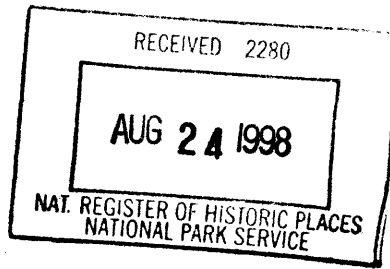


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1205

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" on the appropriate line or by entering the information requested. If an 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. 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 WILDWOOD PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
other names/site number Sherman Park; Wildwood Park Golf Course; Charles City Country Club

2. Location

street & number 1 Wildwood Road N/A not for publication
city or town Charles City N/A vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Floyd code 067 zip code 50616

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant (_ nationally _ statewide, X local). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Patricia D. Sullivan DSHAW 8-12-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA
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 the 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)

Alison H. Beall 9-25-98
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Wildwood Park Historic District
Name of Property

Floyd County, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many lines as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one line)

- buildings(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	7	buildings
1	0	sites
9	5	structures
1	0	objects
14	12	Total

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

The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

LANDSCAPE: park

SOCIAL: clubhouse

DEFENSE: military facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

LANDSCAPE: park

SOCIAL: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Tudor Revival

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Craftsman

OTHER:rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD

STONE

roof ASPHALT

other GLASS

TERRA COTTA

Narrative Description

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

Wildwood Park Historic District
Name of Property

Floyd County, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" on one or more lines 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.
individual distinction.
information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" on all the lines 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 grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

Period of Significance

1912-1948

Significant Dates

(See Continuation Sheet)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

(See Continuation Sheet)

Narrative Statement of Significance - (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliography 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):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository

Wildwood Park Historic District
Name of Property

Floyd County, Iowa
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 72.5 acres +/-

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

1 | 15 | 5 2 5 400 | 4 7 6 7 7 8 0 |

Zone Easting Northing

2 | 15 | 5 2 5 4 0 0 | 4 7 6 7 4 0 0 |

Zone Easting Northing

3 | 15 | 5 2 4 4 0 0 | 4 7 6 7 4 6 0 |

Zone Easting Northing

4 | 15 | 5 2 4 4 0 0 | 4 7 6 7 7 2 0 |

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 William C. Page, Public Historian; Joanne R. Walroth, Project Associate
organization Charles City Historic Preservation Commission date December 31, 1997
street & number 520 East Sheridan Avenue (Page) telephone 515-243-5740 (Page)
city or town Des Moines state Iowa zip code 50313

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Charles City, Iowa
street & number City Hall, Milwaukee Mall telephone 515-228-1149
city or town Charles City state IA zip code 50616

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Wildwood Park is a large, 74.5 acre, multi-purpose municipal park acquired by the City of Charles City in 1912. It was the second public park established in that community. (The town square, now known as Central Park, was the first. It had been laid out more than a half century earlier in 1854.) Wildwood Park remained the city's largest park until recently. Originally it served as a Victorian pleasure grounds, and several improvements were made for that purpose. Then, in 1916, a large portion of the park was redesigned as a nine-hole golf course. Over the next thirty years, many improvements were constructed to increase the park's beauty and utility both as a pleasure grounds and as a golf course. Today, Wildwood Park continues to serve this dual purpose.

Wildwood Park is located in the southwest quadrant of Charles City. The property is divided into several smaller land use areas--the Clubhouse grounds, East Park, and West Park. Portions of each of these areas are given over to the park's function as a pleasure grounds and the park's function as a golf course. Each of these subdivisions possesses a series of resources, which are further described below.

Wildwood Park Historic District is abutted on the east by the Floyd County maintenance grounds, on the north by the Sherman Nurseries (a commercial nursery operation), on the west by farmland owned by that nursery, and on the south by municipally-leased athletic fields. Iowa Highway 14 runs directly south of the athletic fields. The park is accessed by its main entrance at 3rd Street. This street becomes the Entrance Drive of the park.

The detailed description of the Wildwood Park Historic District is divided into the following sections:

- Land Use
- Rest House No. 1
- Rest House No. 2
- Golf Links
- Clubhouse
- Stone Footbridges
- Fireplace Grill
- Concrete Bridges
- Fords
- Picnic Areas
- Playground Apparatus
- Vistas
- Buffalo Compound
- Park Service Facilities
- Other Resources
- Resource Count

The section on land use describes the multi-purpose functions of the park. Most of the other sections describe in detail the park's resources and their historical evolution. The final section lists the park's resources according to National Register criteria.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

LAND USE

Wildwood Park is divided into the following land use areas:

Clubhouse Grounds
East Park
West Park

Each of these is described below.

Clubhouse Grounds

The Clubhouse Grounds are bounded on the north by Sherman Creek, on the south by Hole #2 and the Entrance Drive, and on the west by Clubhouse Drive. The eastern boundary is less well defined. Hole #1 is situated in this area, which blends into that of East Park. The function of the Clubhouse grounds is to provide park patrons with a social center for indoor and outdoor activities and to provide a maintenance area for park employees.

The Clubhouse Grounds feature the Clubhouse; a shed for golf carts; a practice putting green; the Lawn; Clubhouse Drive; and a maintenance area to the north west of the Clubhouse, including a residence for the park superintendent.

East Park

East Park is bounded on the east by the Floyd County maintenance facility, on the south by the southern boundary of the park, and on the north by Sherman Nurseries, a commercial operation. East Park shares its western boundary with the Clubhouse Grounds, as described above. The purpose of East Park originally was to provide a natural environment for the enjoyment of park patrons. Following World War II, Hole #9 of the golf course was relocated to East Park.

East Park possesses a number of resources. They include the main entrance gate, Sherman Creek and the bluffs on the north and west side of it, landscape amenities built by the W.P.A. program in the 1930s, Hole #8, and Hole #9.

West Park

West Park is bounded on the east by Clubhouse Drive and on the south, west, and north by the boundaries of the historic district. West Park is the largest of the land use subdivisions in the Wildwood Park Historic District. Its original purpose was to provide pleasure grounds for park patrons. In 1916 a portion of West Park was converted into a nine-hole golf course. Today, West Park continues to serve the dual purpose of pleasure grounds and golf course.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

West Park possesses a number of resources. They include Loop Drive, Hole #3, Hole #4, Hole #5, Hole #6, Hole #7, Rest House No. 1, Rest House No. 2, Picnic Area #3, Picnic Area #4, Picnic Area #5, a wildflower bank, Sherman Creek, and an over-story tree canopy. Each of the picnic areas features a variety of playground apparatus and a picnic shelter (or pavilion).

REST HOUSE NO. 1

Rest House No. 1 was the first permanent improvement at Wildwood Park. It was constructed as a picnic shelter house and has served several other purposes over the years.

Rest House No. 1 is a rectangularly shaped pavilion-type building of native limestone construction. Eight columns support a hip roof covered with red-colored tile. The building possesses two facades, one facing north and one facing south. Each of these facades features three bays. The central bays contain entrances to the building, and the flanking bays feature bulwarks about four feet high. The east and west elevation each possesses one bay with similar bulwarks. Although the bays are now covered with wood, their original openings remain intact. The entrances, which originally were open, have now been infilled with wooden doors, but these alterations are also reversible. These changes were implemented when the building was converted from a rest house to restrooms. The north door to the building now provides access to the women's restroom, and the south door provides access to the men's restroom.

Rest House No. 1 was originally constructed in 1914. Earlier that year, W. E. Fryer had prepared the "Sherman Park Plan," a now-lost document, which served as a master plan for at least a portion of the park. Among other recommendations, Fryer's plan indicated the site for this building. Fryer might also have prepared the architectural plans for this rest house.

Most of Rest House No. 1 was constructed by J. H. Mark, masonry contractor, at a cost of \$203.07. (Park Board Minutes:October 3, 1914) By October most of the building except the roof had been finished. The roof was constructed by Des Moines Clay Company. It consisted of a red tile roof, whose cost totaled \$198.85. (*Ibid.*) An historic photograph of the building pictures its appearance a few years after completion. (See Continuation Sheet 7-29.)

Some changes have been made to Rest House No. 1 over the years. In 1917 a concrete floor was installed in Rest House No. 1, along with other maintenance work on the building. (*Ibid.*:January 29, 1917) In 1924 the park board authorized the conversion of Rest House No. 1 into a combination building. The board decided to enclose the pavilion, to equip it with lockers for clothing and equipment, and to use one end as a caddie station. (*Ibid.*:July 22, 1924) The building was later converted into restrooms, a use which remains to the present day. Although these changes have altered the appearance of Rest House No. 1, they are reversible, and the integrity of the building remains intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

REST HOUSE NO. 2

As Rest House No. 1 neared completion, the Park Board authorized the construction of a second rest house. According to Park Board minutes, the board approved:

the second rest house in Sherman Park be put in as soon as the road grading is completed and the stone necessary for its construction be quarried and hauled to the grounds.
(*Ibid.*:October 3m 1914)

Rest House No. 2 is similar in design and construction to Rest House No. 1. Each building parallels the other. They are oriented in the same direction and stand about forty feet apart. The primary difference between the two buildings is that the original tile roof of Rest House No. 2 has been replaced with asphalt shingles.

Rest House No. 2 was constructed in 1915. The stone masonry for Rest House No. 2 was undertaken by Henry Craig, who was paid \$125.00 for this job. Because this work also included cutting stone, it can be assumed that it was a native material to Charles City. (*Ibid.*:June 16, 1915) Edward A. Woodworth is also credited with "building rest house No. 2" at a cost of \$44.62. (*Ibid.*:July 3, 1916) Perhaps this was for carpentry. The Ludowici-Celundore Company supplied the tile for the building's roof at a cost of \$112.50 delivered to Charles City. (*Ibid.*:March 18, 1915)

In addition to the replacement roof described above, a concrete floor was installed in Rest House No. 2 in 1917 along with other maintenance work. (*Ibid.*:January 29, 1917) Otherwise, the integrity of the original building remains fine.

GOLF LINKS

Wildwood Park Historic District features a nine-hole golf course plus one practice green. Although the layouts of the various holes have varied somewhat, the course retains its basic configuration as originally laid out. Each of the nine holes possesses a number of elements. They include a tee-box, fairway, putting green, various hazards, and the rough. Some of the holes possess other elements as well, such as Sherman Creek, the bluffs above the creek, and other natural features.

The course begins and ends at the Clubhouse. The tee-box for Hole #1 is located near the southeast corner of the Clubhouse, and the Green #9 is located slightly east of the Clubhouse. Each of the tee-boxes for the next hole in numerical sequence is located near the putting green for the previous hole, except for Hole #8, which requires golfers to walk across the Clubhouse lawn.

Configuration of Holes

Although the present configuration of the golf links remains substantially as was laid out for the original course, some changes have been made. Hole #1 has always been situated at its present site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Hole #2 originally was a short hole to Hole #3. Hole #3, located on the hill at its present location, originally featured a short fairway to Green #3, which stood just north of Entrance Drive. Hole #4 was originally the long hole, which today is played as Hole #3. Hole #5 was the same as it is now. Hole #6, sometimes called the "Creek Hole," was the same as it is now. Hole #7 was the same as it is now. Hole #8 played to the Green #7. In the 1960s, East Park was redeveloped from a natural environment by the construction of Hole #8 and Hole #9 in that area.

Tee-Boxes

Each of the nine holes possesses a separate women's tee-box and men's tee-box. The tee-box is the area where golfers stand to address the ball and tee off. Although the distances between the women's and the men's tee-boxes varies from hole to hole, the men's tee-boxes are in all cases situated farther from the putting greens than the women's. This design provides a handicap for women players.

Fairways

The fairways are corridors of mown grass, which provide golfers the shortest distance between the tee-boxes and the greens. The length of the fairways at Wildwood Park varies. For example, the fairway for Hole #5 is about 400 feet in length. The fairway for Hole #7 is about 900 feet in length. The fairway for Hole #3 is about 1,400 feet in length.

The Rough

The rough are those areas adjacent to the fairways of unmown land, which golfers try to avoid. Because of limited space in Wildwood Park, the amount of rough on the course is restricted. A forested area on the north side of Hole #7 provides some rough to the course. The rough in this area was more pronounced before rows of evergreens were planted along the north boundary of the course in the 1990s.

Hazards

The golf links at Wildwood possess a variety of hazards to provide challenges for golfers to avoid. Some of the hazards, like Sherman Creek, are natural topographical features of the environment. Other hazards, such as the sand traps, are man-made features.

The table on the following page lists the hazards on the golf course at Wildwood Park:

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

HAZARDS AT WILDWOOD PARK

<u>Location</u>	<u>Hazard</u>
Hole #1	3 sand traps
Hole #2	4 sand traps
Hole #3	3 sand traps
Hole #4	1 large & long sand trap
Hole #5	2 sand traps & Sherman Creek
Hole #6	2 deep sand traps & Sherman Creek
Hole #7	Sherman Creek
Hole #9	Bluffs, valley, & Sherman Creek

The Greens

The putting greens are either circular or oval in shape with the hole cup located at locations changing frequently during the season. The diameters of the greens vary. For example, Green #4 presently measures approximately 90 feet in diameter. Green #5 measures approximately 75 feet in diameter. It is not possible to describe the historical appearance of any of the greens. They probably varied in size over the years. The species of grass comprising their turf has also undoubtedly varied over time.

Practice Green

A practice putting green is located directly to the south of the Clubhouse, although provisions for this practice green were not included in Mortimer Cleveland's site plan for the Clubhouse. This practice green has been situated in this location for many years. The present practice green is slightly smaller in size than other greens on the links.

CLUBHOUSE

Designed by Cleveland & Cleveland, architects of Waterloo, Iowa, and completed in 1928, the Clubhouse is a wood frame building constructed to provide a service and social area for golfers and other park patrons. It features a native limestone foundation with milled wood siding. The steeply pitched, side-gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The building measures 170' x 48'. Ralph Wright and Clair Wright of Charles City, Iowa, were the contractors and builders of the clubhouse.

The social hall forms the largest interior space. It measures 30' x 50'. The outside walls of the building also form its interior walls with 2' x 4' studs exposed. The vaulted ceiling is also supported by exposed studs and trussed with built-up wooden beams with metal clamps. The north and the south walls of the social hall feature a series of multi-paned windows. The floor of the social hall is of oak parquet. The rustic feeling of the social hall is reinforced by a large fireplace, which dominates the space. It is constructed of native stone and is situated on the west wall. The east end of the social hall features a series of six French doors, each door possessing 14 panes. These doors separate the social hall from the pro-shop, serving area, pantry, and entrance to the kitchen. The south side of the social

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

hall possesses a French door, which leads to a patio and barbecue area on the south elevation of the building.

The remaining interior of the clubhouse features plywood and plaster walls erected to conceal plumbing and wiring. These spaces include a kitchen, restrooms, and a pro-shop. The kitchen remains much as it was originally constructed, with the exception of the installation of vinyl floor and newer stove and refrigerator.

A partial basement is situated under the kitchen. It features storage areas, a restroom, and laundry facilities. The basement is accessed by a door on the north elevation situated at grade. This door also gives access to the kitchen. The clubhouse has always been furnished with electricity and city water.

The west side of the building was originally the pro-shop. In 1957, a new wing was constructed on the east end of the building and this area is now used for that purpose. Since then, the original pro-shop has provided a storage area. The original pro-shop and the main building are separated by a breezeway with unenclosed bays. These bays provided pedestrian access to the men's restrooms and showers.

The north side of the building features the main entrance. Vehicular parking remains at the rear of the building, as planned by architects Cleveland & Cleveland in 1927. In 1988, a deck was added on the east side of the clubhouse.

Over the years, the clubhouse became a social center for Charles City and the surrounding countryside. The functions held there included superb dinners and dancing for at least 20 years. Mrs. Willis Buckler and Bernice Laun prepared excellent food, and high school students would serve and could earn a little money and learn responsibility. Senior classes had their banquets and dancing there. Men and ladies organizations held lunches, potlucks, dinners, and other functions in the hall. Many wedding receptions, class reunions, business meetings, birthday and anniversary parties were and are held in the hall.

STONE FOOTBRIDGES

Wildwood Park Historic District possesses two stone footbridges. They are located in West Park to the west of Clubhouse Drive. Each of these bridges provides pedestrian access from one side of Sherman Creek to the other. In 1931, the Park Board adopted a tentative program for annual improvements, including a new bridge at Wildwood Park. (Park Board Minutes: April 10, 1931) Two bridges were subsequently constructed with labor provided by federal work programs under the New Deal.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

North Footbridge and Wall

The North Footbridge and wall is situated between Tee-box #7 and Green #7. Sherman Creek bisects the fairway between this tee-box and green, and the bridge provides pedestrian access between these two points.

Constructed circa 1932 by Howard Smith, Richard Chambers, and workers from the WPA and CCC programs, the North Footbridge is of poured concrete construction faced and embellished with native limestone. The bridge's single-arch design supports a flat deck. It is accessed by an inclined approach from the west. The east access is slightly offset to the southeast and inclines upward in conformance with the hill upon which it is built. Both of these approaches and the deck are flanked on each side by bulwarks. The bulwarks flanking the western approach flare outward from the deck. A low stone wall extends about 50' from the eastern approach as a decorative landscape feature. The uncut stones used in the bridge are of several contrasting colors and are laid randomly upon its surface. This design lends a picturesque appearance to it. In this regard, the North Footbridge is similar to the South Footbridge and the fireplace grill, also built about the same time.

South Footbridge

The South Footbridge is situated between Green #5 and Tee-box #6. The bridge provides pedestrian access between these two points.

Constructed circa 1932 by Howard Smith, Richard Chambers, and workers from the WPA and CCC programs, the South Footbridge is of poured concrete construction faced and embellished with native limestone. The bridge's double-arch design supports a flat deck. It is accessed by a level approach from the east and an inclined approach from the west. Both of these approaches and the deck are flanked on both sides by bulwarks. The bulwarks flanking the approaches are capped with slabs of stone laid level. The bulwarks flanking the deck are capped with stones laid on a bevel and of undulating configuration. The stones used in the bridge are of several contrasting colors and are laid randomly upon its surface. This design lends a picturesque appearance to it. In this regard, the South Footbridge is similar to the North Footbridge and the fireplace grill, also built about the same time.

FIREPLACE GRILL

The fireplace grill is located in Picnic Area #1. It provides an outdoor cooking facility for park patrons.

Constructed circa 1931 by Howard Smith, the fireplace grill is of masonry construction and rests on a stone platform. The fireplace measures approximately 3' x 10' in plan view and stands approximately 15' in height. A firebox area is located at the base and in the center of the fireplace and is flanked on each side by small grills. A mantle, constructed of stone slabs, is situated above the firebox. A massive chimney, stepped in configuration, is situated at the rear of the fireplace.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

The fireplace grill is sited in such a way as to afford a fine view to the west when cooking at it.

The stones used in the fireplace grill are of several contrasting colors and are laid randomly upon its surface. This design lends a picturesque appearance to it. In this regard, the fireplace grill is similar to the North Footbridge and the South Footbridge, also built about the same time. While Smith was assisted in these other projects by workers from the WPA and CCC programs, the fireplace grill was built by Smith alone.

CONCRETE BRIDGES

When gasoline-powered golf carts made their appearance at Wildwood Park, their width prohibited them from crossing the stone footbridges. The inclines of the bridges were also steeper than golf carts could negotiate.

Because of this, a series of single-span, concrete bridges were built in the 1960s and 1970s to accommodate these needs. One of these bridges is located directly north of the North Footbridge. One is located between the #4 and #5 greens. One is located a little northeast of the #8 green. The fourth is located near the #9 green.

These bridges are constructed of reinforced concrete. Although these concrete bridges postdate by many years the period of significance for the Wildwood Park Historic District, they are not visually intrusive, because their decks are near grade and their side bulwarks are low.

FORDS

Loop Drive in Wildwood Park crosses Sherman Creek at two locations. Both of these crossings feature permanent fords formed by slabs of concrete, which also serve as vehicular drives across the creek. The purpose of these fords is to provide a hard surfaced crossing for vehicular traffic, while at the same time affording motorists the pleasant experience of driving through shallow water. The East Ford is located about midway between Green #4 and Green #5. The West Ford is located in the far southwest corner of Wildwood Park. At earlier times, these crossings were gravel-based. (See Continuation Sheet 7-32.) The concrete slabs, which are thought to date from the 1930s, provide an amenity to the park.

During much of year, vehicles have little trouble fording Sherman Creek at these locations. During the Spring and after heavy rains, these fords can become impassable. When the creek is flowing, these fords are popular places to wash cars during clement weather.

Vehicular fords such as these were popular features of public parks during the 1930s. Other examples can be found at Ledges State Park near Boone and Backbone State Park near Strawberry Point, Iowa.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7

Page 10

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

PICNIC AREAS

Wildwood Park Historic District possesses four picnic areas. Located within West Park, each of these areas features a pavilion, playground equipment, and facilities for outdoor cooking.

Picnic Area #1

Picnic Area #1 is located in West Park and situated along the ridge west of Clubhouse Drive near the place where that drive intersects the Entrance Drive. Picnic Area #1 features a number of improvements. They include the following:

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Rest House No. 1	1914	Stone pavilion, now converted to restrooms
Rest House No. 2	1915	Stone pavilion
Fireplace Grill	c. 1931	Free-standing, built by Harry Smith
Playground Apparatus	c. 1948	Steel construction
Picnic table	c. 1931	Poured concrete, probably built by Harry Smith

Picnic Area #1 was the first area in Wildwood Park to be improved. It continues today to serve its original function as a picnic area.

Picnic Area #2

Picnic Area #2 is located in the north-central portion of West Park along the south side of Loop Drive. Picnic Area #2 features a number of improvements. They include the following:

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Shelter	modern	Pole columns & metal roof
Playground Apparatus	c. 1948	Steel construction

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

The Salsbury family of Charles City donated the playground apparatus to the park. A metal plaque in the shelter calls attention to this fact.

Picnic Area #3

Picnic Area #3 is located near the northwest corner of West Park along the north side of Loop Drive. Picnic Area #3 features a number of improvements. They include the following:

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Shelter	modern	Pole columns & metal roof
Restrooms	modern	Concrete block, asphalt roof
Playground Apparatus	c. 1948	Steel construction

Picnic Area #4

Picnic Area #4 is located near the southwest corner of the park. Picnic Area #4 features a number of improvements. They include the following:

<u>Name of Resource</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Shelter	modern	Pole columns & metal roof
Playground Apparatus	c. 1949	Steel construction

Loop Drive now terminates in Picnic Area #4. Although Loop Drive originally continued to the east to rejoin the Entrance Drive near the East Ford, this segment of Loop Drive was vacated a few years ago to control traffic and to improve the safety for golfers playing Hole #3 and Hole #4. A small turn-around was constructed in Picnic Area #4 to enable vehicles to retrace their course.

PLAYGROUND APPARATUS

Wildwood Park possess a variety of playground apparatus located in each of the four picnic areas. This apparatus provides recreational facilities for children visiting the park and possesses historic value for reasons discussed in Section 8 of this nomination. The following page lists the variety of this apparatus.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7

Page 12

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

PLAYGROUND APPARATUS AT WILDWOOD PARK

Whirl-Around
Merry-Go-Round
Pump
Spring Rider
Seesaws
Elephant Slide
Flying Gym
Slide and Climber
Wheelbarrow
Swinging Gate
Bench Swing
Slide
Swing

Most of this equipment is constructed of steel tubing bent in various shapes to support platforms or seats for children to ride upon. The standard items of playground equipment are present. Some of them feature more fanciful designs than ordinarily encountered on Iowa playgrounds. For example, the "swinging gate" invites children to play on an otherwise forbidden object. The "wheelbarrow" (an apparatus for climbing) is shaped in the form of a cowboy wearing a ten gallon hat on his head and six-shooters at his hips. He is pushing a wheelbarrow. Children can climb on both the wheelbarrow and the cowboy.

The steel tubing is bent in forms suggesting the streamlined shapes popular on automobiles and trains during the late 1930s and 1940s. The manufacturer of this equipment has not been identified, but it appears that most of this apparatus was made by one company at one time. This apparatus replaced an earlier collection of equipment installed in Wildwood Park in 1919. (Park Board Minutes 1920)

VISTAS

Wildwood Park possesses a number of vistas, which significantly contribute to the park's beauty. A vista is a picturesque view aligned along an axis, with natural and/or man-made features embellishing it. Although Wildwood Park possesses a number of vistas, two are of particular note because they feature long axes.

One vista looks west from Picnic Area #1. This area is situated on a ridge directly west of the Clubhouse Drive. Standing along this natural spine and looking west, the viewer experiences the entire western portion of the park. This includes the valley of Sherman Creek, which stands at the foot of the viewer; the South Footbridge across the creek; the Green #5 and Green #6; Fairway #6 and Fairway #7; the stand of mature oak trees at the northwestern edge of the park; and farmland outside the boundaries of the park to the west.

Another vista is situated between the Clubhouse and the Entrance Drive. This is a double vista. Looking to the south from the social hall of the Clubhouse, the viewer experiences the practice green

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

and a wide stretch of lawn running to the Entrance Drive. One row of coniferous trees frames this vista on the west. Because the south elevation of the social hall possesses many windows and a set of French doors, this room has a very open feeling with the out-of-doors. This vista provides a dramatic focal point for the room, oftentimes noted by visitors. Because this room faces to the south, the light from the sun accentuates this vista. The second vista can be experienced from the Entrance Drive looking north to the clubhouse. There, the same sweep of lawn provides the viewer a vista to north. The Clubhouse serves as a terminus for this vista. The considerable length of the building's facade--which runs east to west and at right angles from this vista--is seen at its full extent and lends a dignified feeling to the setting. The vista, looking from the north to the south, lacks a terminus.

BUFFALO COMPOUND

Although now without tangible remnants, Wildwood Park once possessed a buffalo compound, pictured in several historic photographs. This subject is also frequently mentioned in conversation among older residents of Charles City. John P. Waller had brought a bull and two young cows from the Great Plains to Charles City. The park board agreed to house the buffalo in Wildwood Park. A pen was built for them straddling Sherman Creek. By 1923, it had become apparent that this use of the park was inappropriate. The old bull had become mean and a threat to children. According to the park board minutes:

it was the sense of the Board that the two buffaloes belonging to John Waller be removed from the park and that the secretary be instructed to write to Mr. Waller informing him of the action of the Park Board and asking him to see that they are taken out of the park no later than March 1924. (Park Board Minutes:October 9, 1923)

A shelter had been erected in the park for the buffalo and a wire-fence enclosure as a pen. This area was located in the general vicinity of the Green #6 on the golf course.

PARK SERVICE FACILITIES

A series of structures is situated at the rear of the Clubhouse grounds to provide services to Wildwood Park. These resources include a mobile home, which serves as the residence of the park's superintendent; a cart shed to house golf carts; and a maintenance shop. The shed and shop are of wood frame construction. The mobile home is clad with metal siding.

OTHER RESOURCES

Wildwood Park Historic District also features a number of other resources. They include permanent improvements and plantings, which are included within the site as one contributing resource, and native wildlife.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 14

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Plantings

An intrinsic part of the Wildwood Park Historic District is its over-story tree canopy of mature trees, some native to the area and predating the construction of the parkland and some specimen trees planted at various times during the park's development.

The trees include varieties of oak, maple, Ginseng Maple, Mock-Olive, spruce, pine, Chokeberry, and pink and white apple and plum. A mature stand of oak trees is situated in the northwest corner of the park. Prior to the outbreak of Dutch Elm Disease in the 1960s, mature American Elm trees were visually prominent in the park. Unfortunately these trees became diseased and had to be removed.

Other vegetation includes wild grasses, mushrooms, wild blackberries, elderberry, bittersweet, and sumac. An array of wildflowers includes wild roses, Sweet William, Phlox, Bayberries, and wild grapes.

Concrete Picnic Table

Picnic Area #1 features a picnic table, fixed in place and of poured concrete construction. Built by Harry Smith circa 1931, the top of this table is a single slab of smooth-finished concrete, supported by three massive columns of rough-aggregate, poured concrete.

Footbridge-Dam

Two poured concrete piers flank Sherman Creek about 550' east of the western boundary of Wildwood Park. These piers are thought to be the remains of a footbridge-dam, which once spanned the creek at that spot. An historic photograph pictures this resource. (See Continuation Sheet 7-31.)

Charles City Western Railway Tracks

A short section of railroad tracks and ties remains extant in front of the main entrance to Wildwood Park. Approximately 20' in length, these tracks served the Charles City Western Railway during the early decades of the Twentieth Century. Beginning in 1910, that road provided a freight linkage between Charles City industries and a branch line of the Rock Island railroad at Marble Rock. In the following year, the road began passenger service between those two points. Service was later extended to Colwell. (See Continuation Sheet 8-56.)

The "Charley Western," as the road was popularly known, passed by the main entrance to Wildwood Park and provided convenient transportation for residents of Charles City, as well as from other communities like Marble Rock and Colwell along its route.

At one time, a small passenger depot was situated on this site. In 1917 the Park Board authorized D. W. Walker, president of the board, to consult Clarence C. Hughes to determine the cost of building a

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 15

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

combination waiting and rest room near the street car tracks on the Wildwood Park property and to engage Hughes to prepare the drawings for such a facility. (Park Board Minutes: April 9, 1917) Hughes was employed by the Hart-Parr Company of Charles City as an architect. He completed the design for a "Golf Club Rest Room" in 1918. Although there is no indication that this design was ever implemented, a the small depot mentioned above was constructed at this site for the convenience of interurban passengers.

Wildlife

Wildlife provide another intrinsic element to Wildwood Park. The park provides natural habitat for squirrels, rabbits, and many birds, including wild geese. Monarch butterflies are in abundance during the season. Fish populate the lower creek.

RESOURCE COUNT

This section discusses the resources within the Wildwood Park Historic District according to National Register criteria and provides an inventory of them.

Wildwood Park Historic District possesses one site, one object, 10 buildings, and 14 structures for a total of 26 resources.

SITE

Wildwood Park Historic District possesses a number of natural and man-made elements, which form a designed historic landscape. These elements include those discussed above under "Other Resources." Taken as a whole, this landscape is counted as one site and is evaluated as contributing to the historic district for reasons discussed in Section 8 of this nomination.

OBJECT

Wildwood Park Historic District possesses one object--the park's playground apparatus. Although situated at four separate locations in the park, this apparatus is counted as one resource because it was constructed and installed at about the same time and appears to be the work of one manufacturer. The apparatus is evaluated as contributing to the historic district for reasons discussed in Section 8 of this nomination.

BUILDINGS

Wildwood Park possesses a total of 10 buildings. Each of these buildings is counted as one resource and evaluated as contributing or noncontributing to the historic district for the reasons discussed in Section 8 of this nomination.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 16

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

STRUCTURES

Wildwood Park Historic District possesses a total of 14 structures. Each of these structures is counted as one resource.

The vehicular drives form a circulation system within the park. The vehicular drives are counted as one structure because they provide an important element within the design of the historic district.

Wildwood Park possesses two fords--the East Ford and the West Ford. These fords facilitate transportation and provide an amenity within the park. Each ford is counted as one contributing resource.

Wildwood Park possesses four concrete bridges. These bridges facilitate transportation between the various links on the golf course. Each of these four bridges is evaluated as noncontributing because its construction postdates the period of significance for the historic district.

The golf links include the tee-boxes, fairways, and greens. The golf links are counted as one structure and evaluated as contributing resource because it provides an important element within the design of the historic district. (See Section 8.)

The following inventory lists resources within the Wildwood Historic District and classifies them as contributing or noncontributing resources to it.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTING AND NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Under "Eligibility" below, "C" indicates a contributing resource and "N" indicates a noncontributing resource to the district under the criterion listed. "Modern" indicates construction since 1950.

Resource Name	Classification	Construction Date	Eligibility	
			Criterion A	Criterion C
EAST PARK				
Entrance Gate	Structure	c. 1932	C	C
Retaining Wall	Structure	c. 1932	C	C
Concrete Bridge	Structure	modern	N	N
Concrete Bridge	Structure	modern	N	N
CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS				
Clubhouse	Building	1928	C	C
Superintendent's Trailer	Building	modern	N	N
Vehicle Shed	Building	modern	N	N
Maintenance Shed	Building	modern	N	N
Golf-cart Sheds	Structure	modern	N	N

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 17

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

<u>Resource Name</u>	<u>Classification</u>	<u>Construction Date</u>	<u>Criterion A</u>	<u>Criterion C</u>
WEST PARK				
Fireplace Grill	Structure	c. 1931	C	C
Rest House No. 1	Building	1914	C	C
Rest House No. 2	Building	1915	C	C
North Footbridge and Wall	Structure	1932	C	C
South Footbridge	Structure	1932	C	C
Picnic Area #2 Shelter	Building	modern	N	N
Picnic Area #3 Shelter	Building	modern	N	N
Picnic Area #3 Restrooms	Building	modern	N	N
Picnic Area #4 Shelter	Building	modern	N	N
East Ford	Structure	c. 1935	C	C
West Ford	Structure	c. 1935	C	C
Concrete Bridge	Structure	modern	N	N
Concrete Bridge	Structure	modern	N	N

PARK-WIDE

Site	Site	1912-c. 1948	C	C
Golf Links	Structure	1916	C	C
Vehicular Drives	Structure	1916	C	C
Playground Apparatus	Object	c. 1948	C	C

Although this resource count includes a rather large number of noncontributing resources (12 of 26), those noncontributing resources are not visually intrusive. For example, the modern concrete bridges are sited low to the ground and have no bulkheads. The sheds and the trailer in the Clubhouse Grounds are located near the northern edge of the park and partially hidden by the Clubhouse.

EXCLUDED RESOURCES

A small parcel located beyond the eastern edge of Wildwood Park was included in the tract of land conveyed by E. M. and Gertrude Sherman to the City of Charles City in 1912 for park use. In 1930, the City of Charles City leased a portion of this land to Floyd County for 99 years with the permission of the Shermans. In 1948 the City of Charles City transferred the title to this parcel and another small parcel, situated directly south of it, to Floyd County in exchange for parklands elsewhere in the city. These two parcels contain about 2.5 acres of land. The county uses this land for a maintenance facility. These two tracts of land are excluded from Wildwood Park Historic District because they have not been used for parklands for many years.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

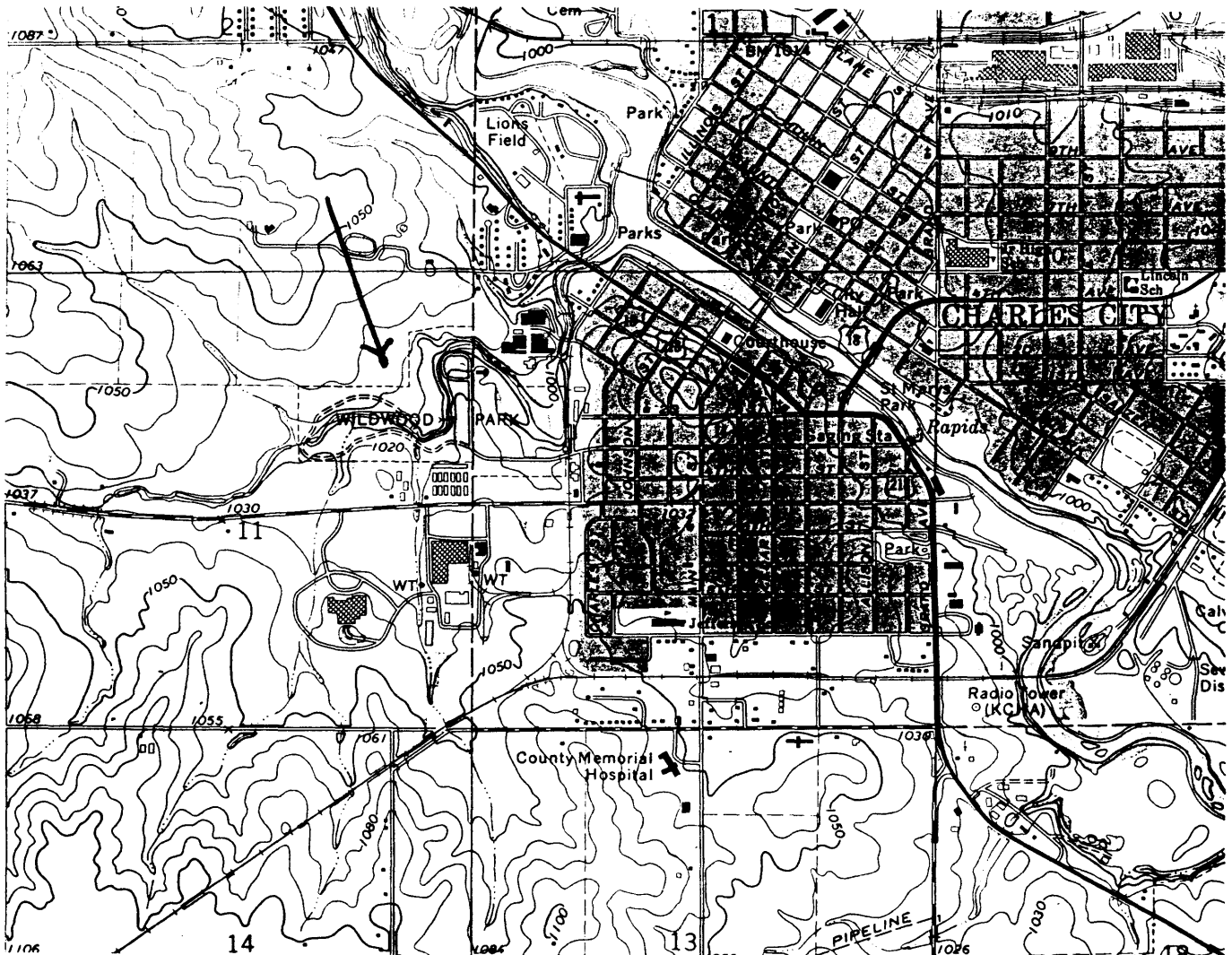
Section number 7 Page 18

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

SITE MAP

ARROW LOCATES PROPERTY



Source: U.S.G.S. Map (7.5 Minute Series), Charles City Quadrangle, 1956, Photorevised 1976.

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National Park Service

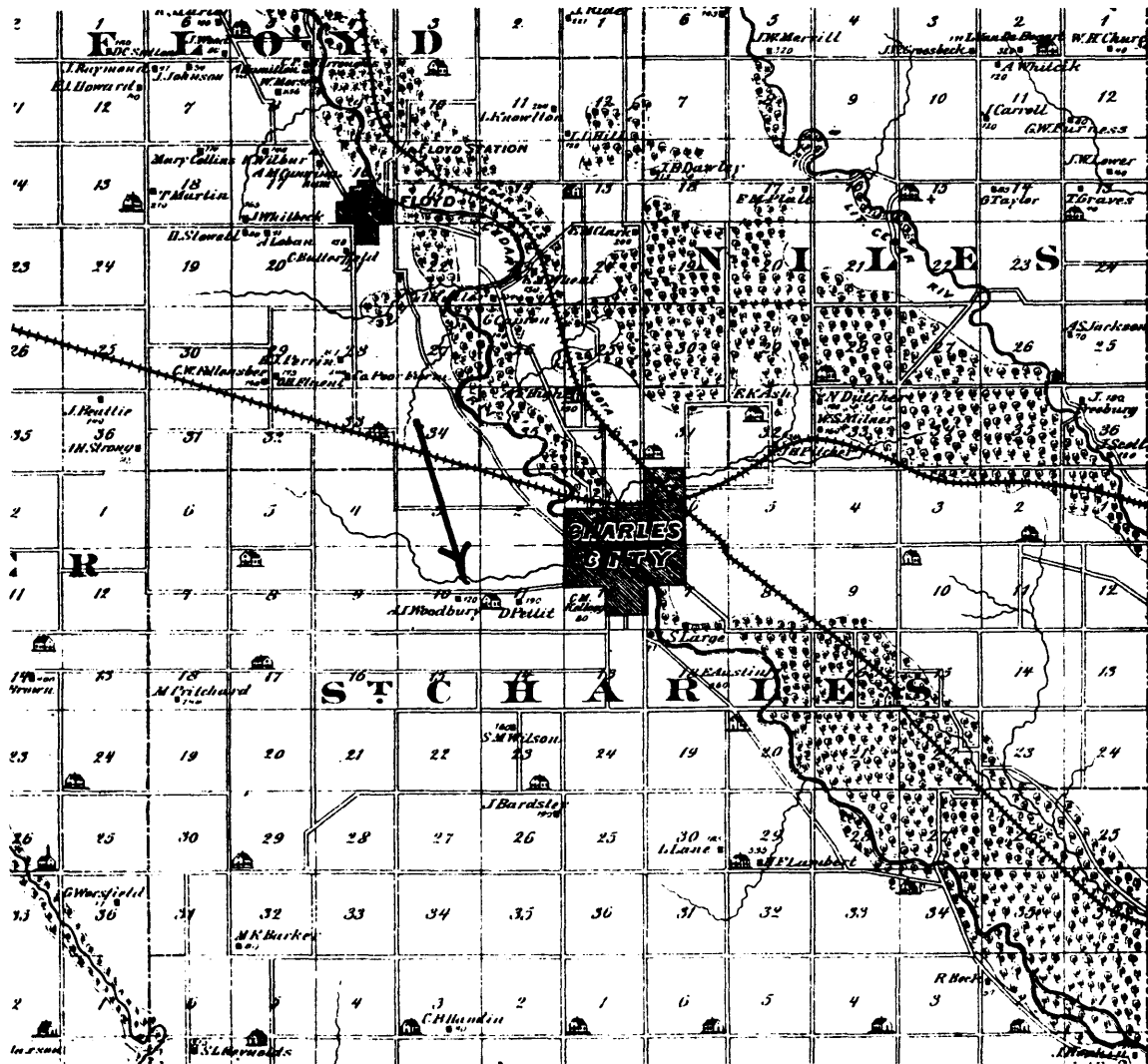
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 19

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

SITE IN 1875 ARROW LOCATES SHERMAN CREEK



This map illustrates the heavily wooded terrain along the Cedar River in the vicinity of Charles City.

Source: *Andreas Atlas of Iowa*, p. 40.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

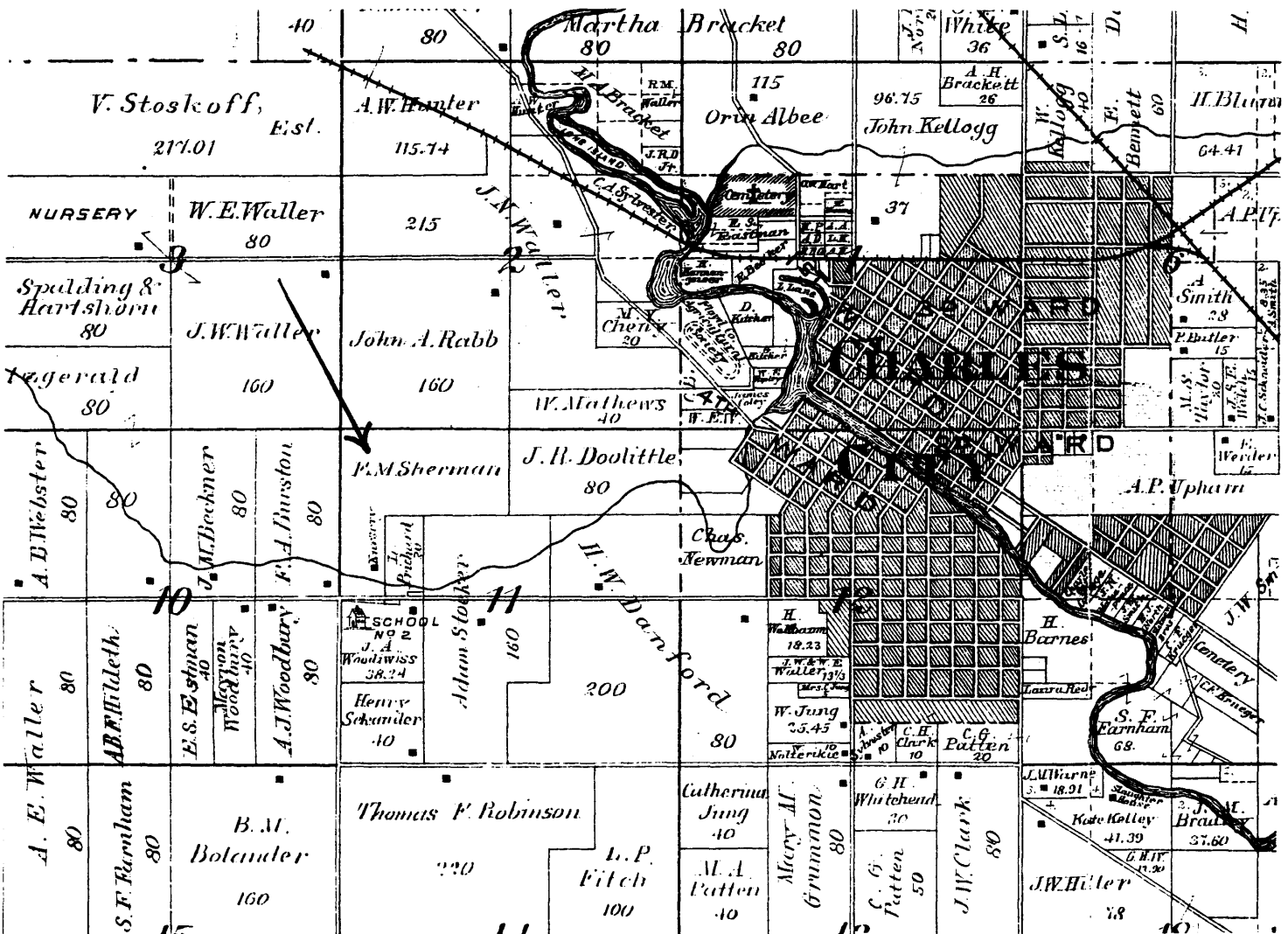
Section number 7 Page 20

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

SITE IN 1895

ARROW LOCATES SHERMAN NURSERY



This map shows E. M. Sherman's property before the nursery business expanded.

Source: Plat Book of Floyd County, Iowa.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

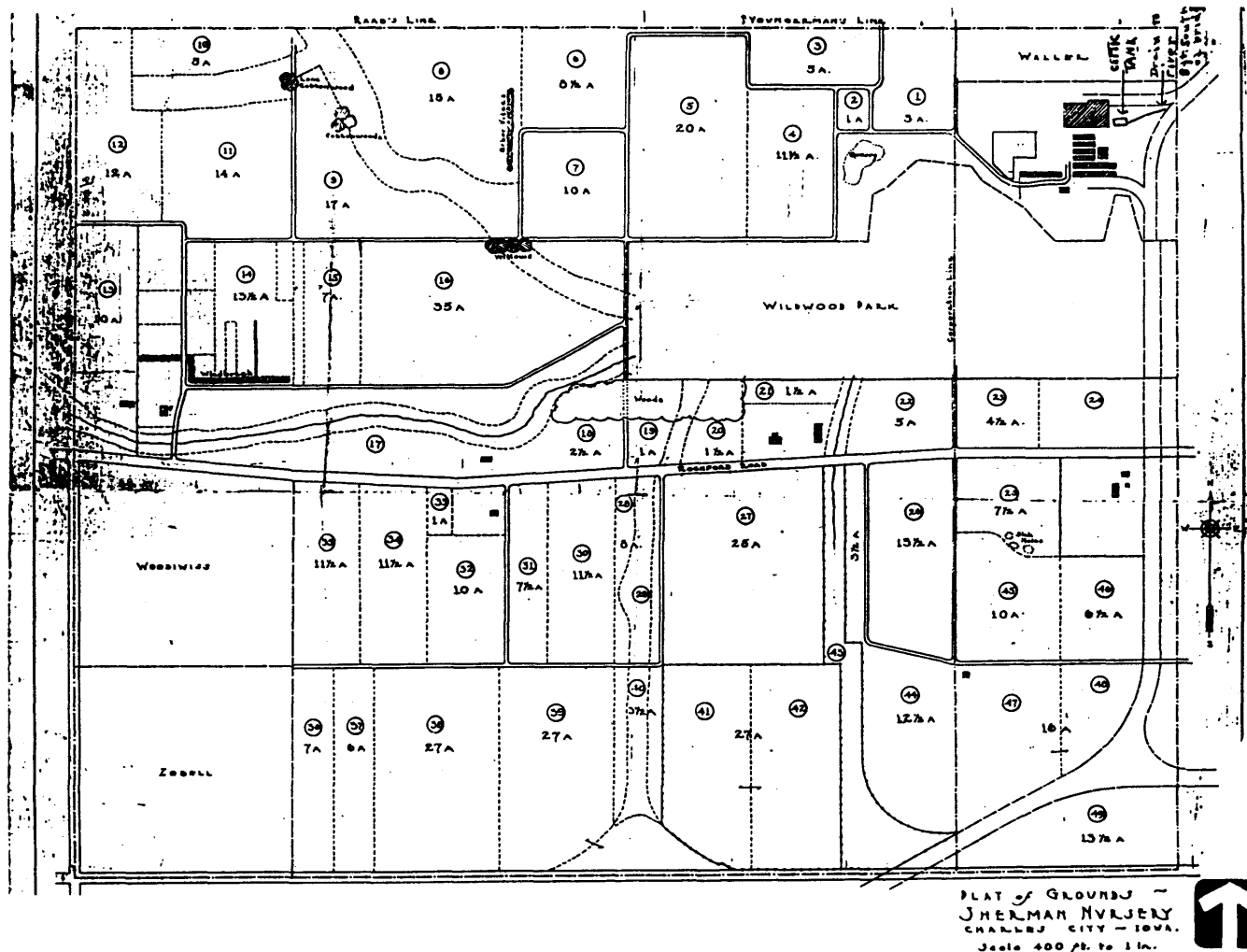
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 21

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

“PLAT OF GROUNDS-SHERMAN NURSERY”



This drawing, prepared by the Sherman Nursery circa 1913, repays careful examination. It shows the firm's property subdivided into parcels, marked by the size of their acreage, and identified with circled inventory numbers. The drawing also pictures features such as Rockford Road (now Iowa Highway 14), Sherman Creek (solid black lines), drainage draws (dashed lines in irregular configurations), fences (solid, dotted lines); plantings (a windbreak, stand of willow trees, cottonwood trees, and woods); parcel boundaries (dashed lines in regular configurations), the home grounds of the nursery in the upper right-hand corner, and the right-of-way of the Charles City Western Railway (broken lines, which fork in lower right hand corner). Wildwood Park is conspicuous because it lacks all such identifying characteristics. This suggests that the map was drawn after the park had become municipal property in 1912.

Source: City of Charles City, Iowa.

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National Park Service

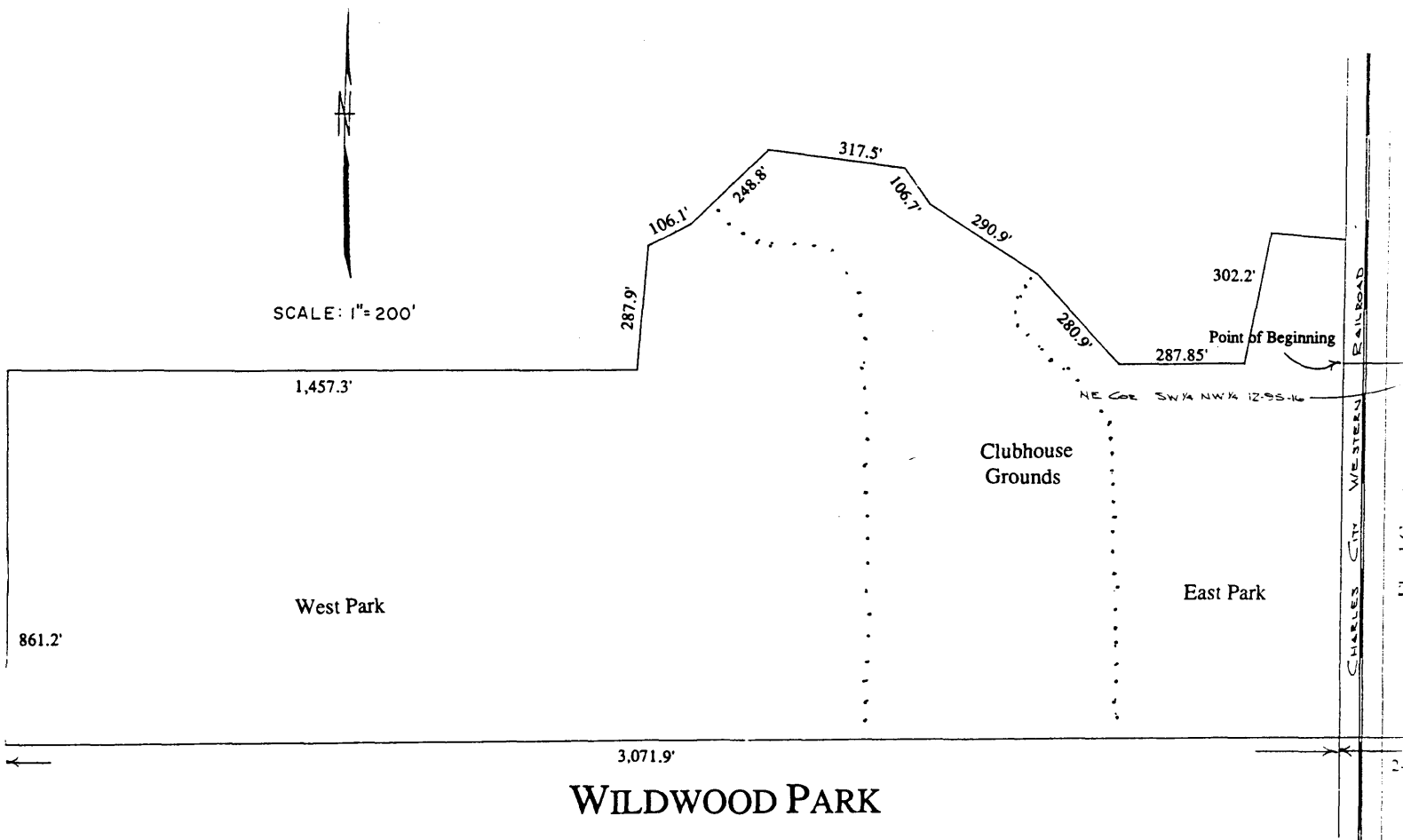
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 22

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

WILDWOOD PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



This planimetric map shows the boundaries of the Wildwood Park Historic District and locates the park's three subdivisions. The following three pages picture each of those subdivisions and identify the resources within them as contributing or noncontributing to the historic district. The names given to these areas, as well as those assigned to many of the features in the park were coined by the author of this nomination to clarify descriptions of the site. Except for the "Clubhouse" and the "Rest Houses," they are not historical names.

Source: City of Charles City.

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National Park Service

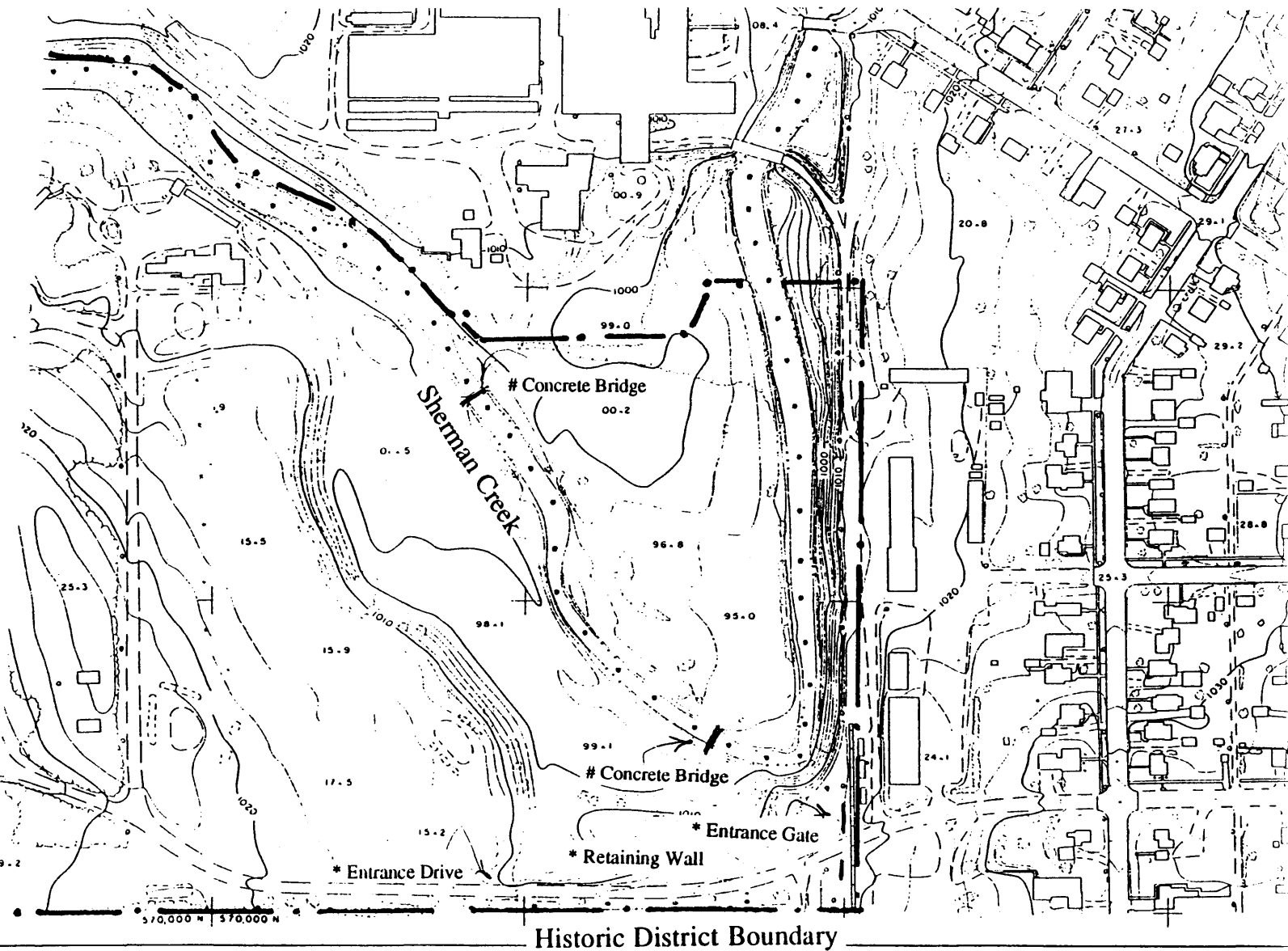
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 23

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

EAST PARK



An asterisk (*) indicates a contributing resource and a pound sign (#) indicates a noncontributing resource.

Source: City of Charles City.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

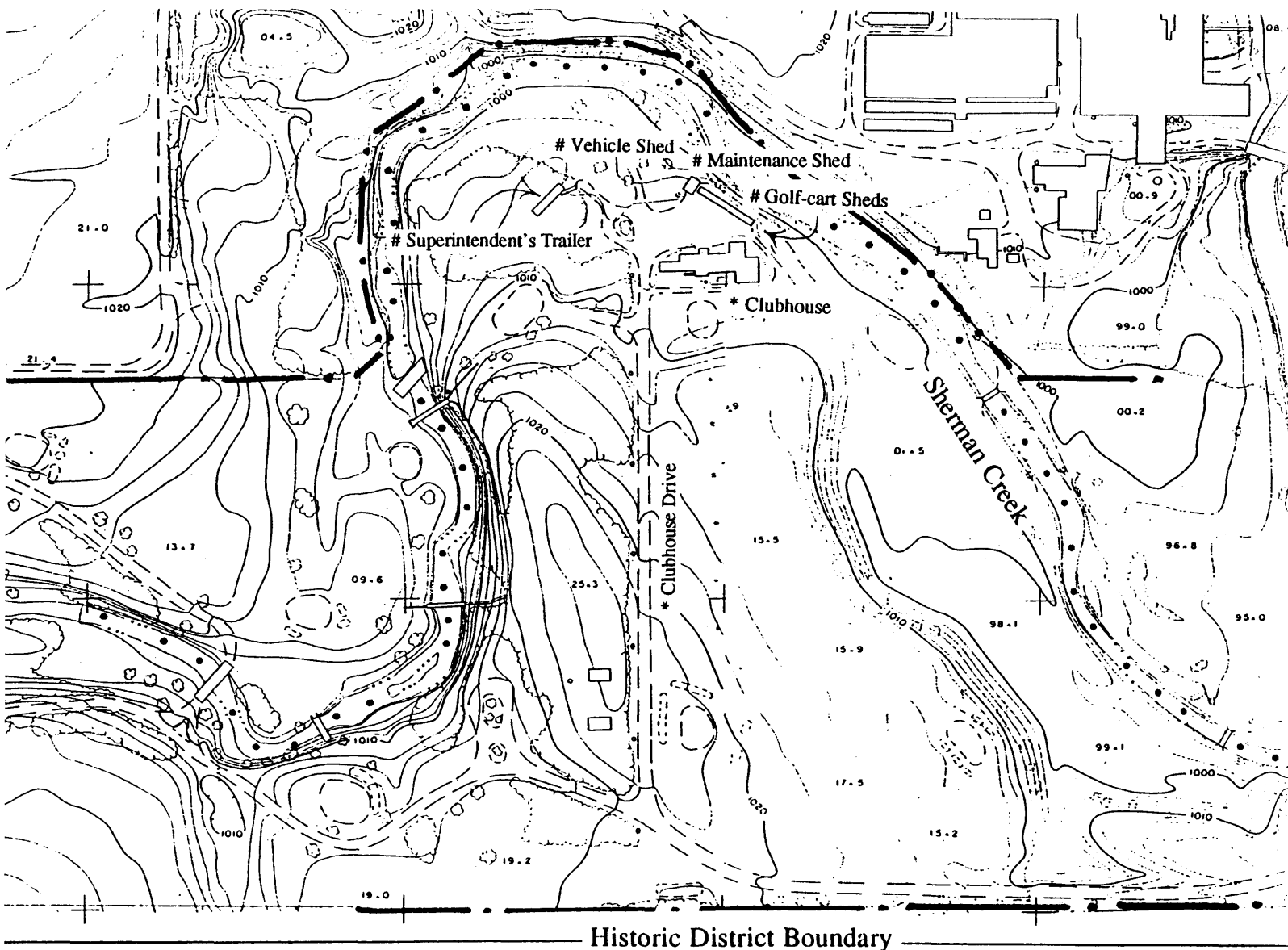
Section number 7

Page 24

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS



An asterisk (*) indicates a contributing resource and a pound sign (#) indicates a noncontributing resource.

Source: City of Charles City.



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National Park Service

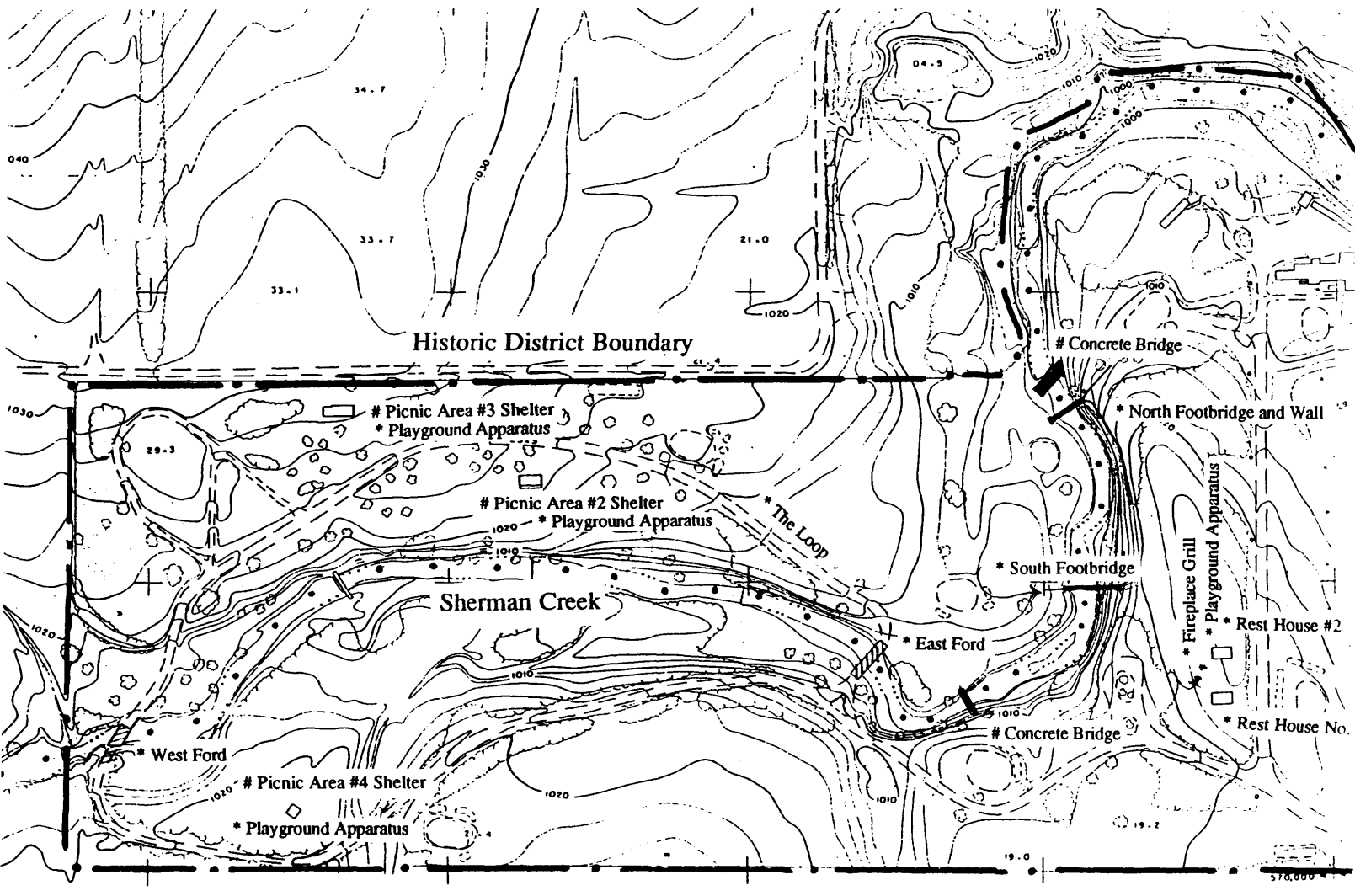
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 25

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

WEST PARK



An asterisk (*) indicates a contributing resource and a pound sign (#) indicates a noncontributing resource.

Source: City of Charles City.



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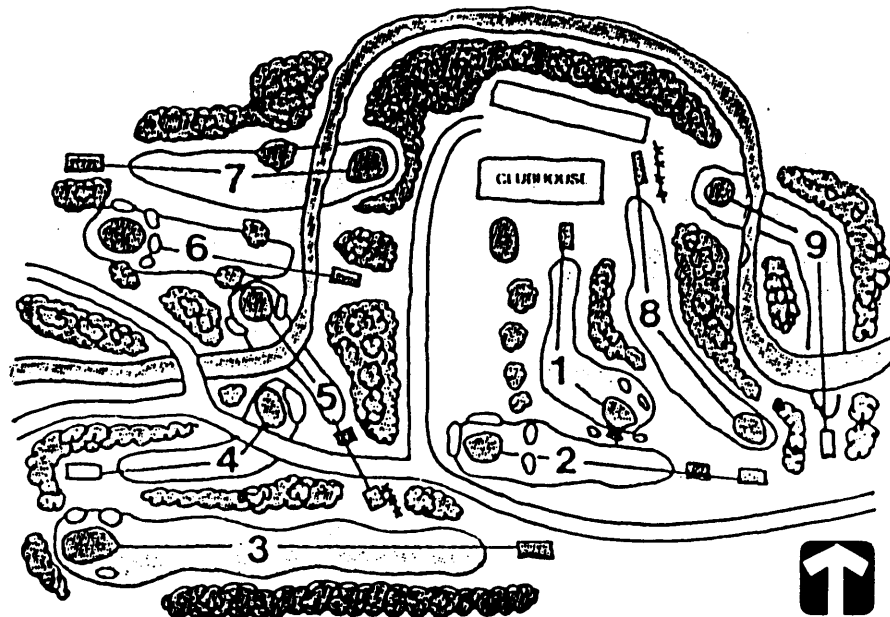
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 26

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

GOLF LINKS PLAN



This plan shows the present configuration of the golf links.

Source: *The Charles City Press*, April 29, 1993.

United States Department of the Interior
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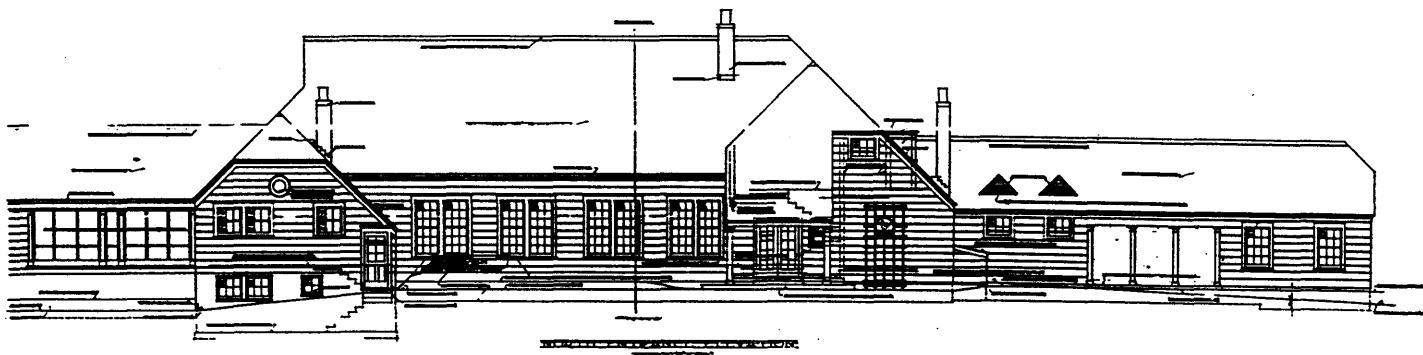
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 27

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

NORTH ELEVATION OF CLUBHOUSE 1927



Source: Mortimer B. Cleveland, AIA.

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National Park Service

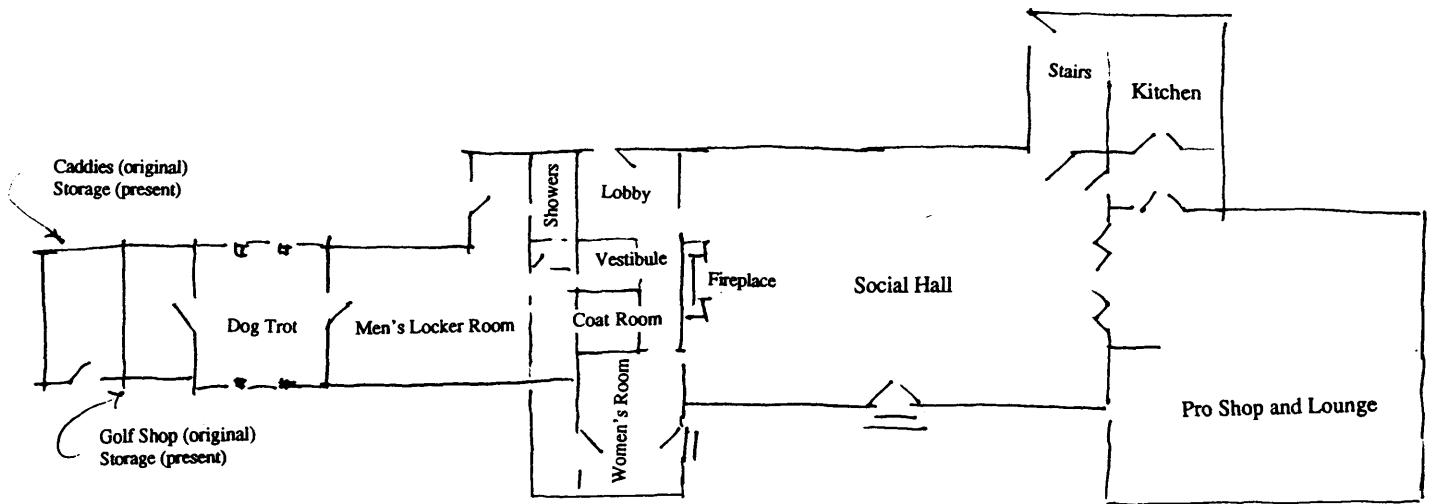
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 28

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

FLOOR PLAN OF CLUBHOUSE



Source: Field Sketch.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 29

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

**CLUBHOUSE
1927**



This postcard photograph pictures the Clubhouse and its site nearing completion in 1927.

Source: Courtesy of Bernita B. Guenther.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 30

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS Circa 1952



This photograph looks to the northeast. Compare this photograph with that on the previous Continuation Sheet and note how the trees in the background have matured. Clubhouse Drive is in the lower left-hand corner of this picture.

Source: The Salon Studio, courtesy of the Floyd County Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 31

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

FOOTBRIDGE-DAM Circa 1923



This photograph looks to the southwest and pictures the nonextant footbridge-dam located in West Park.

Source: Floyd County Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 32

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

EAST FORD



This circa 1923 photograph is thought to picture East Ford looking to the southwest. Its gravel base was later improved with a permanent concrete slab. Wildwood Park possesses two fords like this. They provide hard-surfaced crossings for vehicles, yet lend a rustic note in keeping with "Wildwood Park."

Source: Floyd County Historical Society.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 33

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

1912-1948

SIGNIFICANT DATES

1912
1927
Circa 1934
1944-1945

ARCHITECT/BUILDER

W. E. Fryer
Mortimer B. Cleveland
Howard Smith

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Acquired as a municipal park in 1912, initially used as a pleasure grounds, and shortly thereafter developed as a nine-hole municipal golf course, Wildwood Park Historic District is significant, under National Register Criterion A, because it calls attention to the Municipal Park Movement in Iowa and satisfies the registration requirements set forth in Conard's multiple property document *The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942*.

Wildwood Park Historic District is also significant, under National Register Criterion A, because of its associations with military history. The Clubhouse on the park grounds served as a prisoner of war camp during World War II for captured German soldiers.

Wildwood Park Historic District is significant, under National Register Criterion C and on the local level, within the context of landscape architecture. The park stands as a designed historic landscape, whose piecemeal improvements over a period of thirty years resulted in a harmonious composition within a picturesque environment and in a successful blending of the park's two distinct functions of passive recreation and active recreation. A series of professionally prepared plans for the park contributed to this fulfillment.

Wildwood Park Historic District is significant, under National Register Criterion C, for its architecture. The park's resources call attention to the skills of numerous firms and individuals who designed and built them. They include W. E. Fryer, a nurseryman of Charles City, who prepared an early site plan; architect Mortimer B. Cleveland, who designed the Clubhouse; and local contractor-builder Howard Smith, assisted by Richard Chambers and Works Progress Administration (WPA)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 34

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) workers, who constructed a number of landscape amenities. These resources also illustrate the influence of several architectural styles on their design.

The period of significance for Wildwood Park Historic District, under Criteria A and C, is 1912 to circa 1948, the time of its historic improvement as a municipal park. Significant dates include 1912, the year it was acquired by Charles City; 1928 when the Clubhouse was built; circa 1934, when two limestone footbridges and several other stone amenities were constructed; 1944-1945, the years the Clubhouse served as a prisoner of war camp; and circa 1948, when playground equipment was installed.

BACKGROUND

The property now known as Wildwood Park comprised one portion of land within the property of the Sherman Nursery Company of Charles City. (See Continuation Sheet 7-21.) Founded and developed by E. M. Sherman (1862-1934), this nursery business according to one source had become by the 1920s the largest grower of evergreens in the world, with more than 50,000,000 pieces in the field. (*Past Harvests*:118) The firm's real specialty was roses, and the "American Beauty Rose" was developed at the nursery. (Schmitt:40.) The business remained in Sherman's hands until the Great Depression when it was acquired by a local holding company. Charles City also possessed several other nursery businesses, including one owned and operated C. G. Patten.

In 1912, E. M. Sherman and Gertrude Sherman, his wife, deeded 74.5 acres of land to the City of Charles City for \$9,449.00, "and in consideration of the low price made on same" that the City would use the land as a public park. (Contract:1-2). This property was situated directly south of the campus of the Sherman Nursery Company and stretched along the floodplain of Sherman Creek.

MUNICIPAL PARK MOVEMENT

Discussion of Cover Document

A note is in order concerning "The Conservation Movement in Iowa, 1857-1942," the cover document for this nomination. That document identifies five associated historic contexts. They are:

Wildlife Conservation, 1857-1942
Forest Conservation, 1866-1942
Parks, c. 1890-1942
Conservation of Native Flora, 1909-1942
Soil and Water Conservation, 1909-1942

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 35

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Wildwood Park as an historic district relates to the "Parks" section of this scheme. That section is further subdivided in the following topics:

Iowa and the State Parks Movement
The Movement for an Upper Mississippi Valley National Park
County Parks
Municipal Parks

The "Municipal Parks" section emphasizes that municipal parks in Iowa were greatly influenced by the City Beautiful Movement. Examples include civic center developments in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids. The cover document concludes that:

From a vantage point peering across the environmental decade of the 1970s, it is difficult to perceive a common bond between the drive to establish municipal parks, focused on scenery and recreation and the broader purposes of the early twentieth century conservation movement, as a whole. Nonetheless, at the time, advocates of municipal parks were considered to be within the mainstream of the conservation movement, and women, especially social feminists, provided a strong link between the two. (Conard 1991:E-160)

The cover document continues with a description of the property type "Buildings, structures, sites, and features associated with municipal, county, state, and national parks and park movements." (*Ibid.*:10-19) That description concentrates on county, state, and national parks and park movements. The section on municipal parks is much more abbreviated, specifically abjures a detailed description of them, and recommends instead that:

Buildings, structures, and landscape features associated with municipal park development in Iowa prior to 1920, for there were only municipal parks prior to then, will require separate intensive survey and analysis. It is premature at this point to define precise categories other than to point out that ornamental and commemorative structures were much more highly valued during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The kiosks, gazebos, bandstands, fountains, statues, formal gardens, and decorative park benches which one associates with municipal parks of this period generally were not elements of park design after 1920--or, when they were there was greater use of native materials in a more natural setting. The formality and attention to ornamentation associated with early-day parks reflects the relative value society placed on leisure and civic improvement as opposed to recreation and the protection of natural scenery and places of historic or scientific interest. These parks and the cultural resources are nonetheless important aspects of this context because they embody the aesthetic dimension of the conservation movement. (Conard 1993:F-19)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 36

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

To summarize this discussion, Wildwood Park as an historic resource falls into a category that this cover document said needed intensive survey. The level of documentation, analysis, and interpretation provided in this nomination satisfies those survey requirements.

Summary of Significance

Wildwood Park Historic District provides a fine case study of the Municipal Park Movement at work in one Iowa community during the early years of the Twentieth Century. The major themes include agitation for park acquisition, public debate about appropriate park use, and the management of natural resources. Wildwood Park also illustrates cooperative arrangements between the public and private sectors during the 1920s to maintain and improve the park at a time when limited public money was available for municipal parks.

It is suggested that when further research looks at other municipal parks in Iowa it also addresses these themes.

Agitation and Acquisition

Wildwood Park illustrates the success of local efforts in the first decades of the Twentieth Century to establish a park board and acquire picturesque property for public parklands.

The agitation toward these ends followed upon a series of enabling legislation by the General Assembly of Iowa. In 1884 the General Assembly authorized "cities acting under special charters and cities and incorporated towns" to elect park commissioners to "manage, improve, and supervise" municipal parks in their jurisdictions and levy special taxes to raise money for these purposes. (Iowa Acts 1884:Chapter 151) In 1892, two further bills extended the powers of park commissioners in first class cities with populations greater than 35,000. (Iowa Acts 1892:Chapters 1 & 2) Des Moines and Sioux City were the only cities of this size at that time. (For an example of how the city of Des Moines was affected by this legislation, see William C. Page's *Intensive Level Historical/Architectural Survey and Evaluation of Greenwood Park and Des Moines Art Center*, pages 1-8 through 1-12.) Public agitation for park commissions and acquisition continued. In 1907, these acts were repealed, and new legislation made the election of park commissioners mandatory in cities over 40,000 in population and optional in all other cities and towns if approved by the voters. (Iowa Acts 1907:Chapter 42)

By 1909, the concern for these matters had become a political issue in Charles City. In that year, John G. Legel ran as a candidate for mayor of Charles City, on a platform advocating "progress." Championing park reform, Legel was quoted as saying:

I feel that the time is ripe for our city to procure the necessary land for a public park, and I would recommend that this council take the necessary steps toward the installation of a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 37

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

park commission to take charge of our present park and street parkings besides formulating some plans for another playground [in addition to Central Park, the only public parklands in Charles City at the time] for the people. (*Charles City Intelligencer* 1909)

This same newspaper article proceeded to summarize how the City of Rock Rapids in northwestern Iowa ("the first municipality in Iowa so far as we know to take advantage of the new law") had established such a park commission and acquired parklands.

Other influences also might have affected contemporary public opinion in Charles City. In nearby Mason City, a park commission was established in 1909 to care for the city's existing parks and to create new ones. This also might have provided an impetus to local reformers.

Legel's election to office assured the creation of a park board, which was established in 1910 by Municipal Ordinance 139. Local agitation to increase municipal parklands achieved further success in 1912 with the purchase of Wildwood Park, acquired from E. M. Sherman and Gertrude Sherman, his wife.

Prior to this time, Charles City possessed two municipal parks. The town square, known as Central Park, had been laid out in the original plat of 1854. The tract of land for Freeman Park, the other, had been platted also in 1854 as the public square for the town of Freeman, located on the south side of the Cedar River. Following Freeman's incorporation into Charles City, the square became the site of West School (later rebuilt and renamed McKinley School). The Great Tornado of 1963 destroyed this school. The site has subsequently been used as park grounds.

With its acquisition as public property, Wildwood Park quickly became the subject of public debate. Some believed that at least a portion of the property should be sold and the profits used by the City for other purposes. "Why not sell all or part of the present park and invest the money closer in," a local newspaper asked. (*Charles City Daily Intelligencer* 1914). E. M. and Gertrude Sherman moved to avert this possibility by further stipulating in their agreement to transfer the property to the city that:

grantee may sell and convey said property or any portion thereof in the manner provided by law, but before it shall have the right so to do it shall first give notice in writing to the grantor herein E. M. Sherman, his heirs, administrators or assigns of its intention to sell said premises or the portion or portions thereof which it so intends to sell and the grantor herein his heirs administrators or assigns shall have the absolute right for thirty (30) days thereafter to purchase said property or the portion thereof offered for sale at and for the price of One Hundred and twenty seven dollars (\$127.00) per acre and shall within said time pay over to the grantees herein said purchase price of One Hundred and twenty seven dollars per acre and said grantee herein shall thereupon execute to said first party his heirs, administrators or assigns a good and sufficient deed of said premises, so sold free and clear of encumbrances. (Warranty Deed 1912)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 38

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Further discussions concerning Wildwood Park and lease arrangements ensued. In 1914, for example, the Park Board explored the possibility of leasing unused portions of the park for private use at a cost of \$7.50 per acre. (Park Board Minutes: March 2, 1914) Although nothing came of these discussions, the idea came to the fore again in 1930. In that year, the Park Board leased the northeast portion of Wildwood Park to Floyd County for 99 years to be used as a county maintenance facility. (*Past Harvests*:118)

Land Use Debate

Wildwood Park began its life as a municipal park as a Victorian pleasure grounds. The physical characteristics of such a park include curving drives and walks, the employment of water features for visual effect, a variety of plantings, open vistas, architecture of landmarks and buildings, all designed to promote a "serene retreat for the contemplation of nature, mental and moral improvement." (Acrea:48)

In 1914, for example, the Charles City Commercial Club organized a Fourth of July celebration on the site.

The plan provides for band music and other amusements at the park during the entire afternoon, with concert in Central park in the evening. Ice water and all other conveniences will be provided at Sherman park, and the Charles City Western Railway will run cars to and from the park at frequent intervals, schedule to be announced later.

Sherman park at this season of the year is a beautiful bit of natural woodland, and an afternoon spent in its delightful shade will give pleasure to all. Those who have not planned to go elsewhere for the day should go with their families and well-filled lunch baskets to Sherman park on the Fourth, where they will be assured of an afternoon of rest and pleasure. (*Charles City Daily Intelligencer* 1914)

To ensure that this inaugural event would attract a good attendance, the organizers decided that "There will be no concert down town [in Central Park] in the evening. Let everybody turn out." (*Ibid.* 1914d) Band concerts in Wildwood Park continued to play an important role in the life of the Charles City community. (See Continuation Sheet 8-54.)

Park Commissioner C. G. Patten intended that Wildwood Park would continue to develop along these lines. As discussed below, he proposed in 1914 the creation of a "Flowerland Parkway." This park improvement would provide another element to passive recreation in Wildwood Park. Patten's proposal touched both aspects of that mode--observation of nature and education. The planting of specimen shrubs along its course would serve a public educational purpose and stimulate residents to improve their own home grounds with similar plantings (presumably available through Patten's retail nursery).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 39

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

The park's development as a golf course illustrates the burgeoning popularity of that sport for both men and women, as well as the recreational side of the Conservation Movement.

A public debate ensued with the discussion of appropriate land use for Wildwood Park. C. G. Patten, one member of the park board, advocated the continued development of Wildwood Park as a pleasure grounds. A. O. Ruste, another member of the board and its secretary for several years, advocated the park's development as a golf course. Although this public debate was conducted in a low-key and courteous fashion, it provides an excellent example of fundamental philosophical differences concerning municipal park use.

In 1916, a group of local residents interested in the sport of golf organized the Wildwood Golf Association. One purpose of the association was to agitate for the construction of a nine-hole golf course at Wildwood Park. The association was chaired by A. O. Ruste. That board received the association's proposal favorably, approving the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Wildwood Golf Association proposes to construct under the supervision of this board and a competent exper, [sic] and maintain in a first-class manner for the year 1916 a nine hole golf course for the free use of all the citizens of Charles City at all times and under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by this board that conform with the usual rules governing the game in other public parks, and subject also to further action by this board at any time, and

WHEREAS, the Wildwood Golf Association will expend and pay out more than seven hundred dollars for the construction and maintenance of such a golf course during the season of 1916 and such construction and maintenance will be of such a permanent nature as to enhance the value and improve and increase the usefulness of Wildwood Park for the public, therefor be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Park Commissioners hereby appropriate and order paid to the Wildwood Golf Association the sum of three hundred dollars, to be paid when said golf course is completed and in first-class condition for playing the game of golf. (Park Board Minutes:May 12, 1916)

With this vote, Wildwood Park entered a new era as a multi-purpose park. As was its practice, the Park Board allowed this change contingent on the supervision of a "competent exper." Although the name of this expert and the present location of such a plan are not known, a plan for Wildwood Park as a golf course was prepared. This is known because of the public debate surrounding the Park Board's approval of it. (See the discussion above in the "Municipal Park Movement" section.)

Indeed, the criticism surfaced at the same Park Board meeting in May 1916, which had approved the golf course plan. At that time (although seconding the motion for the resolution quoted above), C. G. Patten voted against its adoption and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 40

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

desired that the records show that he believed that the course as laid out was a dangerous one to the public. (*Ibid.*)

Patten's opposition to the golf course provides a good example, on the local level, of the public debate taking place across Iowa during this period. This debate centered on the appropriate use for public parklands, a question which the advent of golf courses had injected into the broader context of the park movement. (Conard 1997:59, 63-66, 68, 89) Although Patten's preference for passive recreation at Wildwood Park (the unfilled wish to establish the "Flowerland Parkway") probably also colored his opinion about a golf course, larger issues of appropriate land use for public parks were also involved.

Public debate in Charles City surrounded this change in land use. It reflected, on the local level, growing statewide concerns about golf courses. Many of the nation's sports at this time could be played with minimal facilities. Baseball, football, rowing, boxing, and horse-racing, for example, did not require large acreages as playing fields. Golf by contrast required many acres of land. The perception existed that golf courses were intrusive to natural environments. Class issues might also have played into these concerns.

The development of Wildwood Park illustrates the growing role of recreational facilities in municipal parks and the public debate, which took place in Charles City before the construction of a nine-hole golf course in 1916.

Most of the park was converted into a nine-hole golf course in 1916. This conversion illustrates growing agitation in Charles City for public recreational facilities and the emerging popularity of golf as a sport. The wide-spread appeal of Wildwood Park golf course was quickly demonstrated by heavy public attendance.

As a sport, golf experienced a surge of popularity at the turn of the Twentieth Century and became a national craze. It appealed to Progressive women because it offered a new sense of independence. The physical activity took golfers out-of-doors for fresh air and exercise. It must also be said that the equipment and the clothing required by the sport also appealed to the middle and upper classes in separating them from poorer segments of the nation's population. Charles Dana Gibson's drawings of young women golfers conveyed the new-found zest the sport offered American women and added glamour to it. In its appeal during this era, golf was similar to bicycling. The idea of "membership"--belonging to a club--also appealed to many. The Progressive period was an era that witnessed the founding of many organizations for social improvement.

The Wildwood golf course quickly achieved popularity in Charles City. The Wildwood Golf Association organized golf tournaments for men and women on a regular basis. In 1919, the tournament featured a special gimmick. Gold, silver, and bronze buttons were distributed randomly among local golfers. Entrants could then challenge the holders of more precious buttons and vie for advanced rank. (*Charles City Press* 1919) These tournaments continued under the coordination of the Charles City Country Club, when that organization took over the management of the golf course. The first tournament hosted by that group took place in 1931. (*Ibid.* 1969)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 41

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

The appeal of Wildwood Park was not limited by municipal boundaries. The park became a stop on the "Charley Western," an interurban line between Marble Rock, Colwell, and Charles City and drew patronage from these communities, as well as points along the route. As an amenity for these park patrons, the Park Board constructed a small depot at the entrance to Wildwood Park near the tracks. Although this depot is nonextant, a portion of the interurban tracks remains in place at this site.

Natural Resources Management

Created in 1918, the Iowa Board of Conservation, especially during the period of environmentalist Louis H. Pammel's chairmanship of it,

defined parks broadly as preserves for rare, unusual, or threatened natural resources and for cultural antiquities. (Conard 1977:51)

This period witnessed a debate concerning the duality of function between "conservation parks" and other parks where the public could engage in social and recreational activities. (Conard 1997:52) Pammel championed the use of state-owned parks as natural environments for the protection of native flora and fauna. This philosophy also found expression at the local level. Plantings--their locations, species, pruning, planting, and removal--sometimes proved to be flash-points among park administrators and the public. Decisions about them involved matters of opinion and taste and sometimes elicited passion. Charles City was no exception. In 1924, for example:

Mr. Olds[a member of the board] was censured by Mr. Frudden and Miss Fluent [the other members] for having had cut from the north end of the picnic grounds about one hundred blossoming trees. These trees as nearly as could be ascertained were wild plums and wild cherries scattered about in very graceful clumps, these had been cut and dug out, also some very fine bitter sweet vines had been destroyed in the same way and other vines and shrubbery. This had been done with out the knowledge of the two aforesaid park Commissioners and in direct contradiction to their wishes as expressed in the August meeting. (Park Board Minutes:November 13, 1924)

In 1926, by contrast, box elder trees were removed from Wildwood Park by the full vote of the Park Board. (Park Board Minutes:November 6, 1926)

Public support for parks and recreation increased during the 1920s, and a public debate also arose concerning the appropriate management of park resources. Wildwood Park, and the debate over its use, is a good case in point. Selected in 1915, the name "Wildwood Park" aptly reflects its natural environment. Shortly thereafter, however, picnic areas for passive recreation were established, and a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 42

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

few years later, a golf course for active recreation was installed. Hence, Wildwood Park combined elements of each land use then being debated for parks.

Public-Private Partnership

The administration of Wildwood Park illustrates a series of public and private partnerships for the purposes of park maintenance and improvement during a period when limited public money was available for these needs.

The Wildwood Golf Association, discussed above, provides one example. In 1916, the park board authorized the payment of \$700.00 to the association for the construction of a golf course. Subsequently, the board annually paid the association for the upkeep and maintenance of the course. (Fullard:3)

Public and private partnerships for Wildwood Park became more complex in the 1920s. By that time, a younger generation of golf enthusiasts brought new ideas for the improvement of Wildwood Park. Organized in 1926, the Charles City County Club counted many local business, industry, and professional leaders and families among its members. This new group superseded the Wildwood Golf Association. The organization carefully prepared Articles of Incorporation and by-laws for the club. According to Article II, the purpose of the club was:

to establish and maintain in Floyd County, Iowa, and within or in the vicinity of the City of Charles City, an organization or club of an athletic character, for its members, and to promote and encourage outdoor sports. To the accomplishment of such end, it may acquire by lease, purchase, or otherwise, such real and personal property as may be deemed suitable for club or club-house purposes. . . (Charles City Country Club:3-4)

With its emphasis on the need for a clubhouse, it was hardly surprising that the organization approached the City of Charles City for an arrangement to effect this end in Wildwood Park.

In 1926, representatives of the County Club met with the Park Board to present its plan.

M. G. Smith and Russell Olds appeared before the board by appointment, representing the Country Club and laid before the Commissioners assembled, plans for a County Club to be built on ground leased from the land now known as Wildwood Park.

These gentlemen retired and after consideration and debate, it was agreed to send a resolution to the Mayor and Council, recommending that these Citizens be given twenty year option on the tract of land described by City engineer, Dawson, and known to them as the north end of land west of grove north of picnic ground and then held as part of the golf course. The resolution further asked that they be granted a twenty year option with a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 43

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

renewal privilege. The said County Club Association to pay the Park Board treasurer \$25.00 annually and further agreeing to take over all financial expense of the upkeep of the golf course and continue to operate it as a municipal golf course from which no one is to be barred who obeys the ordinary rules of such a course and pays the ordinary fee asked at other municipal courses. Such fees to be fixed by the Park Board from time to time.

This resolution was later adopted and the part that was to be acted on by the Mayor and Council was brought to them in regular session. (Park Board Minutes: June 8, 1926)

By this arrangement, the club agreed to maintain the golf links and the City granted the club the privilege of building and managing a Clubhouse to be built in the park.

The club had a four-tier membership format, including life members, regular members, golf members, and season members. Life and regular membership required the ownership of stock in the club. Golf members had the right to play the course but not use the clubhouse. Season membership provided for temporary residents of the community. Provisions were made in the by-laws to ensure that members were "ladies and gentlemen." The rules also ensured that the use of the clubhouse and grounds was restricted. The use of the clubhouse quickly became a subject of discussion within the organization. For example, the first amendment to its by-laws involved its use:

The use of the Club House is prohibited for all parties where non members are guests after five o'clock P.M. This amendment does not affect the right of members to entertain out of town guests at any time. (*Ibid.*:19)

Other house rules followed defining "family" and "guest" status, stating a tipping policy, and outlining the duties of the house manager, locker room fees, and dining room service. From these rules, it is evident that the clubhouse and its services quickly became a well-used and popular facility, whose usage required a set of carefully thought-out rules to ensure smooth operation.

The Clubhouse was completed and first occupied in 1927. To celebrate the new building, a dinner-dance was held on May 2, 1927, with 149 members and guests attending. During the year, 25 additional parties were held in the building. (*Charles City Press* 1969)

The Charles City Country Club continued its management of the Wildwood golf course until the early 1930s. The Great Depression hit the Charles City Country Club like many other institutions in Iowa. During these difficult times, the Park Board in 1931 undertook the management of the golf course and began to set the rates for green fees. (Fullard:3) In 1932, the country club reduced the number of stock holding members and endeavored to lower membership dues. The dues were reduced again in 1933. The club totalled 70 memberships in that year. (*Ibid.*) Hard times continued to plague the club. In 1934 the members decided to close the season early so that the treasury might remain in the black. Membership had dropped to 60 by January of that year.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 44

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Following World War II, the Charles City Country Club reorganized. The club subsequently constructed a new golf course with expanded operations at a year-round clubhouse. Known as Cedar Bend and located on the eastern edge of Charles City, this facility opened in 1965. It includes a nine-hole golf course and a bi-level, brick clubhouse. Another nine holes subsequently was added to the course and a swimming pool constructed. (*Ibid.*)

While it might seem strange today for a public facility to lease the rights to a private organization for what some might deem an exclusive purpose, the availability of public money for the municipal support of Wildwood Park posed a problem in the 1920s. A similar situation surfaced in the 1960s, at the time the Charles City Country Club sold their improvements on the grounds to the City. An agreement was reached between these two parties in May of 1964. By the following year, however, it became clear that the City would not have sufficient funds to make the stipulated payments to the club. This necessitated the negotiation of an extension agreement in December of 1965 between the two parties. (Extension Agreement:1-2)

WORLD WAR II PRISONERS OF WAR

Wildwood Park calls attention to the U.S. Government's program of interning German prisoners of war during World War II on American soil. The Clubhouse on the park's grounds served as the dormitory and mess hall for German prisoners for about two years.

Algona, Iowa, served as the base camp for the Upper Midwest. A total of 34 branch camps were established in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota and administered by Lt. Col. Arthur T. Lobdell from 1944 to 1945. One of these camps in Iowa was located in Charles City. (*Charles City Press* 1996) Other Iowa sites included Storm Lake, Waverly, Eldora, Toledo, Clinton, Muscatine, Onawa, Tabor, and Shenandoah. At its height, the Algona camp employed 372 to guard the Germans, who numbered in the thousands. (Lobdell 1994:113, 115, 122)

All these camp sites shared certain characteristics. These included isolation from centers of war production, in rural areas where labor was needed for farming and foresting. Prisoners worked in a variety of jobs, including silo construction, nursery work, river control, laundry operations, logging, drainage and other construction projects, agricultural labor, brick and tile labor, canning, eviscerating, and miscellaneous industry. (*Ibid.*:114) The Algona base camp wrapped up all its operations in February of 1946. Soon afterwards, the Algona camp was razed. This 287 acre site later became the municipal airport. Another main camp was located in Clarinda, Iowa. It too administered branch camps. Following the war, the Clarinda facility was also razed, and its site became a municipal airport.

The branch camp in Charles City was the 27th camp established under Algona's jurisdiction. Prisoners at the Charles City camp engaged in farm labor, canning, plant nursery work, and brick and tile labor. (George H. Lobdell correspondence) In the 1940s, Harley Deems served as president of the Sherman Nursery. Because the war effort had drained the local labor market, Deems applied to the Algona administration center for prisoner of war assistance. The nursery subsequently received 20

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 45

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

men to work in the nursery fields. A high security fence was erected around the Clubhouse and the prisoners were housed and fed in that facility. According to a local newspaper:

They did field work for the nursery, crossing the creek to get to work and bunking in the clubhouse on the golf course. Temporary heat was put in the clubhouse for them and they cooked and cleaned for themselves. They cleaned so well, Marv Sogard said that they scrubbed all the finish off the dance floor and later the floor had to be replaced. (Charles City Press 1975)

The German prisoners kept a low profile during their internment. Many residents of Charles City did not know of their presence in the city.

One of these prisoners, Josef Kettner, occupied his leisure time by woodcarving, using the thick end pieces of wooden orange crates. He then gave these scenes of outdoor landscapes to employees at Sherman Nursery, where he worked. (*Charles City Press* 1981) Following the war, Kettner returned to Bavaria. Other German prisoners also occupied their time by craft projects. In Algona, for example, some prisoners built a 60-piece nativity. Constructed of concrete, this nativity was displayed again in Algona during the Christmas season of 1996. (*Ibid.*)

In addition to their work on the nursery grounds, the prisoners also helped build basements in the Salisbury Addition of Charles City and in row houses, which the Stolz Construction firm built from 5th to 9th Avenue.

Today, the status of other prisoner of war camps in Iowa as historic resources is not known. The loss of the base camps at Algona and Clarinda increases the importance of whatever satellite camps remain extant. Within that context, the Charles City camp is significant because the Clubhouse, where that camp's prisoners lived, remains in good physical condition. It stands as a visual reminder of this chapter in the military history of World War II and to the acute labor shortage of Iowa communities during World War II.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Wildwood Park Historic District is significant as a designed historic landscape--planned and implemented piecemeal over the course of three decades--because it manipulates the natural setting of a picturesque tract of land into a multi-purpose park through a series of man-made improvements to increase the park's natural beauty and functional utility. Wildwood Park blends together two different park functions--that of passive recreation as a Victorian pleasure grounds and that of active recreation as a nine-hole golf course. A succession of park plans, prepared at different points in time, contributed to this realization. Rest House No. 1, Rest House No. 2, the golf links, the Clubhouse, and the improvements erected by New Deal programs are the chief man-made features of the park.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 46

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Park Plans

A series of park plans guided the development of Wildwood Park. Chief among those responsible for these plans were W. E. Fryer of Charles City; Ray F. Weirick, a landscape designer of Des Moines; Clarence E. Hughes, an architect employed by the Hart-Parr Company of Charles City; Mortimer B. Cleveland, an architect of Waterloo, Iowa; and the Geo. P. Smith Company of Charles City. Although not all the elements of these plans were implemented, their general thrust provided the direction that shaped Wildwood Park's development. This reliance on planning also shows a real concern among the public in Charles City for good park design.

An initial plan for the development of Wildwood Park dates from 1914. In that year, W. E. Fryer prepared a plan for Sherman Park and submitted it to the Charles City Park Board. (Sherman Park was renamed Wildwood Park in 1915.) Fryer's plan is significant for Wildwood Park as a designed historic landscape because it established the area now known as Picnic Area #1 as the central feature of the park as a pleasure grounds. All subsequent improvements to Wildwood Park have been planned around this picnic area. Fryer received a payment of \$21.33 for this work.¹ (Park Board Minutes: June 23, 1914) Unfortunately, a copy of this plan has not been found to date. Nonetheless, Fryer's plan was acted upon. At that same meeting in June, the Park Board authorized the implementation of one of its recommendations, directing that:

arrangements be made at once for the construction of the north wing of the rest or shelter house as outlined in plans for the Sherman Park. (*Ibid.*: June 23, 1914)

By October 1914, Rest House No. 1 was completed (*Ibid.*: October 3, 1914). Its presence as the first permanent improvement in Wildwood Park and its function as an amenity within the park as a pleasure grounds shaped all subsequent park planning.

Additional evidence suggests that other elements of Fryer's plan were implemented also. For example, the site selection of Rest House No. 1 followed Fryer's recommendations. This rest house, described above as possessing two wings, would require the presence of a north-south drive for access, the one now called Clubhouse Drive. As the first permanent improvement at Wildwood Park, the construction of Rest House No. 1 established that area as the central feature of Wildwood Park as a Victorian pleasure grounds. The land use of that area remains unchanged to the present day and has stimulated the construction of additional amenities to that end.

¹ Minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners show that the commission had issued warrants for a "landscape architect" totaling \$100.00 issued between April 1, 1913 and April 1, 1914. (Park Board Minutes 1914) Perhaps this covered additional costs for Fryer's services. (During that same period, moneys expended for Central Park amounted to \$129.00, while those expended for Sherman Park totaled \$1,379.21. Clearly, the Park Board was focusing its improvement efforts on Wildwood Park. (*Ibid.*) This ratio of expenditures remains about the same for a number of years thereafter.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 47

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Concurrently with the construction of Rest House No. 1, it became apparent that the development of Wildwood Park would require a considerable amount of grading to perfect its topography for park use. During each building season of 1914 and 1915, the Park Board authorized warrants for "grading in Wildwood Park." For example, in the month of June 1915, J. C. Stearns received payments of \$37.50, \$136.50, and \$216.15. Other grading contractors were also employed in this work, including Frank Stromberg. The extent of these costs illustrates the rough topography of Wildwood Park's setting, the need to regularize it, and the suggestion that this grading was accomplished under the umbrella of Fryer's plan.

Fryer's master plan continued to affect the development of Wildwood Park. In 1922, for example, park board members deferred to it when discussing improvements to Rest House No. 1 and Rest House No. 2 (built on the heels of the first one's completion). According to board minutes:

It was decided that as money was secured in future years the other rest house might be enclosed for the use of picnics and the two connected by a pergola as per original plans of landscape man. (Park Board Minutes: August 12, 1924)

Ray F. Weirick, a landscape designer of Des Moines, Iowa, prepared another early plan for Wildwood Park. (This plan is significant for reasons discussed above in the "Municipal Park Movement" section.) In 1914, the same year as Fryer's plan, Charles G. Patten, the chairman of the Park Commissioners and a horticulturist by occupation, proposed the construction of a "Flowerland Parkway" in Wildwood Park. Sanctioned by the Charles City Park Commission, this amenity would feature a corridor planted with specimen shrubs. According to a local newspaper:

The big parkway will be, as nearly as we can describe it, in the form of a harp. Flowering shrubs which will grow readily on the soil in this driveway will be planted as soon as weather conditions permit--sometime about June 1--and when planted will be labeled so that the citizens of the city may know the ones they like and should they desire plant the same species on private land. These shrubs will be selected with the view of keeping the ground blooming the summer long, hence making it a retreat for the lover of nature in its educated state. (*Charles City Daily Intelligencer* 1914e)

During the first quarter of the Twentieth Century, Weirick, who lived at 1503 28th Street in Des Moines and styled himself a "landscape artist" (Des Moines city directory 1920:1314), worked at a number of sites in Iowa. In 1917, for example, he prepared designs for a new site campus for Penn College (now William Penn College) in Oskaloosa, Iowa. Weirick's interests in landscaping can be judged, in part, by the topics he selected for a series of lectures at Penn at that time. They included the history of European garden design, the city planning movement, garden planning in Iowa, and planning for college campuses and towns. (*Penn Chronicle* 1917)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 48

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Weirick impressed the Charles City Park Board. The board requested Weirick to visit Charles City during March of 1914 to confer about park work for the coming summer and to bring plans for flower beds in Freeman Park. (Park Board Minutes:March 2, 1914) For several years thereafter, Weirick's name appeared annually in Park Board minutes as a consultant for the city's parks.²

Weirick's continued employment in Charles City notwithstanding, the concept of a flowerland parkway remained unimplemented at Wildwood Park. The idea never appears again in the board's minutes, although some years later, the subject of pedestrian paths came up again. (Park Board Minutes:July 22, 1924)

Golf Links

The golf links at Wildwood Park were initially laid out in 1916 according to a plan. Although the name of the individual or firm that prepared this document has not been identified, the public debate surrounding the park's conversion specifically mentioned such a plan. This plan is significant for Wildwood Park as a designed historic landscape because it laid out a challenging golf course within the context of the park's continued use as a pleasure grounds. The plan achieved these ends by retaining the picnic area function, as already established by Rest House No. 1, while developing other areas of the park for the golf course. The tee-boxes, fairways, and greens for each of the course's nine-holes were designed to harmonize with the park's picnic areas and the natural areas of the park's western reaches.

As discussed in the "Municipal Park Movement" section above, golf's introduction into Wildwood Park was subject to public debate. While it appears that the park's conversion to a golf course scotched previous plans to build a "Flowerland Parkway," the layout of this course proved very popular with the public. Its success can be gauged from the fact that the Park Board regularly through the 1920s contributed money to the Wildwood Golf Association for the upkeep and maintenance of the course. The usual amount was \$300.00, and this public allocation of money does not appear to have met resistance. The original course layout has continued to the present day with a few alterations. (See Section 7.)

² Ray Weirick continued his work with the Charles City Park Board. Park Board expenses were summarized in April of each year, and from them we can see Weirick's continued work in the city. In 1915, for example, he received a warrant for \$100.00 as "architect" for the board. (Park Board Minutes:March 30, 1915). In a recapitulation of these expenses for 1915, costs are itemized according to "Public Square," "Wildwood," "Freeman," and "Other Expenses." Since Weirick's work as a landscape architect is tabulated in the "Other Expenses," it is not clear that his work was specifically for Wildwood Park. (Park Board Minutes 1915) The minutes from 1914 do not contain such a recapitulation, so it is not possible from them to draw any conclusions about Weirick's work for the Park Board for that year. Weirick was paid \$100.00 in 1916 for consultation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 49

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Clubhouse

Designed by Mortimer B. Cleveland in 1926 and 1927, the site selection for the Clubhouse and the architecture of the building itself contribute major elements to Wildwood Park as a designed historic landscape. The site is conceived within the larger context of Wildwood Park. Situated near the northern boundary of the park, the Clubhouse stands at the head of a north-south axis landscaped in open lawn. This axis stretches 900 feet from the Clubhouse on the north to the Entrance Drive on the south and is accented by a single line of trees on the west. The vista formed by this axis and open lawn invites the viewer's gaze upon entering the park along the Entrance Drive. This vista is made more important by the Clubhouse as its terminus. (See "Architecture" below.) As an amenity within the park, this vista creates a feeling of spaciousness. The physical shape of Wildwood Park is that of a narrow rectangle running east and west. The introduction of this north-south axis acts as a visual foil to that reality. This vista also creates a defining landmark within Wildwood Park and an icon of it as a special place.

New Deal Improvements

A number of amenities were erected in Wildwood Park during the 1930s, sponsored by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Constructed of limestone, they include the North Footbridge and Wall, the South Footbridge, the Entrance Gate and Wall, and a retaining wall located near that gate. These amenities are significant for Wildwood Park as a designed historic landscape because they provide functional and decorative elements to the property. The Entrance Gate and Wall visually separate the park from the outside world and announce the presence of a special place to the approaching visitor. The two footbridges provide pedestrian access from one side of Sherman Creek to the other. (It is unclear how golfers negotiated that creek before their construction.) The retaining wall, which edges the north side of the Entrance Drive, increases the importance of that drive as a corridor.

These amenities also obtain significance for Wildwood Park as a designed historic landscape because they are constructed of native limestone. Already during the Nineteenth Century, limestone (readily available along the Cedar River) had been extensively employed in Charles City. (Schmitt:5-6) By the turn-of-the-century, nearby Sherman Nursery Company was using limestone for a number of notable improvements on its property. This stone was quarried on site. Therefore, the New Deal improvements in Wildwood Park were associated not only with a native material, but also with an architectural tradition in the community.

The construction of these amenities helped provide jobs for unemployed young people during the Great Depression. It is difficult to tell which projects were constructed under CCC auspices and which under those of the WPA. Both programs operated at about the same time in Charles City and sometimes WPA projects used the work force of other agencies. (McKay:E-94) Concerning the CCC, a regiment of that group was stationed for a time in Charles City. These men were housed at the YMCA, and Talmadge Parris served as the camp commandant.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 50

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Another amenity--the Fireplace Grill--was also constructed in Wildwood Park during the mid-1930s and also employed native limestone. Although associated in time and materials with the park's New Deal improvements, this feature was built by Howard Smith without federal support.

Other Planning

Wildwood Park has also been the subject for other planning efforts. In 1918, for example, architect Clarence E. Hughes of Charles City prepared a design for the "Golf Club Rest Room for Park Commission." Featuring a wide verandah under a roof supported by ten columns and topped by a "tower" and flag pole, the rest room would have provided an additional element of Craftsman styling into the architecture of Wildwood Park. The use of the term "rest room" for this facility is misleading today because the building was designed to provide a caddie room and a club room. Although there is no indication that this design was ever implemented, this planning effort further underlines the on-going concern of the Park Board for professional assistance in the development of Wildwood Park.

In 1931, the Geo. P. Smith Company of Charles City prepared elevation and floor plan drawings for the conversion of Rest House No. 1 as restrooms. The Geo. P. Smith Company was a local industry, which manufactured custom woodwork. These plans were implemented and provided a needed amenity to Picnic Area #1. The plans remain on file at City offices today.

ARCHITECTURE

Wildwood Park Historic District is significant, under National Register Criterion C, because it calls attention to the influence of Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Park Rustic styles on its development. The park also highlights the work of architect Mortimer B. Cleveland.

Architectural Style

Wildwood Park Historic District illustrates the eclectic blending of several architectural styles on its development. Rest House No. 1 and Rest House No. 2, for example, show the influence of Craftsman styling on their design. The Clubhouse--with its steeply pitched roofs, arched entryways in the breezeway, and multi-paned windows and doors throughout--shows that of Tudor Revival styling.

The North Footbridge and Wall, the South Footbridge, the Entrance Gate and Wall, and the retaining wall near that gate show the influence of the Park Rustic styling. These eclectic influences harmonize within the park and add to its status as a designed historic landscape because each contributes a picturesque element of appropriate scale and building materials to the park's overall composition.

The design of the New Deal amenities relate to the Tudor Revival styling already introduced by the Clubhouse in the park. Conceived within the tradition of the Park Rustic style, these amenities feature

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 51

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

steeply pitch gabled designs worked in stone and particularly interesting because of its unusually rich detailing. The retaining walls and bridges, for example, are capped with triangle-shaped parapets.

The CCC program developed guidelines to be used in planning improvement projects. According to these guidelines, park improvements should harmonize with the natural environment, relate in a unified way to the historical theme of the resource, and be directed by a master plan. Park design should also avoid over-sophistication. For example, it should aim instead for:

the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past. The scale of structural elements must be reduced proportionately as ruggedness and scale of the surroundings diminish. (Albert H. Good [1938] as quoted in McKay:E-26)

Although it is not presently known who planned the New Deal improvements at Wildwood Park, their design conforms to these guidelines. The native limestone used for their construction was of local origin.

Mortimer B. Cleveland

The Wildwood Park Historic District also calls attention to Mortimer B. Cleveland (1882-1978), an architect of Waterloo, Iowa, and partner with Rhodes Mortimer Cleveland, his son, in the firm of Cleveland & Cleveland, one of Northern Iowa's leading architectural firms during that era. In 1926 and 1927, the elder Cleveland designed the Clubhouse and a site plan for the Clubhouse grounds.

Mortimer B. Cleveland practiced for many years in Northern Iowa, until retiring at the age of 85. His designs include residences, commercial buildings, schools, townhouses, hospitals, motels, lodges, theaters, jails, warehouses, churches, and entrance gates, as well as other architectural forms. (Jennifer Jacobs newspaper feature) The Highland Park Historic District in Waterloo, Iowa, possesses the most concentrated cluster of Cleveland's residential designs.

Cleveland's reputation was well-established in Charles City, and a number of his residential designs remain extant. The following noninclusive list identifies some of them:

MORTIMER B. CLEVELAND DESIGNS IN CHARLES CITY

<u>Historic Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Smith House (probably by Cleveland)	103 Blunt St.
George Blake House	106 Blunt St.
Smith House	107 Blunt St.
Dr. J. E. Salsbury House	205 Blunt St.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 52

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

House (probably by Cleveland)	106 Ferguson St.
House (probably by Cleveland)	107 Ferguson St.
Angel House	203 Ferguson St.
Salsbury Laboratories (NRHP)	500 Gilbert S.

Source: Schmitt, *Charles City, Iowa; A Historic Inventory*.

Following Cleveland's death, Dorothy Cleveland, his daughter-in-law, embarked on a program to curate his professional papers. She has donated many of them to the Grout Museum in Waterloo. She donated the architectural drawings for resources in Charles City to the Floyd County Historical Society, where they are now archived.

Cleveland's design for the Clubhouse illustrates a successful attempt to lend a picturesque note to Wildwood Park. As mentioned above, his siting of the building at the head of an important axis provided the park with a prominent vista terminus. The great length of the facade--stretching some 170 feet east-to-west--strikes the approaching viewers with the maximum visual impact possible. The main block of the building, which houses the social hall, features a gable-front-and-wing configuration. Centered on the facade, the height of this gable front dominates the facade, links the flanking wings to the main block, and prevents the overall composition from becoming rangy. Significantly, Cleveland sited the main entrance to the building on the north elevation. This encouraged motorists to park at the rear of the building, preventing vehicles from marring its function as a terminus.

The building's Tudor Revival styling adds another picturesque note to the park. The steep gables of roof, the multi-paned configuration of the building's doors and windows, and the arched entrances of the breezeway illustrate this influence. These elements provide vertical accents to the otherwise horizontal feeling of the building and embellish what otherwise could have been a very utilitarian facility. The interior of the Clubhouse--with its exposed rafters, massive stone fireplace, and many windows onto the park grounds--provides another picturesque note.

Within the context of Cleveland's work in Charles City, the Clubhouse at Wildwood Park is unique as a recreational facility. Its design required a social hall, kitchens, pro-shop, restrooms, and storage areas. As discussed above, Cleveland's floorplan organized these spaces in a linear fashion east-to-west to maximize the visual impact of the building's facade.

REPRESENTATION IN OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEYS

In 1994, the City of Charles City, Iowa, became a Certified Local Government (CLG) and established the Charles City Historic Preservation Commission. In 1995 and 1996, this commission participated in a Planning for Preservation project sponsored by the State Historical Society of Iowa. One result of this project was prioritizing the preservation of Wildwood Golf Course as a significant historic

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 53

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

resource in the community. To that end, the commission applied for and received in 1997 a CLG grant-in-aid for the preparation of this nomination.

Although three cultural resources studies to date have addressed public parks as an historic context in Iowa, none has mentioned Wildwood Park. Kenneth C. Acrea's work in 1987 touched upon the largest urban parks in the state. Joyce McKay's study of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Iowa focused primarily on that program's work within state-owned resources. Rebecca Conard's Multiple Property Documentation, the cover document for this nomination, is discussed above.

In short, the historic context of municipal parks in Iowa is ripe for comprehensive study. Some large, municipal parks--such as Crapo Park in Burlington (NRHP); Riverview Park, Eagle Point Park, and Springdale Cemetery in Clinton; the Brucemore Estate in Cedar Rapids; and Eagle Point Park in Dubuque; as well as municipal parks in Davenport, Mason City, and Des Moines--have attracted some scholarly interest. By and large, however, municipal parks in Iowa's smaller towns have received scant attention.

POTENTIAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

The Wildwood Park Historic District possesses potential for pre-historic archaeology. According to a recent history of Floyd County:

Up to the mid-19th Century, the county's section of northeast Iowa was known to the Winnebago Indians of the Timber River Village as the Upper Big Woods. Their name adequately described the heavily wooded riverland and adjacent area that, for the most part, has been converted into farm production. (*Past Harvests*:5)

Examination of records on file at the State Historical Society of Iowa in Des Moines indicates that no previously recorded archaeological sites are located within Wildwood Park and that no archaeological surveys have been conducted within the park. Those records also indicate that one previously recorded archaeological site is located within a mile of the park and that very few archaeological investigations have been conducted in this area. However, based on the project's location very close to the juncture of Sherman Creek and the Cedar River, there appears to be a high potential for prehistoric archaeological sites to be located within Wildwood Park.

The potential for historic archaeological sites appears to be very low as background research (historic plat maps) has shown that no farmsteads, residences, or other resources stood on this site prior to its development as a park. The location of a nonextant railroad depot at the entrance to the park might, however, be identified and yield historical data.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

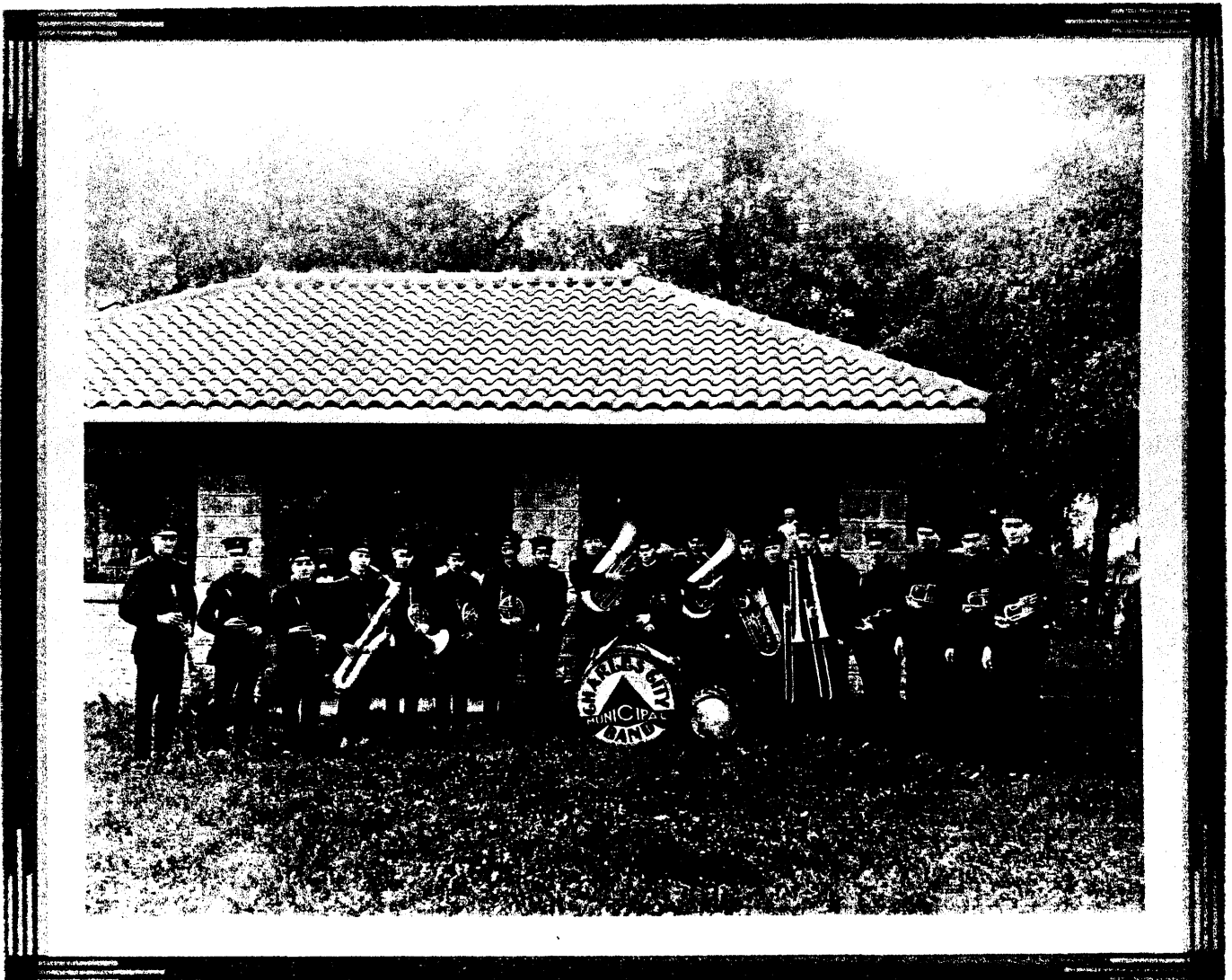
Section number 8 Page 54

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

CHARLES CITY BAND AND REST HOUSE NO. 1

CIRCA 1920



Taken in front of Rest House No. 1, this photograph of the Charles City Band also shows a concert audience and automobiles at the far right.

Source: Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

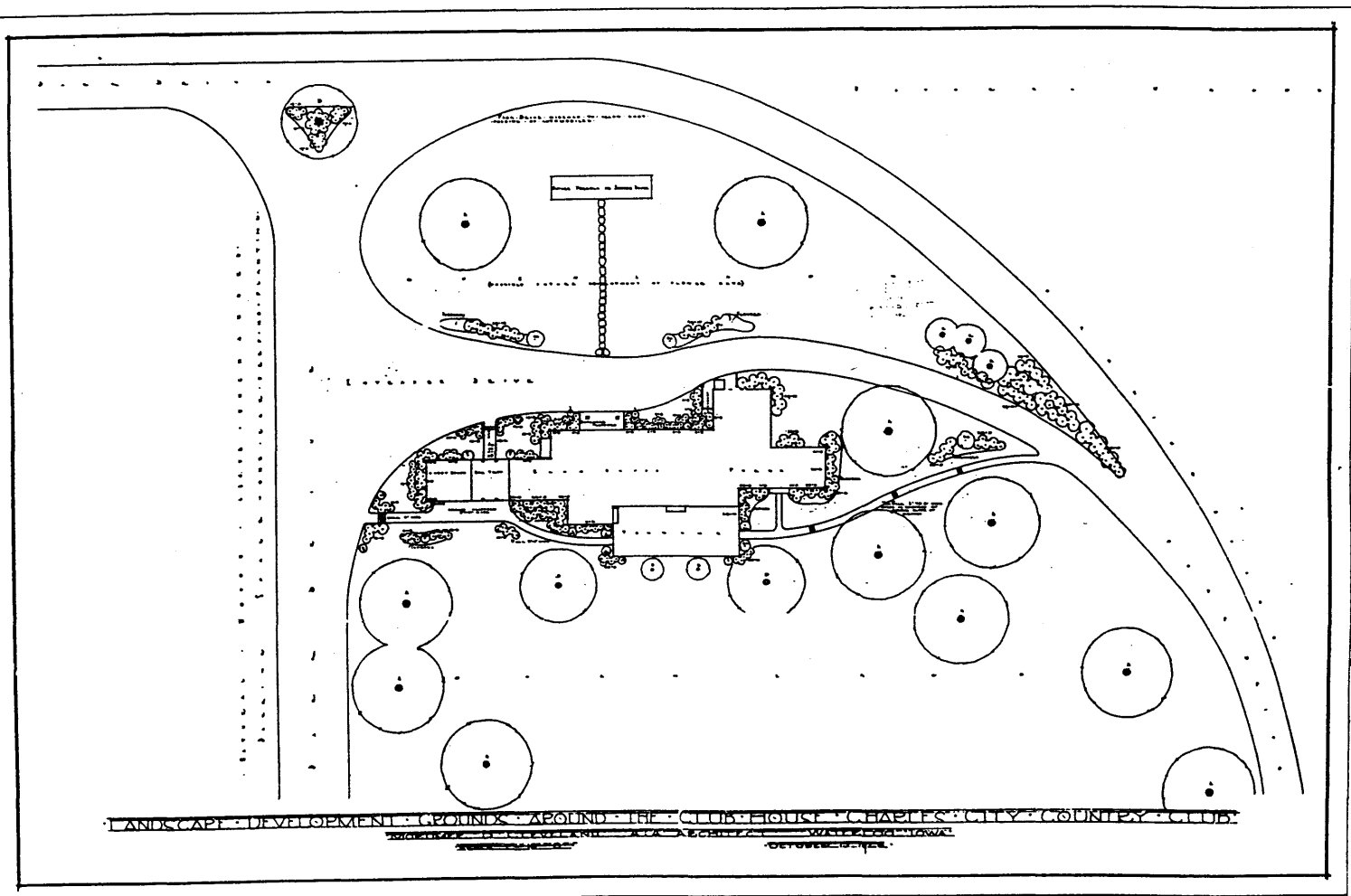
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 55

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

SITE PLAN FOR CLUBHOUSE GROUNDS 1926



Source: Mortimer B. Cleveland, AIA, 1927.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

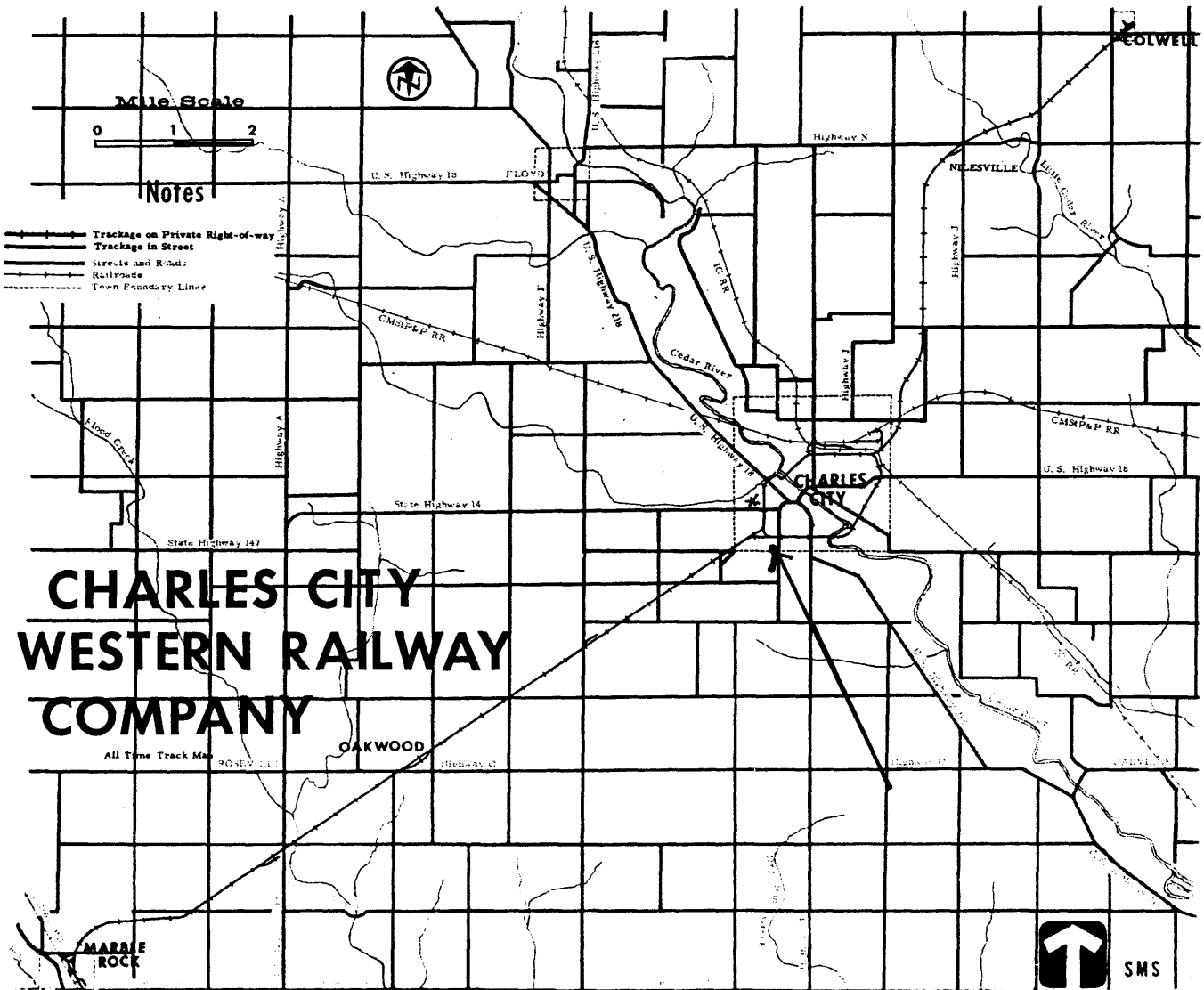
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 56

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

INTERURBAN ROUTE



The asterisk locates the nonextant depot site of the "Charley Western" at Wildwood Park. The arrow locates the fork in the railway's tracks. The north fork served Sherman Nursery Company, while the other fork edged Charles City on the east to serve the Hart-Parr Company. The "Plat of Grounds-Sherman Nursery" (see Continuation Sheet 7-21) clearly shows these forks. The Charley Western also provided passenger service between Colwell and Marble Rock, adding to Wildwood Park patronage.

Source: Map insert, *Iowa Trolleys*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 57

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

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1914 "The Westside playgrounds on west Gilbert street were formally opened to the
children last Saturday, and are proving all that the promoters anticipated. These
grounds have been fitted with swings, swinging seats, hammocks, tables and seats
for picnic purposes, sand piles and all the paraphernalia that make the hearts of the
little ones happy. . . The ladies of the west side who have promoted this worth
enterprise are certainly entitle to much commendation for the way they have handled
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1914 "Sherman Park is Open to Public." June 30, 1914.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 58

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

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1964 "Name Board Members at Club Meet." November 4, 1964. Meeting held at the Elks Club. "Jerry Fockler showed plans of the proposed new club building. . . The clubhouse committee is investigating several types of construction for the building."

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 59

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

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First Floor Plan
Second Floor and Roof Plan
Roof Plan and Sections
Basement and Footing Plan
East Elevation, West Elevation, Screen Porch Detail,
Kitchen and Serving Room Detail
North Elevation

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1911 Contract between E. M. Sherman and the Park Board of Charles City, Iowa.
Typewritten manuscript, dated December 29, 1911. Archives of Charles City, Iowa.

Extension Agreement

1965 Charles City County Club and Charles City Park Board, dated December 16, 1965. City of Charles City, Iowa, archives.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 60

CFN-259-1116

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1923 "Making the City More Beautiful." November 2, 1923.

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1925 "Tourist Park Open; Welcome, Strangers!" April 24, 1925.

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1924 "Charles City D.A.R. Plants Three Trees." April 25, 1924. "The D.A.R. chapter planted three large wild crab apple trees on the newest of Charles City's small parks, Bayou Bend park. . . This park is on the Red Ball route and borders on the Cedar river. There is a well on the grounds and stone camp stove will be built so that tourists may avail themselves of an attractive resting place, although the tourists' camp is not far distant."

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 61

CFN-259-1116

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 62

CFN-259-1116

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 63

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

HISTORIC IMAGES

Limestone Footbridge

- c. 1947 Archives of the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.
Black and white photo courtesy of Charles City Press. View looks to southeast.

Clubhouse

- c. 1927 Archives of the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.
Black and white photo-postcard. Identified as "Country Club/Charles City, Iowa." View looks to the west.

Clubhouse

- c. 1953 Archives of the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.
Black and white photo of The Salon Studio. View looks to the northeast.

Footbridge-Dam

- c. 1923 Archives of the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.
Black and white photo. Identified as "Ralph O. Briggs" and "Twentieth Century Club."

Clubhouse

- c. 1952 Archives of the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.
Black and white photo of The Salon Studio. View looks to the northeast.

East Ford

- c. 1923 Archives of the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.
Black and white photo identified as "View in Wildwood Park" and "Blumenstiel Photo."

Charles City Band

- c. 1920 Archives of the Floyd County Historical Society, Charles City, Iowa.
Black and white photo, Will T. Smith, Commercial Photographer of Charles City, Iowa. The band poses in front of Rest House No. 1. This photograph was published in *Hart-Partners*, the company organ of the Hart-Parr Company, with the accompanying column:

We take pleasure in printing this picture of the Municipal Band. We have all enjoyed the band concerts at Central and Wildwood Parks. The boys have been giving us high class music and we are glad to give them this book in *Hart-Partners*. Below is a list of the members of the band, reading from left to right. As you will note, many of them are *Hart-Partners*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 64

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

George Brockett, Hart-Parr Company; Stanley Brown, Student; Kenneth Kober, Student; Carl Rabe, Hart Parr Company; Dr. A. L. Miller, Dentist; Earl Dodge, Hart-Parr Company; J. James, Hart-Parr Company; James Waltz, Painter; Albert E. Jones, Prop. Gilbert Hotel; Ted Silbeck, Director Band and Musical Instructor; A. B. Hahn Charles City Western Railway; Raymond Sturms, Student; Elmer Killough, Charles City Cigar Company; Orville Byran, Hart-Parr Company; Harold Swant, Hart-Parr Company; Doss Killough, Charles City Cigar Company; Wilbur Keidel, Farmer; Clarence Wolf, Hart-Parr Company; A. J. Schmer, Tailor.

Three of the band who were unable to be in the picture Sunday are: Harold Winn, Daily Press; Ernest Martin, Martin Brothers; and J. McKenna, Carpenter.

Officers are: Clarence Wolf, President; A. J. Schmer, Vice President; Albert E. Jones, Business Manager; A. L. Miller, Treasurer; and Ted Silbeck, Director.

FIRE INSURANCE MAPS

Sanborn Map Company, New York, NY.

City of Charles City, Iowa

1888, February
1892, June
1897, August
1902, March
1909, May
1915, February
1924, February
1924, February- (Iowa State Archives)
1924, Updated in 1934, 1942, and 1947 (Library of Congress)

OTHER MAPS AND PLANS

ASI

c. 1979 *Stereophotogrammetric Topographic Survey Map*. Courtesy of Charles City Park and Recreation Department.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 65

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

Plat of Grounds

c. 1915 Architect drawing *Plat of Grounds/Sherman Nursery/Charles City, Iowa.*
Park and Recreation Department of Charles City, Iowa.

ORAL HISTORY

Guenther, Bernita B.

1997 Personal communication with William C. Page, December 17, 1997.

Lindaman, Steven

1997 Personal communication with William C. Page, December 16 and 17, 1997.

McKinney, Franklin W.

1997 Personal communication with William C. Page, December 17, 1997.

Townsend, Mary Anne

1997 Personal communication with William C. Page, December 17, 1997.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 66

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at the North East corner of the South west Quarter of the North west Quarter of Section Twelve (12) Township ninety five (95) North Range sixteen (16) West of the 5th P.M. running thence due west two hundred forty nine feet (249) to the west edge of the right-of-way of the C.W.R.R. which becomes the point of beginning, thence south eight hundred and fifty three and 21/100 feet (853.21); thence to the right at an angle of 89 degrees 15 minutes three thousand seventy one and 9/10 feet (3,071.9); thence to the right 90 degrees 10 minutes eight hundred and sixty one and 2/10 feet (861.2); thence to the right 90 degrees 6 minutes fourteen hundred and fifty seven and 3/10 feet (1,457.3); thence to the left 85 degrees nine minutes two hundred and eight seven and 9/10 feet (287.9); thence to the right 57 degrees 20 minutes one hundred and six and 1/10 feet (106.1); thence to the left 15 degree 20 minutes two hundred and forty eight and 8/10 feet (248.8); thence to the right 50 degrees 45 minutes three hundred and seventeen and 5/10 feet (317.5); thence to the right 47 degrees 10 minutes one hundred and six and 7/10 feet (106.7); thence to the left 21 degrees 35 minutes two hundred and ninety and 9/10 feet (290.9); thence to the right 14 degrees 39 minutes two hundred eighty and 9/10 feet (280.9); thence to the left 48 degrees 6 minutes two hundred and eighty seven and 85/100 feet (287.9); thence to the left 78 degrees 1 minute three hundred and two and 2/10 feet (302.2); thence to the right 83 degrees 10 minutes to the west edge of the right of way of the Charles City Western Railroad; thence South along the west line of said right of way to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary contains all land associated historically with this resource, except for the right-of-way of the Charles City Western Railroad and a tract of land owned for many years by Floyd County.

UTM References

- 5. Zone 15 E. 524820 N. 4767700
- 6. Zone 15 E. 524820 N. 4767900
- 7. Zone 15 E. 525070 N. 4767960
- 8. Zone 15 E. 525240 N. 4767700
- 9. Zone 15 E. 525300 N. 4767700
- 10. Zone 15 E. 525320 N. 4767780

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 67

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
Entrance Gate and Vista
1 Wildwood Road
Looking north northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997

2. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
Rest House No. 1
1 Wildwood Road
Looking southwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997

3. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
Rest House No. 2
1 Wildwood Road
Looking southwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997

4. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
Clubhouse
1 Wildwood Road
Looking northeast
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 68

CFN-259-1116

Wildwood Park Historic District, Floyd County, Iowa.

5. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
South Footbridge and Vista
1 Wildwood Road
Looking northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997
6. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
North Footbridge and Wall
1 Wildwood Road
Looking east
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997
7. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
East Ford
1 Wildwood Road
Looking west northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997
8. Wildwood Park Historic District
Charles City, IA
Playground Apparatus in Picnic Area #3
1 Wildwood Road
Looking northwest
William C. Page, Photographer
November 5, 1997