

PH035064X

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 15 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 8 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

^{HISTORIC}
**** Crapo Park and Arboretum Historic District**
_{LAND/OR COMMON}

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER bounded by the north by Parkway Drive, south by Koestner, west by
Madison Road, and east by the Mississippi River

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

___ VICINITY OF

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Iowa

CODE
14

COUNTY

Des Moines

CODE
057

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Burlington

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, Fourth and Washington Streets

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Des Moines County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Burlington

STATE

Iowa

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Crapo Park is designed and laid out in the Frederick Law Olmstead tradition with undulating lines and "Great Meadow" open spaces. Most of those first plant materials are still existing as mature specimens. The original curvilinear road system is still in use and most of the original bicycle paths are evident.

In keeping with the tradition of 19th century parks, the original Crapo Park design contained great flexibility. Early park uses now extinct were: a 10,000 seat coliseum, the 1896 Scholer Chutes (300 foot boat slides from the top of the bluff to the river), a bicycle racing track, the arborvitae puzzle maize, 2 Victorian gazebo bandstands, and Dreamland Dance Pavilion (1920's and 1930's). This traditional flexibility continues today, allowing for similar but contemporary uses without jeopardizing the spatial balance between the plant material masses and the open space. Present facilities include tennis courts, swimming pool, horseshoe courts, playground equipment, shelter house, electric fountain, band shell, and skate house, all in addition to the arboretum. A log cabin was constructed in 1910 and is now a log cabin museum open to the public. The one and one-half story limestone block pumphouse is now the public rest room facility. The Weingart House (1844) is also a one and one-half story limestone block structure built by a vintager with a large, arched ceiling wine cellar. With the construction of the park, the commissioners brought a German immigrant gardener to Burlington by the name of Schneider. For two generations this family has resided in the house and been park superintendants. The original lake in the park design was fashioned from a prairie pothole and has since been modified into the hard surfaced Lake Starker. The lake, now popular for fishing and ice-skating, is named for Chas. Starker: architect, banker and Crapo's partner in the park project (negotiator for the land acquisitions).

The arboretum aspects of the park begin with a mature, native oak woods on the Mississippi River bluffs and ravines, stabilizing the steep slopes where the Black Hawk Trails and Springs are located. Along these bluffs grow many geographic border-line species, as Burlington tends to be in a transition zone between the mid-western prairie, eastern deciduous forests, and the southern deciduous woods. Among these species are the chinquapin oak, red bud, blue ash, paw paw, hornbeam, bladdernut, hoptree, and big bluestem grass. In the uplands, the land originally discovered by Pike as being prairie, and later was in vineyards and corn fields, was planted by the park designers into a variety of trees and shrubs both native and from all over the world. Special plant arrangements such as the north woods (northern white cedar, spruce, pine, hemlock and aspen) and the wetlands (river birch, pin oak, aspen, and larch) give the visitor the opportunity to experience varying plant associations. Many other exotic species have been used in Shaw Gardens, Shakespeare Garden, and as highlights throughout the park.

A designed parkscape like this has many intangible elements that have been designed into it, but are oftentimes only unconsciously perceived by the viewers. Many of these elements such as; undulating lines, views and vistas framed and filtered with vegetation, spaces enclosed by plant material, the subtleties of topographic change, all lend toward the serenity of a traditional 19th century park.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1896 completed
1895 designed

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Crapo Park was "discovered" by Lt. Zebulon M. Pike during his 1805 expedition to explore the Mississippi River to its source. On a bluff of 166 feet, Pike raised the U. S. flag for the first time on what is now Iowa soil. In his report to the Secretary of War, he described "a platform of about 400 yards. In the rear is a small prairie of about 10 acres, suitable for a garrison. Directly under the rocks is a limestone spring which would supply a regiment of men with water... Black and white oak timber are found in abundance. The view from the hill across the river is very beautiful, showing broad prairies as far as the eye can reach... We...saw traces of Indians."

Des Moines County histories perpetuate legends of the site's use by the Saux and Fox Indians. These wooded bluffs were flint hills, a neutral ground where the Indians came to hunt, gather flint and quench their thirst at the spring. The limestone spring Pike noted has come to be called Black Hawk Springs through the area's association with Black Hawk's band.

Philip M. Crapo, the found of Crapo Park, was representative of the many local backers of the park. These persons held the common belief in the value of the park for posterity but, more significantly, these local philanthropists represented a pronounced social and economic trend in the 1890's. They were members of the city's Commercial Club who had prospered exceedingly and were eager to dispense a part of their wealth for philanthropy. After one unsuccessful park fund drive, Crapo persevered to head a second successful campaign. The park was completed in 1896. It was a showplace for its time and was among the earliest designed arboretums in the Upper Mississippi River Valley. The landscape engineering firm of Earnshaw & Punshon of Cincinnati, Ohio designed the park. The park has the first equestrian statue in Iowa, a tribute to Iowa's Civil War General, John M. Corse. The Coliseum, with a capacity of 10,000 was constructed to house events of Iowa's 1896 Semi-Centennial. It served as a community forum in the 1900's and held many Chautauqua events.

Today, 80 years after the creation of the arboretum, the over ninety acres of mature plant specimens are still extant. When overlooking the distant Illinois floodplain and bluffs on a hazy Indian summer afternoon, one can well appreciate the spell Crapo Park's flint hills cast on the nineteenth century visitors.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Antrobus, Augustine, History of Des Moines County, Iowa and its People, Chicago: S. J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1915, Volume I, page 498-499.
Biographical Review of Des Moines County, Iowa, Chicago: Hobart Pub. Co., 1905, page 11-15.
 Federal Writer's Project, A Guide to Burlington, Iowa, 2nd ed. rev., Washington: U. S. Works Progress Administration, 1939, page 38-44.
 McKim, Helen, "Crapo Park-It First Impressed Pike", The Hawkeye, October 6, 1968, page 24.
 Watkins, Hamilton, comp. & ed., A Souvenir of Burlington, Burlington: The Journal Co., 189

page 45-49

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 97 acres
 UTM REFERENCES

E 1 5 6 5 9 7 7 0 4 5 1 5 4 3 8
 F 1 5 6 5 9 6 3 2 4 5 1 5 4 3 0

A | 1,5 | 6,5,9,6,4,5 | 4,5,1,5,6,2,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | 1,5 | 6,6,0,5,6,3 | 4,5,1,5,2,4,0 |

B | 1,5 | 6,6,0,6,4,5 | 4,5,1,5,6,2,0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | 1,5 | 6,5,9,7,9,0 | 4,5,1,5,2,4,0 |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Steven & Kathleen Brower & Gerald and Carol Goddard and Carol Newton

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Preservation Committee of the Des Moines County Historical Society November 2, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1616 Dill

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Burlington

Iowa

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Adrian A. Anderson

TITLE

Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

8/11/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

David L. [Signature]

DATE

6/2/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

[Signature]

DATE

6-2-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RBR for WJM 6-2-76

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the nomination of the Crapo Park and Arboretum Historic District, Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa to the National Register of Historic Places has been approved by a majority of the State Review Committee for Historic Sites. We recommend transmittal of the nomination forms to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

Robert L. Alexander Date

Robert R. Dykstra 6/11/75
Robert R. Dykstra Date

Wesley I. Shank 28 June 1975
Wesley I. Shank Date

David M. Gradwohl 8/1/75
David M. Gradwohl Date

Peter T. Harstad Dec. 1, 1974
Peter T. Harstad Date

Richard Shuttler, Jr. 12/5/74
Richard Shuttler, Jr. Date

Adrian D. Anderson 8/11/75
Adrian D. Anderson Date



Duane C. Anderson 11 July 1975
Date

Richard H. Thomas 18 July 75
Date

George Mills July 15 1975
Date

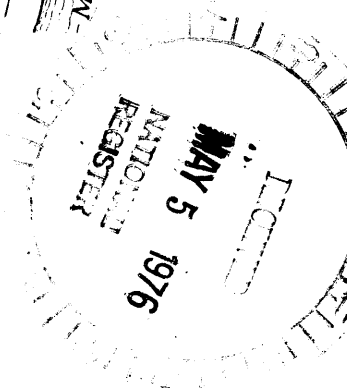
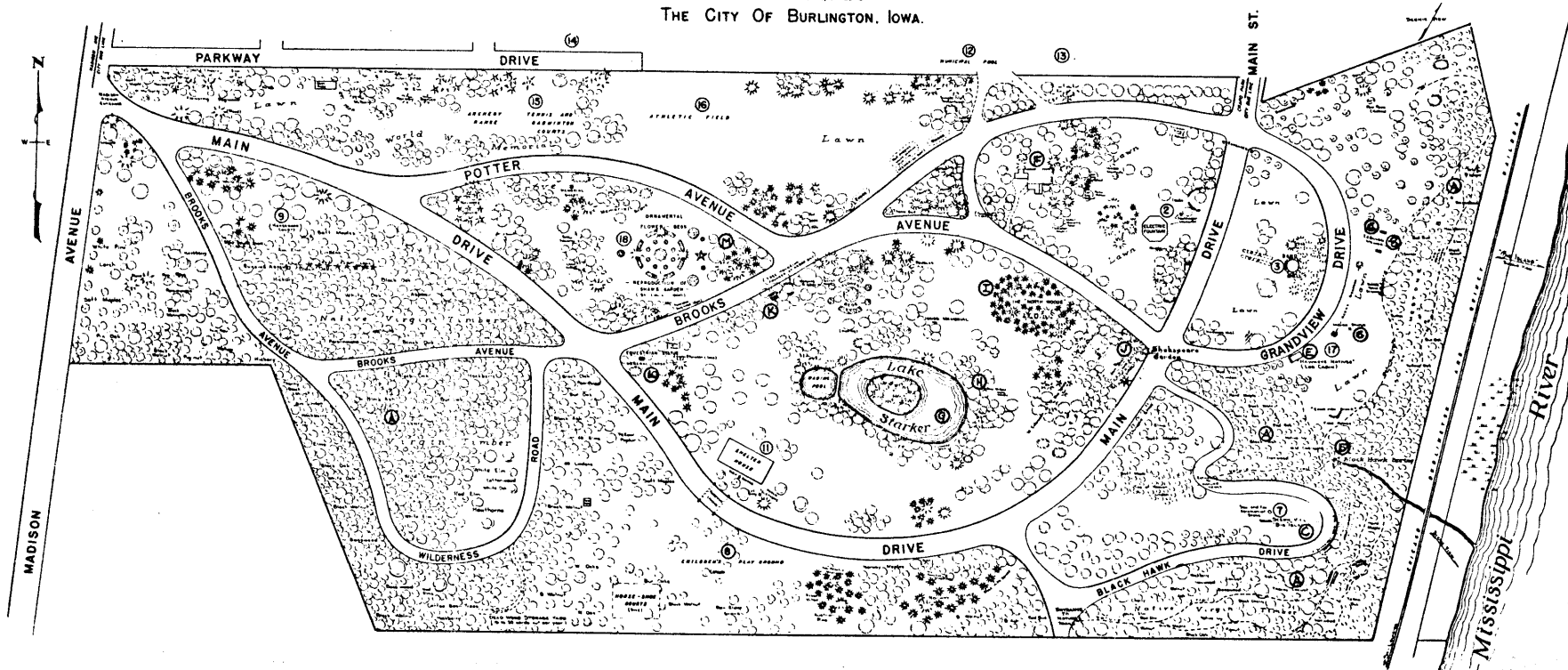


Map of CRAPO PARK AND ARBORETUM

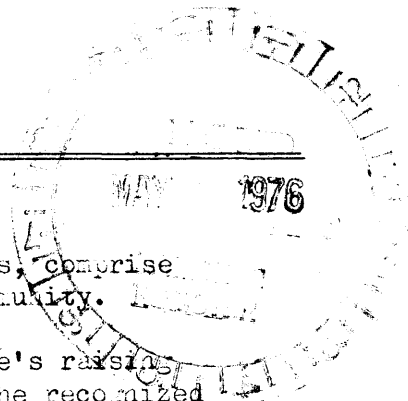
ESTABLISHED 1895

A PUBLIC PARK PROPERTY, OWNED BY

THE CITY OF BURLINGTON, IOWA.



KEY FOR MAP OF CRAPO PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT



- Ⓐ Native Oak Woods - due to exhaustive early lumbering efforts, comprise the majority of the mature stands remaining in the community.
- Ⓑ Zebulon Pike Memorial - on the river bluff commemorates Pike's raising of the American flag for the first time on Iowa soil; he recognized this area for its great potential as a fort site.
- Ⓒ Scenic River Overlooks - provide a good view of the Mississippi River and the seven mile floodplain into Illinois. The close proximity of the bluff to the river is the regionally unique landscape quality which has been related to by the Sauk & Fox Indians, Zebulon Pike, and present day mid-westerners.
- Ⓓ Black Hawk Springs & Cave - are the areas frequented by the Sauk & Fox Indians, and where Black Hawk and his band often came.
- Ⓔ Hawkeye Native's Log Cabin - built in 1910 with ceiling rails cut in 1836, is now a log cabin museum open to the public. This structure relates not only its physical character to the park but also the lifestyle of the early Iowa settlers.
- Ⓕ Weingart-Schneider House - (1844) built when the park was only vineyards and cornfields, contains an arched ceiling, wine cellar and is constructed of limestone block.
- Ⓖ Lake Starker - which was originally a prairie pothole, was first designed as a compacted mud-bottom lake in 1895. Later, in the 1920's, it was redesigned and engineered with a hard surface bottom and walls.
- Ⓗ Wetlands - is a lakeside plant grouping typical of plant associations in the park.
- Ⓘ North Woods - is an original planting which still consists of plant species indigenous to the Canadian North woods. This is a good example of some of the special plant associations in the park.
- Ⓚ Shakespeare Garden - is a small formal garden area containing many of the plants mentioned in the writings of Shakespeare.
- Ⓛ Pumphouse - is a 1 1/2 story limestone block wellhouse, now in use as the public restroom facility. It contributes to the historic character of the park through its solid stone construction.
- Ⓜ General Corse Statue - was the first equestrian statue in Iowa, erected in 1896. It commemorates Burlington's most famous Civil War General, John M. Corse. At the battle of Altoona Corse was the recipient of General Sherman's famous phrase, "Hold the fort!".
- Ⓝ Shaw's Ornamental Gardens - are formal flower gardens of geometric designs patterned after Shaw Gardens in St. Louis, and help establish the character reminiscent of 19th century gardening.