 photographic documentation of the NYA in Iowa cited above was used to obtain comparative information about other NYA developed park sites in the state. As noted, locational information from the 1941 document was often incomplete. The Iowa State Inventory Forms (ISIF) records were searched to determine which if any, NYA park development projects have been documented and included in the state's inventory. In the following discussion, where available, ISIF numbers are provided along with eligibility or National Register status; also included are the NYA photograph numbers from the c.1941 document.

Constructed by the NYA, the Eddyville Park, Mahaska County, Iowa (ISIF 90-020-145) features a small log cabin (photo: NYA2000.25.017). The cabin was surveyed in 1985 and determined to be ineligible for the National Register. In Montgomery County, the city of Red Oak's Chautauqua Park Pavilion was listed on the National Register in 1972. Not included as part of the nomination, however, were the stone entrance arch, stone retaining walls, and stone amphitheater seating constructed by the NYA (NYA2000.25.90;91).

Dubuque's Eagle Point Park, Dubuque County, was initially surveyed and included in the state inventory in 1975; the survey included only three (3) potentially eligible buildings, one of which may have been constructed by the NYA. In 2001, the ISIF for the park was updated; although no new resources were added to the inventory, it was determined that the entire park was eligible for the National Register (NYA2000.25.018, 019, 020, 021).

A state park that benefitted from NYA labor, Kenoah State Park, has two areas (Area A and Area B) that were listed on the National Register in 1990 as part of a Multiple Property Document (MPD), "CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks" (McKay, 1990). The Area A nomination includes a lodge featured in the c.1941 NYA photographs (NYA2000.25.13). The MPD noted, however, that NYA workers served to complete a group camp lodge that was initially designed and partially built by the CCC (McKay, 1990, Section 8, p. 2).

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Based on the historic and ISIF information available to date, Mason City's Parker's Woods Park is a rare, intact example of a park developed in its entirety from 1939-1941 by workers from the National Youth Administration. The park, in its relatively unchanged setting, has served the west side of Mason City as a neighborhood park prior to its establishment as a city park in 1939 and continues in this capacity to the present.

Criterion A: Entertainment/Recreation

Parker's Woods Park is also eligible under Criterion A, Entertainment/Recreation at the local level for its importance to Mason City and its park system. As indicated by the plaque on the south post of the two bollards at the east entrance of Parker's Woods Park was donated to Mason City by members of the Parker family in 1939. Alanson (A.T.) Parker and his cousin Horace G. Parker, were early residents who established a flour mill on Willow Creek and were associated with construction of 19th century buildings such as Parker's Opera house. (Wheeler, 1910, pp. 674-675; *MCGG* 3-24-1939). Although the mill exists only as stone foundations, the Opera House, located at 23 North Federal Avenue in downtown Mason City was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998.

The 13 acre tract that would become Parker's Woods Park was acquired by A.T. Parker as early as 1874, and was part of a larger tenant farm. Agricultural buildings including farmhouse, barn, and corncrib were constructed in the area. These resources are non-extant and their historic locations unknown. The area was also used as a pasture that became "the official grazing ground for the many cows in the community" (*MCGG* 3-24-1939). The area also served as the city's circus grounds due to its proximity to the Union Pacific railroad tracks and the willingness of the Parker family to allow their land to be used for this purpose. As noted by the *Mason City Globe Gazette*, when describing the history of the property at the time of its donation to the city, "all of the shows from Ringling Brothers to the tiniest pony and dog performances ... pitched their tents on this spot" (*MCGG* 3-24-1939).

Although it had functioned as a quasi-public space, it was not until 1939 that the area became part of Mason City's park system. The 13 acre tract was donated to the city "for park purposes" by Martha J. Parker and Belle Parker Jackson, widow and daughter of A.T. Parker, respectively. The donors expressed their desire that the area be kept in as natural a state as possible (*MCGG* 3-24-1939). On June 12, 1939, the Mason City city council unanimously accepted the deed for the land (Mason City, City council minutes 6-12-1939). The park represented a significant expansion to the city's emergent park system, which at the time was limited to the 57 acre East Park and Central Park in downtown Mason City. Since its donation to the city in 1939, Parker's Woods Park has continued to function as a small but important part of Mason City's park system.

Development of the park

Within months of the formal transfer of the deed, a site plan for development was prepared by Floyd W. Sapp, a Cedar Rapids based landscape architect. Sapp was referred to in the *Mason City Globe Gazette* as "architect" for the project, but he was listed in the 1939 Cedar Rapids City Directory as "landscape architect." To date, little is known about Sapp's landscape architectural

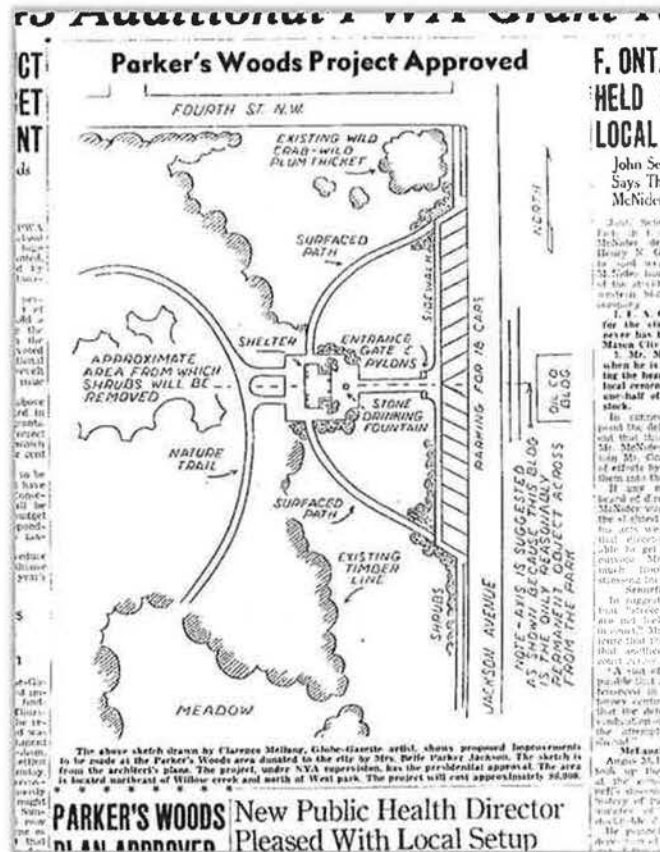
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work; he received a B.A. from Iowa State University in 1932; the 1940 United States census listed him as a self-employed landscape architect (U.S. 16th census, 1940; *Cedar Rapids Gazette*, 7-16-1991). The site plan and description of proposed park development noted that Sapp had been with the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) "for a number of years." During the 1940s and 1950s he was employed variously as mechanical draftsman, designer, and design engineer with Collins Radio (Cedar Rapids city directories, 1942 – 1954). Sapp's wife Dorothea was also a University of Iowa alumnus and landscape architect (*Cedar Rapids Reporter*, 6-13-2007). Future research may reveal additional parks and sites associated with Floyd or Dorothea Sapp that are worthy of documentation and National Register listing.

Work on the Parker's Woods site proceeded rapidly following the donation to the city and the site plan prepared by Sapp. Development of the site -- clearing brush and poison ivy; building the shelter house and entrance bollards -- would be made possible through a \$4,000 grant from the NYA that would provide employment for 40 young men. The *Globe Gazette* again cited the donors' wish for the park to be kept in as natural a state as possible and stated that "no landscaping has been planned other than the clearing out of underbrush and generally cleaning up the area [sic]" (*MCGG* 8-4-1939).



Proposed Plan of Parker's Woods Park, August 1939, *MCGG*

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By September 1939, the NYA project was well underway. Foreman L.C. Madsen, it was reported, was "conducting the related training course in connection with the park work" (MCGG 9-15-1939). Providing both employment and professional or vocational training as has been stated previously, was one of the main tenets of the NYA. The development of Parker's Woods Park continued through the end of the year; by December 1939, the area had been cleared and seeded, posts erected to keep out cars, and construction had begun on the shelter house (MCGG 12-30-1939).

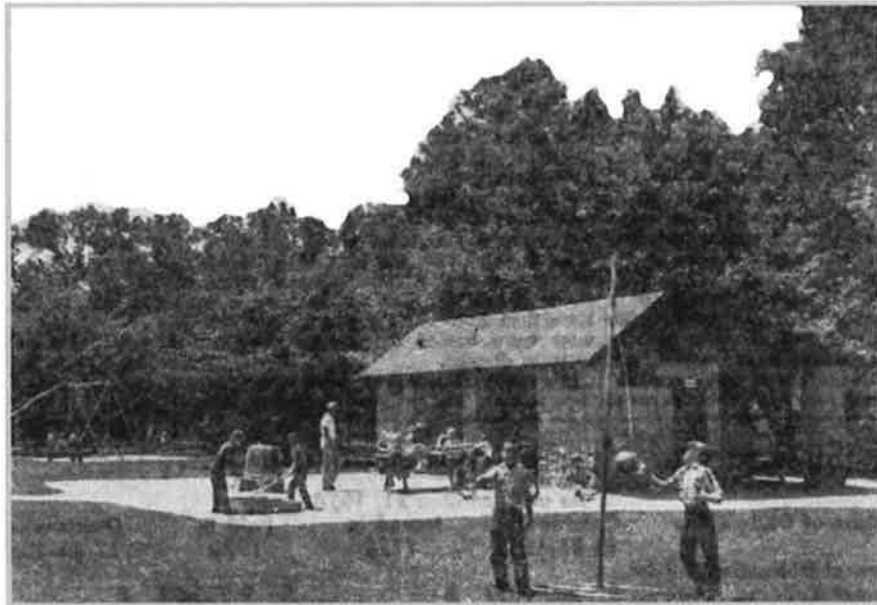
Mason City received an additional NYA grant at the end of 1939. The \$7,000 grant would be dedicated to the city's park system. The announcement of additional NYA funds for the city also noted that the NYA grant contained "provisions" to allow NYA workers "to be used wherever they are most needed" (MCGG 12-6-1939). Fifty (50) NYA male workers would be employed in projects such as the construction of three picnic shelters, fireplaces, benches, and a retaining wall, presumably in East Park. Perhaps due to the additional NYA grant with its provision of freely utilizing NYA workers, it was not until 1941 that the development of Parker's Woods Park would be completed. On July 13, 1941, the park, with its recently completed shelter house, was described in the *Globe Gazette* as a site that offered accommodation to people visiting the park and West Park to the south. The rustic style shelter house, it was reported, "is one of the fine pieces of stone work in the city" (MCGG 7-13-1941).

At the end of the New Deal era few improvements were made to Mason City parks. Following World War II, however, the city would double and greatly expand its park system. In 1945-46 the city annual report noted that summer "playgrounds" were conducted at nine sites including schoolyards and "two" parks during a 10 week period. Since the city had not added park acreage it can be assumed that these activities, which included handicrafts and games, took place in East Park and Parker's Woods Park (*Mason City Annual Report*, 1945-1946). Eleven years later, in 1957-1958, the park system had doubled in acreage throughout the city through donations and purchase. A 1957 photograph of Parker's Woods Park was featured in the city's annual report showing children on bicycles, playing tether ball, swinging, and drinking from the then extant stone fountain. (*Mason City Report to the People*, MCGG, 1958, page 4).

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Mason City Report to the People, MCGG, page 4, 1958

Parker's Wood Park, a small Mason City, Iowa neighborhood park, was established from the official donation of privately owned land that through time had been used by the public as community pasture and for recreation. The existing park was developed in its entirety by workers from the New Deal's National Youth Administration from 1939 – 1941; since that time it has never expanded in size or setting, and continues to serve its adjacent neighborhood as part of Mason City's park system.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Cedar Rapids City Directories: 1939; 1942; 1945; 1950-51; 1954. Cedar Rapids, IA: R.L. Polk.

Cedar Rapids Gazette, July 16, 1991.

Cedar Rapids Reporter, June 13, 2007.

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

Eslick, Theodore P., State Administrator. *Pictorial Highlights on the Iowa NYA Federal Security Agency: National Youth Administration for Iowa..* State Historical Society of Iowa, c. 1941. <http://www.flickr.com/photos/shsi-library/6472> Accessed June 5, 2013.

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Lindley, Betty and Ernest K. *A New Deal for Youth: The Story of the National Youth Administration*. New York: The Viking Press, 1938.

Mason City Globe-Gazette.

March 24, 1939, "Parker's Woods Becomes City Park: Beautiful 13 Acre Plot Given Community by Family of A. T. Parker."

"Parker's Woods, 13 Acres of Natural Beauty, Given to City."

August 4, 1939, "Parker's Woods Plan Approved: NYA Project to Give Part Time Employment to 40 Boys of the City."

Sept. 15, 1939, "NYA Work is Continued in Park Site."

Dec. 6, 1939, "Local NYA Project to be Continued Until June 30: Employment is Expected to be Given to 50 Men."

Dec. 30, 1939, "Heavy Program of Building is Continued Here."

July 5, 1941, "\$2,000 in New Equipment Added to Municipal Parks: Shelter House, Picnic Tables, Playground Equipment Now in Use."

Parker's Woods Park Historic District

Mason City, Cerro Gordo
County, IA
County and State

Name of Property

Mason City city council minutes. Lee P. Loomis Archives, Mason City Public Library, Mason City Iowa, June 12, 1939.

Mason City Annual Report of the City of Mason City, 1945-46. Loomis Archives, Mason City Public Library, Mason City, Iowa.

Mason City Report to the People, MCGG, n.d. , 1958. Loomis Archives.

McKay, Joyce. "CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks: Lake Keomah Park (Area A)." Multiple Property Documentation Form. Iowa Community Programs Bureau, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa, 1990.

Reiman, Richard A. *The New Deal and American Youth: Ideas and Ideals in a Depression Decade.* Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1992.

Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr. *The Age of Roosevelt. Volume 2: The Coming of the New Deal.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1958.

Wheeler, J. H. ed. *History of Cerro Gordo County Iowa.* Chicago-New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, Vol. II, 1910.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Mason City Public Library, Lee P. Loomis Archives.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Parker's Woods Park Historic District

Mason City, Cerro Gordo
County, IA
County and State

Name of Property

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 13

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15	Easting: 482532	Northing: 4778133
2. Zone: 15	Easting: 482782	Northing: 4778093
3. Zone: 15	Easting: 482782	Northing: 4777808
4. Zone: 15	Easting : 482672	Northing: 4777823

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

Parker's Woods Park is a 13 acre tract located in Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa. The park retains its original acreage and legal description as given to Mason City in 1939 by the Parker family and is described as follows:

"All of that part of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4) of Section Nine (9). Township Ninety-six (96) North, Range Twenty (20), West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, lying East (E) of the Center Line of Willow Creek, North (N) of the North (N) Line of First Street Northwest in Mason City, Iowa, West (W) of the West (W) Line of Jackson Avenue North in said Mason City Iowa, and South (S) of the North (N) Line of said Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section Nine, Township Ninety-six North, Range Twenty."

Parker's Woods Park Historic District

Mason City, Cerro Gordo
County, IA
County and State

Name of Property

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The Parker's Woods Park Historic District boundaries were selected and limited to, the original 13 acre tract donated to Mason City for park purposes by the Parker family in 1939.



Parker's Woods Park Map

Parker's Woods Park Historic District

Mason City, Cerro Gordo
County, IA
County and State

Name of Property

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Carol Ahlgren and Barbara Kooiman
organization: Architectural Historians
street & number: 4624 Nevada Ave North
city or town: Crystal state: MN zip code: 55428
e-mail ahlgren.carol@gmail.com
telephone: 763-432-3416
date July 2014

Property Owner:

name/title: Attn: Tricia Sandahl, City Planner for Mason City, Iowa
organization: City of Mason City
street & number: 10 First St. NW
city or town: Mason City state: IA zip code: 50401
e-mail tsandahl@masoncity.net
telephone: 641-421-3626

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Parker's Woods Park Historic District

Mason City, Cerro Gordo
County, IA
County and State

Name of Property

Photo Log

Name of Property: Parker's Woods Park Historic District

City or Vicinity: Mason City

County: Cerro Gordo State: Iowa

Photographer: Barbara Kooiman

Date Photographed: 18 June 2013

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

Photo #1 of 9 – Parker's Woods, from southeast corner of park to N. Jackson Avenue and First Street NW, facing northwest.

Photo #2 of 9 – Parker's Woods, from north end of park on Fourth Street NW, facing south.

Photo #3 of 9 – Parker's Woods, stone bollards, from N. Jackson Ave., facing southwest.

Photo #4 of 9 – Parker's Woods, southernmost bollard with brass plaque, facing southwest.

Photo #5 of 9 – Parker's Woods, NYA built shelter, showing east and north facades, facing southwest.

Photo #6 of 9 – Parker's Woods, shelter, showing west and south facades, facing northeast.

Photo #7 of 9 – Parker's Woods, shelter, showing south and east facades, facing northwest.

Photo #8 of 9 – Parker's Woods, general park features, from center of park facing south.

Photo #9 of 9 – Parker's Woods, general park features, from center of park, facing north.

See Continuation Sheet for Maps.

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

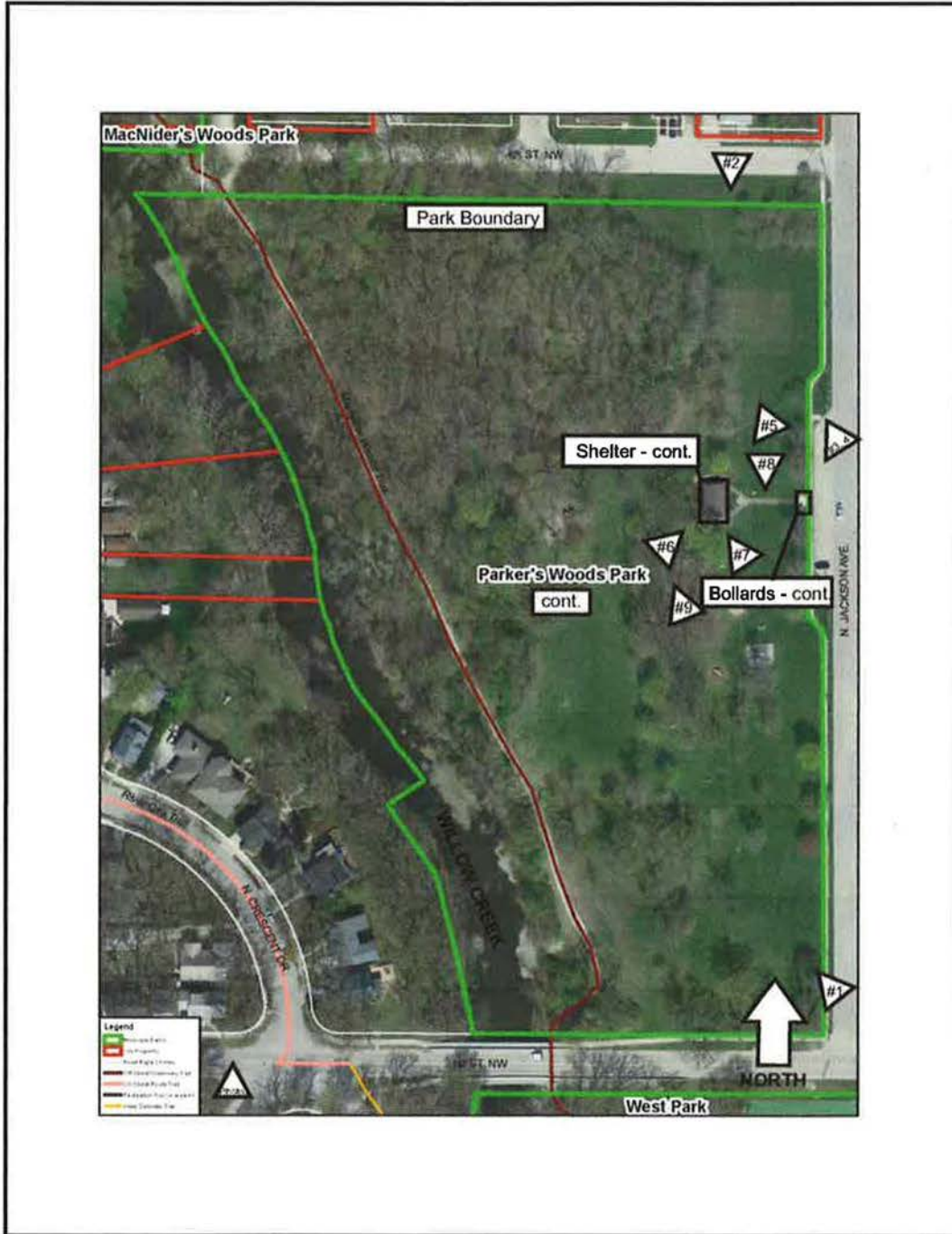
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Parkers Woods Historic District
Name of Property
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 24



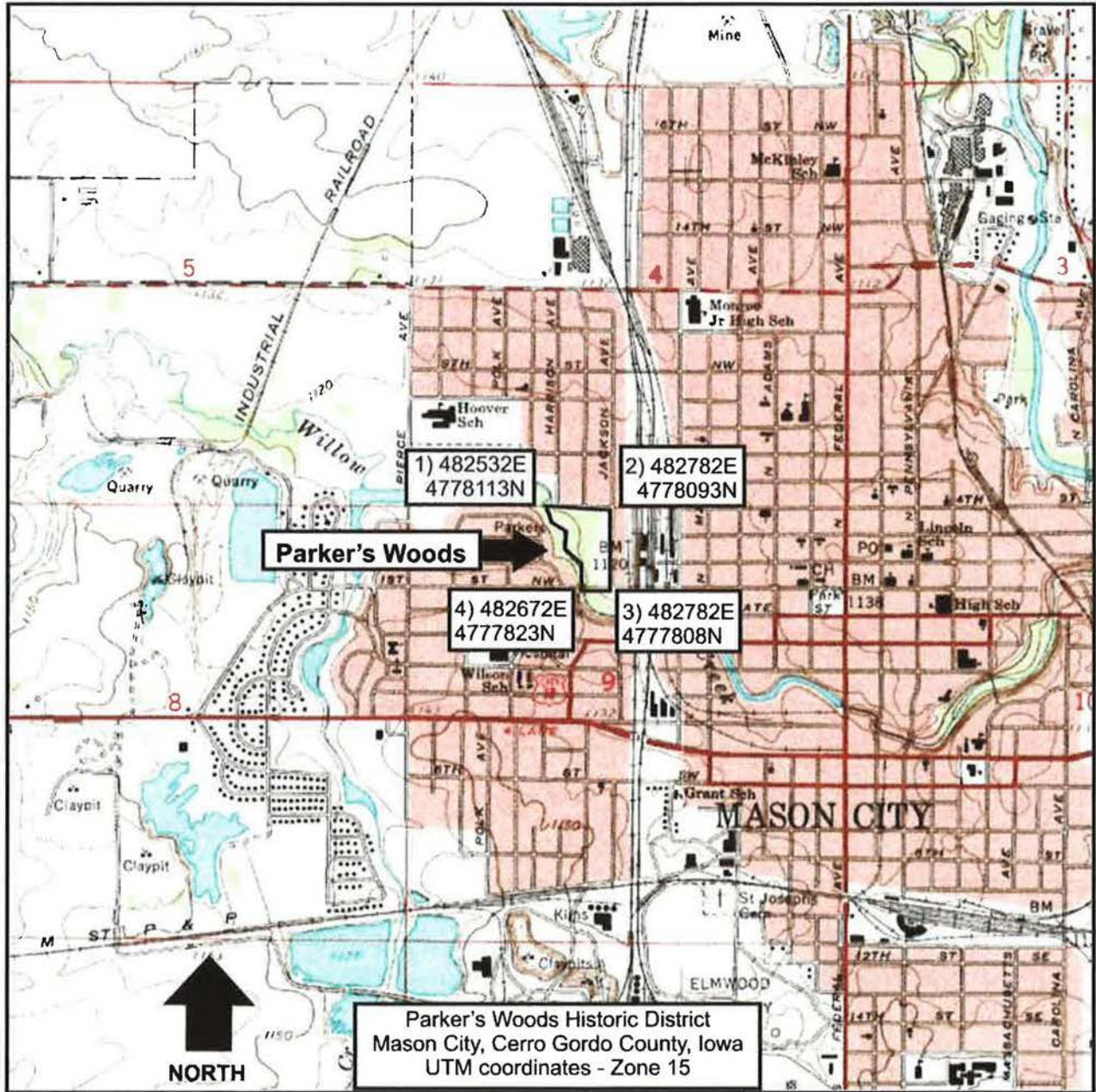
Map # 1 – Parker's Woods Historic District Site Map, showing boundaries and resources.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Parkers Woods Historic District
Name of Property
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 25



Map # 2 – Parker's Woods Historic District USGS (Mason City quad) showing UTM coordinates.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Parkers Woods Historic District

Name of Property

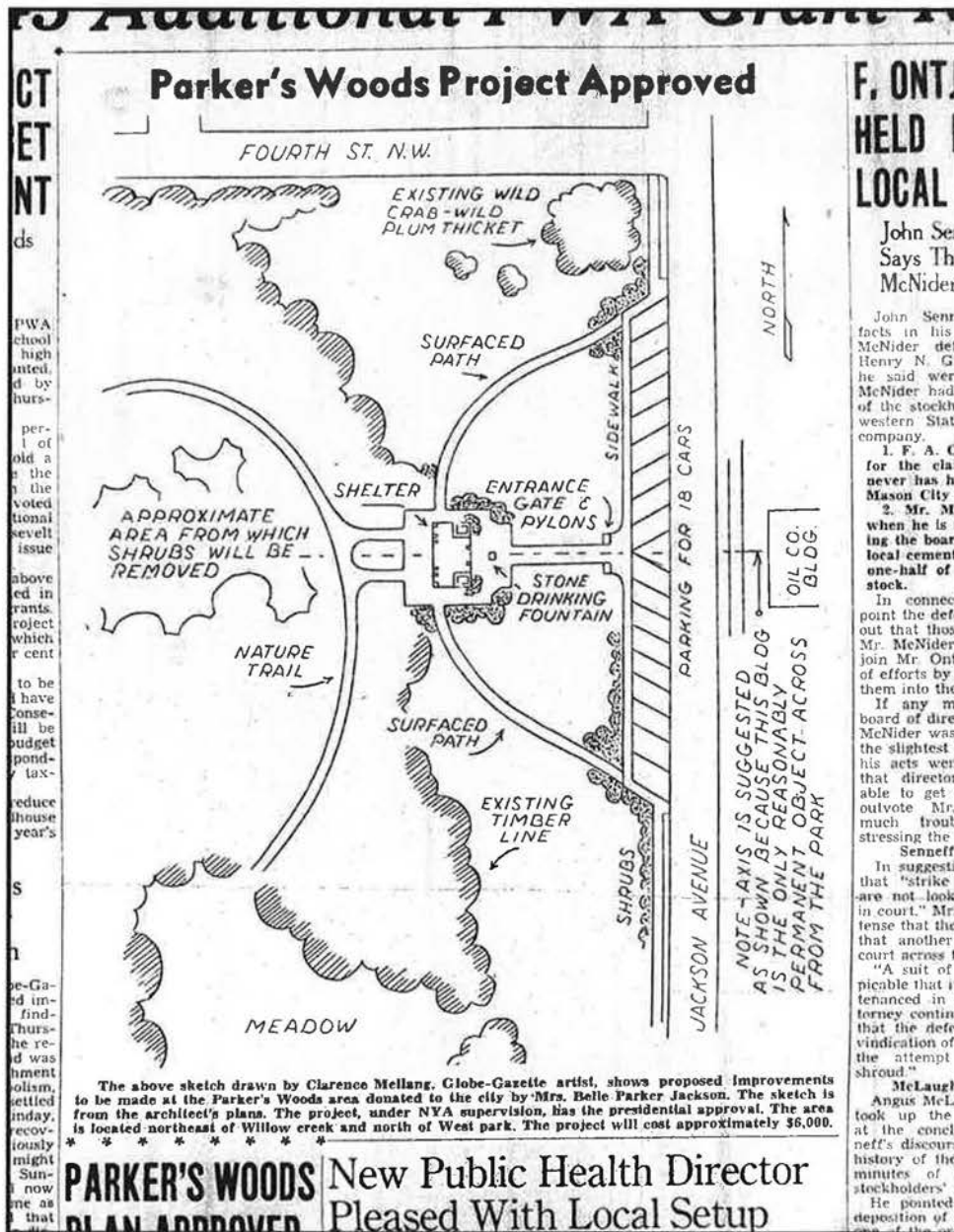
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Maps Page 26



Map #3 – Mason City Globe Gazette, 4 August 1939, site map of proposed Parker's Woods

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Parker's Woods Historic District
Name of Property
Cerro Gordo County, Iowa
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photos Page 27

Name of Property: Parker's Woods Park

City or Vicinity: Mason City

County: Cerro Gordo

State: Iowa

Photographer: Barbara Kooiman

Date Photographed: 18 June 2013

Photo #1 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0001)
Parker's Woods, from southeast corner of park at N. Jackson Ave. and First Street NW, facing northwest.

Photo #2 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0002)
Parker's Woods, from north end of park on Fourth Street NW, facing south.

Photo #3 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0003)
Parker's Woods, stone bollards, from N. Jackson Ave., facing southwest.

Photo #4 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0004)
Parker's Woods, southernmost bollard with brass plaque, facing southwest.

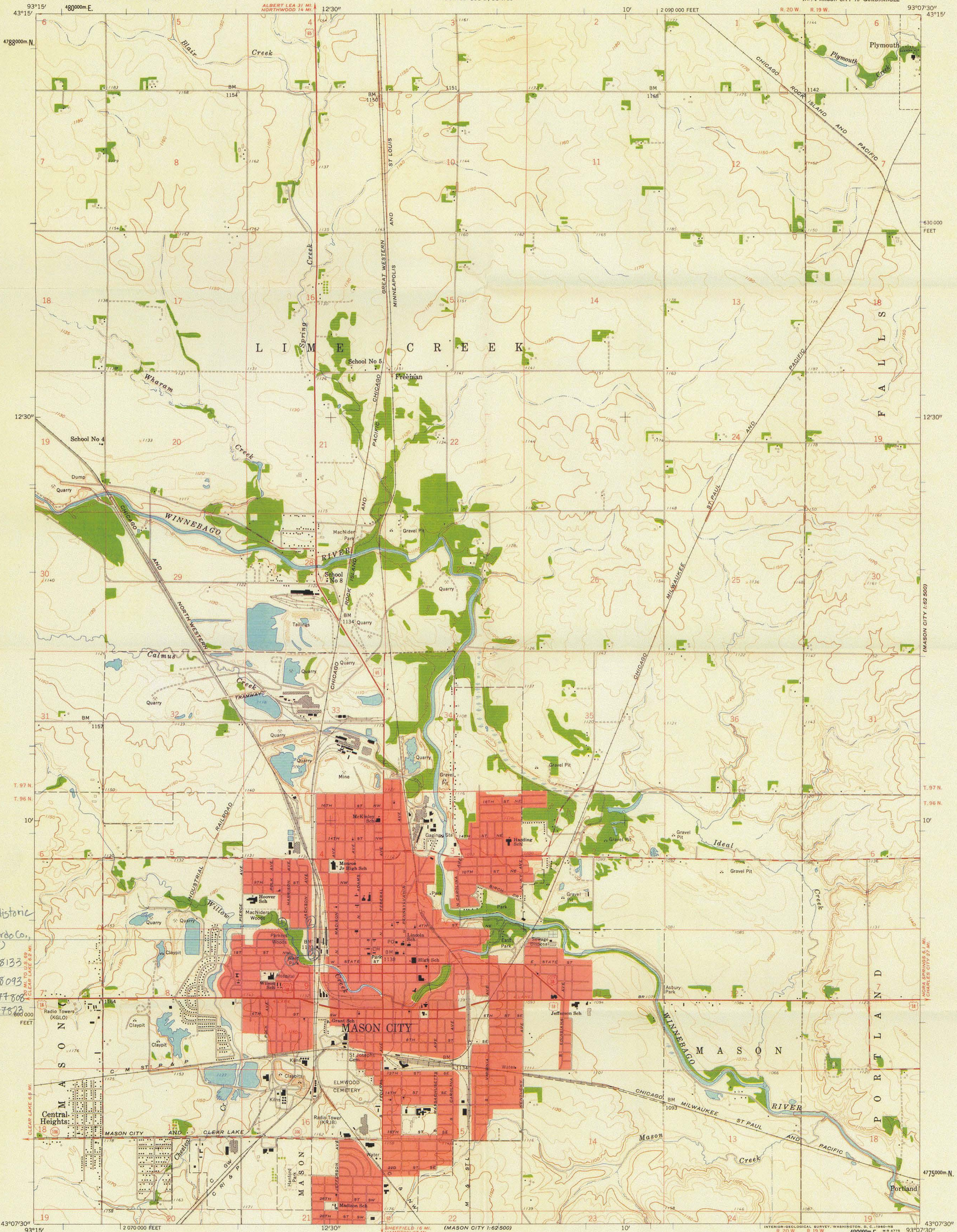
Photo #5 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0005)
Parker's Woods, NYA built shelter, showing east and north facades, facing southwest.

Photo #6 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0006)
Parker's Woods, shelter, showing west and south facades, facing northeast.

Photo #7 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0007)
Parker's Woods, shelter, showing south and east facades, facing northwest.

Photo #8 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0008)
Parker's Woods, general park features, from center of park facing south.

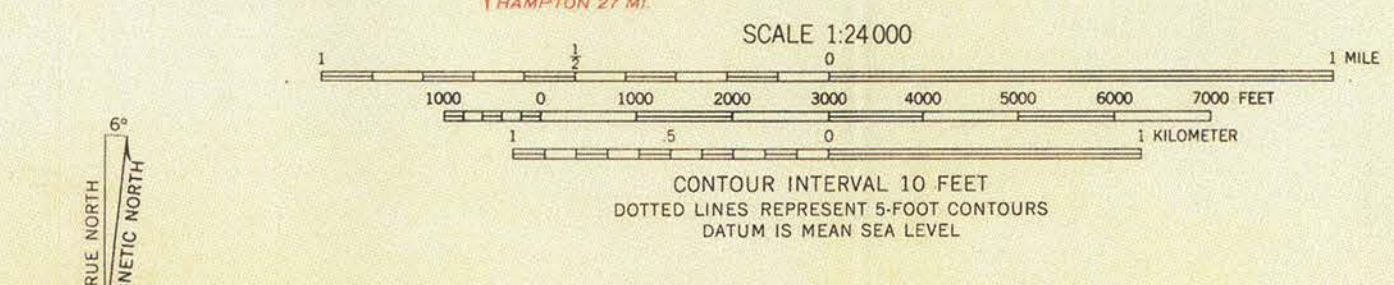
Photo #9 of 9 – (IA_Cerro Gordo County_Parker's Woods Park Historic District_0009)
Parker's Woods, general park features, from center of park, facing north.



Parker's Woods Park Historic District
Mason City, Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa (Zone 15)

- ① E 482532 N4778133
- ② E 482782 N4778093
- ③ E 482782 N4777806
- ④ E 482672 N4777822

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1959
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Iowa coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown



USGS
Historical File
Topographic Division

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route



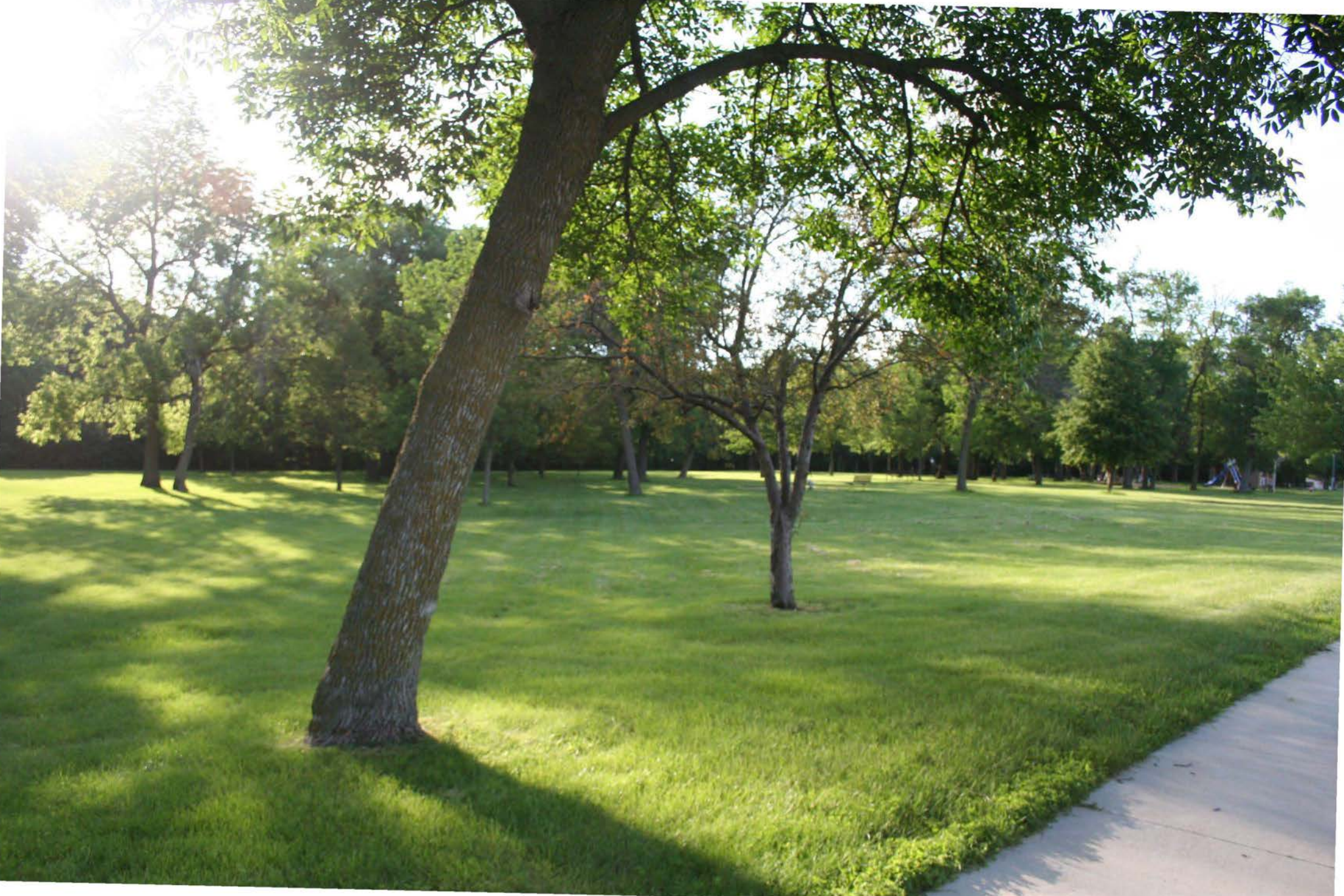
MASON CITY, IOWA
NW/4 MASON CITY 15' QUADRANGLE
N4307.5-W9307.5/7.5

1959

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND BY THE IOWA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, IOWA CITY, IOWA
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

U.S.G.S.
FILE COPY
TOPOGRAPHIC DIVISION

FEB - 2 1961
2995







PARK
CLOSED
11:00 PM
TO 6:00 AM

PARKER'S WOODS
GIFT TO THE
CITY OF MASON CITY - IOWA
FOR PARK PURPOSES
BY
JAYCE E. PARKER
AND
HALL PARKER JACKSON
1938, 1937









Family Friendly Park
NO
Beer
Alcohol
Wine



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Parker's Woods Park Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: IOWA, Cerro Gordo

DATE RECEIVED: 8/29/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/29/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/14/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/15/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000856

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 10.15.14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

CLG NATIONAL REGISTER REVIEW

CLG Name Mason City, Iowa Date of Public Meeting January 2, 2014

Property Name Parker's Woods Park

1. For Historic Preservation Commission:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature John Groninga Date 1-21-14

Print Name John Groninga

Title Chair, Mason City Historic Preservation Commission

Reason(s) for recommendation:

I concur with the consultant's findings.

2. For Chief Elected Local Official:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Eric Bakker Date 1-22-14

Print Name Eric Bakker

Title Mayor

Reason(s) for recommendation:

This recognition would be a value and source of pride for our citizenry.

3. Professional Evaluation:

- Recommendation of National Register eligibility
- Recommendation of National Register ineligibility

Signature Ralph J. Christian Date 2/6/14

Print Name RALPH J. CHRISTIAN

Title IOWA SHOP HISTORIAN

Reason(s) for recommendation:

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

MARY COWNIE, DIRECTOR
CHRIS KRAMER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
KIM REYNOLDS, LT. GOVERNOR



IOWA
ARTS
COUNCIL

PRODUCE
IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
MUSEUM OF IOWA

STATE HISTORICAL
LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

STATE
HISTORIC
SITES

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
OFFICE OF IOWA

IOWA
HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION

August 26, 2014

Paul Loether, Chief
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street, N.W.-- 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following National Register nomination(s) are enclosed for your review and listing if acceptable.

- Parker's Woods Park Historic District, North Jackson Avenue between 1st Street Northwest and 4th Street Northwest, Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa
- East Park Historic District, Roughly Bounded by N. Carolina Avenue, the Winnebago River, N. Kentucky Avenue, the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks, E. State Street, N. Virginia Avenue and Fourth Street NE, Mason City, Cerro Gordo County, Iowa

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Foster Hill".

Elizabeth Foster Hill
National Register