

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Boyle Park

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: Roughly bounded by 38th Street, Dorchester Drive,  
Covewood Circle, Glenmere Drive, Kanis Road and West 12th  
Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Little Rock

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pulaski code: AR 119 zip code: 72204

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>8</u>	<u>6</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National  
Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Facilities Constructed by the  
Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1945

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#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

August 9, 1995  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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#### 5. National Park Service Certification

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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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
\_\_\_\_\_

9/22/95  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====

#### 6. Function or Use

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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub: Outdoor recreation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub: Outdoor recreation  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Architectural Classification:

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Concrete/stone</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt / wood shingles</u>
	walls	Stone/wood logs	other	Stone chimneys

Describe present and historic physical appearance. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Little Rock's Boyle Park (roughly bounded by 38th Street on the south, Dorchester Drive on the west, Covewood Circle and Glenmere Drive on the east, and Kanis Road and West 12th Street on the north) contains a total of eight known examples of Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) construction, all of which were built during the mid-1930s. These include five buildings -- two pavilions, a spring house, a caretaker's cabin, and the remains of the watertower/pumphouse/garage -- as well as three structures: a low water bridge and two culverts. All were built in the Rustic style popular for CCC construction throughout the state.

The park also contains a total of six non-contributing structures: three modern metal equipment maintenance sheds, two modern pavilion buildings, and a modern rest room.

Located near the intersection of the western and southwestern neighborhoods of the city of Little Rock, Boyle Park is an approximately 250-acre tract of largely-unimproved woodland donated to the city by Dr. John F. Boyle in 1929. Located thereon are a total of eight known examples of Civilian Conservation Corps construction, all of which were designed and built in the Rustic style that characterizes their architectural projects.

The two pavilions (B and C) are identical. Both are a single-story in height and finished with a spreading gable roof (now roofed with asphalt shingles but originally covered with wood shakes) that is supported by stone piers at the corners and vertical log posts on the sides and front. The pediments of the gable ends are sheathed with vertical boards, and the rear of each pavilion is anchored by a large stone chimney with a firebox on each side. A flagstone floor completes each building.

The spring house (A), located roughly between the two pavilions, is a hexagonal, single-story building with a vertical wood log post and stone pier supporting the roof at each of the six corners. The western entrance is flanked by low stone walls that lead into the stone spring box in the center

of the building. The roof is covered with wood shakes and accented with the exposed log rafter tails.

The watertower/pumphouse/garage building (E) retains the massive, bouldered stone walls that sheltered the pump and the stone foundations that supported the roof of the garage section. Unfortunately the garage and wood log tower above the pumphouse are gone, but enough remains of the original construction to qualify it as contributing.

The caretaker's cabin (D) is a single-story, wood log, intersecting gable roof residence that retains its two massive stone chimneys. It features a projecting, gable roof porch on its southern side that is supported upon vertical logs and another shed roof porch on the northern side, between the projecting gable roof bays, that is also supported upon vertical log supports. The walls are horizontal logs and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The low water bridge (F) is a long, low stone bridge that spans Rock Creek. It features low stone balustrades on either side and short, squat stone piers that support the deck above the creek bed.

The northernmost culvert (G) is an arched stone culvert with random-cut stone endwalls. The southernmost culvert (G) is capped with flat lintel and finished with rough stone walls that line the sides of the culvert.

The six non-contributing structures -- the three modern metal equipment maintenance sheds, two modern pavilion buildings, and a modern rest room -- are all of relatively simple and functional design. Though clearly of non-historic vintage they do not intrude upon the overall respect for the natural landscape that was part and parcel of the CCC design ethos.

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#### 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1935-37 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: 1935-37 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.



## Summary

## Criteria A and C, local significance

Boyle Park is considered significant by virtue of its direct associations with the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Depression-era public works agency that oversaw the construction of all of the surviving historic buildings and structures therein during the mid-1930s. However, it is also important as one of the last ensembles of Rustic architecture remaining in the entire state that largely retains its original appearance and its organic relationship with the splendid natural landscape of which it was designed to be an integral part.

## Elaboration

Located near the intersection of the western and southwestern neighborhoods of the city of Little Rock, Boyle Park is an approximately 250-acre tract of largely-unimproved woodland donated to the city by Dr. John F. Boyle in 1929. The warranty deed authorizing the transfer of title to the land explicitly stipulated that the park be used for "recreational purposes" only and that should this property ever cease to be used as such the title would revert back to the family and its heirs. At the time of its donation it was only the third public park in the city of Little Rock (the others being MacArthur Park and Allsopp Park).

The park remained largely unimproved until the mid-1930s, when the Civilian Conservation Corps boys arrived (though there seems to be some uncertainty about exactly when the actual construction work began, two different contemporaneous sources reveal that as of the spring of 1935 work had not yet begun, but that by the spring of 1937 work was complete and the unit involved in finishing the work within the park -- the 3777th company, originally from West Fork, where they were supposed to be involved in the ongoing construction at Devil's Den State Park -- were wondering where they would be shipped next). The CCC boys camped at Fair Park (approximately one mile to the northeast) and worked on such improvements to Boyle Park as walls, signage, rest room facilities and a concession building in addition to the resources that survive. Their work on Boyle Park was considered sufficiently characteristic of the Rustic style to be included in the second edition of National Park Service architect Albert H. Good's books *Park and Recreation Structures*.

All of the eight extant resources included within this nomination are excellent examples of the Rustic style of architecture for which the CCC became so well known in Arkansas and several surrounding states. As such, Boyle Park form an historic district that is significant by virtue of its associations with the men that built it, the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps Company 3777, and by virtue of their being outstanding and remarkably intact examples of the Rustic architectural style. This district relates to the historic context "Recreational Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942" (See Section E, I.).

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Armour, C. W. L., Supt. of Boyle Park, and Ewing L. Jones, Landscape Architectural Foreman of Boyle Park, *Boyle Park Report*, compiled October 15, 1935.

Burggraf, Frank and Karen Rollet, *Manmade Elements In Natural Settings, The CCC In Arkansas*, (1988).

Good, Albert H., *Park & Recreation Structures*, reprint of 1938 edition published by U. S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, (Boulder, Colorado, 1990).

Information provided by Matt Garner, City of Little Rock Parks and Recreation, October, 1994.

Nelson, Olive H., "Beautifying the Boyle Park," *Arkansas Gazette*, Sunday, March 15, 1936.

*Official Annual, Civilian Conservation Corps, Arkansas District, Seventh Corps Area, 1937.*

*A Review of Work Relief Activities In Arkansas, April 1st, 1934 to July 1st, 1935*, (Little Rock, Ark., 1935).

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- \_\_\_ Other state agency
- \_\_\_ Federal agency
- \_\_\_ Local government
- \_\_\_ University
- \_\_\_ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: Approximately 250

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	<u>15</u>	<u>558660</u>	<u>3843630</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>559470</u>	<u>3843580</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>559440</u>	<u>3842780</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>559050</u>	<u>3842790</u>
E	<u>15</u>	<u>559040</u>	<u>3842000</u>	F	<u>15</u>	<u>558630</u>	<u>3842020</u>

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

See accompanying sketch map for boundaries.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically-associated with this resource.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 08/08/95

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Boyle Park  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Facilities Constructed by Civilian Conservation Corps in Ark  
NAME: ansas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

DATE RECEIVED: 8/22/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/06/95  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/22/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/06/95  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001119

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 9/22/95 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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



## Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	Multiple Property Name	Reference Number
Boyle Park	Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS	95000119

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

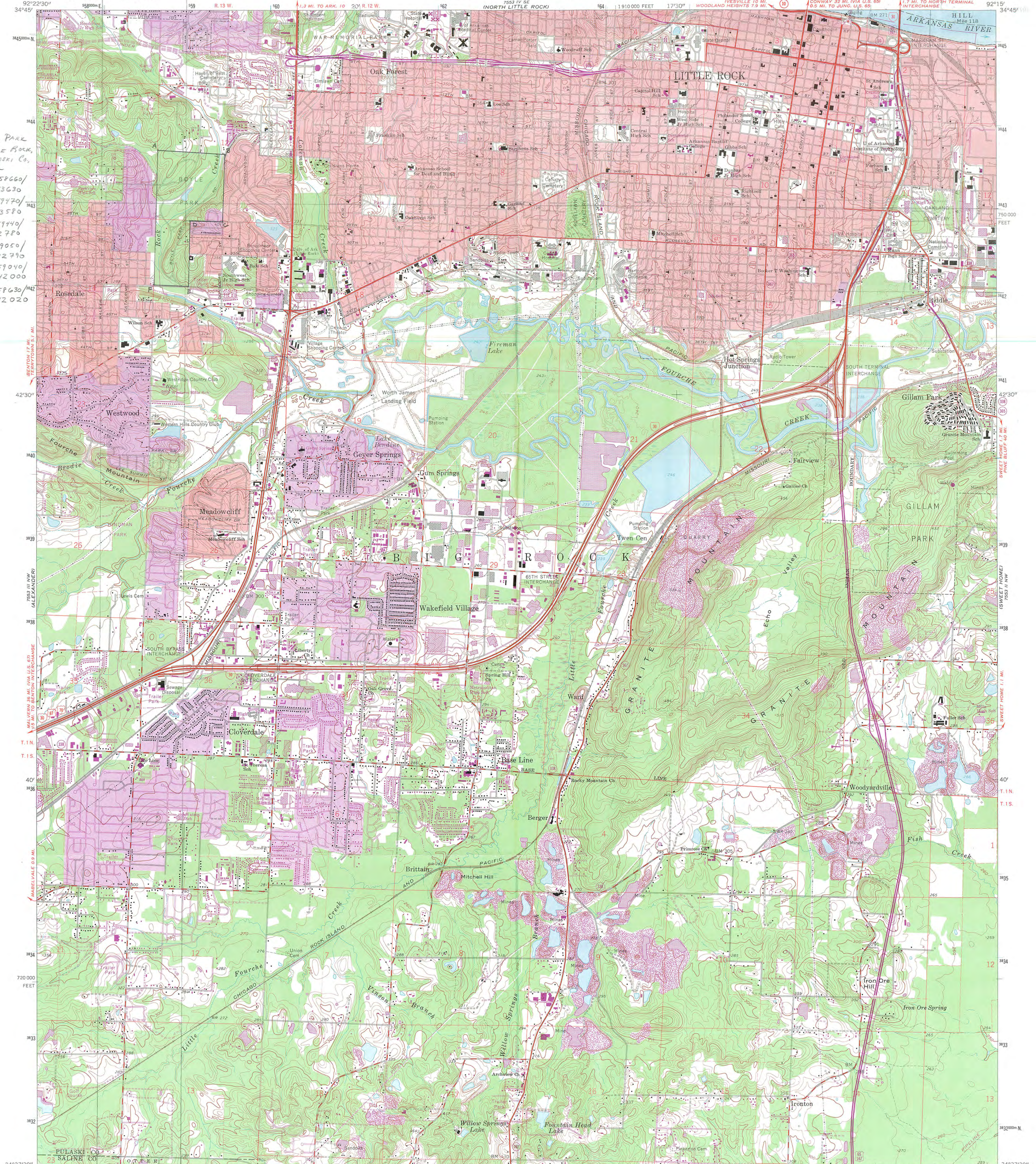
☐ Nomination Form

☐ USGS map

☒ Photographs



BOYLE PARK  
LITTLE ROCK,  
PULASKI CO.,  
AR.  
A) 15/558660/  
3843630  
B) 15/557470/  
3843580  
C) 15/557440/  
3842780  
D) 15/559050/  
3842790  
E) 15/559040/  
3842000  
F) 15/558630/  
3842020



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone

1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1970 and 1975. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

Scale 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

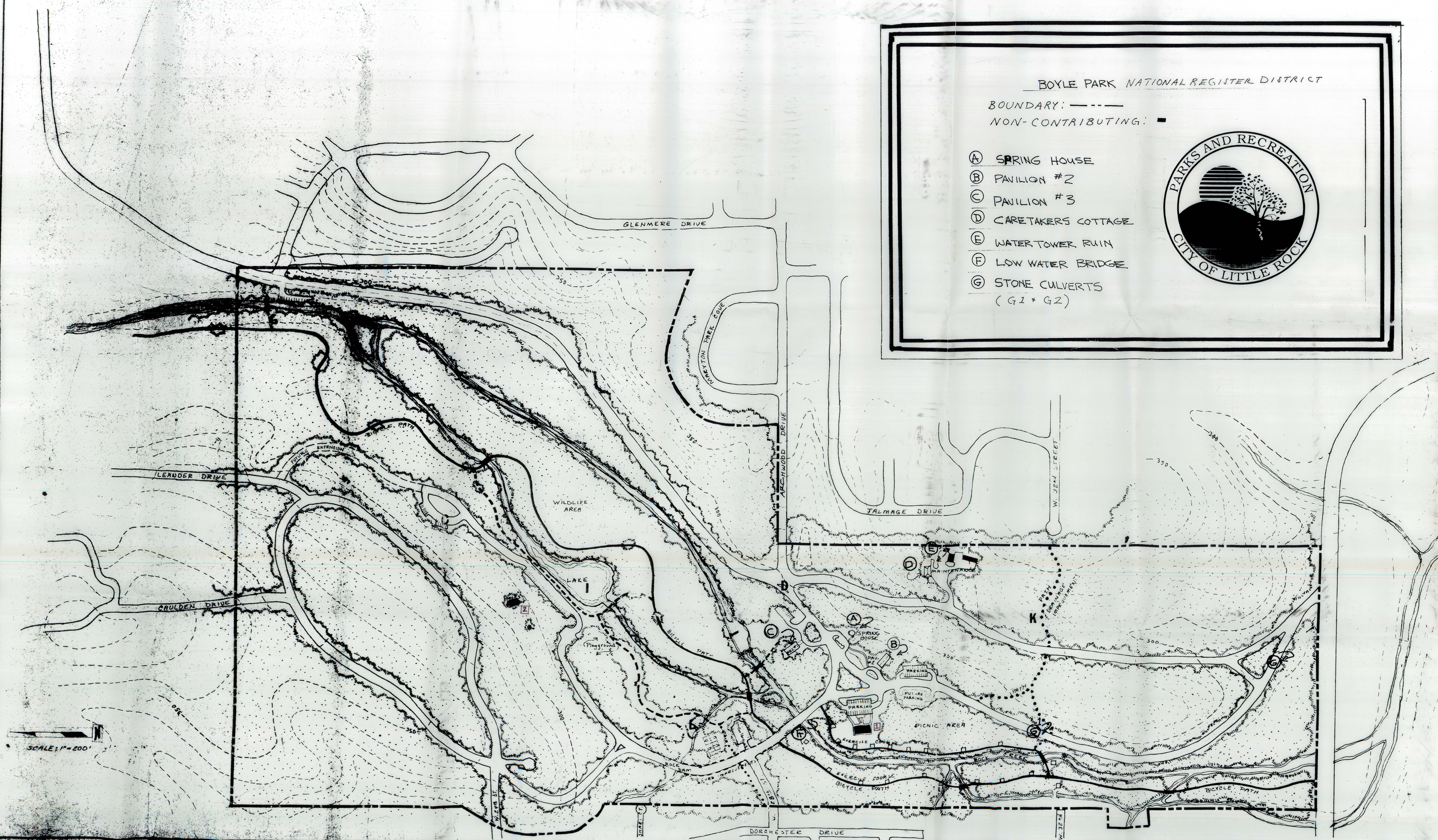
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.  
N3437.5-W9215.75

1961  
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1975  
AMS 1553 III NE-SERIES V884



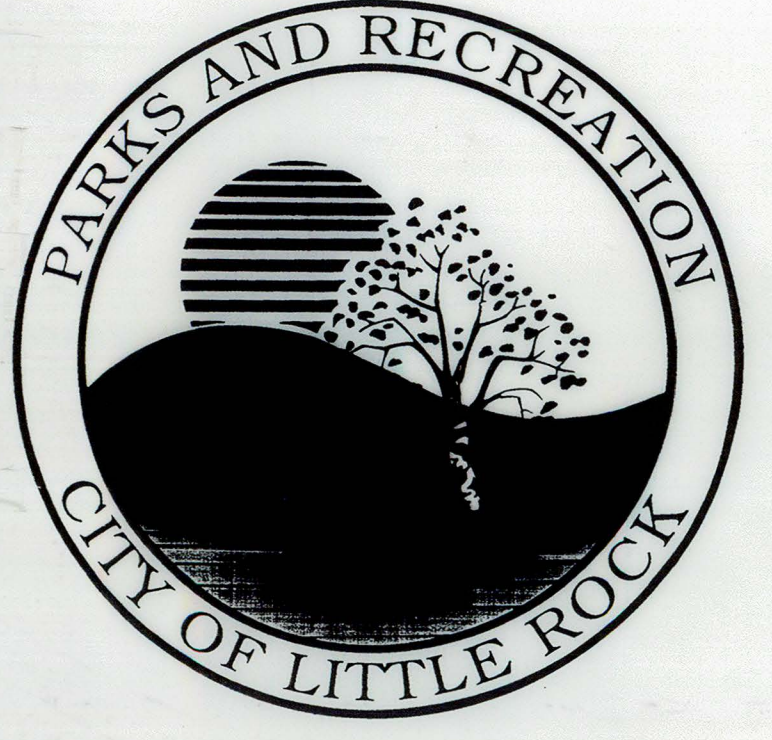


BOYLE PARK NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT

BOUNDARY: - - - -

NON-CONTRIBUTING: ■

- (A) SPRING HOUSE
- (B) PAVILION #2
- (C) PAVILION #3
- (D) CARETAKERS COTTAGE
- (E) WATERTOWER RUIN
- (F) LOW WATER BRIDGE
- (G) STONE CULVERTS  
(G1 \* G2)



# BOYLE PARK - MASTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

APPROVALS	
DIRECTOR:	
CITY MANAGER:	

JULY 1978