

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 09000118

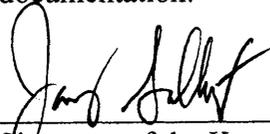
Date Listed: 3/4/2009

Property Name: Forrest Park Historic District

County: Shelby

State: TN

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

3/4/2009
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5: Resource Count

The correct count of contributing resources is: 1 Site, 1 Structure, 1 Object; 3 Total contributing resources.

Section 6: Historic and Current functions

The Historic and Current functions are hereby changed to: LANDSCAPE/park

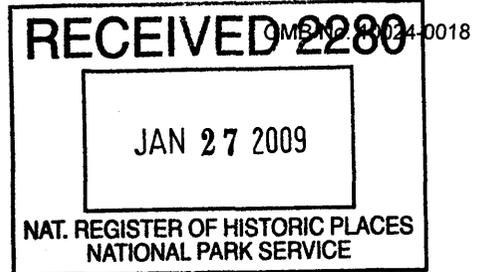
Landscape Architecture and Art are not functions.

The Tennessee State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

118

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 Forrest Park Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number S. Manassas Street and Union Avenue

not for publication N/A

city or town Memphis

vicinity N/A

state Tennessee

code TN

county Shelby

code 157

zip code 38103

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 for 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.)

E. Paul M. ...
Signature of certifying official/Title

1/22/09
Date

SHPO, Tennessee Historical Commission
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

[Signature]

3/4/2009

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
2	0	sites
1	1	structures
1	0	objects
4	1	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/park

ART/sculpture

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/park

ART/sculpture

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Picturesque

Beaux Arts

foundation NA

walls NA

roof NA

other BRONZE

STONE/marble

Narrative Description

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

See 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 boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year 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): N/A

- 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)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1899-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)
 N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kessler, George E. (1862-1923)
 Niehaus, Charles H. (1855-1935)
 Alsop, B. C. (died ca. 1914)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:
 Tennessee Historical Commission

Forrest Park Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby Co., Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.6 acres NW Memphis 404 NE

UTM References NW Memphis Quadrangle
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>770168</u> Easting	<u>3892559</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 John Linn Hopkins
organization Hopkins Oates & Associates date June 2008
street & number 974 Philadelphia Street telephone (901) 278-5186
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38104

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Memphis Park Services, c/o Cindy Buchanan, Director
street & number 2597 Avery Avenue telephone (901) 576-4200
city or town Memphis state TN zip code 38112

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 listing. 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 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Description

Forrest Park is a rectangular city green space situated on approximately eight and a half acres in the "Medical Center" area of Memphis on the eastern edge of the city's traditional downtown. While the park space was designated by the city as "Bedford Forrest Park" in 1899 on the former site of a city hospital, it did not reach its full development until 1904-05, when the Memphis Park Commission completed the park to designs prepared by George E. Kessler, the Commission's landscape architect from 1901 to 1914. The park was designed by Kessler to center on a large bronze equestrian statue of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, designed by sculptor Charles H. Niehaus. The park was designed as a passive recreational space in the Picturesque style by Kessler, but the park began a series of evolutionary steps even during Kessler's tenure that added active functions to the park. The park finally evolved into its present day appearance in the early 1940s, when, in response to public safety issues and significant changes in the surrounding land use pattern, dense understory plantings were removed and its original lily pond filled.

The park is bounded on the north by Madison Avenue, on the east by Dunlap Street, on the south by Union Avenue, and on the west by Manassas Street. The University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences is located across Madison Avenue and Dunlap Street from the park; another notable neighboring property is the Scottish Rite Cathedral located at 825 Union Avenue (Jones & Furbringer, architects, 1909), located across from the park's southeastern corner. Its proximity to both Union and Madison avenues makes Forrest Park one of the most visible public spaces in the city.

The landscape of the park is nearly flat, draining from its high flat terrace along the frontage facing Union Avenue, then gently sloping downward towards Madison Avenue to its low point in the northwestern corner with Manassas. The park features a canopy of trees concentrated in what can be described as a deep U-shaped planting plan along the Dunlap, Madison, and Manassas frontages, with a more open area of lawn opening to Union Avenue. The tree cover is largely the mature growth of the original planting plan envisioned by Kessler in 1902. Tree varieties found in the park include red oak, white oak, willow oak, elms, hackberry, magnolia, ginkgo, and Himalayan deodar cedar. Understory and ornamental plantings include dogwood, red tip, mahonia, boxwood, and Burford holly; many of these were planted to replace earlier plant materials in the same location.

George Kessler's original plan for Forrest Park created a picturesque, passive recreational space that took advantage of the mature trees and some other plantings that remained on the site from its years as a hospital grounds. The park was designed with perimeter sidewalks, and an internal set of curvilinear walkways that separate the park user from the sidewalk and surrounding street. A small lily pond was also featured in the southwestern quadrant of the park. With the exception of the view from Union Avenue into the park and to the Forrest statue, Kessler's planting design limited many other views of buildings or street traffic outside of the park. The arrangement of walks and plantings created a series of small open spaces around the perimeter of the park where seating and some beds of ornamental plantings were located. The center of the park was left more open with large expanses of lawn. The northern half of the park contained many of its mature trees

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

at the time of its original dedication. Cast iron, post-top light fixtures were placed around the plaza for the Forrest statue and along the internal walkways of the park. Planting beds were developed in both sun and shaded areas; some at the intersection of walks, and others that lined the walks. Early photographs also show that some of these beds were planted with some of Kessler's favorite plant materials for the Memphis parks, including palmettos, banana plants, cannas, elephant ears, and cast iron (aspidistra) plants. Others were planted with a number of flower varieties.

The landscape character of the park has evolved somewhat since its completion in 1904-05, though Kessler's original design is still clearly recognizable. Some of the changes to the park came almost immediately after its completion. The pattern of the original walkways has been retained, though asphalt paving was used to reline the internal walks when their original concrete paving deteriorated. Concrete has remained the material of the park's perimeter sidewalks and of the plaza area surrounding the Forrest statue. The organizational pattern of sun areas and shaded areas has also been retained. The northeastern quadrant of the park was made more open to accommodate a tennis court and playground ca. 1908-1915, which opened views across this area of the park. A surviving stone retaining wall in this area of the park was likely built in conjunction with the tennis court ca. 1908. The cast iron post top light fixtures were likely replaced with cast concrete post top fixtures in the 1920s as part of the comprehensive street lighting program carried out by the city at that time. Later, the overgrown understory plantings were removed entirely, and the lily pond filled in the early 1940s. Many of the small "spot" planting beds visible in early photographs were discontinued before this time, in part, no doubt due to maintenance and budget problems, but also due, in part, to the growth of the tree canopy which compromised sunlight and moisture for these plantings.

The centerpiece of the park design was the plaza setting for the placement of the Forrest Equestrian Statue, and this area of the park has changed very little since its inception. The statue is centered on the north-south axis of the park in a location that is approximately one-quarter of the full depth of the park site on the south side. The statue is sited with a plaza space, paved with concrete walkways surrounding the monument's plinth. A lawn stretches from the plaza south to Union Avenue and also to the north from the statue, flanked by parallel concrete sidewalks and linear planting beds. Two of the park's curvilinear walks connect to the monument site, and two others connect at a junction with the parallel sidewalks. A flagpole was set in the northern lawn area ca. 1908. The monument itself is set on a multi-lobed plinth with some planting beds contained within it; on the plinth is set a rectangular base with stairs on the north and south sides, and stone benches along the east and west. The pedestal for the statue rises approximately seven feet from the base to the bronze equestrian monument itself. The base of the statue has granite markers noting the resting place of Lt. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest (July 13, 1821-October 29, 1877) and his wife Mary A. Forrest (October 24, 1826-January 22, 1893), whose bodies were reinterred here from Elmwood Cemetery (NR 3/20/02) in 1904. With the exception of these granite markers, the rest of the masonry used in the monument is rendered in Tennessee marble. The half-dozen original concrete post-top perimeter lights in the plaza have been replaced ca. 1985 by reproduction cast concrete post-top directional lighting that floods the statue and the flag atop the flagpole.

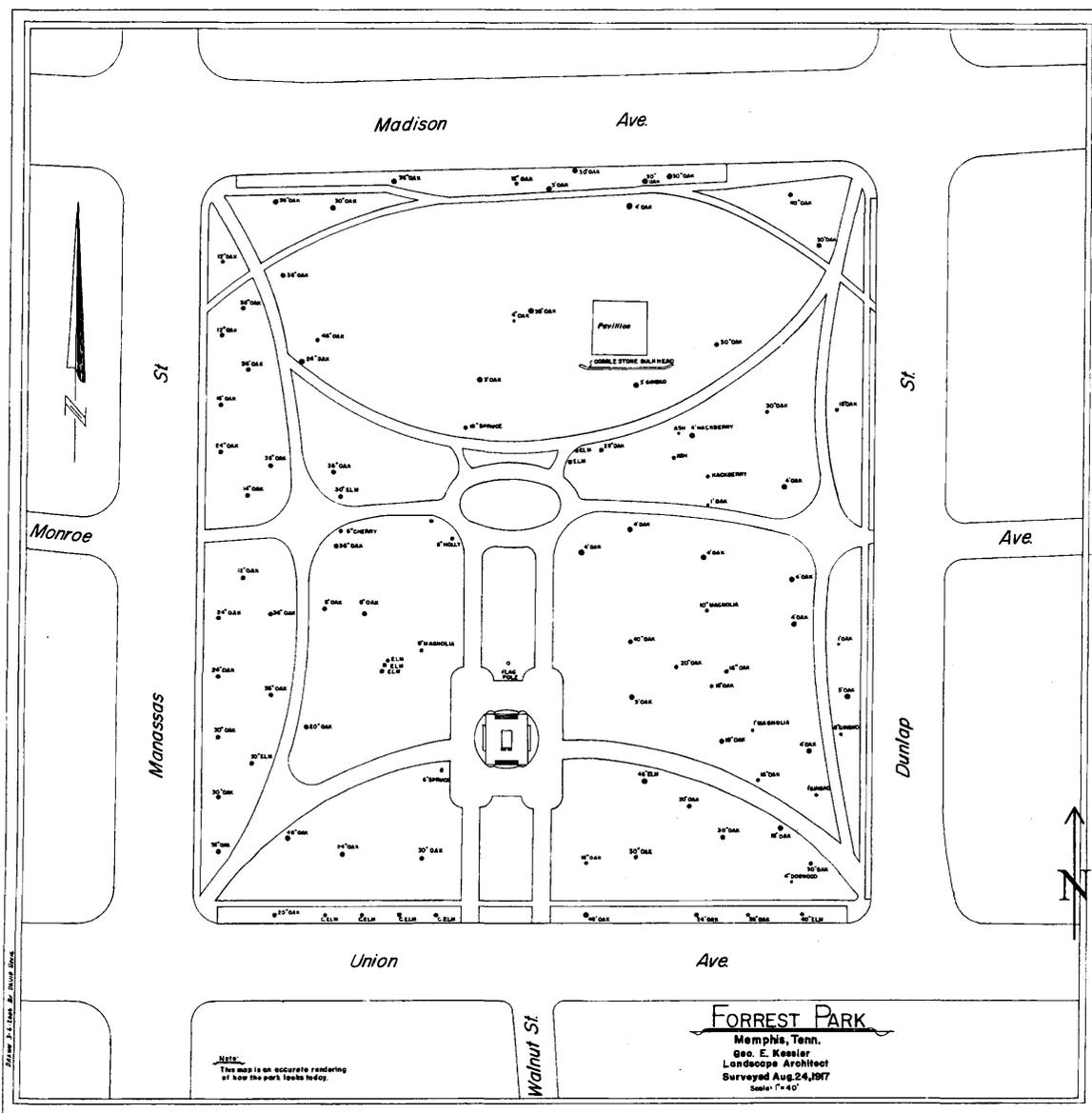
The statue depicts Forrest astride his horse, "King Philip" facing south, at a scale of approximately one and one-half times life size. Many equestrian statues depict the subject in action, with their horses mid-stride

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



Present day map of Forrest Park, rendered by David Hoxie in 2006.

in a walk or gallop with a front or rear hoof raised, but Niehaus instead chose to depict Forrest and his mount in a momentary pause, with both man and horse at attention and eyes watchful of events in the distance. The uniformed General holds the reins to King Phillip's bridle taut in his left hand, while holding his gloves in his right hand on his hip. His sword rests in its scabbard on his left side and his hat is clipped to his saddle. The delicately and expertly sculpted hair of the horse's mane and tail appears to shift in the breeze.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

The park is included in the resource count of this nomination as one contributing site. The Forrest statue and its integral stone plinth, base and pedestal are counted as one contributing object and are labeled "A" on the accompanying site map (page 17). The 75' tall flagpole (manufactured by N. O. Nelson of St. Louis and installed in 1908) is counted as one contributing structure, and is labeled "B". The only other major feature of the property is the Picnic Pavilion, built ca. 1970, which is a one-story, flat-roofed, reinforced concrete frame open-air structure that is five bays wide and two deep. It is considered a non-contributing structure on the property and is labeled "C". The setting is a contributing element and includes its original pattern of walks and formal planting beds, its perimeter sidewalks, its light posts, its major trees, lawns, ornamental trees and shrubs, and a stone retaining wall, among other elements. Other features present in the landscape include a ca. 1915 plaque memorializing the Marvin Pope Wading Pool (the wading pool was demolished many years ago); a series of small recreational "stations" built ca. 1985 named the "Exertrail"; a plaque installed ca. 1997 honoring the service of Brig. General Nathan Bedford Forrest III (1905-1943), a hero of World War II who was killed in action. Though some of these features are not fifty years of age, taken as a whole with the other elements of the park, these elements combine to form one contributing site element for the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Significance

Forrest Park Historic District (herein after as "Forrest Park") is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as a well-preserved member of the public parks designed by George Kessler for the Memphis Park Commission between 1902 and 1914. As such, Forrest Park is eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture as a locally significant example of a largely Picturesque-style landscape designed and developed between 1899 and 1941. And in the area of Community Planning and Development under Criterion A, the park has significance as a member of the Memphis Park and Parkway System, an integrated transportation and park network initially designed by Kessler and carried forward by the Memphis Park Commission beginning in 1901. Criteria considerations D and F apply to the Forrest statue, since the statue is primarily commemorative in nature and is also a cemetery as defined by Tennessee state law. In spite of seeing some changes in the landscape materials in the park over time, the park retains integrity of landscape plan, design, plant materials, patterns of recreational use, and of its commemorative feature.

Because the period of significance for Forrest Park extends beyond that of its multiple property submission "Memphis Park and Parkway System" (NR 5/19/89), it is not being included under that cover document. However, because the history of Forrest Park came about as one of the earliest members of that park system designed by George Kessler, some of the historic context given in the cover document is presented below.

The civic urge to develop parks as recreational spaces in urban areas did not really begin to gain wide-spread acceptance until the late-1870s. While Philadelphia's Fairmont Park can trace its inception to 1855 and New York's Central Park began in 1857, a more widespread movement to develop civic recreational green spaces as a part of planned urban growth did not begin to gather momentum until after the development of Minneapolis's Park and Parkway System beginning in 1883. Two other major steps in the development of park systems as an element of urban planning occurred with the establishment of the Park and Parkway System for Kansas City, designed by the young landscape architect, George E. Kessler; and the regional Park and Parkway System for Boston, designed in 1890 by Charles Nolan. (Van West 1998:612-613) Both of these projects are considered to be cornerstone for the creation of the profession of urban planning in America.

Memphis became an early participant in this new American phenomenon, in part because of a series of outbreaks of Yellow Fever in the 1860s and 1870s that culminated with the horrible epidemics of 1878 and 1879. (Anderson 1920:1-4) The plagues resulted in a devastating loss of a quarter of the city's population and the outmigration of another half of its citizens, many of whom never returned. The turmoil caused the city to lose its charter, and its governmental authority was taken over by the state as a legislatively designated taxing district. A part of the solution to the city's problems was found in the development of an aggressive public health department, the development of a reliable sanitary water system, and the construction of George E. Waring Jr.'s revolutionary sanitary sewer system for the city.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Section number 8 Page 6

The costs of constructing the sanitary sewer system and the sluggish rebound of its economy and population caused Memphis to not recover its city charter until 1891. The completion of the Frisco Railroad Bridge across the Mississippi in 1892 brought about a new era of optimism as the new bridge opened up new markets in the developing southwestern states and territories. The agents of the new economy in Memphis, like Robert Brinkley Snowden, Hu Brinkley, J. J. Williams, and others, were Progressives, and they helped to form the "Greater Memphis Movement" in 1895, a business-based advocacy group for promotion of a Progressive agenda in local politics. (Sigafos 1989:99-101) The Greater Memphis Movement promoted their Progressive agenda in the mayoral election of 1897, including in it a call for the development of a planned park system. J. J. Williams was the candidate in that election who won the vote with Progressive backing.

Even before the election was decided, the members of the Greater Memphis Movement coalition had contacted the firm of Fredrick Law Olmstead for direction on the design of a park and parkway system for the city. John C. Olmstead visited the city in 1897 to make a preliminary plan for a city-wide system. But, in 1901 when the newly constituted Memphis Park Commission considered the question of hiring a consultant to guide the development of its park system, the Commission hired George E. Kessler of Kansas City to design the work, in large part due to the support of major business figures in the Memphis who were familiar with Kessler's work.

The vision that Memphis city leaders determined with Kessler was to follow the model of his work in Kansas City, which involved the development of major "anchor" parks connected together via a system of landscaped parkways. Smaller-scaled parks would then be developed to serve individual or small groups of neighborhoods; these parks would be connected to the major parkways by landscaped boulevards developed in negotiation with the adjacent subdivision developers as development occurred. Kessler and his Memphis clients knew from Kessler's Kansas City experience that park development spurred residential development nearby, because homebuyers preferred to acquire homes in easy proximity to parks (Anderson 1920:2). In Memphis, the city had just completed the annexation of an area three times the size of the city prior to the 1897 election, so Kessler's approach was seen as an important tool in planning and developing the new urban landscape there.

When George Kessler began his first day as the landscape architect for the Memphis Park Commission in 1901, a concept for the development of Forrest Park as a part of that system had already been put in motion by city leaders. The site of Forrest Park was originally developed ca. 1836 as the city's first hospital, chartered by the state as a private institution and intended largely to provide medical services to river travelers. According to the state historical marker located in Forrest Park, the hospital was taken over by city government in 1873, and removed from service when a new city hospital was erected on the north side of Madison in 1895. An ordinance was passed by the Legislative (City) Council of Memphis on February 6th of 1895 authorized the development of a park on the hospital site, but no action was taken (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* August 11, 1899). The old hospital was finally demolished in 1898 (Memphis Legislative Council *Minutes* July 7, 1898). A year later, the Legislative Council was approached by R. J. Black, president of the Confederate Historical Association (CHA), proposing to name the park "Bedford Forrest Park" in honor of CSA General and Memphian Nathan Bedford Forrest (1821-1877). At that time,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Black was in town to participate in the planning of the CHA's reunion of Confederate veterans to take place in Memphis in May of 1901. Black noted in his remarks before the Council that his organization and others were already in the process of raising funds for the placement of a statue in Forrest's honor, and it would be located in the new park if the Council approved the naming request. The Council adopted the measure unanimously (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* August 11, 1899).

The namesake of the park and of the statue in the park that bears his name was Lt. General Nathan Bedford Forrest, a bold and brilliant cavalry officer for the Confederate army whose daring raids against Union forces in Mississippi and Tennessee raised him to a position of great respect, and perhaps even dread, among his Union peers. Even today, Forrest's military tactics are studied by military historians and his exploits celebrated by Civil War enthusiasts (though his role and the circumstances in the directing forces against Fort Pillow [NHL 5/30/74] and killing of a high number of the fort's African American troops is still fiercely debated.) Prior to the war, Forrest built a personal fortune as a plantation owner and slave dealer in Memphis; after the war, he became the first Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, and its aim to reestablish Democratic Party rule in the South in the wake of the liberal Republican rule imposed under Reconstruction (Van West 1998:321-322). For these aspects of his career, Forrest is vilified by many as well, particularly among African Americans.

It is often difficult to separate the actions and events leading to the development of Forrest Park as a city park, and the actions and events leading to the development of Forrest Park as a place to house the envisioned Forrest statue. The end result turned out to be essentially the same, but one must keep in mind that the statue came about as the result of private, non-profit efforts of many years in length, while the park's development occurred along a timetable set by circumstances of city government and also affected by some outside forces. The sequences of events on both parts leading up to the dedication of the statue in Forrest Park in 1905 did not necessarily mesh in a logical pattern of development.

(For the sake of clarity in this somewhat confusing train of events, it should be noted that the two non-profits that led the development of the Forrest statue were the local Forrest Memorial Association [FMA], which began raising funds to build the statue as early as 1887. They were later joined by a national organization, the CHA, which helped to raise funds channeled to the FMA, and to champion the development of the statue from ca. 1899 to its dedication in 1905.)

The newspaper coverage of the Council's action in naming the park in 1899 remarked that "This is the first practical step toward taking up the question of parks," which had become a pressing local issue in the election of J. J. Williams as mayor in 1897 (Op. cit.). Even with this authorization, the city would not act on the development of the park until funding could be funneled through the new semi-autonomous Park Commission that the administration envisioned. The further delay was the result of lawsuits filed in opposition to the state legislation passed in 1898 that authorized the establishment of park commissions with powers to condemn property and issue bonds. Action of the Supreme Court of Tennessee in 1900 finally cleared this hurdle, and the city was then able to adopt an ordinance creating the Memphis Park Commission, which met in its first session on September 1900. (Park Commission *Minutes* September 13, 1900).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

The fledgling Commission's first priority focused on the business of acquiring the large Lea Woods and Wilderberger Farm properties for the eventual development of Overton Park (NR 10/25/79) and Riverside Park, respectively, and for the hiring of a landscape architect to guide the design and development of all of the new parks. Even with the selection of George E. Kessler as the Commission's landscape architect (Park Commission *Minutes* November 8, 1901), the Commission was unable to see past its agenda on the larger parks until a year later, when action on the development of a plan for Forrest Park was finally initiated (Park Commission *Minutes* October 31, 1902). At that same meeting, a request was introduced from the FMA to place a memorial to General Nathan Bedford Forrest in the park. Action on that request was deferred by the Commission for many months. In the meantime, Kessler was ordered by the Commission to prepare a landscape plan for the development of Forrest Park (Park Commission *Minutes* November 19, 1902).

German-born George E. Kessler (1862-1923) became a major national figure in landscape architecture and the development of the practice of city planning in the late-19th century, beginning with his design for the Park and Parkway System of Kansas City in 1891 as has been noted earlier. His work in Kansas City and his hiring for the Memphis parks project brought him to the attention of the committee overseeing the planning of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, which was held in St. Louis in 1904. He went on to design park systems in a number of American cities, as well as city plans for Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Cleveland, El Paso, Denver, Syracuse, Salt Lake City, and many others. His association with Memphis Park Commission continued until 1914, when political pressure on the Commission from Mayor Ed Crump finally ended the relationship. Kessler tried to renew his professional relationship with the city in 1921 in the competition to develop a city plan for Memphis, but lost out on the project to Harland Bartholomew of St. Louis. Kessler died just two years later at his home in Indianapolis (Kulbertson ca. 1990:n.p.).

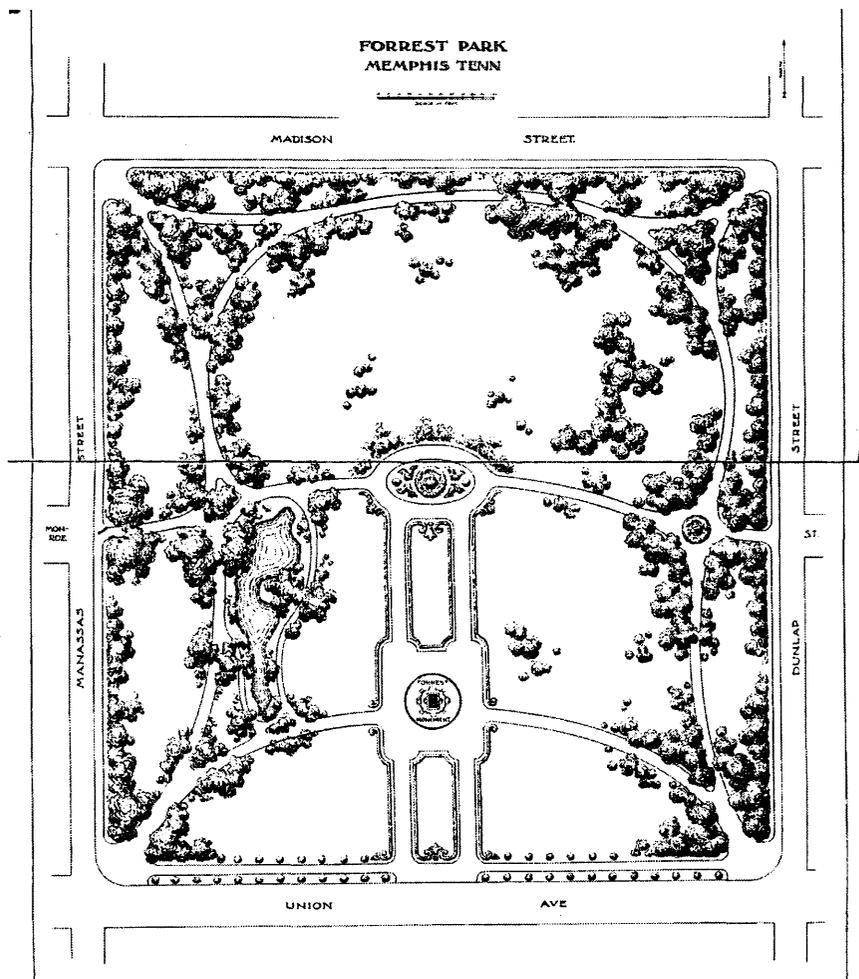
Apart from his work on the major "anchor" parks (Overton and Riverside) and their interconnecting parkways, Kessler's office turned out plans for other small city parks, including the minimally-developed, passive Gaston Park (NR7/3/89), developed concurrently with Forrest Park. Bickford Park, on Bickford Street in North Memphis, was another minimally-developed passive park like Gaston that was developed soon after Forrest Park's completion. Redevelopment plans for some of the city's original 1819 park spaces were also implemented, though Court Square Park is now the sole survivor (part Court Square Historic District NR 4/15/19). Reclamation of portions of the original Public Promenade, donated for public use by the proprietors of the city in 1819 were also undertaken by Kessler in 1906: Ashford and Confederate parks were designed as near mirror images of one another in plan to act as "bookends" flanking the U. S. Post Office and Custom House (Front Street Station NR 6/30/80) and the Cossitt Public Library to its south. Of these two, only Confederate Park remains extant (part Court Square Historic District, NR 4/15/82). Other parks designed by Kessler during his tenure with the Park Commission include Desoto Mounds/Chickasaw Heritage Park on Metal Museum Drive (NR 11/25/97), ca. 1911; and Douglass Park, on Ash Street, the city's first park designed for unrestricted use by African Americans, ca. 1913. Contrary to some common perceptions, Jefferson Davis Park on Riverside Drive below the bluff from Confederate Park was not designed by Kessler. It was developed ca. 1930 and was completely re-designed ca. 1985 to the point where it no longer retains any of its original features, save for its location and its size.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Section number 8 Page 9



George Kessler's Plan of Forrest Park, published in the Report of the Board of Park Commissioner, 1908. Kessler's name as "Landscape Architect" appears in the lower left, though the plan itself was likely drawn by his partner, Henry Wright. History Collection, Memphis Public Library.

Kessler's plan for Forrest Park was a skillful blending of asymmetrical Picturesque landscape elements on the one hand, as seen in its curvilinear walks, its lily pond (now lost), its changing vistas, and exotic planting plan; and, on the other, the Beaux Arts form of more formal classical landscape planning that came out of the City Beautiful Movement via the McMillan Plan for Washington, D.C., completed 1901-1902. Kessler used a similar approach in his design for Confederate Park, which was developed with a statue of Jefferson Davis as its focal point; Ashford Park on Front Street (no longer extant); in his unnamed "open air forum" proposed for the site of West Court Avenue (illustrated in *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*, 1908:n.p.); and in the design of Overton Park. (Its Beaux Arts element was featured in the lawn, gardens and walks between the Clara Conway Memorial and the park's Dancing Pavilion. Both structures are no longer

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

extant, but the lawn and walks area remain to the north across the drive from the Memphis College of Art). In each case, the Picturesque spaces were designed for informal public use, while the Beaux Arts elements were bought into his design for the settings intended for use in more formal ways, or as the setting for a commemorative feature, like the Forrest Statue. The *Minutes* of the Park Commission do not mention when the park plan was formally adopted, but it had clearly been accepted by January of 1904, when the Park Commission formally named the walks in Forrest Park after the officers who served with Forrest: E. W. Rucker, John W. Morton, J. P. Strange, G. V. Rambaut, and, J. P. Young. Another walk in the park was named for "King Phillip", Forrest's horse (Memphis Park Commission *Minutes* January 9, 1904). All of these walks and the majority of the features from Kessler's park plan remain intact today.

The centerpiece of Kessler's design for the park was to be, of course, the proposed statue dedicated to General Forrest. The movement to develop a statue to commemorate the military career of General Forrest is said to date from 1887, a decade following Forrest's death in Memphis on October 29, 1877 (Doyle 2005:n.p.). This informal effort begun by James E. Beasley, Col. W. F. Taylor, and W. W. Schoolfield was made more formal by incorporation of the FMA with General S. T. Carnes as its first president. By January of 1900, fundraising by the FMA had exceeded \$14,000, and the Association's intent was stated to have the laying of the cornerstone for the statue during the reunion of the CHA scheduled in Memphis on May 31st of 1901.

The ceremony on that Memorial Day in 1901 was attended by thousands of veterans, politicians and others. But, the cornerstone laying was in fact wholly symbolic, as the actual design for the park and the memorial's base had yet to be prepared; the masonry blocks used for the event were apparently carted off at a later date. The real event of setting the masonry for the existing base of the statue took place some three years later with no fanfare. The park had probably seen little or no formal development following the demolition of the old hospital, though city officials probably had the park site cleaned up somewhat for the visiting veterans. The CHA and the local FMA simply wished to use the occasion of the veteran's reunion to demonstrate that the project would become a reality, and to spur fundraising needed to complete it.

The FMA had obviously been in contact with sculptor Charles H. Niehaus for some years, for a photograph of the sculptor and his proposed design for the equestrian statue appeared in the Memphis newspapers on June 6 of 1901 (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* June 6, 1901), the day when the FMA awarded the contract to Niehaus to design the statue and oversee its fabrication. Niehaus returned to Memphis two months later with a maquette of the statue, which was approved by the Association (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* August 10, 1901). The statue was originally intended to face north in the park, but its placement in the park's design required that the statue be oriented facing south instead (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* August 11, 1899). Union Avenue was also, after all, the city's busiest street at the time.

Sculptor Charles H. Niehaus was born in Cincinnati in 1855, and demonstrated his abilities in carving as an apprentice in the trades of wood engraving and marble carving. He studied art later in his youth, and then attended the Royal Academy of Art in Munich, where he excelled in sculpture. He returned to America just after the assassination of Ohio resident President James Garfield in 1881. Niehaus's first commission was to sculpt a marble statue of Garfield for placement in the Statuary Hall Collection of the U. S. Capitol; a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

duplicate of the statue was cast in bronze for the City of Cincinnati (<www.senate.gov/artandhistory/artifact/Sculpture_22_00006.htm>). The Smithsonian's "Save Outdoor Sculpture" database (<http://americanart.si.edu/search/search_data.cfm>) records 126 sculpture projects by Niehaus, including portrait statues of John Paul Jones at the U. S. Naval Academy, the equestrian statue of Ulysses S. Grant in New York, the equestrian statue "The Apotheosis of St. Louis" (originally commissioned for the entrance to the Louisiana Purchase Exposition of 1904, now in Forest Park, St. Louis), the statue of Admiral Oliver Hazard Perry in Buffalo, and the statues entitled "Caestus", in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution (Ibid.). Niehaus also sculpted the massive tympanums for the pediments of the U. S. Library of Congress and the state capitols of Connecticut and Kentucky. The bronze entrance doors to the Library of Congress were also sculpted by Niehaus. Though the majority of Niehaus's commissions came in the two decades prior to World War I, he remained active up until his death in 1935.

Niehaus's design for the Forrest statue was based upon the precedents of the classical bronze equestrian statues of Greece and Rome, the statue of Marcus Aurelius in Rome being the only surviving example from the Classical Era (ca. 168-180 CE). Forrest was depicted astride his favorite horse, "King Phillip", though the actual horse used for the model was "Champion", a horse preferred by Niehaus for the three equestrian sculptures that he completed in his career (Ibid.). It seems unusual, at the very least, that Niehaus would depict Forrest, the great cavalry officer known for his daring, lightning strikes against Union forces, in a static pose. But both man and horse are clearly attentive to some activity going on within their gaze, watching and seemingly ready to act. The horse's mane and its tail seem to blow in the breeze while the pair watches the muscles of the horse clearly rippled and ready to charge if commanded by its rider.

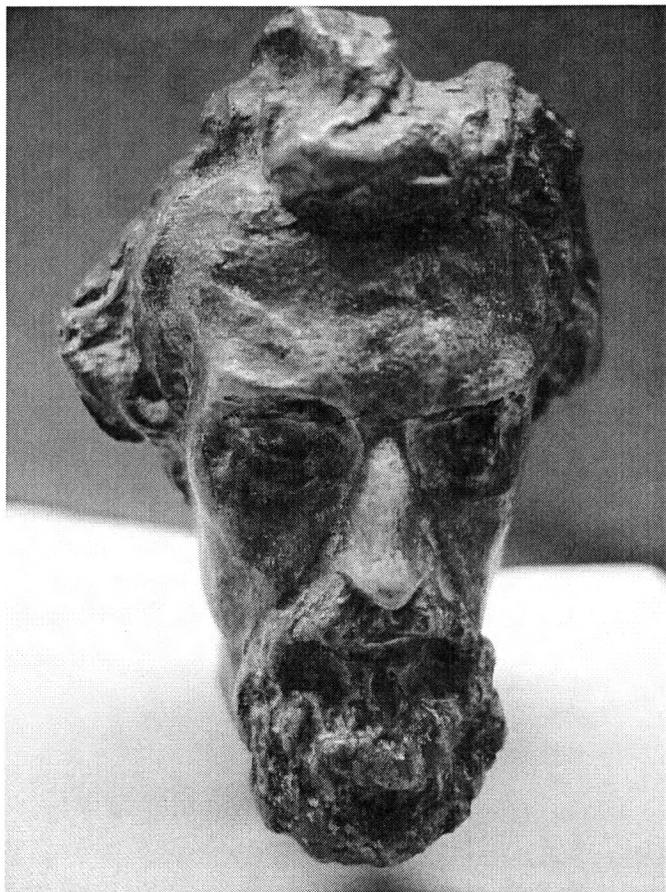
The merit of Niehaus's work on the Forrest statue was not lost among his critics. Writing for the *Encyclopedia Americana* on the subject of "Historical Subjects in American Sculpture", art and architecture critic Edward Hale Brush concluded his analysis of equestrian statues depicting historical figures significant in the Civil War by placing "the equestrian statue by Niehaus of General Nathan B. Forrest at Memphis Tennessee" in a group of only three sculptures "which stand out as especially fine examples of such work", second only to Augustus St. Gauden's equestrian statues of the General Phillip Sheridan in Washington, D.C., and his Shaw Memorial in Boston Commons (*Encyclopedia Americana* 1918:561).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

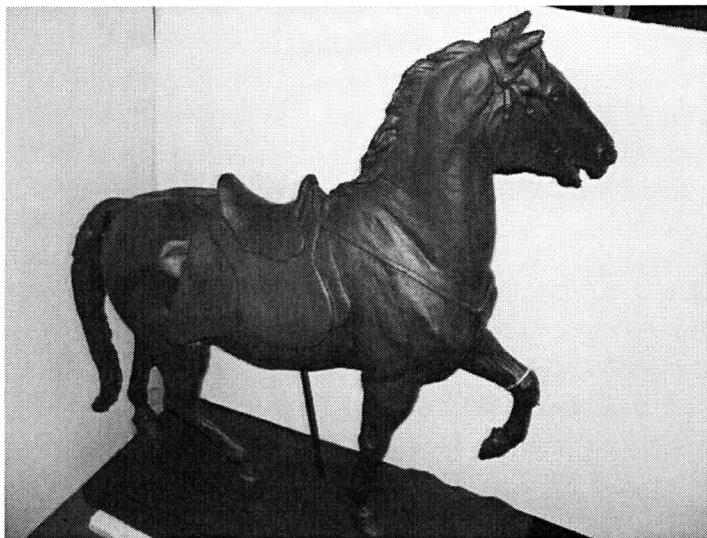
Section number 8 Page 12

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



Left: Charles Niehaus's "Bust of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, Study for Equestrian Statue in Forrest Park, Memphis, Tennessee, ca. 1902." Bronze. Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee; gift of Mrs. Jefferson Messick.

Below: Charles Niehaus's "Horse Model for Equestrian Statue of General Nathan Bedford Forrest in Forrest Park, Memphis, Tennessee, ca. 1902." Plaster. Memphis Brooks Museum of Art, Memphis, Tennessee; gift of Mrs. Jefferson Messick.



The bust of General Forrest and the plaster maquette of King Phillip shown above were both likely the models shown to the FMA in 1901. The model of the horse changed greatly from this initial design to the design approved for casting in 1904. The final version of the maquette has apparently been lost.

The contract to finish the modeling of the statue was awarded to Niehaus by the FMA on August 14, 1901 (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* August 15, 1901). The final model of the statue was completed in 1904 and approved by the FMA; bronze casting of the model was carried out in Paris by the foundry of E. Gruet, Jr. The casting was completed and on its way to America by ship in January of 1905, arriving in Memphis by rail on April 7, 1905 (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* February 4, 1905 and April 8, 1905). In anticipation of the statue's arrival, the bodies of General Forrest and Mrs. Forrest were disinterred at Elmwood Cemetery (NR 3/20/02) and approved for reinterment beneath the monument by the Park Commission (Memphis Park Commission *Minutes*, November 4, 1904).

The plinth, base, and pedestal for the statue were designed by Memphis architect B. C. Alsop (died 1914; *Confederate Veteran* 1905: n.p.) ca. 1904. The attributed date for this design is suggested by the fact that the size of the statue's metal base was not known until Niehaus's final maquette was approved; and, because the design of the memorial's footprint differed greatly in Kessler's 1902 plan for the park from what was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

actually built. The Tennessee marble used in constructing all of these elements was quarried at the Republic Marble Quarry in Concord, Tennessee and finished at the Ross Marble Company of Knoxville. The total cost to the FMA for the design, construction and installation of the statue amounted to \$32,359.53 (Doyle, op. cit.).

Dedication of the Forrest statue was done with great fanfare on May 15, 1905, with an estimated crowd of 30,000 people in attendance. The granddaughter of General and Mrs. Forrest, Kathleen Forrest Bradley, was given the task of unveiling the statue to the crowd (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* May 16, 1905).

Even though the Forrest statue adds a certain formal character to the park, the area surrounding the statue was used for ceremonial purposes only on the anniversary of Forrest's birth on July 13th. For the rest of the year, the park was a popular destination for the people who lived nearby. When Forrest Park was established, the surrounding area was principally residential in character, though this would change over the next two decades. In 1905, the only major non-residential properties in the area were the City of Memphis Hospital located on Madison to the north of the park; to the northwest of the park was the 1901 powerhouse of the Memphis Power and Light Company on Beale Street; and, across Union Avenue at the southeast corner with Manassas Street was the Memphis Pure Milk Company plant. It may be surprising to some to learn that one of the first major improvements made to the park by the Commission was in 1910 in the form of a grass tennis court, the city's first (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* May 17, 1960). The court was probably located on the current site of the picnic pavilion in the northeastern quadrant of the park (the low stone east-west retaining wall located just south of the pavilion was probably built when the ground in this area of the park was leveled sufficiently for the tennis court). A playground was established in 1913 thanks to the gift of W. A. Hein and J. D. Rozier (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* November 28, 1913). The Marvin Pope Wading Pool was established at the playground through the generosity of Duke C. Bowers and opened on July 4, 1915 (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* July 3, 1915). Both of these features of the park are no longer extant, and a bronze plaque is all that remains to indicate the location of the wading pool.

While Forrest Park continued to be a popular destination for the use of surrounding residents, the land use character of the area was changing rapidly. The Scottish Rite Cathedral was built in 1909 to the plans of Jones and Furbringer just across from the southeast corner of the park. The establishment of the University of Tennessee Medical School (now University of Tennessee Health Science Center) in 1911 on South Dunlap east of the park was followed by the establishment of Baptist Hospital on Madison just east of Dunlap in 1912. The development of these institutions joined the earlier Memphis City Hospital in creating the sense of this area of the city as the "Medical Center," as it is still known. After World War I, businesses like the Memphis Steam Laundry on Jefferson Avenue and the Loeb Laundry at the northwest corner of Madison and Manassas (both now demolished) were developed in part to support the laundering needs of these hospitals. Other facilities were developed in the area, like the Memphis Gas and Electric Company's gas meter department building (Sigafos 1979:107) ca. 1927 at the corner of Beale and South Dunlap. As facilities like these were developed, the buildings themselves and their need for parking caused the area to become much less desirable for residential living, and this cycle continued. Over time families sold out and moved "out East" to the new subdivisions like Hein Park (NR 11/16/88), Strathmore Circle (NR 12/17/98),

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

or Chickasaw Gardens, among other areas. Today, for all practical purposes, the only residence remaining in view of Forrest Park is the Elias Lowenstein House at the corner of Jefferson and Manassas (NR 3/23/79).

While the park and especially the playground were highly used during the day, in the evening the park took on a different character. "Forrest Park," as the *Commercial-Appeal* reported, "long a rendezvous for the "bay rum drinkers" and petty thugs, is having a face lifting which should put an end to its use as a rendezvous for law violators" (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* November 7, 1940). The article went on to report that "(t)he truth is that Forrest Park has been permitted to go somewhat to seed despite the fact that it is located along two of the city's major traffic arteries." The Park Commission was engaged at that time in removing "(a)ll of the high and dense shrubbery is being cut down and replaced...." It can only be assumed that the overgrown plantings were to some of the original understory plantings installed by the Commission under Kessler's guidance in 1905. This work only modified a portion of the park's Picturesque design (the limited sight lines) to its current appearance. Another modification of the park's original design occurred in 1941 following the accidental drowning of young Anita Fay Golightly in the park's lily pond (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* August 20, 1941). The public pressure after the tragedy forced the Commission to drain and fill the pond with dirt.

While both modifications in 1940 and 1941 were notable, they also represented important changes in urban park design towards Modernist principles that emphasized longer sight lines, high tree canopies, and an absence of ornamental plantings and flowerbeds. Even with these changes, though, the integrity of Kessler's overall design for the park was retained with much of its Picturesque qualities, and it still retains these qualities today. The playground at Forrest Park was revamped many times, but it remained in active use well into the 1960s (Memphis *Commercial-Appeal* January 6, 1959). The playground finally ceased to be in the early 1970s, when all city playgrounds were phased out due to liability concerns. The park had by then become a place used more by adults from the various hospitals and research facilities in the Medical Center. As a result, an "Exertrail" was developed ca. 1985 along the park's curvilinear walks with a series of exercise stations designed to offer a different exercise routine at each station along the way. This feature was apparently not well used and is now deteriorated and vandalized.

Today, Forrest Park is used pretty much as George Kessler had intended it -- as a place mostly for passive recreation, and occasionally for celebration of the military career of its namesake, a tradition which continues every July on the birthday of General Forrest. Out of all the city parks designed by George Kessler, it and Confederate Park on North Front Street are the two best preserved in terms of their landscape design. There are pressures on the park to change this important piece of American landscape design, art history and community planning history -- some in positive ways, other proposals in negative ways -- but it is hoped that this nomination will focus this discussion towards preserving its significant features.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Major Bibliographic Sources

Anderson, Mrs. Keller

1920 "Genesis of the Memphis Park System". Unpublished MS, Memphis Historical Society Collection, Memphis Public Library.

Anonymous

1905 "Monument to Gen. N. B. Forrest". *Confederate Veteran*, v. XIII, n. 9, September, 1905. S. A. Cunningham, Nashville.

Doyle, Alan

2005 "History of the Forrest Equestrian Monument". Original MS, prepared for the Nathan Bedford Forrest Camp #215, Sons of Confederate Veterans.

Kulbertson, Kurt

1990 "Catalog of the Professional Works of George E. Kessler, Landscape Architect". Unpublished MS in possession of author.

Memphis *Commercial-Appeal*

August 11, 1899; June 6, 1901; August 10, 1901; August 15, 1901; February 4, 1905; April 8, 1905; May 16, 1905; November 28, 1913; July 3, 1915; November 7, 1940; August 20, 1941; January 6, 1959; May 17, 1960.

Memphis Legislative Council *Minutes*

July 1, 1898

Memphis Park Commission *Minutes*

Book 1: September 13, 1900; November 8, 1901; October 31, 1902; November 19, 1902; January 9, 1904; November 4, 1904.

Memphis Park Commission

1908 *Report of the Board of Park Commissioners*. S. C. Toof, Memphis.

Scott, Mel

1969 *American City Planning Since 1890*. University of California, Berkley.

Sigafoos, Robert

1979 *Cotton Row to Beale Street*. Memphis State University Press, Memphis.

Smithsonian Institution

Save Outdoor Sculpture database. (<http://americanart.si.edu/search/search_data.cfm>)

U. S. Senate

Catalog of Sculpture in Statuary Hall, U. S. Capitol.

<www.senate.gov/artandhistory/artifact/Sulpture_22_00006.htm>

Van West, Carroll, ed.

1998 *The Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture*. Rutledge Hill Press, Nashville.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

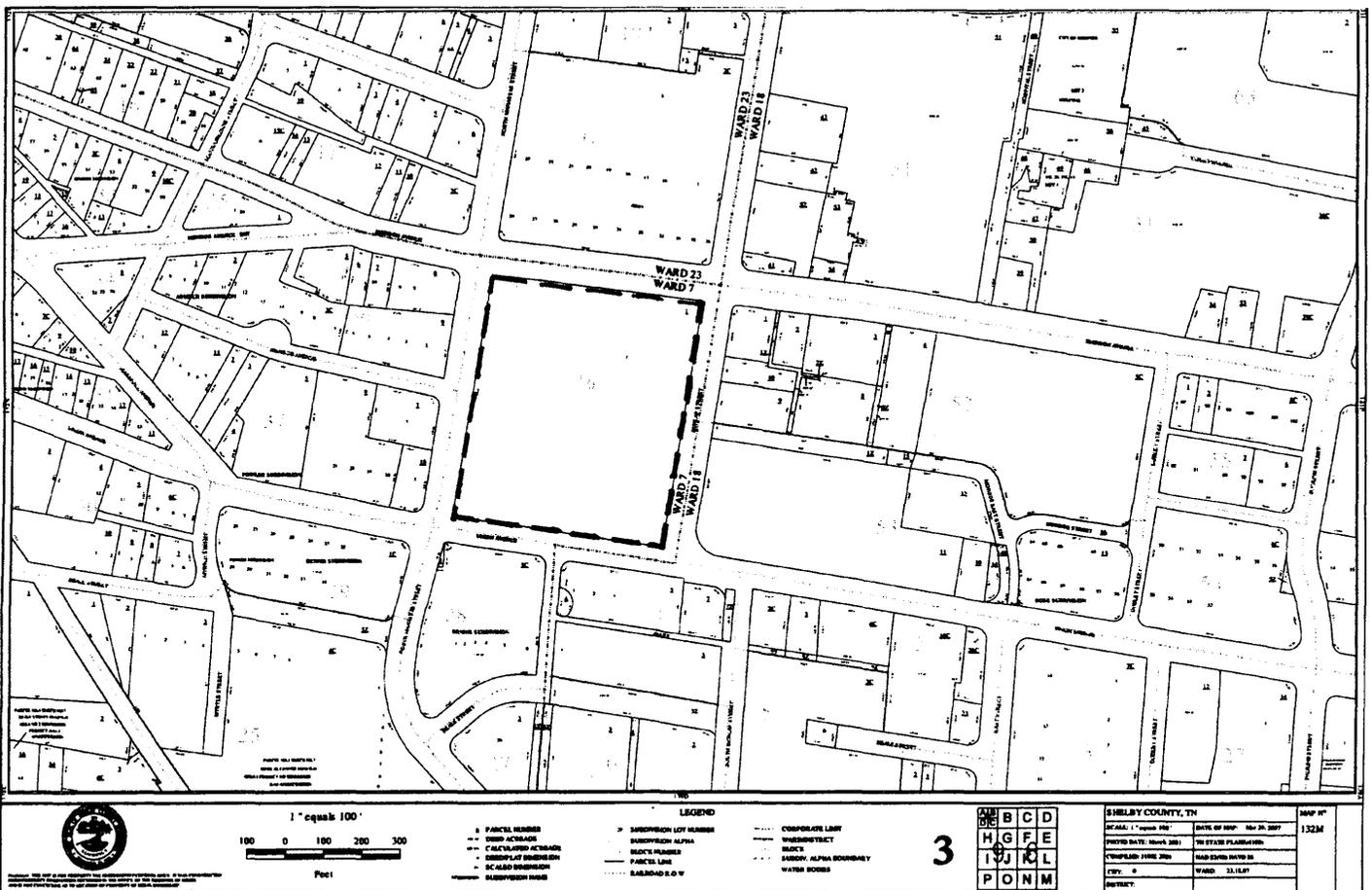
Section number 10 Page 16

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The property in nomination is described as Block 38 of the Fowler Subdivision, measuring roughly 636 feet along its east-west edges and 549 feet along its north-south edges, bound by South Dunlap on the east, Union Avenue on the south, South Manassas on the west, and Madison Avenue on the north; designated as lot 31 (Parcel id. 007038 00001) and outlined in heavy black dashed line on the attached Shelby County Tax Map 132M.

The property comprises all of the land associated with the development and use of Forrest Park since its founding in 1899.



Scale: As shown
Boundary: - - - - -



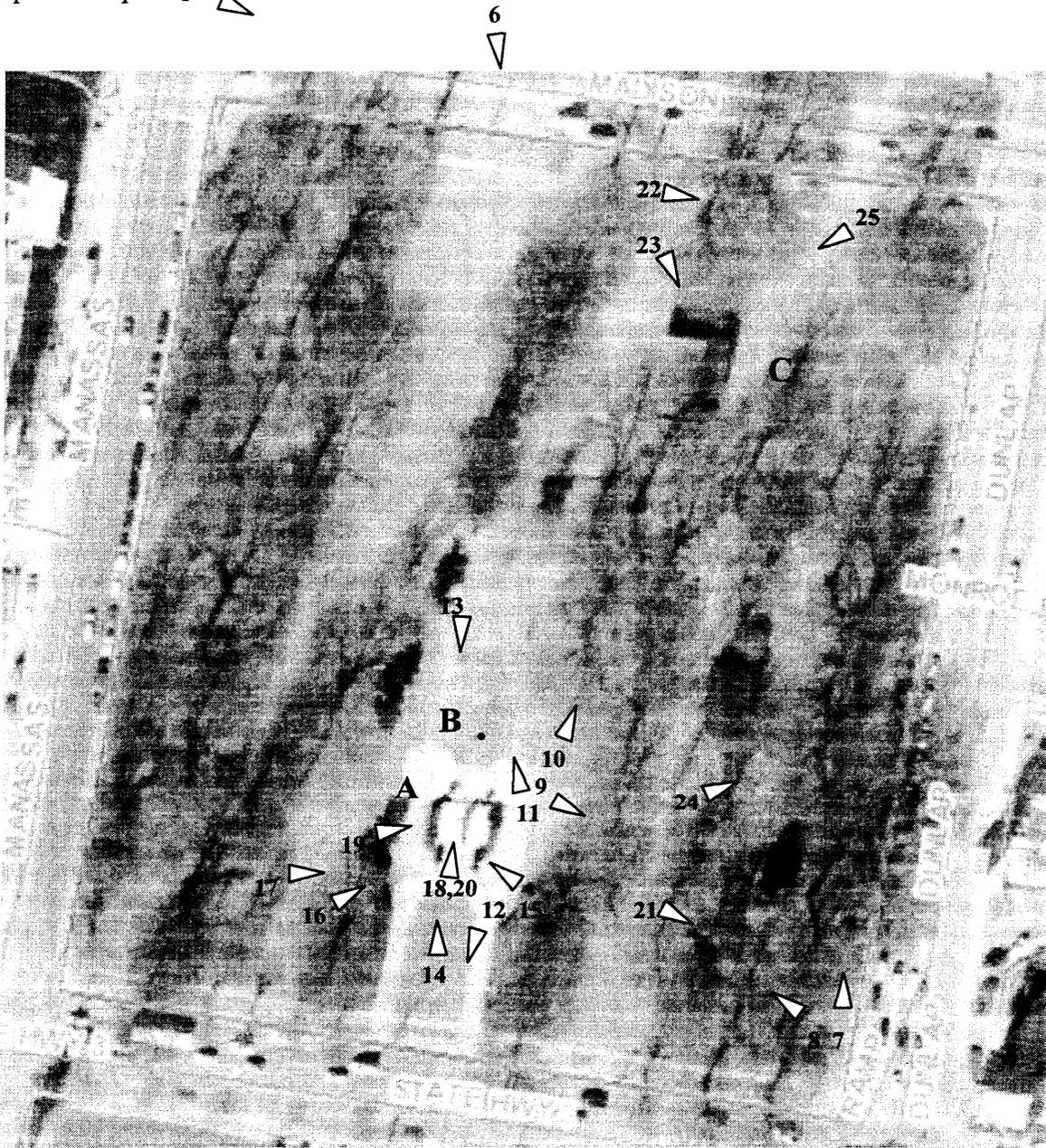
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 17

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Resource/photo map 5 



6 


4


3

 2 
1

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 18

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee

Photographs

Photos by: John Linn Hopkins
Date: May 2008
Digital images: Tennessee Historical Commission

Photo 1 of 25

View of the eastern edge of Forrest Park at right, looking generally north on South Dunlap Street.

Photo 2 of 25

View of the southern edge of Forrest Park, looking west along Union Avenue.

Photo 3 of 25

View from Union Avenue of the lawn leading up to the Forrest Equestrian Statue, looking north.

Photo 4 of 25

View of the western edge of Forrest Park, looking generally north along South Manassas Street.

Photo 5 of 25

View of the northern edge of Forrest Park, looking generally east along Madison Avenue.

Photo 6 of 25

View to the south into the center of Forrest Park from Madison Avenue.

Photo 7 of 25

View of the interior, curvilinear path that meanders to the north from the southeast corner of the park.

Photo 8 of 25

View of the second curvilinear path leading west from the southeast corner of the park towards the Forrest Monument plaza.

Photo 9 of 25

Reverse view of the same walkway, looking east.

Photo 10 of 25

View from the edge of the monument's plaza across the park's lawn to the tree cover concentrated along the eastern and northern sides of the park.

Photo 11 of 25

Similar view to that of #10, looking across the plaza, parallel walks and lawn towards the tree cover on the northwest and western sides of the park.

Photo 12 of 25

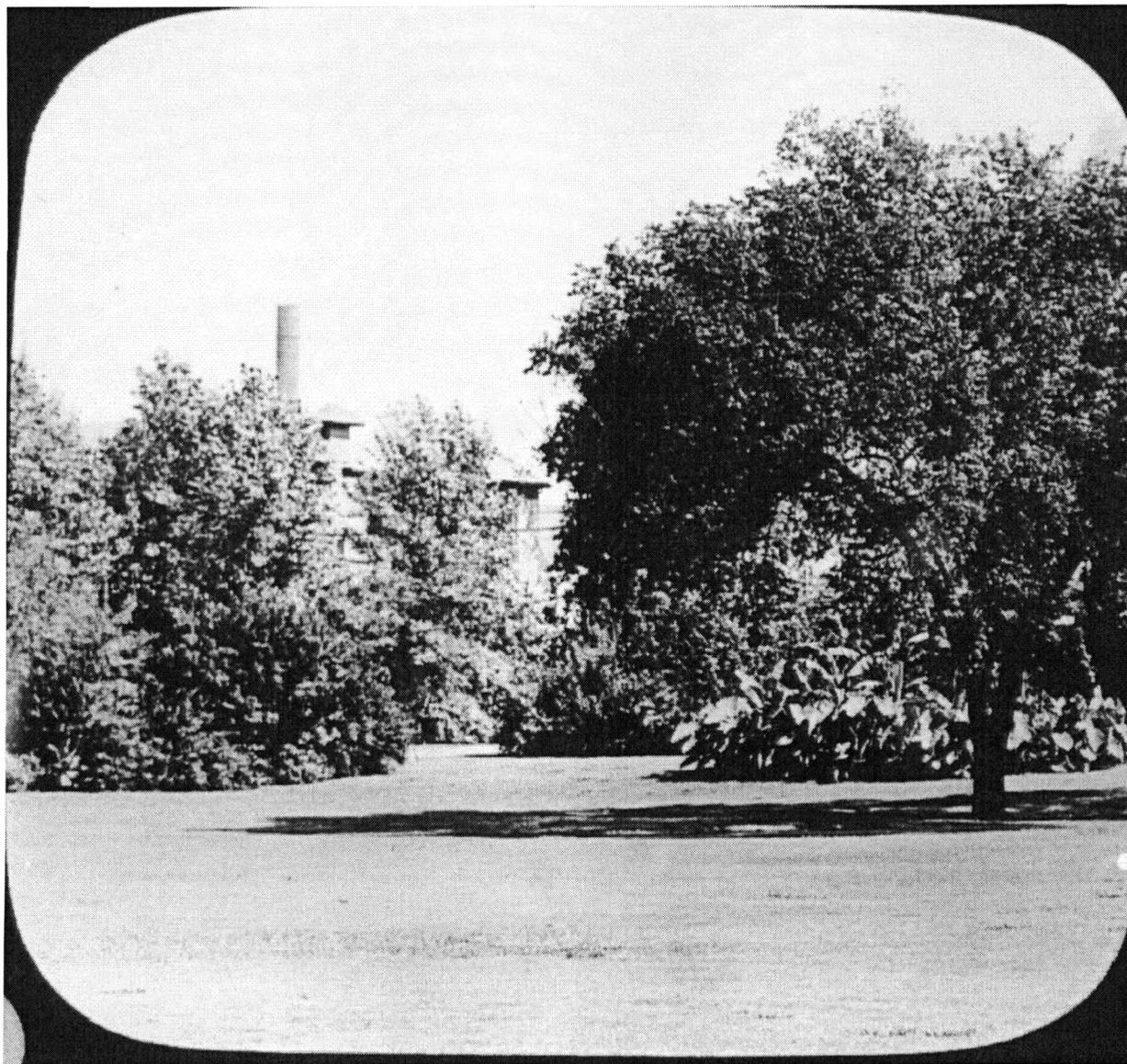
View from the plaza towards Union Avenue across the formal lawn to the south of the plaza.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 20

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



This lantern slide dating from 1913 shows a view across the lawn in the middle-north side of the park, looking generally to the northeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 21

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



All of Kessler's parks, including those of Memphis, Kansas City and St. Louis, and others, were planted in temperate months with exotic, tropical and semi-tropical plants to heighten the user's enjoyment of the sense of separation that the park provided from the surrounding urban environment. The costs of maintaining a nursery and greenhouse to "winter over" tropical plants proved too expensive for the Park Commission to maintain, and this approach to plantings was abandoned by the 1920s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 22

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



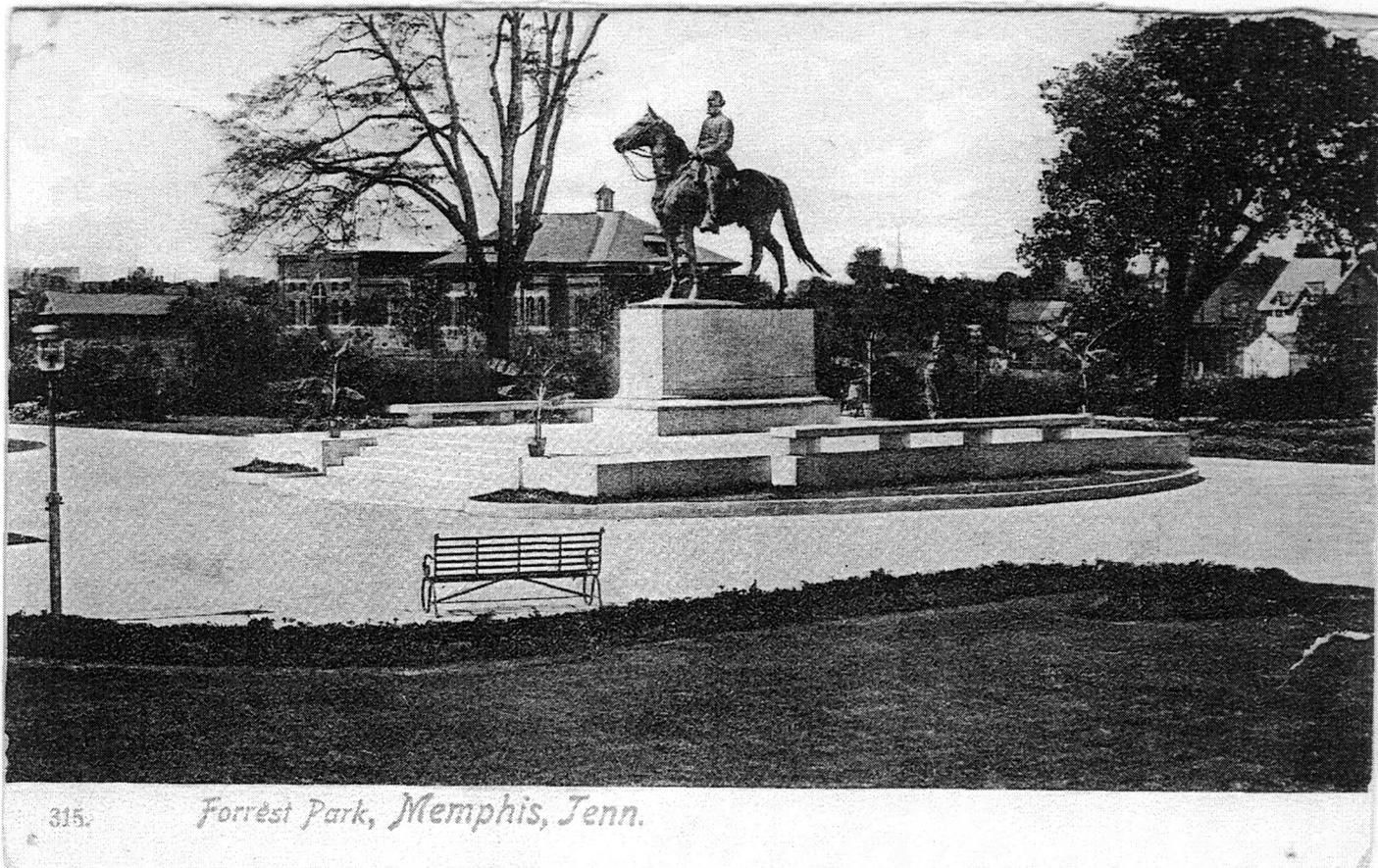
Forrest Park's lily pond was also an attractive aspect of its original landscape design as shown in this view dated 1913, looking to the southwest. The pond was filled in 1941 after the public outcry over the drowning of a young girl here.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 23

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



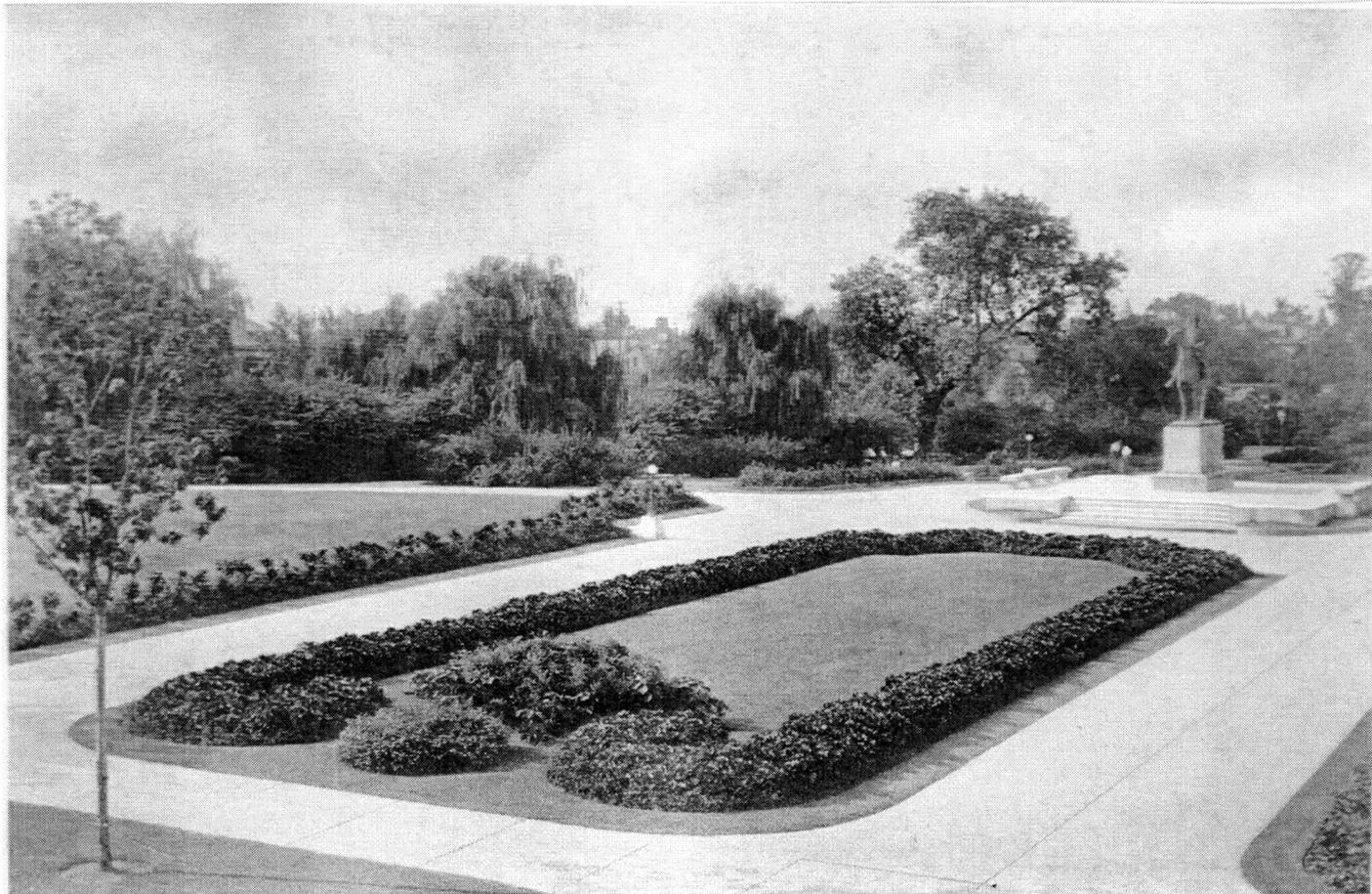
This postcard view of the Forrest Equestrian Statue looking to the west was taken soon after the park's completion in 1905, judging by the lack of growth among the understory plantings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 24

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



FORREST PARK AND STATUE OF GEN. N. B. FORREST

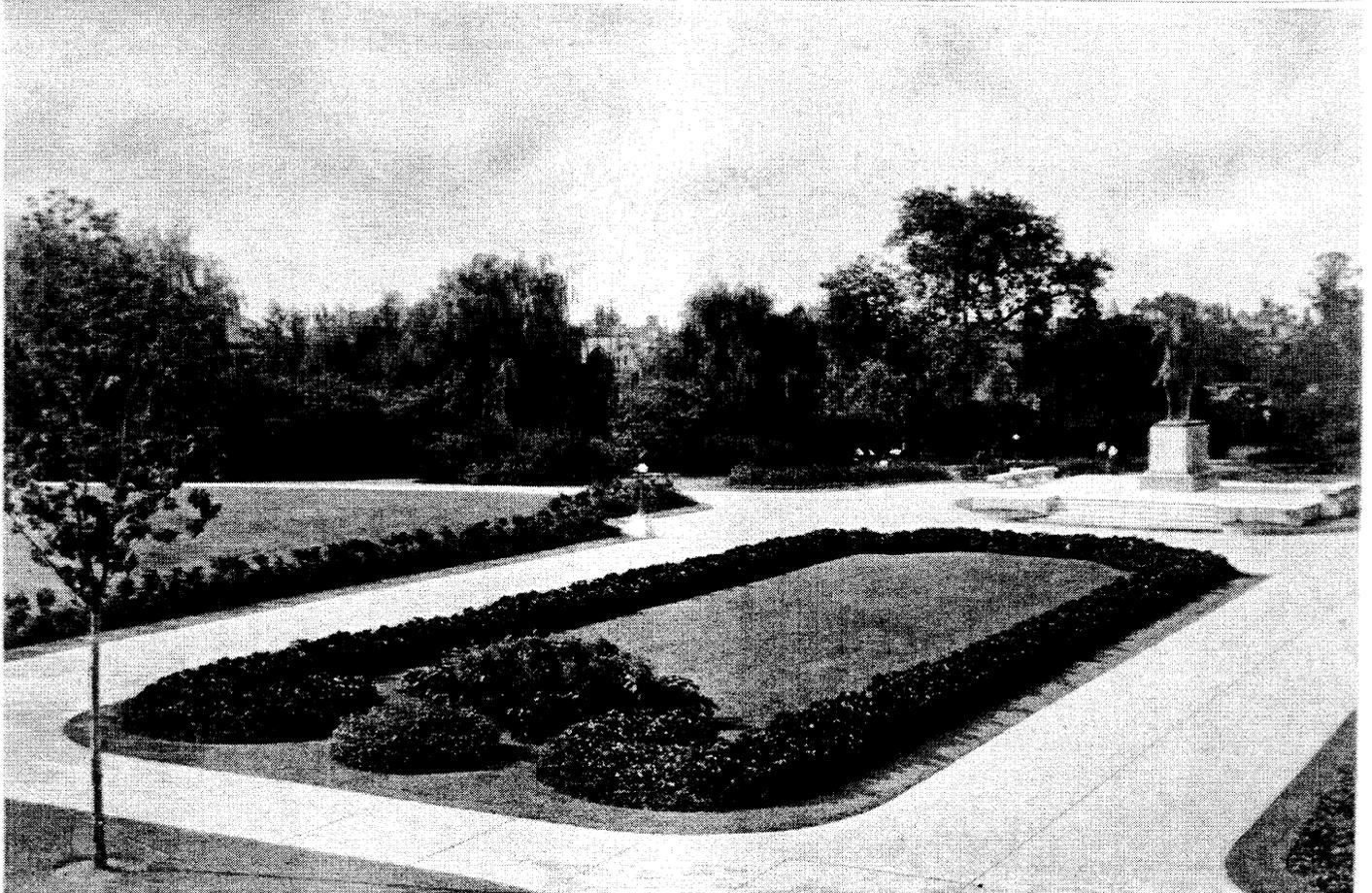
This view of Forrest Park was taken less than ten years after the previous view, and it shows the understory plantings in full development.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 24

Forrest Park Historic District
Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee



FORREST PARK AND STATUE OF GEN. N. B. FORREST

This view of Forrest Park was taken less than ten years after the previous view, and it shows the understory plantings in full development.