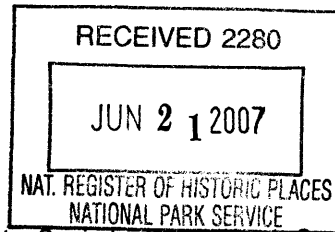


775

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 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" 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 Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Bounded by Lincoln St., Robinson St., Stadium St., and Marion St. N/A  not for publication

city or town Knoxville N/A  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Marion code 125 zip code 50138

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( see continuation sheet for additional comments).

Rowell J. Locke Deputy SHPO June 12, 2007  
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.) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

8.2.07

**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 include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	2	buildings
1	0	sites
7	1	structures
		objects
11	3	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

GOVERNMENT/public works

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: rustic

Other: Medieval Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

GOVERNMENT/public works

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/limestone

walls STONE/limestone

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

**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.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- RECREATION/ENTERTAINMENT
- COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1922-1957

**Significant Dates**

1922

1937

1940

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Works Progress Administration

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 4 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	[1]5	[4]9[0]8[4]8	[4]5[7]3[8]5[7]	2	[1]5	[4]9[0]9[5]9	[4]5[7]3[8]5[7]
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	[1]5	[4]9[0]9[5]9	[4]5[7]4[0]4[5]	4	[1]5	[4]9[0]8[4]8	[4]5[7]4[0]4[5]
							<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 Leah D. Rogers/Member

organization Tallgrass Historians L.C. date May 25, 2007

street & number 2460 S. Riverside Drive telephone 319-354-6722

city or town Iowa City state IA zip code 52246

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the complete 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 see continuation sheets

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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****Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**Section number 7 Page 1**Narrative Description**

The Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District is located in the west-central portion of the City of Knoxville in Marion County, Iowa, approximately 30 miles southeast of the City of Des Moines. The district is specifically bounded on the west by Lincoln Street (IA Highway 14), on the south by Robinson Street, on the east by Stadium Street, and on the north by Marion Street. The oldest structure within the district is the city water tower, which was built in 1922. This elevated steel tank is situated in the northeast corner of the district at the edge of what historically was the city reservoir. In the late 1930s, this location was selected for two Works Progress Administration (WPA) projects to benefit the citizens of Knoxville. These two projects included the construction of a concrete swimming pool and brick bath house just north of the old city reservoir and west of the water tower and the construction of an athletic field within the basin of the drained reservoir. The pool was built in 1937-38, with the football stadium begun in 1938 and officially dedicated in 1939 but not fully completed until 1940. After 1964, the stadium was renamed the "Ken Locke Stadium," in honor of a high school football player from the Class of 1965, who lost his life while playing for the Knoxville Panthers in October 1964. The swimming pool facilities were built for the City of Knoxville and were owned and maintained by the city until 1988 when a new municipal pool facility was built at another location. At that time, the Knoxville school district took over ownership of the old pool facility, with the pool and wading pool structures filled and the wading pool area built over with a new concession stand building in 1990. The athletic field was originally built for the Knoxville High School and is still owned and maintained by the school district. Historically, both the high school and junior high schools utilized the athletic field, while the swimming pool and water tower were public facilities. Today, the district consists of the extant structures and site of the WPA football stadium, track and playing field; the WPA pool bath house and associated pavilion; the sites of the now filled pool and wading pool; and the standing structure of the city water tower. While the city retains possession of the water tower, the pool bath house and the athletic field/stadium are under the jurisdiction of the Knoxville Community School District. Contributing buildings in the district include the WPA pool bath house and the mothers' pavilion associated with the pool. The water tower is a contributing structure. The playing field is a contributing site, with the stone gateway/ticket booths considered two contributing structures, the stone storage building a contributing building, the intact sections of the stone retaining wall as one contributing structure, the cinder track as one contributing structure, and the two sets of bleachers on the east and west side considered as two contributing structures.<sup>1</sup> Non-contributing buildings include the concession stand and press box built in the summer of 1990. The plank and timber pole retaining wall at the north end of the field, which replaced the original stone wall c.1965-67, is considered a non-contributing structure.

The Knoxville city water tower was built in 1922 at the edge of an open reservoir that was part of the original city water system but was later used as a community swimming pond and for cutting ice blocks in the winter. This roughly rectangular-shaped reservoir was an excavated basin on the nearly level summit of a broad upland divide on which the city of Knoxville was established. Located due west of the Marion County Courthouse, the reservoir was historically on the west edge of the developed section of town.<sup>2</sup> The standing water tower is an elevated tower with a cylindrical riveted steel tank having a deeply rounded bottom and less rounded top. The tank is supported by six metal posts tied together with steel cables. The tower is currently painted in yellow and black with the name and logo for the Knoxville High School Panthers. Historically, the tower was unpainted except for the town name. The only other discernible change to the water tower through the years has been the replacement of the original conical top, which had a slight overhang, with the current more closely fitting and

<sup>1</sup> The "bleachers" are enclosed by low stone retaining walls and include the tiered stone benches with concrete caps on either side of centered concrete steps that descend from a stone and concrete landing at each of the gate entryways. All of these structures on each side of the stadium are considered to be the east and west bleachers, with each "bleacher" counted as a single structure.

<sup>2</sup> Also located nearby on the west edge of town are the Marion County Fairgrounds and the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital, which began as a school for the blind and was later the Home for Inebriates before becoming a VA hospital.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

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more rounded top. Some welding has been done to the seams to repair leaks through the years and some of the original rivets have literally rusted away (Steve and Kim Inskeep, e-mail communication with Connie M. Husted dated 11/02/2006). The tower is considered a contributing structure to the historic district.

The WPA swimming pool facility historically included the brick bath house, the concrete swimming pool, a smaller concrete wading pool, and the stone and brick pavilion next to the wading pool. The pavilion sheltered mothers watching their children play in the wading pool. Of these structures, only the pool bath house and the mothers' pavilion are still standing. Both the swimming pool and the wading pool have been filled, with the swimming pool site now a grassy lawn and the wading pool site covered over with a concrete slab. It is not known if the concrete structures for either pool are extant. A one-story concession stand building was built over part of the wading pool site in 1990. The bath house and swimming pools were constructed in 1937-38 as the first of the two WPA projects at this location. The pool project was known as WPA Project No. 63-4213. Photographs taken by the WPA during construction show the pool project underway by December 10, 1937. The pool and bath house were completed and officially dedicated on July 4, 1938, with the wading pool and mothers' pavilion added in the winter of 1939 and first used by the public on June 18, 1939, when the pool opened for its second season.

The pool bath house is essentially a rectangular one-story building clad with a buff brick veneer and dark reddish-brown brick pilasters. The pilasters mark the front and rear doorways and curve up over the parapet on the pool-side (east) wall. Concrete caps the castellated parapet on all four sides of the building. The front of the pool building faces Lincoln Street (Highway 14) and is further demarcated by a parapet extension above the entry doors that features alternating bands of buff and reddish-brown brick in what is essentially a balustrade along the parapet. Originally, the alternating bands of buff and reddish-brown brick were repeated in two free-standing "gateposts" that flanked the front entry and set out from the building along the edge of the sidewalk. Both gateposts are non-extant. On the east pool-side wall, the parapet is castellated but is stepped up progressively towards the center to accent the doorways. Historic photographs of this building also show that it originally had stylized "turret" details on the parapet at the corners of the building and flanking the entryways. These small turret details have since been removed. A clock was originally set into the wall above one of the pool-side doorways, with the clock no longer extant leaving an open hole. Many of the original fixed six-pane windows remain in place, with a few now bricked-in. The doors have all been replaced, with two modern overhead doors now inserted, one on the east side and one on the west. The interior shows that the main structure of the building consists of red brick walls with steel cross beams. The bath house historically included men's and women's dressing rooms, restrooms, and showers as well as the maintenance room for the pool operation, which included the chlorine tank and filtration pumps. A tank remains in place to the present day. The building is now used by the high school as the stadium entrance and as a maintenance/storage building. A bronze plaque that reads "Works Progress Administration 1937" is bolted to one of the brick pilasters flanking the front west entryway. The pool bath house is considered to retain good integrity and is a contributing building to the historic district.

The original concrete swimming pool was rectangular in plan with rounded corners. There was a drain ledge about one foot below the top of the pool for overflow. The pool functioned for many years as the municipal swimming pool. However, with the construction of a new indoor pool and recreation center in the late 1980s, the old pool was no longer needed. It was subsequently filled and covered over with sod. The concrete sidewalk that lined the original pool remains in place, with the site enclosed by a chain link fence. However, no indication of the concrete structure of the original pool is evident on the surface. If the structure remains in place underneath the sod and fill, there might be some potential for contributing status under Criterion D; however, for the present, the former pool site is not counted as a resource in the historic district and significance under Criterion D is not claimed.

The mothers' pavilion is a stand-alone structure located off the south side of the pool building, with the site of the children's wading pool in-between the pool building and the pavilion. The former site of the wading pool is now covered over with a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA

Section number 7 Page 3

concrete slab and is no longer recognizable. As such, it is not counted as a resource in the district. The mothers' pavilion is something of a transition structure between the bath house and the football stadium. Specifically, the pavilion consists of an octagonal roof, now covered with asphalt shingles, supported by nine posts that are built of stone at the base and buff-colored brick at the top. This interesting combination of stone and brick marries the brick-clad bath house to the stone structures of the adjacent stadium. One of the nine posts is a central pillar around which the other eight posts circle. The roof is open to the rafters on the interior, with the rafter ends shaped at the wide eave overhang. According to historic photographs, this pavilion was under construction in February 1939 and was first used by the public in June 1939. It is considered a contributing building to the district. This open shelter provided a place for women to sit out of the sun while watching their children play in the nearby wading pool.

A hip-roofed one-story concession stand was built in 1990 over the site of the former wading pool. It was built by the school district for use during athletic events. This modern small-scale building is considered non-contributing, although its wide eave overhang is sympathetic to the wide eave overhang of the nearby pavilion.

The main portion of the historic district is covered by the athletic field and its associated structures and appurtenances, among which are a cinder track, the football playing field, remnants of the original stone retaining walls, the bleachers on the west and east sides of the stadium, a stone storage building at the south end of the stadium, and the two stone gateways that flank the original entryways to the bleachers on the east and west sides of the stadium. The football field was built into the existing basin of the former city reservoir after a drainage system had been put in place and the water drained from the pond. The basin walls required additional excavation and terracing to construct the bleachers on the east and west sides and the vertical stone retaining walls on the south and north ends. The athletic field construction was known as WPA project (#63-4213) and began on May 7, 1938, with the field officially dedicated on October 5, 1939. However, the cinder track, a stone storage building, and the stone retaining wall at the south end of the field were not completed until 1940.

The construction design of the stone structures and buildings associated with the football stadium used native limestone, reportedly shipped in from a quarry near Winterset in Madison County, Iowa, although a local source is also possible. The stones consist of rough-cut blocks and rubble slabs and irregular debris that were laid with mortar in irregular-course patterns and no-course patterns (McAlester and McAlester 1998:38). The stones overall variable in color from grayish-white to yellowish but appear to have come from the same bedrock source.

The gateways feature castellated stone towers that also served as ticket booths. The construction of the towers shows red brick interior walls, with stone exteriors. Both gateway structures retain good integrity, with the primary modification having been the covering over of window and door openings that are no longer used. Some of the window glass has been broken out, while other glass panes appear to remain in place. The stone towers exhibit the use of irregular stones laid in a more random fashion, while the retaining walls and benches were laid in irregular courses and utilized more of the thin slab stones. The stone lintels over the doorways and windows of the gateway towers are also irregular in shape adding to the rustic design of these structures. A bronze plaque bolted to one of the west side gateway towers reads "Works Progress Administration 1938." The east and west gateways are considered two contributing structures to the district.

A modern press box structure was added in 1990 directly behind and rising above the stone gateway on the west side of the stadium. The elevated press box is of frame construction supported by exposed timber posts set in cylindrical concrete piers. The press box structure is clad with vinyl siding but is open underneath. While the press box is considered a modern intrusion and is a non-contributing building to the district, it was built in such a way that it did not directly impact the stone gateway and only minimally impacted the upper tier of west-side bleachers. The east-side stone gateway towers are unobstructed.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

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The stone storage building is a small one story, one room building banked into the south slope. The building has a central door flanked by single window openings. The stonework utilized a number of triangular-shaped stones laid in a random pattern, with triangular stones set upright around the edge of the flat roof. The stones along the roof impart a simplified castellation pattern echoing the castellations of the gateway towers and the pool bath house. The building was constructed in 1940 for storage but it was also later used as a concession stand. The current electronic scoreboard is bolted to the roof of the storage building. A metal flagpole is off the northeast corner of the building. The stone storage building retains good integrity and is considered a contributing building to the district.

The bleachers are enclosed on all four sides by low limestone walls. The lower retaining wall separating the bleachers from the field originally had upright pointed stones set along the top. For safety reasons, these stones were later removed by literally sawing them off level with the concrete cap of the wall. A platform or landing is present on the interior side of each of the stone gateways within the bleachers funneling traffic down the center stairs. The landings have stone bases and concrete floors, although a portion of the stone in the east side landing has been replaced in recent years with concrete blocks. The west side bleachers also have concrete steps along the north and south sides, while the east side bleachers have concrete steps on the north side and center only. Both sets of bleachers have seven benches for seating. The benches are set into stepped terraces with grassy strips in-between each long bench. Concrete steps bisect the benches down the center of each side. All of the benches are built of continuous stone bases with flat concrete caps, with some of the original caps still in place on the east side benches and exhibiting drain holes on the underside of the cap. Subsequent filling of these drain holes and replacement of caps with ones that have no drain holes have resulted in deterioration and erosion of many of the benches on the east side. As a result, the east side bleachers are no longer open to the public. Erosion has been less of a problem on the west side bleachers; however, deterioration has caused some of the limestone bench bases to lean forward, while others have newer concrete caps that are irregular or rough and need replacing. Both the east and west side bleachers, consisting of the stone wall enclosures, the sets of benches, the concrete steps, and the stone and concrete landings, are considered to retain good integrity and are counted as two contributing structures.

The cinder track was built in 1940 and still retains a cinder surface, although sand and earth have accumulated or been added through the years. Construction photographs showed the track bordered by low stone walls below grade, with the current track bordered by a low concrete curb. It is suspected that the concrete curb caps the stone walls, which may remain intact below grade. The track overall retains good integrity and is considered a contributing structure to the district.

The football field is planted with sod and has two metal goal posts at the north and south end zones. The goal posts are not original, but the field has been little changed since first completed in 1939. The original lights were removed in subsequent years because they sat too close to the playing field. The most recent lights were added in 2006 and consist of four metal posts with multiple light bars placed at the northwest, southwest, northeast, and southeast corners of the west and east side bleachers. The field retains good integrity and is considered a contributing site to the district.

Modifications to the athletic field and stadium since 1940 have included the following:

The stone retaining wall along the north end of the stadium was largely replaced with a plank board and pole wall c. 1965-67, although sections of the stone wall remain intact at the northeast steps descending from the bath house to the field and at the corner section just south of the pavilion;

the swimming pool and wading pool were filled in the late 1980s, with the swimming pool covered with sod and the wading pool covered with a concrete slab;



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

Section number   7   Page   5  

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the stone retaining wall along the south end of the stadium was removed and replaced with a grass-covered earthen bank in the late 1970s to early 1980s;

the sharp, vertical stone decorative details along the top of the lower retaining walls dividing the bleachers from the track were sawed off for safety reasons;

some of the stone benches on both sides were recapped with concrete, the execution of which only exacerbated deterioration due to blocked drainage holes particularly on the east side benches;

a section of the stone retaining wall below the east gateposts was replaced with modern smooth concrete block;

the doors and windows in the stone towers were covered over with wood panels in some cases, removed and the openings left open in other cases, or the glass panes broken out and the window frames left in place in still other cases;

most of the stone castellations on the gateway towers were subsequently removed; and

the addition of the concession stand and the press box in the summer of 1990.

While there has been some loss of integrity within the historic district in the modern era, particularly in the filling of the two pools, the removal of the stone retaining walls in the south and north ends of the stadium, the replacement of the north wall with a plank board and pole wall, and the addition of the modern press box and new concession stand to the complex, the district as a whole retains good integrity and still presents a strong sense of time and place. The district also retains much of its original material, particularly in the retention of the cinder track, the intact stonework in the gateways, the benches, the remnant retaining walls, and the storage building, and the retention of much of the historic brick structure of the pool bath house and the stone and brick pavilion. The district still exhibits strong evidence of the original design of this complex and of the craftsmanship that went into the stone and brickwork of the extant buildings and structures. It is recognizable as a WPA construction from the late 1930s particularly in the rustic design of the stone buildings and structures very reminiscent of structures being built at the time by the WPA and CCC in Iowa's parks. The complex maintains its historic setting and its historic association with the Knoxville High School as well as with the community at large. The survival of the city water tower and the city pool bath house further reflect the historic municipal public works and community recreation association even though the pool bath house no longer functions as such.

The school board has determined that major repairs are needed to make the bleachers safe and comfortable again. Recent deliberations included the idea of removing the historic benches altogether and replacing them with metal bleachers. Through the efforts of the Save Our Stadium committee, the school board voted to restore the historic seating rather than remove and replace with metal bleachers (Malloy 2006). Other historic-based restoration plans will include repair of the stone gateway tower structures, tuckpointing of the bath house, and repair of the sidewalks (ibid.). This decision will help preserve and protect the overall integrity of this historic district. The recent efforts to save the stadium from extensive remodeling further support the contention that the stadium still imparts a strong sense of time and place. The residents of Knoxville who came out in strong support of restoration rather than remodeling demonstrated the passion and memories that this stadium still evokes in the people who have enjoyed its atmosphere through the years. The uniqueness of its design is certainly revered and appreciated in the community. The nomination of the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District is being sponsored by the Save Our Stadium committee to assist in the continued preservation and restoration of this historic complex.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet****Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**Section number 8 Page 6**Statement of Significance**

The Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District is significant at the local and state levels under Criterion C as a well preserved and notable example of a Works Progress Administration federal-assistance, make-work project of the Great Depression era in the State of Iowa and under Criterion A for its representation of community planning and development assisted through the WPA program. The district is notable as a unique example of a combination of Medieval-inspired and Rustic architecture executed in a public recreational facility in the State of Iowa. While this project was not the only WPA-assisted pool or athletic field construction project in Iowa during the Great Depression, it is one of only two known examples of WPA high school stadium projects in the state using native stone. Furthermore, it is the only known example of a WPA sports facility to utilize rustic stonework in a Medieval castle-theme design.<sup>3</sup> Most of the other Depression-era, federally-assisted stadium projects in Iowa were executed in the Moderne style of architecture using the smooth lines of poured concrete. Among all of these other WPA sports-related projects in the State of Iowa, the Knoxville pool and athletic field projects appear unique in the scale of the combined projects and in the design that was carried through the entire complex. The district is further significant for the way in which the brick design of the pool bath house was tied into the stone architecture of the adjacent stadium by the use of both brick and stone in the design of the mothers' pavilion, which was situated in-between the bath house and the stadium. This transition building strongly suggests that the whole project evolved as one design resulting in a district cohesive in its design and execution and strongly linking the primary contributing components—the WPA pool bath house and the WPA athletic field—directly together. The other primary structure, the city water tower, pre-dates the WPA project but is significant in its representation of the original use of this property as a municipal water facility. As such, the water tower is linked to the WPA athletic field, which was built in the basin of the former city reservoir. The district as a whole also reflects the historic joint effort that went into the planning, construction, and maintenance of these facilities. The city owned and maintained the water tower and the pool facilities, while the Knoxville school district owned and maintained the athletic field. Both the city and the school district contributed funds to the completion of their respective WPA projects, with the local American Legion and Auxiliary supporting and facilitating both projects. In 1988, the city transferred ownership of the pool facility to the Knoxville Community School District, with the pool subsequently filled and the bath house converted to uses associated with the athletic field. The city maintains ownership of the water tower. The period of significance for the district is from 1922, when the water tower was built, until 1957, the 50 year cut-off date for standard consideration of National Register eligibility. During this period, the district components were fully completed and the facilities reached their peak of their original municipal and school functions. Significant dates include 1922 when the water tower was built, 1937-38 when the WPA swimming pool was built, and 1938-40 when the WPA athletic field was constructed. The pool was officially dedicated to the public on July 4, 1938, with the dedication game for the football field held on October 5, 1939.

**Architectural Significance of the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District**

The Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District does not appear to have been a standard WPA design and likely involved the services of a professional architect, landscape architect, or engineer. At present, the designer of this complex is not known, although two engineers involved in these projects have been identified including: Lafe Higgins, Jr. of Des Moines, and Robert T. Johnson of Knoxville, Iowa. Higgins was hired in 1937 by the city to make preliminary plans for the pool; however, his involvement appears to have focused on determining the suitability of the site for the pool and its engineering aspects more so than its architectural design. Robert T. Johnson was the Marion County Engineer and was charged with the

<sup>3</sup> The other example of stonework used in a WPA stadium project is what appears to have been a more conventional use of cut stones to build solid bleachers at the Ottumwa high school athletic field in 1941 (WPA Photographs Collection, Box 13, Project 90-5613, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City).

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final survey of the completed pool/athletic field complex in 1940. This appears to have been his only involvement in the project.

Some influence from the Rustic architecture being executed in the state's park CCC and WPA projects of the day as well as Medieval castle-inspired designs popular in city park projects of this era is reflected in the Knoxville project design. Rebecca Conard in her study of the parks and conservation movement in Iowa noted the following of the rustic style:

What became known as the 'rustic style' grew out of the English landscape gardening tradition as interpreted in the United States principally by Andrew Jackson Downing and Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. Based on the use of native materials to blend buildings into their natural surroundings, rustic architecture was perfectly suited to America's new national parks. In 1918, the National Park Service formally adopted a policy that called for harmonizing all improvements--roads and trails as well as buildings--with the natural landscape. At the time, Iowa State, Harvard, the University of California at Berkeley, Cornell, and the University of Illinois were the leading landscape architect schools. P.H. Elwood, chair of the Iowa State landscape architecture department, was considered one of the most capable educators embracing the rustic architectural style for park design (Conard 1997:87-88).

While the Knoxville project does not readily blend into its natural surroundings given its location in the midst of an urban area, the design took advantage of an existing basin and retained several of the large trees around the edge of the basin, particularly in the area of the west stone gateway. The use of rough native limestone laid in a rustic fashion, rather than dressed stone blocks, further reflects the influence of the rustic park style on these structures.

The selection of a Medieval castle theme for the stone gateway tower structures, the brick pool bath house, and the stone storage building perhaps reflects the popularity in this era of "folly" structures in parks built "in the best spirit of Edmund Burke, the eighteenth-century writer who created the concept of the 'picturesque' aesthetic and inspired a century of English and American landscape gardens" (Nash 2006:17).

Burke's book, *Inquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and the Beautiful*, was published in 1756 or 1757 (sources differ). The 'picturesque' was expressed through 'free and irregular forms, rough textures, indefinite rhythms, the evocative ruin, [and] the quaint mill' (Spiro Kostof as quoted in Nash 2006:17).

One example of this in Iowa was the Pioneer Park "folly" built by the CCC along Waterloo's riverfront in the mid-1930s. The "evocative ruin" in this case was a castle ruin reportedly patterned after a picture of a broken down French castle seen by a Waterloo Riverfront Commissioner in a local furniture store gallery. This castle ruin was built of rough limestone, with stone walls and fishponds part of the design. The structures in Pioneer Park, and the park itself, no longer exist except for some remnant stone walls (Nash 2006:17). In some sense, the stone gateway structures of the Knoxville athletic field could also be viewed as castle "ruins" because they are not connected to a continuous wall or other structure and impart a sense of fantasy or "folly" in the process.

Other examples of castle structures in Iowa include: a round limestone tower with castellated parapet and tall rectangular window openings built in 1897 at the reported grave site of Julien Dubuque overlooking the Mississippi River near the mouth of Catfish Creek; the round limestone Clark Tower built in 1926 in the Winterset City Park as a memorial to one of the county's first pioneer families and that exhibits a castellated parapet and round-arched window and door openings; and the Norman fortress-inspired stone lookout tower in Dubuque's Eagle Point Park, which was built by the WPA in 1937 as a round multi-level limestone tower with round-arched openings and castellations around two parapet levels ("Castles of the United States: Iowa" accessed at <http://dupontcastle.com> on 10/30/2006).

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A brief comparison with other WPA athletic facility construction projects in the United States produced several other projects executed in stone and one similar project known as the "Stone Castle Stadium" located on the campus of Tennessee High School in Bristol. Officially known as the Bristol Municipal Stadium, this structure was built in 1934-36 by the WPA using rubble limestone in a "Medieval Gothic" style. This stadium features crenellated stone walls, corner towers, and arched entryways and quite literally looks like a nearly full-scale Medieval castle or fortress. It is listed in the National Register and is considered "the most architecturally significant stadium in Tennessee" (Whitworth 1998).

In addition to the project in Knoxville, other federally-assisted, Depression-era construction projects in Iowa involving athletic fields or additions, such as bleachers to existing fields, included projects in Ames, Burlington, Cedar Falls, Clinton, Council Bluffs, Danville, Davenport, Des Moines, Dubuque, Eldora, Fairfield, Fort Dodge, Keokuk, Madrid, Muscatine, Oelwein, Ottumwa, Rock Valley, Seymour, Sioux City, Spencer, Toledo, and Waterloo. Some of these properties were recently inventoried and evaluated for National Register eligibility as part of the Team Sports in Iowa statewide survey reported in Rogers and Kernek (2003). None of the inventoried projects used a standard design, although many utilized poured concrete and exhibited stylistic influence from the Moderne style of architecture. One involved the excavation of a basin into which the football field was constructed similar to the configuration of the Knoxville athletic field; however, none of the inventoried properties used natural stone in the construction. The inventoried properties included: the Public School Stadium (a.k.a. Roberts Stadium) in Sioux City, a poured concrete Moderne-styled stadium built between 1933-42 by the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the WPA; Fairfield High School and Football Field, which were built in 1939-40 as part of a Public Works Administration (PWA) project, with the field built in an enlarged natural basin and featuring wooden benches set in concrete; Fort Dodge Stadium built in 1939-40 as part of a WPA project in a design featuring a 10-foot high brick wall enclosure; Riverview Stadium in Clinton, Iowa, built in 1936-37 in an Art Deco/Moderne design as part of a WPA project and used as a minor league baseball stadium; the Rock Valley Baseball Field, which included a grandstand built in 1939-40 with the help of the WPA (Iowa Site Inventory Forms #97-04759, #51-00927, #94-02112, #23-00584, #84-00404, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; Rogers and Kernek 2003).

As noted above, the only other WPA athletic field project in Iowa to utilize stone in the construction was the project in Ottumwa, but in that case it appears that limestone blocks were used as a base for solid bleachers on either side of a field excavated into a basin. Another known use of stone in an Iowa football stadium was that of Loras College Stadium (a.k.a., the Rock Bowl), which was built during this same era in 1939 but was not a WPA or other federally-assisted project. The Loras College stadium was built by carving into a natural limestone bluff and included limestone entry gates and wood and concrete bleachers built on a natural limestone foundation (Iowa Site Inventory Form #31-05205, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; Rogers and Kernek 2003).

As for WPA-built swimming pool projects in the state, the pool addition to the University of Northern Iowa East Gym in 1938 in Cedar Falls was previously inventoried during the Team Sports in Iowa survey (Iowa Site Inventory Form #07-00228, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines; Rogers and Kernek 2003). Other known WPA pools in the state included projects in Des Moines, Greenfield, Atlantic, Centerville, Adel, Clarion, Correctionville, Dubuque, Decorah, Fort Madison, Harlan, Mapleton, Marshalltown, Oskaloosa, Pella, Pocahontas, Red Oak, and Villisca (WPA Photographs Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City).

Among all of these other WPA sports-related projects in the State of Iowa, the pool and athletic field projects in Knoxville appear unique in the scale (i.e., projects including a public pool and a high school athletic field built as a cohesive, designed complex) and in the rustic stone construction and Medieval castle-themed design that was carried through the entire complex. As such, the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District is considered an important and unique complex that is an architectural landmark in the City of Knoxville and appears unique among the notable WPA landmarks in the State of Iowa.

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Marion County, IASection number 8 Page 9Historical Significance of the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District

The history of this district began with the construction of the Knoxville city reservoir at this location in 1887. The reservoir was an excavated basin in the western part of the city and included a large steel standpipe, filtering plant, and pumping station alongside the reservoir, all of which are non-extant. However, by 1913, the "quality of the water became such that it was scarcely fit for domestic purposes and an agitation was started in favor of establishing a new system" (Wright and Young 1915: 141). This system included the construction of two new pumping stations, one on the Des Moines River and one in the city as well as a new reinforced concrete reservoir having a capacity of 500,000 gallons. The new reservoir was a covered structure subdivided into two compartments and was completed after 1915 (ibid.:142). This reservoir was located at 600 North Roche Street in the northeast part of the city and was later replaced by a larger facility in the 1930s (Steve and Kim Inskeep, e-mail communication with Connie M. Husted, 11/03/2006). A new water tower built in 1922, just northeast of the old city reservoir basin, was hooked into the new waterworks system (Knoxville City Water Department, personal communication with Connie M. Husted, 10/31/2006). By that time, the old reservoir had become a swimming pond for young people in the community and was used for cutting ice blocks in the winter (Haning 1991:72). It is suspected that with the increasing fear of polio epidemics during this era and the knowledge that the disease could be spread through water contaminated with human waste, it was likely perceived as a potential public health hazard to have an open body of untreated water being used as a public swimming pond (Carter 2006). The local newspaper articles, which described the pool construction as it evolved from an idea to its completion, emphasized public health concerns and reassured the public that the new pool would be sanitary and safe for children (*Knoxville Journal* 1937-38). The opportunity provided by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to help solve this potential public health problem and create useful recreational facilities for the city in the process certainly smoothed the way for approval of local funding to assist in its construction (ibid.).

It is also interesting to note that the Knoxville camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was located directly across the street from the city reservoir on Lincoln Street. This camp opened June 12, 1935, and moved to Oskaloosa in 1938 (Haning 1991:91). While there is no indication that the Knoxville CCC camp was directly involved in the construction of the swimming pool or the athletic field in 1937-40, the presence of this camp next to the city reservoir (then being used as a swimming pond) could have contributed to the selection of the reservoir site as a make-work project by the federal government. An avenue for future research would be to explore whether CCC camp members swam in this pond and whether health concerns of the day played a significant role in the selection of this project by the Works Progress Administration.<sup>4</sup>

The WPA pool project in Knoxville was initiated in November 1936, with petitions circulated in support of a city-wide vote concerning the construction of a municipal swimming pool (*The Knoxville Journal* 1936a). The newspaper noted the benefits to the city to be derived from a pool. By November 26, 1936, the petitions were filled with more than a thousand signatures, with a city election scheduled for January 5, 1937, on the question of whether the city should build a swimming pool (*The Knoxville Journal* 1936b). The pool was subsequently described as a "real modern swimming pool" and that "a large part of the project" was to be paid "by a government grant" (*The Knoxville Journal* 1936c). This article further noted that "the city fathers feel that the time is ripe to build, if the citizens want a swimming pool." The plan was for the government to supply all the common labor except foreman and timekeeper and some part of the materials necessary. The amount from the government depended "entirely on a percentage ratio set up by the government in relation to the outstanding obligations of the city and the amount of labor available" (ibid.). It was estimated that no more than \$14,500 of city funds would be required. It was noted that if the total amount proved true, then the city could receive a swimming pool that would normally cost about \$30,000 for about half of that cost and that a good-sized modern pool "would certainly take care of the child

<sup>4</sup> The current Knoxville High School was built in 1996 on the site of the CCC camp. The historic high school building constructed in 1916 is located at 308 West Marion Street six blocks due east of the district location. This building is now the junior high school.

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problem during the hot summer months” (ibid.). At the time, the exact location for the new pool had not been decided but the old city reservoir property was being favored among other possible locations. The early plans called for draining the old reservoir and landscaping the basin for a sunken garden or terraced park. The American Legion was to assist with getting voters to the polling place for the election (ibid.).

By December 31, 1936, the city election was approaching and it was noted that the City Council had a “tentative offer from the W.P.A. of the federal government, that if the city of Knoxville would supply a certain amount of funds, it would be possible for the government to supply the balance in labor and materials and for Knoxville to have a real modern swimming pool at very low cost” (*The Knoxville Journal* 1936d). The city was to supply some of the materials, the site, and a foreman and timekeeper for the project. The article further noted that “the American Legion and Auxiliary went on record at the beginning of the fiscal year in October as being very much in favor of Knoxville owning a municipal swimming pool, and pledged themselves to assist in every way possible to accomplish it this year.” The article concluded by noting that this was “the first time in the history of Knoxville that the City has had any opportunity at all to get a swimming pool” (ibid.).

It was reported that on January 7, 1937, despite a relatively light voter turnout for the special election, the pool referendum passed at a vote of 884 for and 187 against, more than meeting the 60% required for the referendum to pass (*The Knoxville Journal* 1937a). The City Council was to move quickly to apply for the WPA grant. The article reiterated the role that the American Legion and Auxiliary played in assisting voters in getting to the polls and noted that “these organizations have been backing the project for several months and have been active in getting action on the plans when they were first proposed” (ibid.).

By January 21, 1937, the City Council had hired Lafe Higgins, Jr., of Des Moines to make the preliminary plans for the new swimming pool. Higgins was an engineer and he was also charged with making the application for funds from the WPA (*The Knoxville Journal* 1937b).

On June 3, 1937, it was reported that construction work on the new swimming pool was expected to be underway by July 1, with the proposed total cost now at \$40,000 (*The Knoxville Journal* 1937c). L.E. Boudinot, the State WPA director, informed the city council that \$27,000 had been allotted by the federal government for this project. The pool was to be built on the city reservoir property, but the exact site was yet to be located. The newspaper article noted that the entire site had been surveyed, and “the blue prints have been made” (ibid.). However, it was noted in the September 23, 1937, issue that ground was not actually scheduled to be broken for the new pool until October 7th (*The Knoxville Journal* 1937d). The delay was attributed to a PWA paving project, followed by a large sewer project in southwest Knoxville, drawing attention away from the pool project. The site for the new pool was set for “just north of the old city pond, and after much discussion, [State WPA Director, Boudinot] suggested that the pool be placed east and west with the bath-house at the west end” (ibid.). Other suggestions placed the bath house on the south side of the pool, although it was noted by Boudinot that the engineer had determined that too much fill would be needed at that location and would be problematic for a building sited at that spot. The Council subsequently voted to go with the Boudinot plan for the bath house at the west end of the pool, with the pool to be 75 by 150 feet and having a filtration plant to keep the water pure. The bath house was proposed to be built of brick (ibid.).

The September 30, 1937, *Knoxville Journal* carried a letter to the editor indicating that not everyone in town was in favor of the pool project as proposed (*The Knoxville Journal* 1937e). B.H. Gholson specifically objected to the site location for the pool and its proposed configuration. He noted that “there is a set of plans on display at the post office of how some people and the engineers think it should be, and also a plot showing how the council voted to place it” (ibid.). He further noted that “I think there is a great many people interested in the beautifying of this old reservoir site and I think their wishes should be adhered to, as near as possible. The plans as shown on display at the post office will cost less than the way they are now

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proposing to do" (ibid.). Gholson was of the opinion that there were "selfish motives" involved in the new plan that involved future plans to tax the citizens for placing fill at the end of Main Street to connect it to Highway 14, which would "absolutely destroy the beauty and usefulness of the park as it should be according to the plans drawn up" (ibid.). At this late date, the old city reservoir basin was still being proposed as a sunken garden or park area.

The American Legion became alarmed enough by the controversy of the pool siting that they feared losing the pool project altogether. The Baty Tucker Post No. 168 of the American Legion took out an ad in the October 14, 1937, *Knoxville Journal* noting the following:

The voters of Knoxville have authorized the issuance of bonds for the construction of a swimming pool. This project was sponsored by the American Legion. It now appears that the entire project is in danger of being lost to our city by reason of disagreements among the members of the City Council as to the location of the pool. The American Legion, last night, unanimously voted in favor of the location of the pool at the north end of the old city pond and the utilization of the remaining ground for a stadium and athletic field (*The Knoxville Journal* 1937f).

Citizens in support of the pool were urged to attend the City Council meeting on October 15th (ibid.). This ad is notable because it appears to have been the first mention in the newspaper of the proposed use of the old reservoir for a stadium and athletic field rather than as a sunken garden or park. Up until this time, the Knoxville High School had used the infield of the racetrack at the Marion County Fairgrounds in Knoxville for football games, with the racetrack itself used for track meets by the school (Wilson 2007). While the fairgrounds arrangement appears to have worked well for many years for high school athletic events, the opportunity to build a new stadium dedicated solely to school athletics was attractive enough for the school district to commit funds to the stadium's completion. This opportunity was made even more attractive by the involvement of WPA funding and assistance in the construction (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e).

The October 21, 1937, *Knoxville Journal* noted that the American Legion sent their delegation to the City Council meeting to call attention to the possible loss of the pool project if the pool siting matter was not resolved (*The Knoxville Journal* 1937g). The matter was resolved and construction was finally underway by December 1937, as documented in the collection of photographs taken by the WPA of this construction project (WPA Photographs Collection for WPA Project #63-4431 [Knoxville Swimming Pool], Box 8, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City). By that date, the city reservoir had been drained and initial construction begun on the pool and bath house structures.

A photograph in the January 27, 1938, edition of the *Knoxville Journal* showed construction in progress on the bath house with the caption noting that "this should be a busy place next summer when Knoxville's swimming pool is opened to the public" (*The Knoxville Journal* 1938a). The plan for the bath house had a central room for the machinery and "other purification apparatus," with a women's dressing room on one side and the men's on the other (ibid.). Another photograph in the March 17, 1938, newspaper showed the new bath house nearing completion, with the pool "expected to be ready for swimmers in July" (*The Knoxville Journal* 1938b). Construction of the stadium and athletic field began on May 7, 1938 (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e).

The *Knoxville Journal* noted on June 9, 1938, that the pool was scheduled to be officially opened on July 4th, with preliminary openings on the 2nd and 3rd of July (*The Knoxville Journal* 1938c). J. Milton Moore, a local high school teacher, was named pool manager and was charged with "the leasing of concession rights, hiring check room operator, life guards and matron" (ibid.). The opening day programs were to include swimming races, a beauty contest, a band concert, fireworks, and a dedication ceremony. It was hoped that "the North High School, Des Moines, medley swimming team, state champions,

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will be present and try for new swimming records in the new pool" (ibid.). A local track star was also slated to run around the pool racing the swimmers. Patrons could purchase season tickets to the pool, although opportunities for children to earn season tickets were also offered. Swimming lessons were to be given every morning by competent instructors. It was specifically noted that "the management of the pool wishes to announce that every precaution is being taken to guard against any infection. Modern equipment is being installed for sanitation and patrons can be assured of swimming in clean pure water with dressing rooms and showers kept in the best of sanitary conditions" (ibid.). It was further noted that a wading pool for smaller children would be opened in conjunction with the municipal pool, although it appears that the wading pool was not completed until the pool's second season.

As the pool opening approached, the newspaper carried another article, which focused on the safety of the pool for children (Patterson 1938). It was noted that the water was to be filtered and sterilized every eight hours. The article gave a detailed description of the pool construction and operation as follows:

The pool is constructed of concrete, steel re-inforced [sic]. It is 75 feet wide and 152 feet long. The west end, which is directly in front of the bath house, starts at a depth of two feet and gradually slopes 100 feet east to a depth of five feet. At this point the slope of the floor becomes more abrupt and in a distance of 38 feet, slopes to a depth of 10 feet, which is the deepest place in the pool; and from this 10 foot depth, slopes up again for a distance of 12 feet to a depth of six feet-six inches.

Of course this deep end of the pool is for divers and persons who can swim, the remaining two-thirds of the pool being shallow water averaging from two to five feet deep, is for those can swim but not good enough to trust the deep water.

The pool will contain 550,000 gallons of water and under the center of the bath house, between the two large dressing and shower rooms, is located what is known as a rapid sand gravity filter and sterilization plant. It is the job of this plant to keep the water 100 per cent pure. Here is the way it does that job. The water from the pool flows by gravity from the deep section through the cast pipes along the side of the pool to the filter plant; here the water enters a mixing basin, where the necessary chemicals for purification are applied by machinery drive by electricity, just so much, no more, no less. After the chemicals are added, the water flows, still by gravity to the two larges sand beds, or chambers, where it goes down through four feet of filter sand and gravel and at the bottom is collected through a system of pipes and manifolds connected with a pump driven by electricity. The purified water is forced back into the pool through controlled inlets located at various points around the entire pool. The process is going on continually while the pool is in operation. In fact all the water in the pool is drawn off, sterilized, filtered and returned to the pool, three times every 24 hours.

This pool filter plant and bath house has been constructed in strict accordance with the requirements of the Iowa State Board of Health. An Inspector will make regular inspections of the pool, filter plant, and bath house as well as make chemical tests of the water. The manager also will be required to make not less than four tests of the water each day and report same to the state board of health.

During the past ten years, the purification of water and the sanitation of public swimming pools has been reduced to an exact science and there is nothing experimental in the approved methods now used all over the country and these methods have been strictly adhered [sic] to by the city council and mayor in the construction of this pool.

Be assured, you may use this pool and your children may use it too, without fear or danger whatsoever (Patterson 1938).



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The pool dedication program for July 3rd and 4th was detailed in a June 23, 1938, *Knoxville Journal* article (*The Knoxville Journal* 1938d). There were to be speeches by E.S. Boudinot, field engineer, Ray Murray, chief of administration, and Dr. O'Brian, Secretary of State. Also planned were swimming and diving exhibitions, swimming relays and races, baseball games, a "handsome man" and a beauty contest, a novelty act involving Bob Bumgardner, a swim star, and Leland Moon, "local track ace," a band concert, a movie shown at the swimming pool, and a fireworks display (*ibid.*). Also on tap was a game played by the State Champion Negro softball team against the Knoxville Merchants. It was noted that "the Negro team has won 20 consecutive games" (*ibid.*).

A photograph in the June 30, 1938, *Knoxville Journal* showed the completed pool a few hours before it was to be filled with water, although it had been tested a few days earlier and found to be in sound condition despite reported rumors that the pool had leaked (*The Knoxville Journal* 1938e). The bath house was noted as "nearly completed" (*ibid.*). The WPA collection of photographs for this project contains a series of views showing the pool filled with water on July 1, 1938. An additional WPA photograph taken on July 1, 1938, of the front side of the pool bath house appears to show the wading pool area still under construction (WPA Photographs Collection for WPA Project #63-4431 [Knoxville Swimming Pool], Box 8, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City).

The *Knoxville Journal* reported on July 7, 1938, that "one of the largest crowds in the history of Knoxville attended the Fourth of July celebration" of the pool opening (*The Knoxville Journal* 1938f). J. Milton Moore reported that over 1,000 people were in the pool during the afternoon and evening of the Fourth. It was noted that the novelty race between the swimmer and the track star ended in a tie and the Negro softball team won their 21st consecutive game.

An aerial photograph of Knoxville taken on July 23, 1938, shows the completed bath house and pool, with grading underway on the athletic field and stadium (Marion County Aerial Photographs, on file University of Iowa Library Map Collections, Iowa City, Iowa). WPA photographs taken October 14, 1938, show the west side bleachers and stone gates completed, with the east side bleachers and gates still under construction (WPA Photographs Collection for WPA Project #63-4213 [Knoxville High School Athletic Field], Box 8, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City). The playing field and track had not been built at this point, with the central area still rough and used for piling stone and other construction materials.

WPA photographs taken November 17, 1938, show the north stone retaining wall under construction, with the mothers' pavilion yet to be built. By February 24, 1939, the WPA photographs showed the mothers' pavilion finally under construction with the stone pillars now in place. The north wall was completed by the time of this photograph. The wading pool was visible in another view taken that same day and appears to be completed or nearing completion. Still another view of the project taken on February 24, 1939, shows the east side bleachers still under construction, with the east stone gateway towers now finished (WPA Photographs Collection for WPA Project #63-4213 [Knoxville High School Athletic Field], Box 8, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City).

By June 1, 1939, the *Knoxville Journal* made note that despite plans to open the pool for its second season on Memorial Day of 1939, the opening was to be delayed until June 11th because several cracks had to be repaired (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939a). However, by the June 15th issue it was reported that it would be June 18th before the pool actually opened (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939b). The second delay was caused by a dust storm that required the pool be drained and cleaned of mud deposited by the storm. The newspaper reported on June 22, 1939, that the pool did open on the 18th to a large crowd (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939c). K.B. Lorenz was now the pool manager. The article further noted that the wading pool was intended to be for the exclusive use of small children under the age of five, although parents were allowed to accompany their

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children in the wading pool. It was also noted that “every effort is being made to give the people of Knoxville a safe, sanitary and desirable place to swim” (ibid.).

On June 29, 1939, the laying of sod on the new stadium field was underway, with the task accomplished by a “number of schoolboy laborers” (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939d). The sodding project was sponsored by the Lions Club, with the sod obtained “from the highway on Primary 14” (ibid.). It was expected that the stadium would be ready to use by the fall.

The stadium and athletic field was dedicated on October 5, 1939, with a night game (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e). The WPA photograph collection for this project contains a series of photographs taken during the game showing the field with lights around edge of the field and the entire stadium area enclosed by a temporary fence covered with canvas sheets (WPA Photographs Collection for WPA Project #63-4213 [Knoxville High School Athletic Field], Box 8, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City). The temporary fence was likely to create drama for the first public presentation of the field and to prevent onlookers from outside the stadium proper. The track and the stone storage building at the south end of the field had yet to be built. The delay in completing the construction was due to the exhaustion of the allocated federal funds by June 21, 1939. Additional funding was required to fully complete the stadium, which appears to have been accomplished through an additional grant from the WPA (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e).

Additional photographs taken May 16, 1940, showed the track finally under construction (WPA Photographs Collection for WPA Project #63-4213 [Knoxville High School Athletic Field], Box 8, on file State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City). The south side stone retaining wall was also under construction by that date, with a September 4, 1940, photograph showing the stone storage building completed, but work still continuing on the south retaining wall (ibid.). These photographs also show that the original low retaining wall bordering the track was built of stone. This wall was either subsequently replaced by a poured concrete curb or the concrete curb was poured on top of the stone base, which may still be extant below the grade of the track.

In December 1940, Marion County Engineer, Robert T. Johnson, was charged with the final survey of the completed stadium and pool complex (Iowa Press Association 1940:808; Johnson 1940). The completed bleachers could hold approximately 2,000 spectators seated on the benches, which “are 200 feet long and are seven rows high” (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e).

Native limestone was used in building the retaining wall, which extends across the north edge of the field and southward on each side to the bleachers. The wall is about 700 feet long.

To provide proper drainage from the field and the quarter-mile cinder track which circles it, approximately 2,435 feet of drain pipe has been laid. Additional pipe will be installed if need is found for it (ibid.).

According to a local resident, the native limestone used in the stadium construction was quarried in Winterset in Madison County, which is somewhat curious because there were several limestone quarries in operation in Marion County during the construction period of the Knoxville project that potentially could have produced suitable stone for the project. The Durham and Gosport quarries in Marion County were involved in WPA projects in the late 1930s (*The Knoxville Journal* 1936e). It was then suspected that the quarry in Winterset could have been one of the quarries operated in the state specifically by the CCC and the WPA for their projects (Grieshop 1990:E-8 to E-9). However, the CCC and WPA operations noted in the Iowa Geological Survey annual reports from 1934-39 appear to have been located in Appanoose, Henry, Montgomery, and Muscatine counties, with only commercial operations listed in Madison and Marion counties (Trowbridge and Hershey 1941). The actual source for the limestone is considered a topic for future research. A definitive answer to its origin could be provided by the Iowa Geological Survey if they could be provided with a sample of the stone from the Knoxville athletic

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field. Finding the original source should be considered of importance to future restoration projects because replacement stones will likely be needed.

The newspaper article for the dedication of the stadium hailed the project as having “no rival in Iowa” and advertised it as “the best lighted high school stadium in the state” (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e). The dedication ceremony was held at the halftime of the Knoxville versus Indianola game. Joe H. Johnson was then president of the Knoxville School Board, with Ray Murray, Assistant Administrator of the WPA in Iowa, also speaking at the ceremony (*ibid.*). Murray even noted that Knoxville’s high school athletic field was perhaps “the most unusual high school field in Iowa” and that none of the other WPA athletic field projects in the state could “rival the Knoxville layout in beauty and efficiency” (*ibid.*).

Since 1940, the athletic field has continued to host the high school football games as well as the junior high games and other activities, such as high school graduation ceremonies. Modifications to the stadium structure included the replacement of the north retaining wall with a plank board and timber pole wall in the mid to late 1960s and the removal of the south retaining wall in the late 1970s or early 1980s. The stadium was renamed “Ken Locke Stadium” following the death of Class of 1965 member, Ken Locke, during a football game. The swimming pool and wading pool were filled and covered over in the late 1980s when a new swimming pool facility was built in the city. A concession stand was built over part of the wading pool site in 1990 at the same time that a press box was added to the west side bleachers of the stadium. The pool bath house now serves as a storage and maintenance facility for the school district. The water tower is still maintained by the City of Knoxville but the tower has been painted in more recent years in the school colors and logo for the Knoxville High School Panthers. It stands as a prominent landmark at the northeast corner of the field and is a notable part of Knoxville’s city skyline.

## The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Depression-Era Federal Relief Programs in Iowa

To help combat widespread unemployment during the Great Depression of the late 1920s-30s, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt “pushed through legislation for much of his New Deal, including the Works Progress Administration (WPA), which was responsible for the nation’s relief program” (*Ancestry Magazine* 1995). The WPA was established as the Works Progress Administration on May 6, 1935, as part of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act to create jobs for the unemployed. It was specifically mandated to choose projects that would not compete with the private sector but would make genuine contributions to communities. While the agency was not without its share of controversy, including charges of manipulation and waste, genuine contributions were made to a number of communities across the nation, including many in Iowa (Special Collections Department 1998). As a result of its mandate:

many WPA projects concentrated on physical improvements such as building schools and highways, rural electrification, and reforestation. It also gave work to students, artists, musicians, and writers. They produced a series of state travel guides, public murals and sculptures, and brought music and drama to many small communities (*ibid.*).

The WPA operated through a central administration in Washington, D.C., overseeing projects run through regional offices, state administrations, and district offices. It was renamed the Work Projects Administration in 1939 and came under the direction of the Federal Works Agency (FWA). Predecessor agencies included the Civil Works Administration (CWA) from 1933-34 and the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) from 1933-35. The function of all was to provide jobs to unemployed workers on public projects sponsored by federal, state, or local agencies. In 1935, with the establishment of the WPA, it assumed a dominant role in work relief activities until it was placed under the FWA and subsequently was abolished in 1942 (dissolution effective June 30, 1943) (Guide to Federal Records: Records of the Work Projects Administration

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[WPA], Record Group 69, 1922-44, accessed at <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/069.html> on 9/22/2006; Leuchtenburg 1963:121-125).

In Iowa, the New Deal make-work programs contributed greatly to the infrastructure and built environment of the state's parks and cities. The CCC was responsible for much of the state park improvement projects resulting in the construction of park "buildings, dams, bridges, water systems, sewer systems, fish-rearing ponds, trails, roads, and fences" (Conard 1997:139). The CCC also built "lakes, rehabilitated drainage ditches, built terraces and earthen dikes, collected seeds and planted trees" (ibid.). Other New Deal agencies, including the WPA, PWA, CWA, and the National Youth Administration (NYA), also put people to work in Iowa on various park projects but primarily employed them on civic improvement projects, such as the pool and athletic field construction project in Knoxville. Among the variety of New Deal projects executed in Iowa were the construction of roads, bridges, schools, city halls, auditoriums, post offices, county home buildings, county road shops, public recreation facilities outside of state parks, sewer and water systems, dams, river walls, and drainage improvement projects such as the Indian Creek PWA channelization project in Council Bluffs, Iowa, and the Floyd River WPA outlet channel project in Sioux City (Iowa Site Inventory, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines, accessed by Berry Bennett on 11/2/2006).

Larger civil work projects, such as concrete bridges and dams, generally fell within the purview of the CWA and the PWA, although WPA and CCC crews might also be assigned to such projects. It is not clear what criteria, if any, determined which agencies would be involved in which projects, but the overall ad hoc character of the New Deal kept day-to-day operations in a state of constant flux. Many decisions undoubtedly turned on the funding and personnel available at any given time (Conard 1997:139).

The swimming pool and athletic field construction project in Knoxville, Iowa, constituted two WPA projects using laborers assigned from the local relief rolls. When these projects began, the WPA was known as the Works Progress Administration, with the bronze plaques on the pool bath house and one of the stadium gateway towers reflecting that origin. However, before the project was completed, the WPA had been renamed the Work Projects Administration. L.E. Boudinot was the State WPA director when the pool project began. At the time of the stadium's official dedication on October 5, 1939, George J. Keller was the state's WPA administrator and Ray Murray was his assistant. Murray spoke at the dedication ceremony noting that Knoxville's high school athletic field was perhaps "the most unusual high school field in Iowa" (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e). It was further noted that:

making the old water reservoir into a natural football bowl required much hand labor and therefore made the project an ideal one for the employment of WPA laborers, Mr. Murray points out. These laborers were assigned to the work from the local relief rolls.

At the peak of operations on November 21, 1938, there were 79 men on the project. At least 50 men were employed during most of the time the work was under way (ibid.).

The federal government contributed approximately \$27,000 to the pool project and \$25,474 to the stadium project, "almost all of which went to pay the wages of the relief laborers" (*The Knoxville Journal* 1939e). Total expenditures by the time of the 1939 dedication ceremony for the stadium had come to over \$31,000, with the school district contributing over \$6,000 towards the stadium's completion. The pool project was projected to have cost around \$40,000, with the city contributing a maximum of \$14,500 to the project. The funding appeared sufficient for the completion of the pool project; however, the federal allocation for the stadium had been exhausted before it was fully completed. By October 1939, the stadium still lacked the cinder track, the south retaining wall, and the stone storage building. It was estimated that "a grant of around \$2,000 in cash in addition to labor would put on the finishing touches" (ibid.). In 1939, the school board was planning to seek

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this additional money through “WPA channels” (ibid.). The plan appears to have been successful because the additional work was completed by the fall of 1940.

The Knoxville pool and stadium projects are representative examples of the work relief goal of the WPA program but also of the secondary goal of constructing improvements to benefit municipalities, counties, and states that these entities would otherwise not have been able to afford during the Great Depression. The Knoxville projects began with the simple need for a safe and sanitary swimming facility for the community. At the time, public health concerns with swimming facilities had become a major issue for municipalities because of the polio scare sweeping across the county in the early twentieth century. However, the expense to build a modern, sanitary swimming pool was high—too high for a community the size of Knoxville, Iowa. Without the WPA assistance, the pool project might never have been completed or would have taken a lot longer to complete. The end product would probably have been much smaller in scale and lacking in some of the amenities as well. As the pool project evolved, the ideas for the use of the old city reservoir evolved from a city park to an athletic field. Who came up with the idea for the athletic field is not known, but it obviously finally occurred to someone that the basin of the old pond would make a natural football stadium. Here too, the school district likely had little motivation to build a new stadium except for the availability of the WPA funding. The end product was also much more of an elaborate facility than the school district could have afforded by its own means. As a result, the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District represents the best result of the WPA program—municipalities able to build facilities they could otherwise not have afforded and local men taken off the relief rolls for a few years to make a real contribution to their community.

In addition, all of the standing historic structures within the district reflect community planning and development, with the site and the water tower representing the first use of this property as the city water facility and the evolution of the city reservoir to a municipal swimming pond. When that facility was no longer safe to use, the need for a sanitary swimming pool evolved into a WPA project providing a modern municipal pool facility complete with pool, wading pool, bath house, and pavilion. The drained city reservoir then evolved in a WPA project providing the Knoxville school with a unique and elaborate athletic field and stadium complete with gateway towers, stone bleachers, stone retaining walls, stone storage building, and cinder track. Both projects became landmarks in the community, with the pool serving as the city pool until the late 1980s when a new facility was built. The city still owns and maintains the water tower, with the former pool bath house and property transferred to the school district in 1988. The stadium still serves as the school district’s main athletic field.

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**Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the historic district is shown as dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Sketch Map of the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District" found on page 23. The district is specifically bounded on the west by Lincoln Street (IA Highway 14), on the south by Robinson Street, on the east by Stadium Street, and on the north by Marion Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property consists of the parcel of land historically associated with the city water tower, the WPA pool facility and the WPA athletic field in the City of Knoxville, Marion County, Iowa.

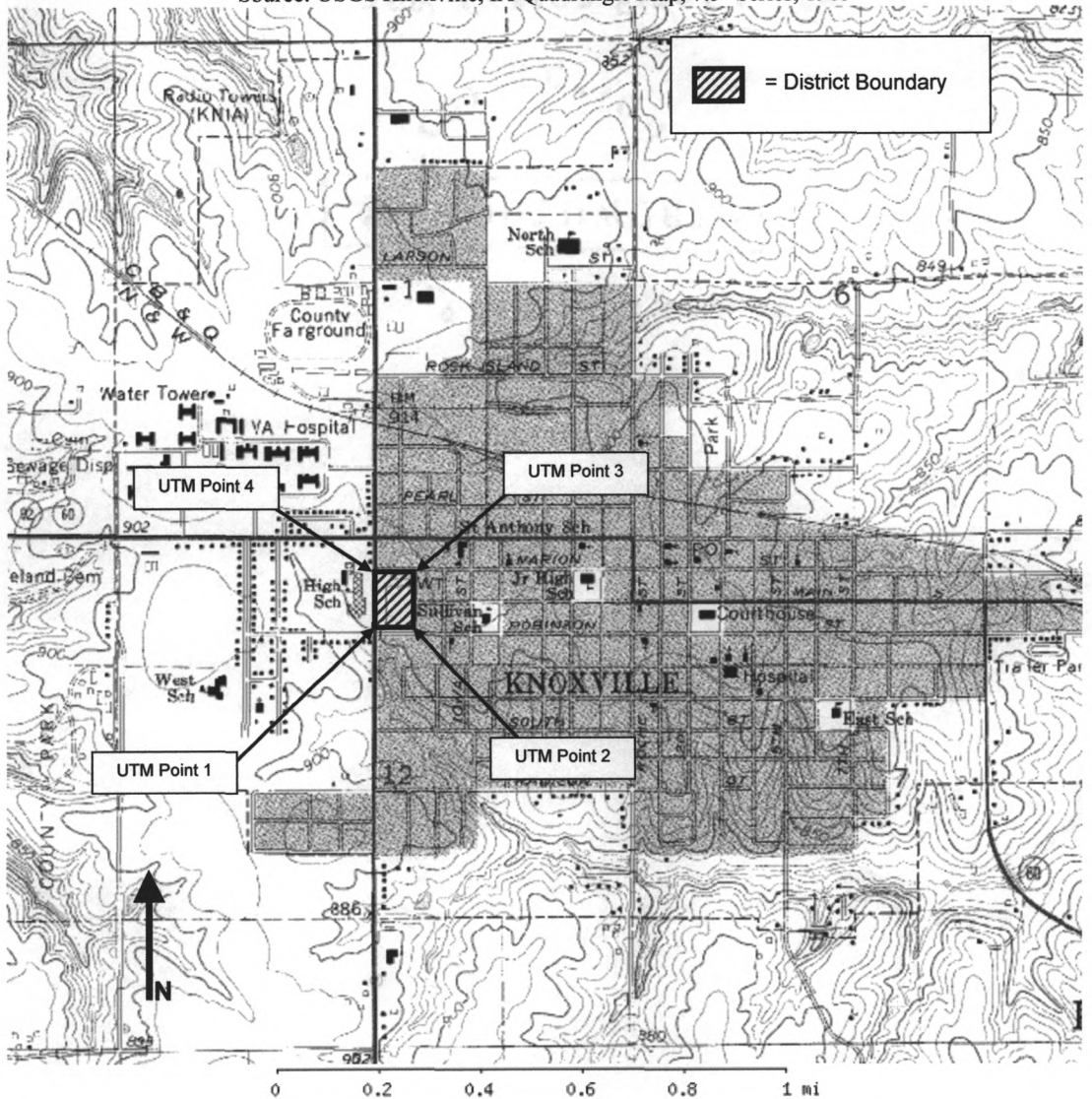
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Topographic Map showing National Register boundary of the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Source: USGS Knoxville, IA Quadrangle Map, 7.5' Series, 1965



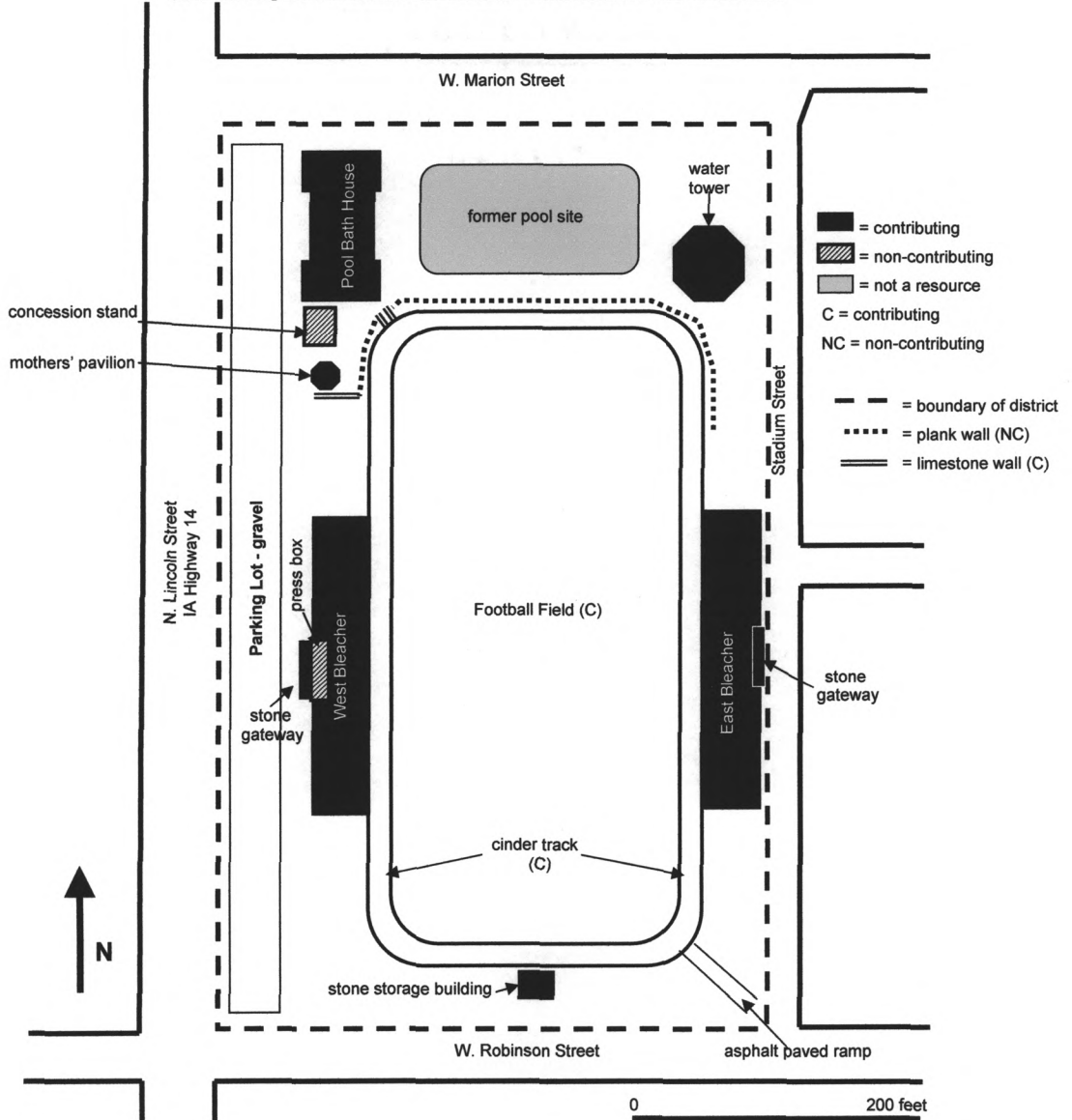
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Sketch Map of the Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District



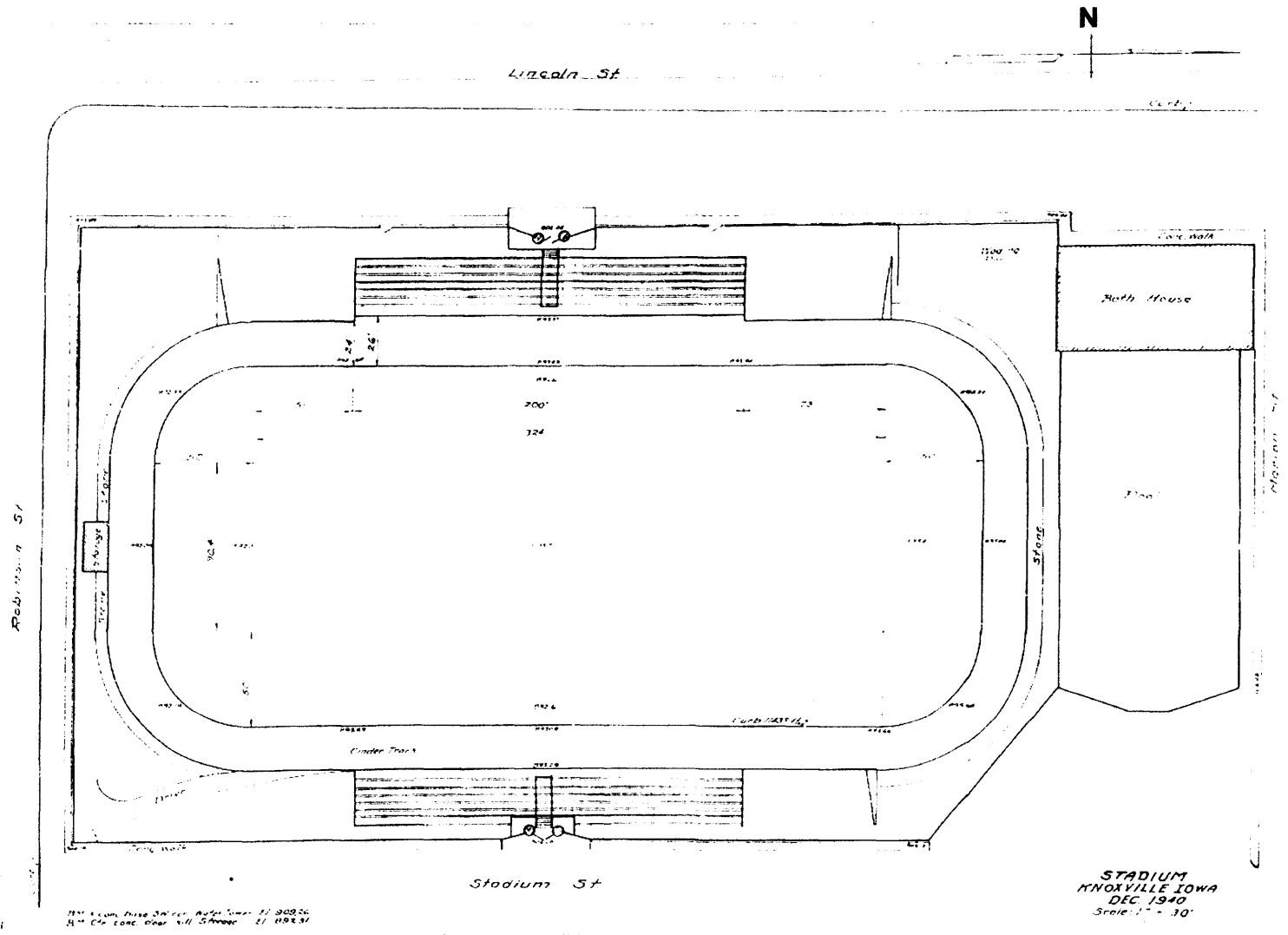
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1940 Plan Map of Pool and Athletic Field  
Source: Knoxville Community School District, Knoxville, Iowa



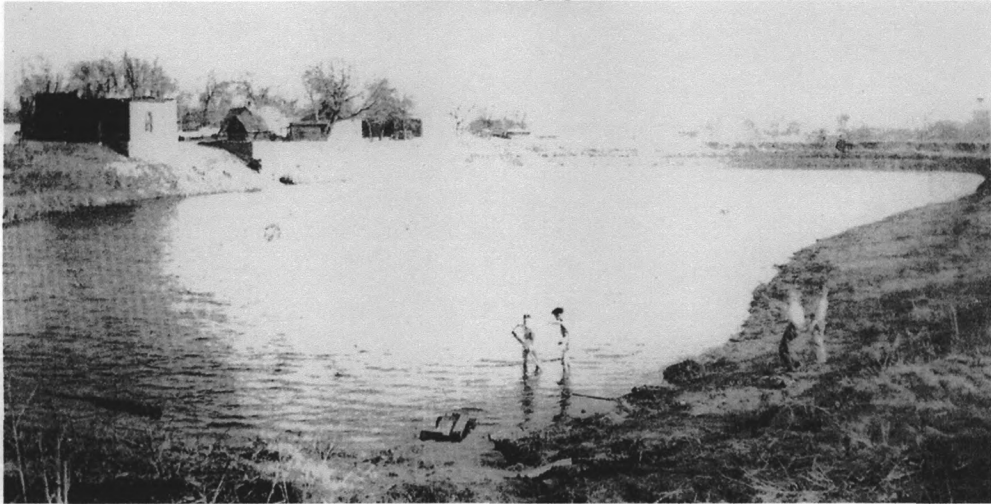
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Historic Photographs



Old city reservoir being used as swimming pond in the 1920s  
Source: Haning 1991



Looking to NE at WPA Pool/Athletic Field construction site and extant water tower, December 10, 1937  
Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City

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Historic Photographs of Pool Construction

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking NW at bath house and swimming pool excavations, December 10, 1937



Looking NW at nearly complete bath house and swimming pool in progress, June 10, 1938

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Historic Photographs of Pool Construction

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking SE at bath house with water tower in background, June 10, 1938



Looking ESE at bath house with water tower in background, July 1, 1938

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## Historic Photographs of Pool Construction

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking West at pool and bath house, July 1, 1938



Looking NW at pool and bath house, July 1, 1938



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Historic Photographs of Pool Construction



Looking West at pool and bath house, July 1, 1938

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking West at swimming pool and bath house c.1960

Postcard Photograph provided by Save Our Stadium Committee, Knoxville, Iowa

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Historic Photographs of Athletic Field Construction

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking West at west side stone gateway (ticket booths) and bleachers, October 14, 1938



Detail of gateway (ticket booth) on east side of stadium, October 14, 1938

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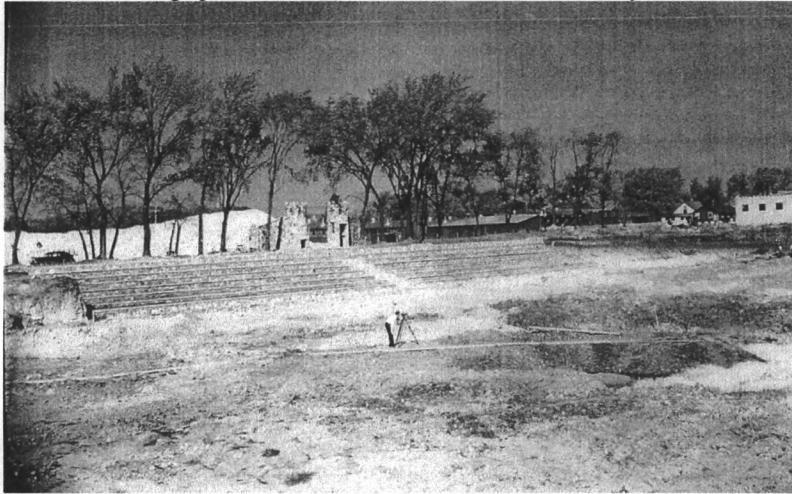
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Historic Photographs of Athletic Field Construction

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking NW at west side bleachers and gateway, with bath house at far right, October 14, 1938



Looking NE at east side bleachers and gateway under construction with water tower in background  
October 14, 1938

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Historic Photographs of Athletic Field Construction

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking North at NW stone wall under construction with pool house in background, November 17, 1938



Looking NE at east side bleachers and stone gateways under construction, February 24, 1939

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Historic Photographs of Athletic Field Construction

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking North at NW stone retaining wall, bath house in background, and stone piers for pavilion in upper left  
February 24, 1939



Looking NW at NW stone retaining wall, bath house and pool in background, and stone piers for pavilion in left-center  
February 24, 1939

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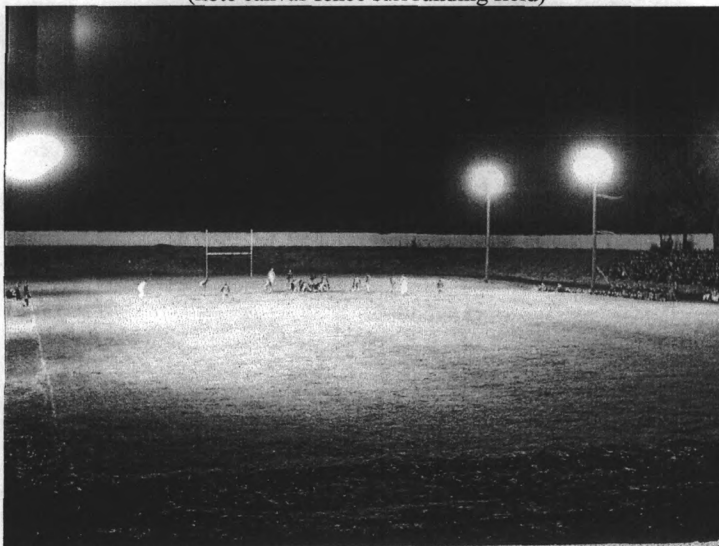
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Historic Photographs of Athletic Field Dedication Game

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking South at west side bleachers during the dedication game, October 5, 1939  
(note canvas fence surrounding field)



Looking towards south end of field during the dedication game, October 5, 1939

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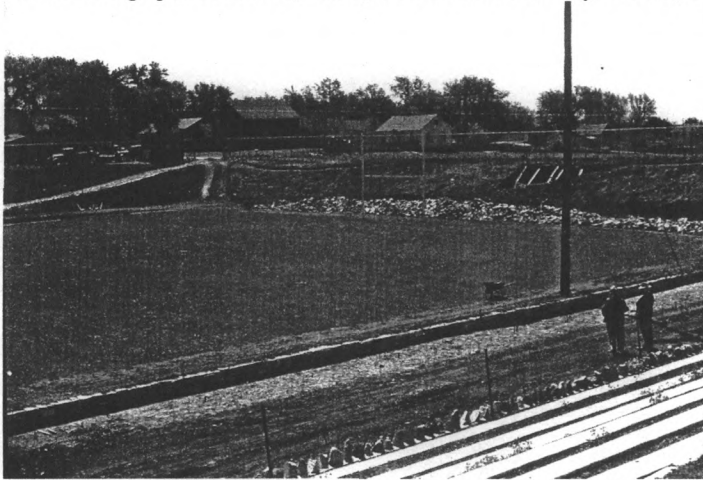
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Marion County, IA

Historic Photographs of Athletic Field Completion

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking SE at construction of south stone wall, May 16, 1940



Looking North at cinder track construction along west side of field, May 16, 1940  
(Note pavilion is now fully built in upper left-center of photo)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

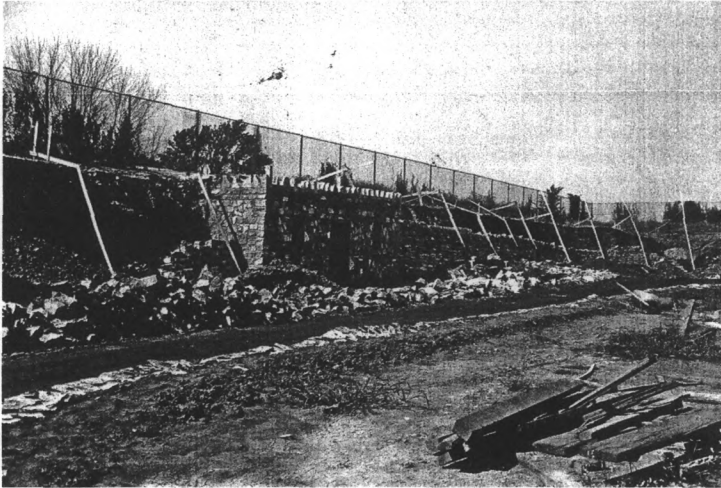
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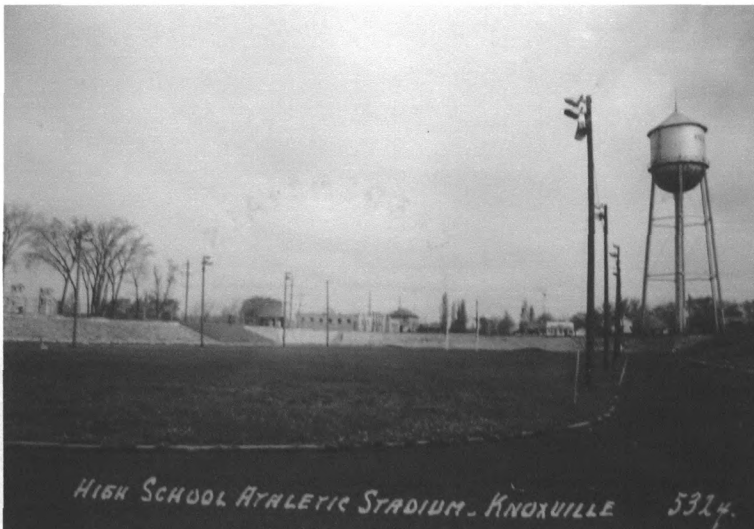
Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA

Historic Photographs of Athletic Field Completion

Source: WPA Photographs Collection, Box 8, State Historical Society of Iowa, Iowa City



Looking SW at south wall construction and stone storage building, September 4, 1940



Postcard view of completed athletic field looking NNW  
Date of photograph uncertain but probably soon after completion in 1940.  
Photograph provided by Save Our Stadium Committee, Knoxville, Iowa



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National Park Service**

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**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

Historic Photographs



West side gateways looking to the East  
Date of photograph uncertain. Photograph provided by Save Our Stadium Committee, Knoxville, Iowa

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Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



WPA Pool Bath House in foreground, looking to the ESE with water tower to left



East side of Pool Bath House, View to the NNW

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

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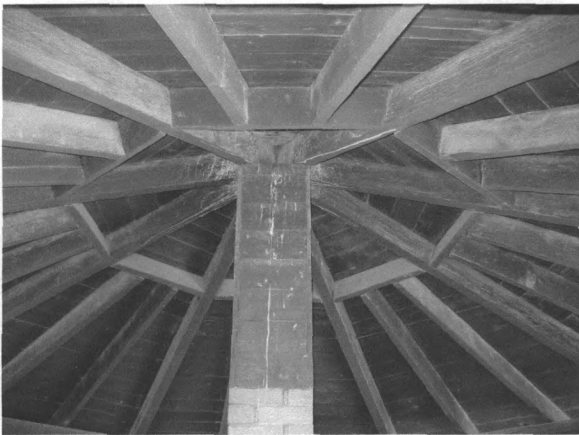
**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



Mothers' Pavilion, View to the ESE



Detail of roof construction/framing of Mothers' Pavilion



Detail of roof overhang of Mothers' Pavilion

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

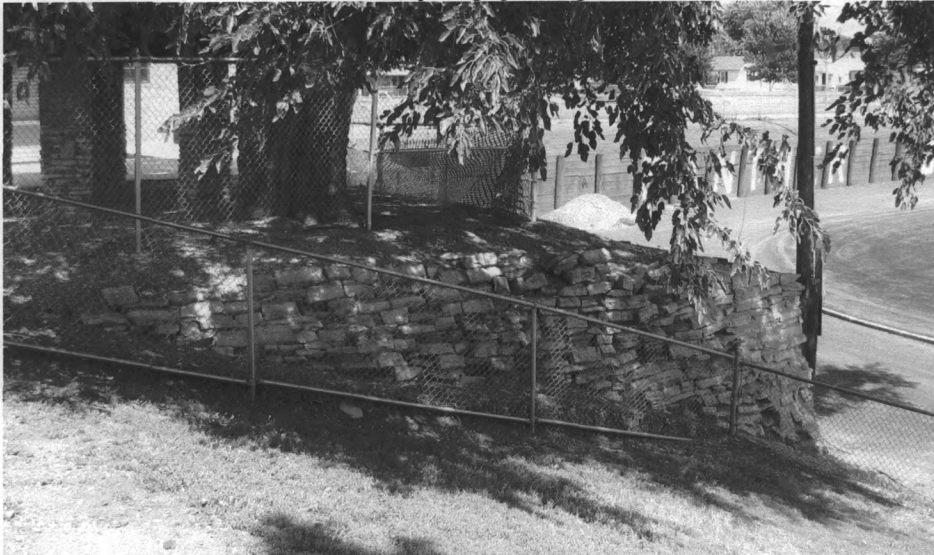
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**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



Extant section of NW limestone wall, View to the NE



Stone gateway on west side of stadium, View to the NNE

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National Park Service

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Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



Exterior of the north west-side gateway tower



Interior of the south west-side gateway tower ticket booth



View of the field and east-side bleachers looking east from the west-side bleachers

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
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Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



West-side bleachers and press box looking to NNW



Cinder track on west side of field looking North

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



Stone storage building and cinder track at south end of field looking ESE



Detail of stonework in storage building



Detail of parapet stonework on storage building

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National Park Service**

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**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



Stone gateway on east side of stadium looking NW from Stadium Street



Detail of east-side bleachers showing drain holes under original concrete caps on the stone benches



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Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



Field and west-side bleachers looking WNW



North end of stadium looking West towards pavilion, concession stand, and bath house

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

Current Photographs

Date of all current photographs: August 24, 2006



General view of field looking SE from north retaining wall

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

Photographs

Name of Property: Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
County and State: Marion County, IA  
Photographer: Leah D. Rogers  
Date of Photograph: August 24, 2006  
Location of Original Negative: Tallgrass Historians L.C., Iowa City, IA

- #1 General view of north end of district showing north end of field, water tower to right, and bath house to left, View to the North
- #2 General view of northwest corner of district showing north end of field and from left to right—the pavilion, concession stand, and pool bath house, View to the NW
- #3 Location of former swimming pool in foreground and bath house in background, View to the WNW
- #4 Mothers' pavilion, View to the ESE
- #5 West side bleachers and press box, View to the WNW
- #6 South end of field showing cinder track and stone storage building, View to the SSW
- #7 East side bleachers, View to the ESE
- #8 Stone storage building, View to the SE
- #9 Detail of east side bleachers and stone gateway, View to the NE
- #10 East side stone gateway, View to the NW from Stadium Street
- #11 Detail of west side stone gateway, View to the NNE
- #12 Detail of west side bleachers showing lower stone wall where pointed stones were sawed off, View to the NNW

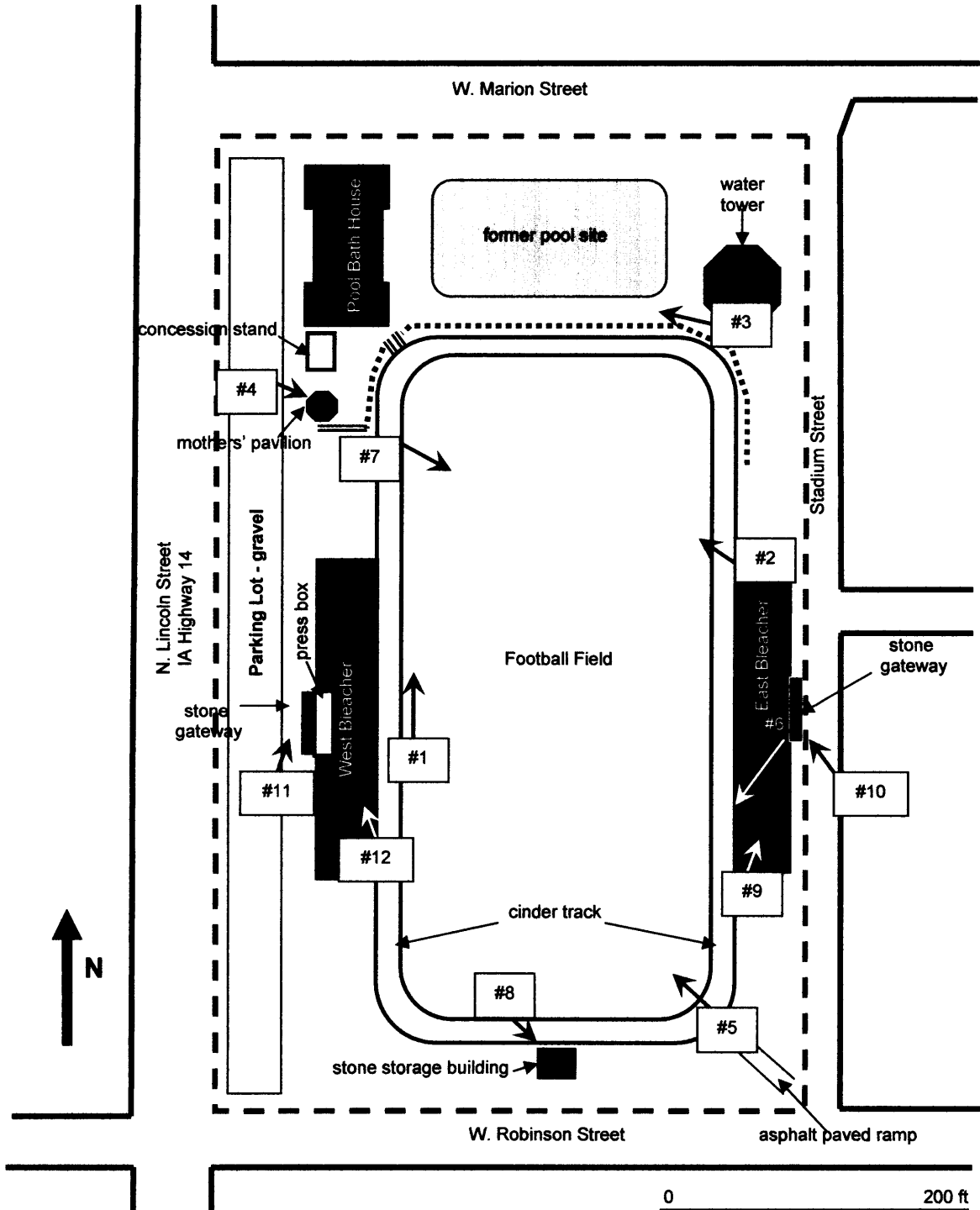
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Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA

Map Showing Direction of Photographs



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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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**Knoxville WPA Athletic Field Historic District  
Marion County, IA**

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List of Property Owners:

Knoxville Community School District  
Business Office  
309 West Main  
Knoxville, IA 50138

City of Knoxville  
305 S. 3rd Street  
Knoxville, IA 50138