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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box 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 Linwood Park Greenhouse and Maintenance Building

other names/site number Linwood Park South Greenhouse and Maintenance Building

2. Location

street & number 1700 S. Hydraulic Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Wichita [N/A] vicinity

state Kansas code KS county Sedgwick code 173 zip code 67211

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] locally. ( [ ] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 2/29/08

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:

- [X] 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
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] other, explain
[ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper Edward A. Beall

Date of Action 4.16.08

Linwood Park South  
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas  
County/State

### 5. Classification

#### Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

#### Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

#### Number of Resources within Property (Do not count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

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

#### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

New Deal-era Resources of Kansas

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/  
agricultural outbuilding

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/  
agricultural outbuilding

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Colonial Revival

#### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls BRICK  
roof SYNTHETIC  
other WOOD

#### Narrative Description

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

Linwood Park South  
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas  
County/State

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

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

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

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)

SOCIAL HISTORY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Periods of Significance**

1935  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person(s)**  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Lord & Burnham/WPA; FERA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

# \_\_\_\_\_

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:  
Wichita Parks & Recreation Department  
Wichita Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_\_

Linwood Park South  
Name of Property

Sedgwick County, Kansas  
County/State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 1.45 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1. Zone 14 Easting 648520 Northing 4169450
2. Zone Easting Northing
3. Zone Easting Northing
4. Zone Easting Northing [ ] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Deon Wolfenbarger, Historic Preservation Consultant  
organization Three Gables Preservation date August 7, 2006  
street & number 320 Pine Glade Road telephone 202-258-3136  
city or town Nederland state CO zip code 80466

## 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 Wichita Parks & Recreation Department  
street & number City Hall, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor; 455 N. Main telephone 316-268-4361  
city or town Wichita state Kansas zip code 67202

**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.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
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Linwood Park South Greenhouse and Maintenance Building  
Sedgwick County, Kansas

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**SUMMARY**

The Linwood Park South Greenhouse and Maintenance Building are located in Linwood Park South, a 51.12 acre park in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. The park is bounded by Osie Street on the north, Kansas Street on the east, Mt. Vernon on the South, and Hydraulic Street on south. The two buildings are located in the northwest corner of the park. They are examples of “social and recreational” facilities discussed in Section F of the Multiple Property Documentation Form “New Deal-era Resources of Kansas” (hereafter referred to as “MPDF”). Both one-story brick buildings are simplified examples of the Colonial Revival style. Also included within the nominated property are two non-contributing outbuildings and two small metal sheds and brick coldframes (the latter not counted). Both contributing buildings retain a high degree of integrity in design, workmanship, location, feeling and association. A few alterations in both buildings involve changes in materials, but do not affect the buildings’ ability to convey their historic associations. The non-contributing outbuildings impact the setting, but as they are smaller in scale and provide similar uses, they do not detract from the integrity of feeling and association.

**ELABORATION**

Linwood Park South is bounded by Osie Street on the north, Kansas Street on the east, Mt. Vernon on the South, and Hydraulic Street on south. The northwest section of the park contains utilitarian buildings related to maintenance, and the greenhouse and maintenance building form the core of the nominated tract just south of the intersection of Osie and Hydraulic streets. The greenhouse is in the northwest corner of this parcel. There is a gravel drive and parking to the north of the greenhouse. Another drive off of Hydraulic is just south of the maintenance building, which is sited southeast of the greenhouse. It leads to parking at the rear and north of the maintenance building. There are two non-contributing buildings: a rectangular metal pole building with gable roof immediately south of the greenhouse, and a corrugated fiberglass greenhouse with gable roof on the east side of the greenhouse. Two small metal sheds are south of the maintenance building. Mature pine trees are on the lawn west of the greenhouse, and flowering deciduous trees are planted along the foundation of the maintenance building.

The one-story greenhouse building has two sections – a small, rectangular brick office with gable-front roof, and a long rectangular greenhouse with brick foundation on the south. The wire cut red bricks are vari-colored, some with a green tinge formed by an application of brick paste. The gable-front roof has enclosed, overhanging eaves with end returns. The symmetrical facade has a centered entry door with gabled portico supported by large brackets. The entry door (not original) has four upper glass sashes and a metal screen door. There are sidelights, each with

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four sashes and a lower wood panel. Above the entry door is a semi-circular transom with radiating and curved sashes. The door is flanked by original wood 6/6 double-hung windows, both with metal storms. The window sills are angled brick headers, and the lintels are vertical brick stretchers. There are two windows on the east elevation, and a group of three and a single window on the west, all similarly detailed as those on the front (north) elevation. The interior has exposed brick walls (painted), a poured concrete floor, and a small partitioned area formed by vertical board walls.

The greenhouse portion has a long gable roof with low ends that curve at the wall junction. The original glass panes were replaced with corrugated fiberglass in 1991. The walls of the greenhouse are brick, while the upper portion has glass sashes that open for circulation and venting. The walls have regularly spaced engaged pilasters with curved concrete caps. There is an entry door on the south elevation. The interior has exposed metal roof bracing and concrete paths between raised concrete planting beds. Brick coldframes extend nearly the full length along the east side of the greenhouse. The brick matches that of the greenhouse, and indicate a historic construction date. Although not counted, they contribute to the historic sense of time and place.

The one-story maintenance building is also clad in vari-colored red brick, although not identical to the greenhouse. It has a cross plan with gable roofs, also with end returns and enclosed eaves. Beneath the eaves is a wide wood cornice band. The symmetrical facade faces west towards Hydraulic Street. The slightly projecting central wing has an accentuated entry door flanked by a window on each side. The concrete paneled surround has a molded entablature lintel. The facade windows on the central bay are tall, narrow, 6/6, double-hung wood, while the two on either wing are 12/12. All have a concrete lugsill and a lintel of vertical brick stretchers. There are two 12/12 windows on each of the side elevations, while the central rear projecting bay has 9/9 windows on either side of the rear entry door. Circular vents are beneath the peaks at all four gable ends. The rear (east) elevation has a non-historic metal entry door, centered as on the front elevation. The south wing on the rear elevation has two non-historic overhead metal garage doors, while the north wing has a large swinging door of vertical boards. Centered on the roof ridge is a metal octagon cupola, with arched vents, a pyramidal roof with flared eaves, and spire. The interior is divided into two rooms, both with exposed brick walls, particle board ceiling, concrete floor, and numerous peg boards and tool holders on the walls.

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Sedgwick County, Kansas

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**SUMMARY**

The Linwood Park Greenhouse and Maintenance Building are significant under Criterion A in the area of *Social History*. Both buildings are associated with the historic context outlined in the Multiple Property Documentation Form “New Deal-era Resources of Kansas” (hereafter referred to as “MPDF”). The context discusses the effect of the series of programs enacted by Franklin Roosevelt’s administration during the Great Depression to provide relief, reform and recovery for the nation. These programs were collectively known as the “New Deal.” Wichita and particularly the surrounding agricultural region were affected by not only the economic and agricultural depressions, but the drought and resulting Dust Bowl years during the “dirty thirties.” A multitude of New Deal programs gave relief for the citizens of Wichita; some of these programs provided employment working on the construction or maintenance of public works projects. In Wichita, these work-relief projects ranged from the huge Ackerman Island removal project to painting and landscaping. The greenhouse’s construction is attributed to the Works Progress Administration, while the maintenance building was constructed with Federal Emergency Relief Administration funds, appropriated through the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee. The period of significance for both buildings is 1935, their date of construction. They both represent how the Wichita parks department was able to continue the development of its parks system through the use of a variety of New Deal programs during the Depression, while at the same time providing jobs for the unemployed of Wichita.

**ELABORATION**

Charles S. Aldrich donated one hundred and sixty acres to the City of Wichita in 1887, establishing South Linwood Park in the Linwood Park Addition. Aldrich was a business partner with Henry Schweiter, who had donated land the previous year for Henry Park, and again in 1887 for North Linwood Park in his development “Schweiter’s Third Addition.” The park lost some of its acreage when Chisholm Creek was channelized in 1910s, and again in the late 1960s with the construction of the Canal Route. Although the prestigious landscape architectural firm of Hare & Hare was hired in 1947 to plan a group picnic area in South Linwood Park, there are few records of other historic planned developments in the park.<sup>1</sup> In the south portion of the park are recreational facilities constructed within the latter decades of the twentieth century, including a recreational center, swimming pool, tennis courts, volleyball court, and basketball court. As the site of numerous recreational facilities, Linwood Park South also has a football field and softball

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<sup>1</sup>“South Linwood Park,” Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Reconnaissance Form, 8 January 2003.

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fields. The greenhouse and maintenance buildings are the only extant New Deal buildings in the park.

*The New Deal in Wichita*

Wichita had enjoyed a decade of prosperity and growth during the 1920s. It was not unusual, then, to find that few residents in Wichita were overly concerned with the stock market crash of 1929. As Nestor Weigand noted later, “the big cities were oriented to buying stocks, we weren’t and there weren’t a lot of local companies issuing stock.”<sup>2</sup> Wichita was always an optimistic city, and the 1920s had been a decade replete with that optimism. And why not? The booming growth of that decade was shared by nearly every sector of the city’s economy: housing, business, and new industries, not the least of which was aviation. Although the surrounding agricultural area had suffered during the 1920s, this too was slowly improving by the time of the stock market crash. Even in 1930, there were few signs that the impending nationwide economic catastrophe would eventually affect Wichita. That would soon change. Employees began to be laid off in the early 1930s as companies experienced declining profits. At the beginning of 1932, there were 500 employees of Wichita’s Coleman Lamp and Stove Company, which was about half the number it employed just a few years ago.<sup>3</sup> Other companies would not weather the economic crisis, and when forced into bankruptcy, all of their employees were added to the unemployment rolls. The aviation industry, which seemed so promising for Wichita’s future just a few years ago, was suffering. Foreclosure judgement on the Swallow Airplane Company buildings, land, and equipment was granted in October 1932 on the basis of overdue promissory notes owed Russell Moore, Wichita capitalist.<sup>4</sup> Other transportation-related companies were suffering as well. The Wichita Transportation Company began operating at a deficit in 1930, the first year of the Depression. The Frisco Railroad went into receivership in November 1932, and at the end of March 1933, the Missouri Pacific Railroad filed for bankruptcy.<sup>5</sup> In an attempt to avoid the same result, passenger fares on the Arkansas Valley Interurban railway were reduced in

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<sup>2</sup>Craig Miner, *Wichita: The Magic City* (Wichita: Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum Association, 1988) 177.

<sup>3</sup>*Wichita Eagle* (7 January 1932) 5.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*, (7 October 1932) 5.

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, (2 November 1932) 1; (1 April 1933) 1.



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April 1933 from 3.6 cents per mile to 2.5 cents per mile, and the Yellow Cab Company reduced its fares in 1932 and dropped its charge for extra passengers.<sup>6</sup>

Wichita workers that did not lose their jobs saw either their pay or hours reduced. When the Wichita Transportation Company proposed reducing the wages of bus drivers and street car motorman by five cents an hour in 1932 and refused to negotiate, the employees took their complaints to the city commission.<sup>7</sup> By contrast, Wichita school teachers, who had taken a ten percent pay cut at the start of the contract year for 1932-1933, voluntarily offered in February 1933 to take a further ten percent cut for the remainder of the contract year in order to keep their jobs.<sup>8</sup> Salaries at the Municipal University of Wichita were also cut by ten percent in 1930, and twenty percent in 1931.<sup>9</sup>

Agricultural conditions in the region surrounding Wichita worsened in the early 1930s as well. In fact, agriculture during the 1920s never really experienced the same growth as other segments of the economy. The first World War had inflated wheat prices in the United States, in part due reduced foreign competition coupled with an increased demand. Once the war began, the federal government guaranteed wheat prices at over two dollars a bushel — more than double that of the richest boom year prior to that time. These prices however, created an artificial norm against which farmers would subsequently compare their situation. It also witnessed a quickening in the pace of farm rationalization throughout the states of the Midwest and Great Plains. More and more farmers turned to machines to facilitate the cultivation of their fields, and more significantly, to bring even more acres under the plow in order to take advantage of high wheat prices by expanding their production. With the eventual resumption of agriculture in Europe after World War I, wheat prices declined dramatically. Farmers felt that the only way to make ends meet was to once again increase their acreage. Technological innovations in the 1920s, including the one-way disc plow invented by a Kansas farmer, allowed farmers to plow under even greater amounts of sod for wheat cultivation. These new plows, along with mechanized tractors and combines and finally the additional acreage, were all expensive to purchase. Most

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<sup>6</sup>Ibid., (31 March 1933) 3; (3 April 1932) 5.

<sup>7</sup>*Wichita Beacon* (29 March 1932) 10.

<sup>8</sup>*Wichita Eagle* (7 February 1933) 5.

<sup>9</sup>Miner, 177.

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farmers during the twenties had to rely on creative financing in an attempt to plow more acres of wheat, with the hope they could eventually come out ahead.<sup>10</sup> With persistence and a favorable weather cycle, though, wheat prices were beginning to rise by the time of the stock market crash, although prices still had not reached their war levels.

After the crash, prices for all agricultural products began to decline in 1930. More significant for agriculture on the Great Plains was the severe drought that began in 1931 and lasted nearly a decade; this led to the collapse of farm prices nationwide. The drought did not affect the wheat production totals in the state in 1931, which was the largest crop in history until 1947, but price per bushel of 33 cents was the lowest on record. The following year, the number of statewide barrels dropped fifty percent due to both low prices and the poorest planting conditions in years. The drought conditions worsened in 1933, and the state average yield per acre was 9.1 bushels, the lowest in 38 years. The total wheat production was the smallest since 1917.<sup>11</sup> As a large segment of Wichita's economy was dependent upon the success of the wheat crops, these statistics further impacted the local economy. Wheat prices in Wichita reflected the national and statewide trends, with the price of wagon wheat in Wichita dropped to its lowest prices in 1931 and 1932, where it ranged from 26 to 34 cents per bushel.<sup>12</sup> The drought affected livestock as well, with livestock receipts in Wichita dropping in 1931 to 906,781 head, compared with 1,056,214 in 1930.<sup>13</sup>

With almost all segments of the economy affected by the Depression, there was naturally less revenue coming into the city's coffers. Delinquent taxes and reductions in revenue cut the city's income by nearly one half million in 1931 and 1932. Any consideration of improving or building new civic projects, or even maintaining the city's infrastructure was put on hold until other funding sources could be found. Even that was not enough to cover the loss in revenues. In

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<sup>10</sup>Mark D. Hersey, "Dust In The Wind," *KansasHistoryOnline*, ed. Henry J. Fortunato, [5/27/2004], Hall Center for the Humanities, <<http://www.kansashistoryonline.org/ksh/articlepage.asp?artid=104>> (26 June 2006).

<sup>11</sup>Kansas Department of Agriculture & U.S. Department of Agriculture, *Kansas Wheat History* (Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Agriculture, Statistics Division, November 2004) 6-7.

<sup>12</sup>*Wichita Eagle* (21 June 1936) 7.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*, (1 January 1932) 2.

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order to remain solvent, the city eliminated jobs and reduced the wages of those employees that remained by twelve to twenty percent.<sup>14</sup>

For those residents that lost jobs, either private or public, some relief was provided by local governments or charity. Prior to the establishment of any federal relief programs, the city, county and community chest provided over 53,000 man days of work for Wichita residents. Due to the extreme demand for assistance, this relief work was restricted to married man who had resided in the city for at least a year and who had no other source of income. The unemployed were allowed two days of work a week at a wage of \$2.25 a day. The city also sponsored “tag days” to allow the unemployed to work off debts for necessities. Private charities tried their best to provide assistance, although their funds were also stretched to the limits due to the Depression. The Lions Club and Salvation Army erected apple stands on street corners for the unemployed, but it was unlikely that this provided much aid to families during this crisis.<sup>15</sup> A record number of unemployed was recorded in Wichita at the start of 1932, and reports of suicides began to dominate the local newspaper headlines.<sup>16</sup>

Although Wichita tried to meet the needs of local citizens, the scope of the economic and agricultural crises was beyond the city’s means to solve. It would require measures from the state and national levels. At first, though, the responses from both were generally weak or ineffective. Kansas’ state constitution contained legislation that precluded it from caring for the poor. Cities and towns in the state could divert funds from their budgets for work relief, but were not allowed by law to appropriate any money for direct relief. Although nearly two million dollars had been raised in 1931 by the state’s counties for poor relief, by the end of the summer of 1932, all of these funds were depleted.<sup>17</sup> Governor Woodring formed the Kansas Federal Relief Committee in July 1932 (later renamed the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee, or

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<sup>14</sup>Miner, 180.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., 180.

<sup>16</sup>R. M. Long, *Wichita Century: A Pictorial History of Wichita, Kansas, 1870-1970* (Wichita, KS: Wichita Historical Museum Association, Inc., 1969) 163-164.

<sup>17</sup>Tully, 19.

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KERC), but it was formed primarily as a conduit for any federal funds that may be furnished to the state. In effect, the state turned to the federal government for help.<sup>18</sup>

Nearly three years after the onset of the national Depression, President Hoover finally signed the Emergency Relief and Construction Act. This act, which provided federal loans to the states to finance the construction of public works, failed to provide much relief to Kansas or the nation. The Depression, which had now expanded worldwide, combined with the effects of the drought, eventually brought Wichita's growth to a standstill. For the first time in memory for many Wichita residents, the population decreased, although slightly. The assessor recorded a decrease in the county's population in 1931, the State Board of Agriculture reported that the city lost 2599 in population from 1932 to 1933; the Chamber of Commerce naturally disputed the figure, perhaps hoping to keep further bad news about the economic situation from the residents.<sup>19</sup>

In these desperate times, Americans would eventually turn to the federal government for assistance. They would not be disappointed. Over the next decade, federal government agencies assisted Wichita, the state, and the nation by creating programs that funded public improvement projects and provided work for the unemployed as well. These agencies were part of Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal," a term coined during his acceptance of the Democratic party's nomination to the presidency.

"I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people."  
Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Immediately after his inauguration in March 1933, Roosevelt took action by declaring a national bank holiday. The purpose of this holiday was to place a short moratorium on the bank closures that were sweeping the nation. For some, it was too late, as the Depression continued to worsen before some of Roosevelt's other measures could take effect. There were thirteen banks in Wichita just before the crash in 1929. Only six remained to reopen in 1933 after the moratorium.<sup>20</sup> Some, like the Union National Bank building, were sold at a sheriff's sale, to

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<sup>18</sup>Ibid., 21.

<sup>19</sup>*Wichita Eagle* (14 May 1932) 5; (14 October 1933) 2.

<sup>20</sup>Kay Kirkman, *Wichita: A Pictorial History* (Norfolk, VA: Donning Company, 1981) 103.

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satisfy their judgements.<sup>21</sup> The greatest impact the holiday may have had was on the nation's mood – here, finally, was a president that would take action. Indeed, no one can accuse his administration of inaction. In his first one hundred days of office, Roosevelt created a virtual “alphabet army” of New Deal programs. These programs provided millions of dollars for jobs and public projects; more importantly, they brought a hope to an impoverished nation.

Franklin Roosevelt's administration addressed the problems of the nation with a basic three-pronged approach: relief, reform, and recovery. A number of New Deal programs were regulatory in nature, affecting banking, business, labor, the stock market, prices, agriculture and business loans, and farm subsidy programs. Other New Deal programs sought to alleviate the immediate problem of relief for the unemployed, which was undertaken in two ways. The first was to provide direct relief to families, many of whom had been out-of-work for years. Second, the New Deal initiated several programs that provided work for the unemployed through public improvement projects. Some of the projects were service-oriented, such as canning and sewing projects, hot school lunch projects, and white-collar jobs. Others put people back to work on the construction of public buildings and works projects. Some of the most common construction agencies were the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the Public Works Administration (PWA), and the Works Progress Administration (later the Works Projects Administration, or WPA). Other less common programs included the National Youth Administration (NYA).

In spite of Wichita's general reluctance to accept federal intervention and its preference for private action instead, all of the New Deal programs – not just those that constructed public projects – significantly impacted the city's economy during the Depression. As Craig Miner noted in *Wichita: The Magic City*, New Deal programs were enthusiastically accepted by the city government “as a way not only of surviving with minimal disturbance from the unemployed, but actually constructing with federal help long delayed projects that would be important to Wichita's prosperity in the post-emergency years.” Furthermore, it did not want “to let hard times deprive it permanently of its reputation as a progressive place.”<sup>22</sup> So the city took full advantage of the offer of federal funds for relief and recovery. In addition to direct relief, much of the federal assistance went towards projects that not only put people back to work, but built civic projects that would last through to the next century.

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<sup>21</sup>*Wichita Eagle* (17 September 1933) 5.

<sup>22</sup>Miner, 181-182; 179.

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Wichita jumped on the bandwagon of support for the New Deal, which was relayed in a December 1933 issue of the *Eagle*, which printed a full-page portrait of Roosevelt with a caption “Mr. President – Wichita is Behind You.” The reason for the support was obvious. Within less than a year of existence, Roosevelt’s New Deal programs had already benefitted the city of Wichita by putting 2,800 people back to work in private business, increasing the city payroll by \$170,000 monthly, putting 4,700 back to work on civil works projects in Wichita at a weekly rate of \$12, loaning over \$40 million from the Wichita Regional Agricultural Credit Corporation to farmers in four surrounding states, and providing 600 home loans for area residents by the Home Owners Loan Corporation.<sup>23</sup>

Although many of the foundations for Roosevelt’s New Deal programs were established by the mid-1930s, the effects of the Depression were far-reaching, and would take years to overcome. Furthermore, nature continued to assault the Great Plains. Dust storms plagued Wichita throughout the mid-1930s, with the worst dust storm the city had seen occurring on April 11, 1935. This storm suspended about five million tons of sediment over a 78 square kilometer area near Wichita. An all time record high temperature of 112.3 degrees Fahrenheit was set on July 18, 1935, and dust storms still affected the city in 1937.<sup>24</sup> Thus federal support for Wichita’s economy through New Deal programs increased even more in the latter half of the thirties. In 1934, over \$25 million was spent on relief in Sedgwick County. By 1935 relief programs in Wichita, with over sixty case workers hired to handle the paperwork, were a major part of the economy. It was estimated 25,000 people in Sedgwick County were dependent on these programs, approximately one quarter of the county’s population. When the WPA became active in 1935, the amount of federal involvement in the local economy grew even more. Between 1935 and 1940, this one agency alone spent \$8,500,000 in Wichita and at one time employed 3,000 local people.<sup>25</sup> Wichita’s population began to rise again, albeit slowly. One theory for this might be the exodus of families from the surrounding agricultural region into the city in hopes of obtaining work, either through private employment but more likely through one of the many large New Deal work-relief projects in Wichita.

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<sup>23</sup>Ibid., 181.

<sup>24</sup>*Wichita Eagle* (11 April 1935) 1; (19 July 1936) 2; (16 February 1937) 12.

<sup>25</sup>Miner, 182.

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When Franklin Roosevelt came to Wichita prior to his reelection in 1936, he was warmly greeted by the citizens. His speech was held at Lawrence Stadium, a public project which had employed hundreds of out-of-work Wichita men during its construction – initially a Civil Works Administration project and later expanded with two Federal Emergency Relief grants.



*President Franklin Roosevelt and First Lady, Eleanor, soon after arriving at Union Station in 1936.  
From the Wichita Public Library Local History Section, wpl\_wpl60.*

Near the end of the 1930s, Wichita's economy began to rebound earlier than some other areas of the country. The development of oil fields nearby helped, as did the renewed growth in the aircraft industry at the end of the decade. Employment in Wichita's aircraft factories tripled from the previous year in 1940, reaching 4700.<sup>26</sup> With the nation gearing up for war, that number exploded in the following year. Many could thus successfully argue that Roosevelt's New Deal programs were not responsible for lifting Wichita out of the Depression. However, for the individual families that received direct assistance, loans, or employment, the New Deal carried them through the difficult times of the Depression and the Dust Bowl. Furthermore, without the

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<sup>26</sup>*Wichita Eagle* (24 November 1940), 1.

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construction of public projects funded and built by New Deal programs, Wichita would have been ill-prepared to face the boom years that would follow. The city was able to put the devastating years of the Depression behind it as it continued to use New Deal projects in the coming decades, ranging from countless road and park improvements, extensive expansion of the municipal university, a new art museum, and a new water softening system and filtration plant.

***The New Deal & Work Relief: the Federal Emergency Relief Administration***

One of the most significant relief programs in Roosevelt's "First Hundred Days" was the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), created on May 12, 1933. At first FERA provided direct relief payments for the needy, but it eventually grew to also include work relief programs. Initially, \$500 million was appropriated for FERA to give as grants to state emergency relief administrations for relief purposes, and in turn those states distributed the funds to local agencies or organizations. In Kansas the state agency responsible for distribution of FERA funds was the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee (KERC). Hoping to develop a progressive program, the KERC's director, John Stutz, required that county poor commissioners must have a college degree in public welfare.<sup>27</sup> This requirement undoubtedly had an unfortunate effect of delaying relief in many rural counties.

FERA was significant for establishing the beginning of partnership between the Federal government and state and local governments in providing relief. FERA also did more than just provide money for direct relief. There were two divisions devoted to works projects, and another created to meet the special needs of destitute American farmers, a rural rehabilitation program was created. The works projects were intended to conserve skills, work habits, and morals of the participants, so the aim was to match the unemployed with work suited to their abilities. FERA was trying to avoid the stigma of past relief projects where men were required to chop wood, for example, to prove they were willing to work. These projects often lacked sufficient funds for construction, so a good deal of the work was maintenance, giving rise to the complaint towards "leaf-raking projects." With FERA, more useful and carefully planned projects were constructed as there was money spent on materials as well as wages.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup>From Cathy Ambler, Elizabeth Rosin, and Jon Taylor, "New Deal-era Resources of Kansas," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, n.d., E-9.

<sup>28</sup>U.S., Federal Works Agency, *Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1947) 3.



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In spite of the divisions devoted to work relief projects, the majority of FERA payments were for direct relief. Furthermore, FERA oversaw the short-lived Civil Works Administration (CWA) program, which constructed some of the work relief projects in Wichita. When the CWA was closed at the end of March 1934, any incomplete projects and most of the workers were transferred back to FERA. Thus some projects in Wichita may have initially started out as CWA projects, but were completed by FERA when the former program was discontinued in March 1934. In part due to the confusing roles of the various programs, but also because of their overlapping funding, only three extant work relief projects in Wichita can be attributed to being funded solely by FERA, although several other projects were partially funded by this program. Following Roosevelt's desire to get out of the "business" of the dole, FERA was gradually phased out in late 1935. The state, in theory, was now supposed to fill the relief needs of Kansans. FERA direct relief operations were viewed by some as a failure; a more fair appraisal is that it failed to save people's pride. Work was still preferred to direct relief. Nonetheless, it is significant to remember that FERA once helped to feed, clothe, and house many Kansans during some desperate times.

***The New Deal & Work Relief: the Works Progress Administration***

Although the early programs of the New Deal had relieved the suffering of some Americans, it was clear as 1934 was ending that the economic depression and problems of unemployment were not going away. The success of the Civilian Conservation Corps had convinced Roosevelt to come up with another similar approach to unemployment. Most New Dealers believed that working was better than the "dole." By giving the unemployed a job, much more was provided than a paycheck – they regained their dignity and hope as well. The Roosevelt administration thus proposed to end FERA, its program of direct relief to the states, and replace it with a broader relief and recovery program known as the "Second New Deal." Central to this new phase was a work relief program for the unemployed, established as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) on May 6, 1935. The WPA not only absorbed the former FERA public works program, but modified and expanded work relief to become the major source of public jobs for the unemployed during the latter part of the thirties. The program's name was changed to the Works Projects Administration in 1939 when it was reorganized.

The main goal of the WPA program was to put the unemployed back to work and remove them from the relief rolls. "Small useful projects" were designed to provide employment for a maximum number of needy "employable" workers in the "shortest time possible." Although not all WPA projects were construction-related, its public works projects required that a majority of a project's cost be spent on wages, not on construction materials. Virtually the entire cost of WPA

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projects was paid directly by the federal government, except for relatively small sums paid by the sponsor. This contrasted with the PWA projects, which were generally larger, more expensive, new construction only (no repairs or maintenance), and were financed by a grant or combined grant and loan. Whereas the PWA's goal was to stimulate the economy and the private employment of labor, whether or not in need of relief, the WPA's goal was to put as many people back to work as possible. The WPA eventually grew into the largest provider of work relief in the nation during the remainder of the Depression. In the three year period ending June 30, 1938, about three-fourths of all federal relief works programs employment was provided by the WPA; about one-eighth was provided by the CCC, and the remaining one-eighth by the PWA and all other agencies combined.<sup>29</sup>

Harry L. Hopkins was appointed the chief administrator of the WPA, and in turn, he appointed the directors of each state office. The state WPA offices replaced the local Emergency Relief Administration offices created under FERA. There were two main divisions in the WPA which provided jobs – the Division of Engineering and Construction, which oversaw manually constructed projects, and the Service Projects Division.<sup>30</sup> The construction projects brought about the most widespread and significant change in public capital improvements that the state and nation had ever witnessed, with projects covering municipal engineering, airports and airways, public buildings, highways and roads, conservation projects, engineering survey projects, and disaster emergency activities. The WPA construction projects were intended to provide employment to a large number of unskilled workers, but they also used skilled and semi-skilled workers. Certified WPA skilled workers included carpenters, bricklayers, stone masons, mechanics, painters, plumbers, and others; but also included railroad trainmen and others who could not use their skills on WPA projects. Semiskilled workers included truck drivers and factory workers who had to be assigned other work. Since not all workers' skills could be used on WPA projects, some were obliged to adapt themselves.

Nationwide, about half of the construction employment went to highway, road, and street projects. Public utilities such as water and sewage systems, projects for parks, and projects for public buildings made another third, and the remainder involved conservation, sanitation, and airport projects. The construction of public buildings generally involved the highest percentage

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<sup>29</sup>U.S., Federal Works Agency, *Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-1943* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1947) 7-8.

<sup>30</sup>Other divisions within the organization dealt with administrative issues.

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of skilled workers on a project – about 30 %. Road construction usually required as little as eight percent skilled workers. Foremen were generally hired from outside the project; if they later were able to find other work, the project supervisor would often promote from within. In fact, the WPA provided training for all unskilled workers in the use of unfamiliar tools, and many were promoted up through the skilled grades.<sup>31</sup>

The Service Projects covered a wide variety of work projects, and provided employment to women as well as white-collar professionals. Projects relating to adult education, the arts (including writing, music, performance, and the visual arts), records and research projects provided jobs to people who had lost related work in similar professions. Rural women were given jobs in sewing, gardening, canning, commodity distribution, and serving hot lunches – thereby taking a two-part approach to helping the needy: by providing jobs for the women employed on the projects, and distributing the goods to the needy. Only the National Youth Administration (NYA) program sometimes worked on construction projects.

The vast majority of WPA projects were planned, initiated and sponsored by county, city, and other various local public agencies. Suggestions for local projects might come from WPA officials, as well as from civic organizations or private citizens. The formal proposals, however, had to be made by a public agency legally empowered to support the work proposed. The project application had to show the estimated cost of work, what portion was paid by sponsors, and the amount and kinds of labor required. Proposals for construction projects had to be accompanied by preliminary engineering/architectural plans and specs.<sup>32</sup> Actual working drawings were often prepared by the sponsor after approval by Washington.

Although the planning and initiation of projects was the sponsor's responsibility, WPA officials often suggested eligible projects. Sometimes project proposals were prepared cooperatively by the responsible local officials and the WPA district engineer, particularly in the cases of rural communities and small towns with no access to architects or professional planners. If unsuitable projects were submitted by small communities which had no engineering departments, these plans usually were not rejected outright, but returned with suggestions for revisions. Since the purpose of the program was to get as many people to work as fast as possible, the WPA rarely

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<sup>31</sup>U.S., Federal Works Agency, 45.

<sup>32</sup>No preliminary plans or specs remain for WPA projects at the National Archives in College Park, Md. In rare occasions when a proposal was modified, these plans were sometimes retained with the project file.

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tried to improve upon the plans. For larger cities, though, engineering departments began advance planning with a view of securing WPA assistance, and divided public works requiring more than one year in construction into progressive phases meeting the \$25,000 maximum funding ceiling; these phases were then approved over several funding periods. This allowed larger projects to be constructed with a minimum of sponsor match, as opposed to that required if the larger projects had been funded by the PWA.<sup>33</sup>

Since the Depression had basically halted all planning for local public works, many communities were not prepared to submit plans for new public facilities. Thus in the early stages of the WPA program, many of the initial projects involved repairing buildings. As the program developed and expanded, more applications for new construction were received. Furthermore, many of the projects became more sophisticated, which often led to a higher percentage of skilled labor needed. Since the WPA program was geared towards increasing employment for unskilled labor, monolithic concrete construction came into greater use (since it required the least amount of highly skilled labor.)

The selection of building materials was also affected by the WPA's comparatively lenient requirements for match. There was no fixed minimum percentage for sponsor's contribution to a WPA project until the ERA Act of 1939, which increased the sponsors' contributions within a state to twenty-five percent of the cost of all projects. As this percentage was given to a state as a whole, rather than individual projects, the states had some leeway in determining which projects to approve. Some states even assisted local governments with state funds. A sponsor's contribution did not have to be cash; it could include office space, supplies, construction materials, equipment, tools, skilled labor, and technical supervision.<sup>34</sup> If building materials could not be found locally or salvaged from other WPA demolition projects, then other inexpensive materials were used. Concrete was again desirable from the sponsor's point of view as it was less expensive than most other forms of construction, thereby lowering the project's total costs and therefore the sponsor's contribution. Other inexpensive construction materials included locally quarried stone, or resources salvaged from other WPA demolition projects.

Other inherent goals of the WPA were reflected in trends regarding the style or design of these projects. Simple designs which eliminated ornate architectural features, intricate structural

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<sup>33</sup>U.S., Federal Works Agency, 29.

<sup>34</sup>Ibid., p. 9.

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designs, and elaborate trim were best suited to unskilled labor. Furthermore, “[t]he WPA followed the newer tendencies towards simplification in architectural style.”<sup>35</sup> The WPA also urged sponsors to design buildings which would require the least amount of mechanized equipment as possible; again, to maximize the number of unskilled laborers and minimize the number of skilled laborers. “The result was the construction of thousands of public buildings of simple and pleasing appearance and sound architectural design, with savings both in original cost and in future maintenance.”<sup>36</sup>

Some of the employment goals of the WPA were not conducive to typical construction practices, though. Unlike the PWA, which laid off workers during the winter, the WPA’s goal was to provide year-round employment if possible. The winter months were often the worse for unemployment, especially in agricultural areas, and the WPA did not want to add to the number of unemployed by laying off workers. WPA construction projects thus often broke with custom and carried on work that ordinarily would have been performed in better weather. Only in periods of extreme cold or storms were projects temporarily suspended.<sup>37</sup>

The Works Progress Administration was reorganized and renamed when it received additional appropriations in 1939. Now called the Works Projects Administration, it became a division of the Federal Works Agency. Sponsors were now also required to pay one-quarter of a project’s projected costs. The new legislation also stipulated that states discharge of all relief workers who had been on the rolls for more than eighteen consecutive months, resulting in a reduction in the number of WPA workers available for projects. No part of the new appropriations for the WPA were to go for defense or military projects. The outbreak of World War II, however, changed that requirement, and the WPA began to move towards national defense. The WPA continued to reduce its rolls, and by 1942 the entire program concentrated on the war effort. The War Public Works took over the remaining projects in 1942, just before Roosevelt ordered the liquidation of the program.

The WPA accounted for almost half of all federal relief appropriations in the nation during the entire depression. It is natural that the program would have a long list of accomplishments to

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<sup>35</sup>Ibid.

<sup>36</sup>Ibid.

<sup>37</sup>Ibid.

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match those appropriations. Major construction accomplishments nationwide included the building or improving of 651,000 miles of roads, the erection or improvement of 125,110 buildings, the installation of 16,100 miles water mains and distribution lines, 24,300 miles of sewerage facilities, and the construction of many airports. Service projects included hot lunch programs for schools, child health centers, recreation centers, and literacy classes. The total federal expenditure for all WPA projects in the U.S. was \$10,136,743,000, while the sponsor's contribution was \$2,837,713,000.

The WPA also could boast of some less tangible achievements. The program was significant for its assistance with local governments' preparations for long-range plans for municipal improvements. The WPA provided smaller communities with professional assistance in preparing designs for local projects, which otherwise would have had no access to this expertise. As its primary goal was to provide work for the unemployed, towards that goal the WPA employed approximately 8.5 million people nationwide during its existence, who were paid almost \$9 billion in WPA wages. During its eight years in operation, nearly one-fourth of all U.S. families were dependent on WPA wages for support. Despite this, only about one-quarter of the nation's unemployed were hired by the program. A program this expansive clearly had its detractors, and it certainly was not as popular as some other New Deal agencies, such as the CCC. Unlike the smaller and more rigid PWA, which managed to avoid many of the criticisms aimed at the WPA, the WPA was meant to put people back to work in every community that needed it. Therefore, some projects of lesser quality were accepted. To the millions of Americans who *did* receive jobs, the WPA provided a means to survive the Great Depression. It is clearly one of the most significant and expansive programs by which the New Deal was judged.

***South Linwood Park and the New Deal***

In Wichita, the parks department was clearly a significant beneficiary of the New Deal work relief programs and funding. A substantial amount of maintenance and construction work in the city's park system, which had been delayed due to the Depression, was carried out by workers paid for by the various New Deal work programs, including the Civil Works Administration, Federal Emergency Relief Administration, and Works Progress Administration. Many of these projects covered grading, seeding, riverbank stabilization, and other landscape maintenance. In addition to park projects, the New Deal funded the majority of the \$540,000 for runways at the municipal airport, paid for over numerous road and bridge projects (which included over 500 miles of new roads), built the city's new water system, and significantly expanded the Municipal University campus. In terms of dollars and man hours, the numerous road and runway projects

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comprised the bulk of the New Deal construction projects in Wichita; hundreds of men were employed on single projects in these categories. Sedgwick County projects also provided employment for hundreds of men, both for farm-to-market roads and water control and conservation. In terms of extant resources in Wichita, though, the city's parks department was the greatest beneficiary of the WPA.

There are no records prior indicating that South Linwood Park had any development prior to the to the stock market crash. North Linwood Park, located north of E. Harry Street, also lacked any buildings or facilities. With the severe budgetary restrictions facing all city departments during the 1930s, any development plans for either park were put on hold; the city had a difficult time even paying for maintenance of the existing parks. When Roosevelt's New Deal provided funding and workers for public projects, Wichita's parks department moved quickly to take advantage of the various work relief programs. Both Linwood parks benefitted from some of the earliest work-relief programs, such as the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. With the establishment of the WPA and its much larger budget, the parks department expanded its development plans, and soon virtually every park was the beneficiary of either a maintenance or construction project.

Once the New Deal work relief programs were established providing funding for construction, it appears that recreational facilities were constructed in Linwood Park North, and the utilitarian outbuildings were built in Linwood Park South. The decision for this distinction between the two park tracts appears to have originated with Alfred MacDonald. MacDonald replaced L.W. Clapp as the Director of the Parks and Forestry Department and the Board of Park Commission after Clapp died in 1934. Like Clapp, MacDonald also served as City Manager from 1939 to 1941. MacDonald was brought to Wichita in 1920 by Clapp to organize the City Forestry Service, and shared his landscape aesthetic in park design.<sup>38</sup> Also like Clapp, he continued the parks department's reliance on New Deal work relief programs to not only maintain the parks, but to continue their development during the Depression.

MacDonald has been hoping for a shelter house in Linwood Park North for nearly ten years before it was finally constructed by the WPA in 1936.<sup>39</sup> Along with a restroom facility, picnic tables, and outdoor grills, its design was rooted in the Rustic Park architecture aesthetic. In

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<sup>38</sup>Kingsbury., 5.

<sup>39</sup>*Wichita Democrat* (22 October 1936).

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contrast, the two outbuildings in Linwood Park South were built in the Colonial Revival style, although clearly scaled back in details. This is likely due in part to the economic conditions, but also to the utilitarian nature of the buildings.

The design of the greenhouse is attributed to the Lord & Burnham company of Irvington, New York.<sup>40</sup> The plans for the greenhouse were dated 1931, but the building was not completed until 1935 with funding and workers from the Works Progress Administration.<sup>41</sup> This was shortly after the establishment of the WPA program, which indicates that MacDonald and the Wichita parks department likely had completed plans ready, and were merely waiting for funding opportunities before moving ahead with construction. There are additional indications that construction work may have started earlier with funding from a different New Deal agency, but the project was later transferred to the WPA.

The previous year, the city applied to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration for funds to construct a utility building in Linwood Park to store tools, machines, and provide a stable for horses which were used throughout the entire park system in south Wichita. The newspaper extolled the virtues of the building, stating that the

colonial type, brick house lends a harmonizing note to the modern park greenhouse nearby. The new structure is in sharp contrast to the obsolete wooden building formerly used as a storehouse. The old building is to be wrecked and the lumber used on other government projects. . . . Privately constructed, the building would cost \$4,000.<sup>42</sup>

The greenhouse and maintenance buildings represent the variety of New Deal work relief programs that were seized upon by the Wichita parks department in order to continue their program of expansion and development of the city's parks system. These programs implemented by the Roosevelt administration provided much needed jobs for the unemployed of the city –

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<sup>40</sup>“South Linwood Park,” Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Reconnaissance Form, 8 January 2003. *Note:* the inventory form incorrectly lists the construction date as 1931, prior to the establishment of any New Deal programs. Other research lists the WPA as responsible for construction, and an article from 25 August 1935 of the *Wichita Eagle* contains a photograph of the “new” greenhouse in Linwood Park.

<sup>41</sup>Tully, 91.

<sup>42</sup>“Wichita Ahead a \$4,000 Building,” *Wichita Eagle* (28 February 1935).



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from artists to writers, engineers to construction workers, and men, women and youth alike. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration was initially established to provide direct relief. However, with the success of the short-lived Civil Works Administration program, where the unemployed were put to work on public projects rather than being on the “dole,” FERA began a series of work relief projects. Its success led to the establishment of a more comprehensive work relief program, the Works Progress Administration. The WPA was designed to put a large number of people to work on “small useful projects.” In many other Kansas communities, FERA and WPA projects are relatively simple due to the lack of local resources available for planning. In Wichita, however, a professionally staffed parks department utilized these federal programs to implement their plans for a cohesive parks system. Previously prepared plans designed by the prestigious greenhouse experts Lord & Burnham were used for the greenhouse. Although the designer of the maintenance building is unknown, the simple building nonetheless bears the hallmark of a professional who intentionally planned a building that complemented the design of the adjacent greenhouse. As with other New Deal programs, putting unemployed people to work on civic projects was not without its critics. For the citizens of Wichita, however, the physical results of Roosevelt’s New Deal would not only serve as tangible reminders of his experiment, but would be used and enjoyed for decades. The Linwood Park South greenhouse and maintenance building are thus significant under Criterion A in the area of *Social History* as an example of the variety of New Deal programs used not only for expanding the Wichita parks system, but also for providing relief through jobs for the unemployed of the city during the Great Depression.

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*Wichita Democrat.* 22 October 1936.

***Additional newspaper references***

*Obtained from the online "Tihen Notes" at Wichita State University Libraries' Department of Special Collections. Dr. Edward N. Tihen's research of Wichita newspapers provides synopses of newspaper articles and identifies the newspaper and the pages on which the articles are found. Dr. Tihen's notes are found at:*

*<[http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/local\\_history/tihen/index.asp](http://specialcollections.wichita.edu/collections/local_history/tihen/index.asp)>*

*The specific newspapers cited and page numbers containing the articles are below.*

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\_\_\_\_\_ *Wichita Eagle.*

1 January 1932, p. 2.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The property is a rectangular parcel measuring 205 x 307 feet, located in the northwest corner of Linwood Park, which is located at 1700 S. Hydraulic in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. The legal description of the park is as follows: BEG 180 FT E NW COR NW ¼ e 608 FT S 1182 FT W 755 FT N 1032 FT E 150 FT N 150 TO BEG EXC LINWOOD SCHOOL FINAL PLAT ADD & EXC HWY CC-29018 SEC 34-27-1E. See attached map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The property's boundaries encompass only the land immediately adjacent to the two buildings, which form the maintenance headquarters for the south Wichita park system. The remainder of the park has new construction and does not have any historical associations with a New Deal work relief program.

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The following information applies to photographs 1 and 8:

**Photographer:** Unknown  
**Date of photograph:** Unknown  
**Location of original photo:** Wichita Public Library, Local History Section-Wichita Parks  
Collection; 223 S. Main; Wichita, KS 67202  
**1. Description of View:** Historic photo, looking southeast  
**8. Description of View:** Historic photo, looking east/northeast

The following information applies to photographs 2-7 and 9-15:

**Location of negative:** Wichita-Sedgwick County Metropolitan Area Planning  
Department; City Hall, 10th floor; 455 N. Main; Wichita, Kansas  
67202-1688

The following information applies to photographs 2-7 and 9-12:

**Photographer:** Deon Wolfenbarger

The following information applies to photographs 13-15:

**Photographer:** Kathy Morgan

<b>Photo #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of View</b>
2.	1/31/2006	Looking southeast at front of greenhouse
3.	6/28/2006	Looking south/southeast at front of greenhouse and adjacent sheds
4.	1/31/2006	Looking northeast at west elevation of greenhouse
5.	6/29/2006	Looking north at west elevation of greenhouse
6.	6/29/2006	Looking west/northwest at south elevation of greenhouse
7.	6/29/2006	Looking northwest at east elevation of greenhouse and cold frames
9.	1/31/2006	Looking east/northeast at front elevation of maintenance building

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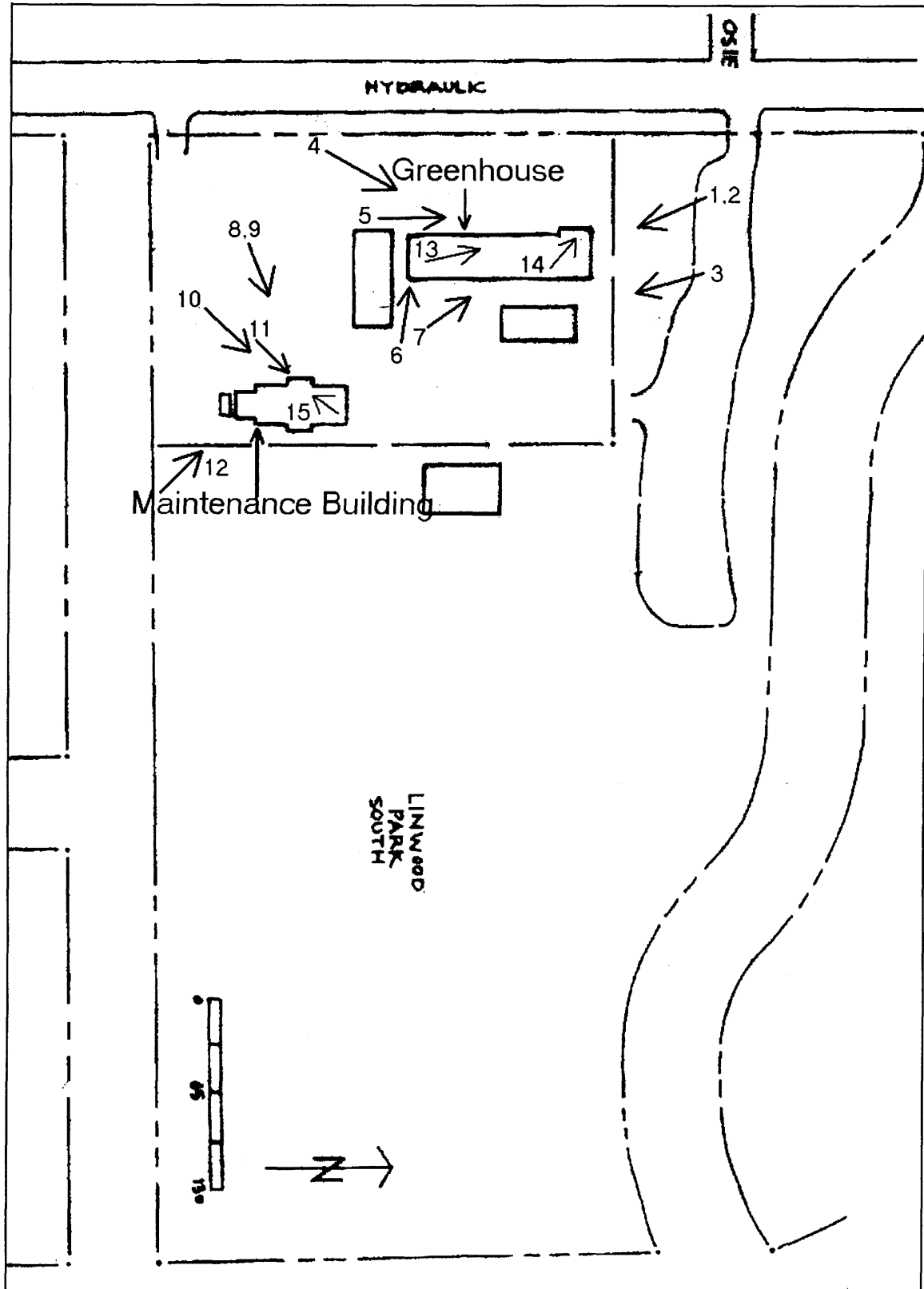
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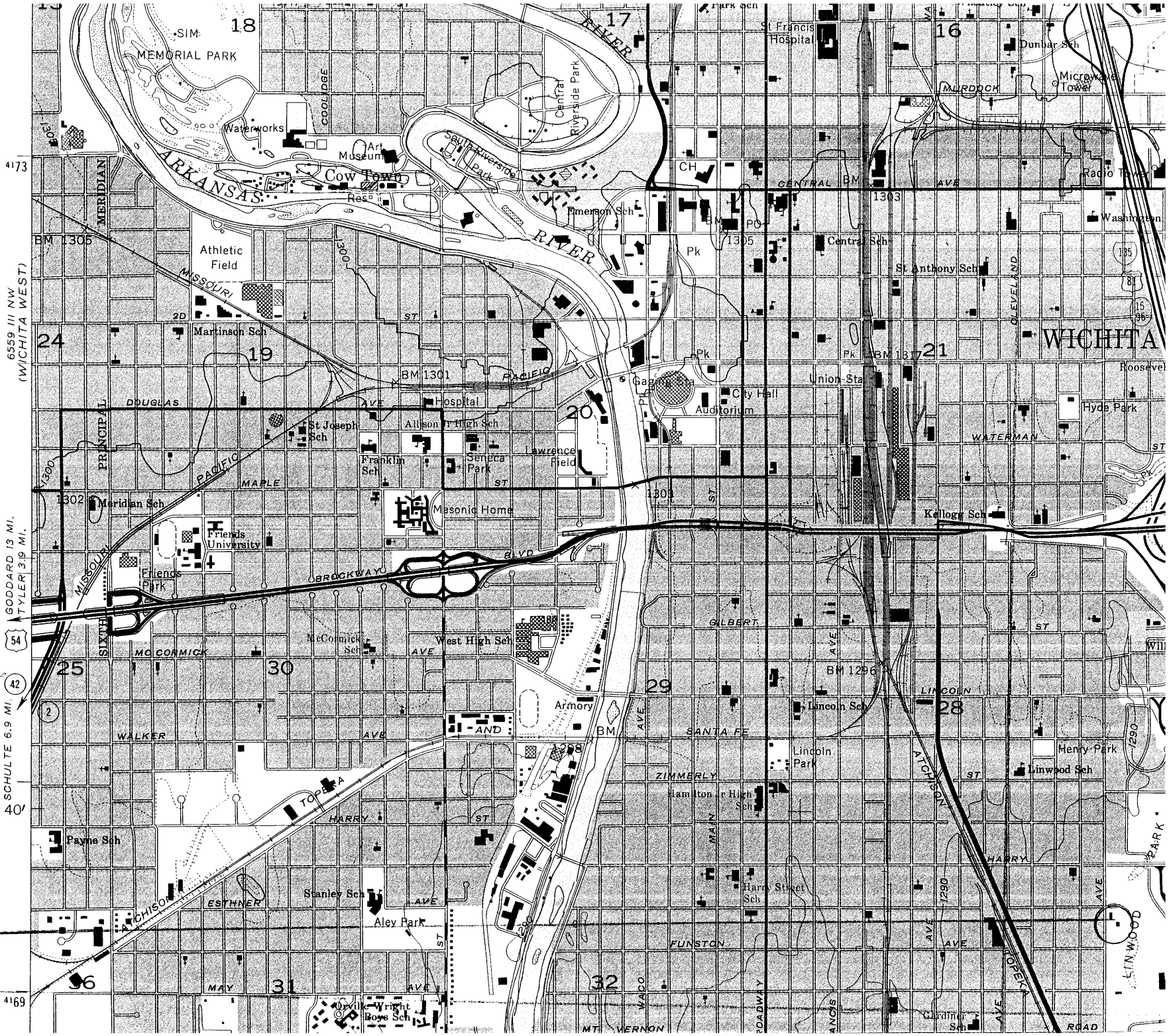
10. 6/29/2006 Looking east/northeast at front elevation of maintenance building
11. 6/29/2006 Looking east/northeast at front entry of maintenance building
12. 6/29/2006 Looking northwest at rear (east elevation) of maintenance building

# Linwood Park South Greenhouse & Maintenance Building Site Map



## LEGEND

← 5 Photo Number & Direction



*inwood Park  
South Greenhouse  
and Maintenance  
Building*

*Wichita;  
Sedgewick County,  
Kansas*

*ITM reference  
4: 648 520E  
4169450N*

4173  
6559 III NW  
(WICHITA WEST)

GODDARD 13 MI.  
TYLER 3.9 MI.  
VIOLA 21 MI.  
SCHULTE 6.9 MI.  
40'

4169

