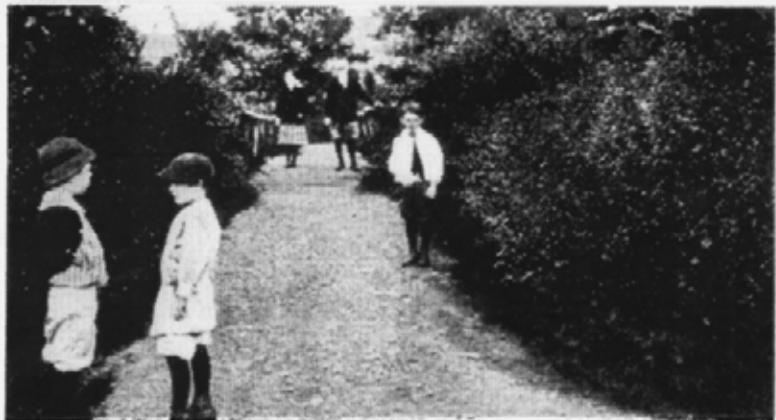


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Historic Landscape Report  
**CANFIELD PARK**  
**DENISON PARK**  
Corning, New York



Canfield Park



Denison Park

Prepared For:  
Market Street Restoration Agency      Corning, New York

Prepared By:  
State University of New York  
College of Environmental Science & Forestry  
Faculty of Landscape Architecture      Syracuse, New York  
Research Assistant Kenneth J. Allen  
Project Director George W. Curry

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CCLP - Marshall  
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**September, 1994**

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

The cooperation, assistance and support of many individuals was required to complete this project. Unfortunately, I cannot list the numerous contacts made that contributed, but they know who they are and I thank them.

There are a few, though, whose contributions have been invaluable and they deserve special recognition. George W. Curry, my Project Director, provided me with support, guidance and friendship. A very special thank you goes out to Jennifer Pearl Cornell, my wonderful friend, who gave me continual support throughout the project and gave an uncountable amount of hours of her time typing this document. I would also like to thank David Uschold, my office mate, for his professional consultations, support and friendship.

For their effort in providing access to resources for this project, I would like to thank Elise Johnson-Schmidt and Faye Kephart, of the Market Street Restoration Agency.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my family for their love, support and guidance.

## **PREFACE**

This report was completed during the months of May through September 1994. It was sponsored by Market Square Restoration Agency funded by grants from the New York State Council on the Arts, which was administered by the Preservation League of New York State, the Three Rivers Development Foundation, the Corning Incorporated Foundation and the Market Street Restoration Agency. Hunt Engineers and Architects provided site surveys for both parks.

The document was researched and written by Kenneth J. Allen, Research Assistant Intern of Market Square Restoration Agency. The project was supervised by Professor George W. Curry of the Faculty of Landscape Architecture at the State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry.

The report brings together, for the first time, all known data regarding Canfield and Denison Parks. It documents the historic evolution of both parks and records the changes to each of the character-defining features of the landscapes. For Canfield Park the existing conditions are recorded and a statement of significance is presented along with an evaluation of its integrity. The time schedule did not allow existing conditions for Denison Park to be recorded. However, an updated topographical map with the location of all buildings and structures and major plant materials was completed by Hunt Engineers and Architects during the project. This map along with a number of site visits to the park provided sufficient information to prepare initial comments of Denison's significance and integrity.

Both parks were designed and initial construction began during the first decade of the twentieth-century. Canfield Park was located on Block 66 which had been designated as a public park when the Corning Company laid out the village in 1835. The park was designed by City Engineer Robert H. Canfield in 1905. The site of Denison Park, on the east side of the city along the Chemung River, was originally a swamp. The park was designed by New York City Landscape Architect Harold A. Caparn in 1906. Both parks remain popular attractions for the people of Corning. Denison Park is very active and heavily used.

## INTRODUCTION

The city of Corning is located in the southeastern section of Steuben County, New York State ( $42^{\circ}10'$  north latitude,  $77^{\circ}4'$  west longitude).<sup>1</sup> This region has been named the great industrial triangle of the northeastern United States.<sup>2</sup> This triangle, whose vertices are formed by Boston, Chicago and Baltimore, encompasses a good portion of the nation's wealth and population.<sup>3</sup> Held within the walls of this triangle are most of the natural resources for fuel and material as well as the skilled labor, transportation networks and markets necessary for industrial production and prosperity.<sup>4</sup> This was an extremely important factor in the growth and development of Corning as an industrial community. The city of Corning and its immediate surrounding area make up the largest center of industry and population within the county.<sup>5</sup>

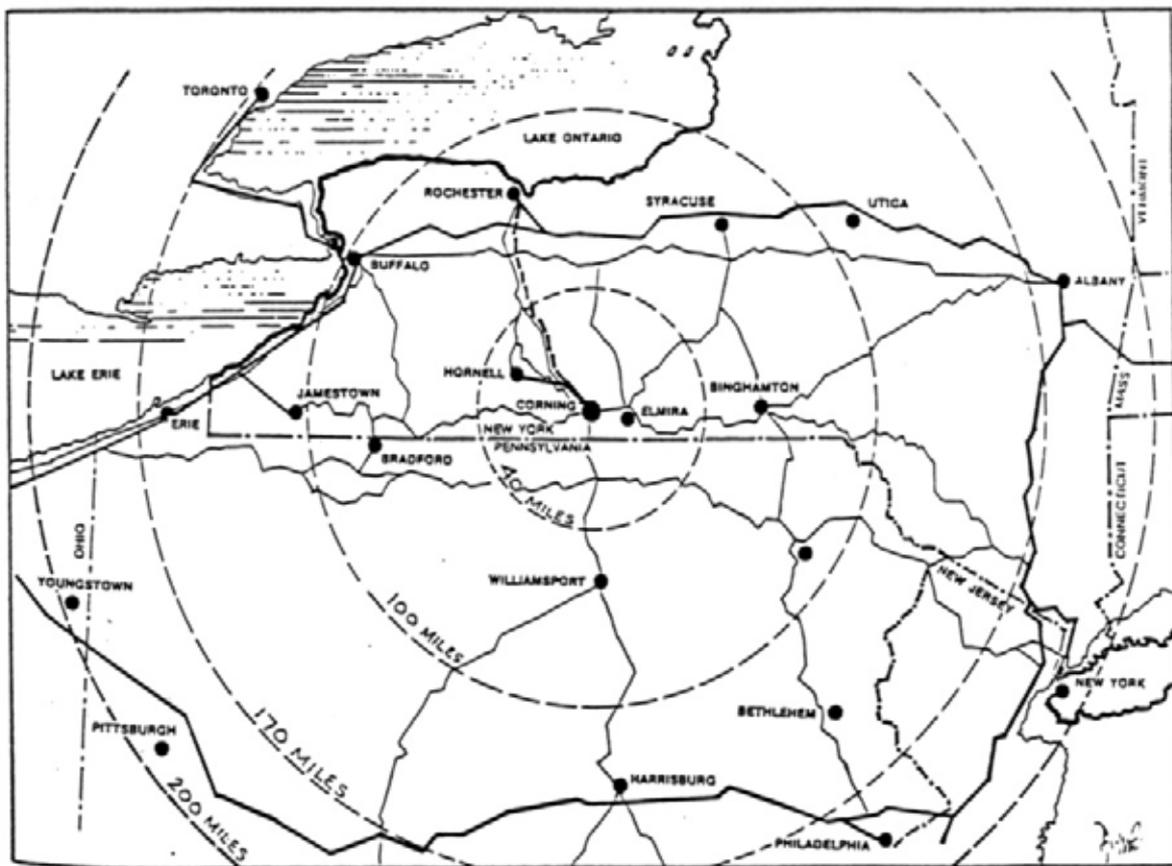


Figure 0.1: Context Map, Corning, NY (Dimitroff, 343).

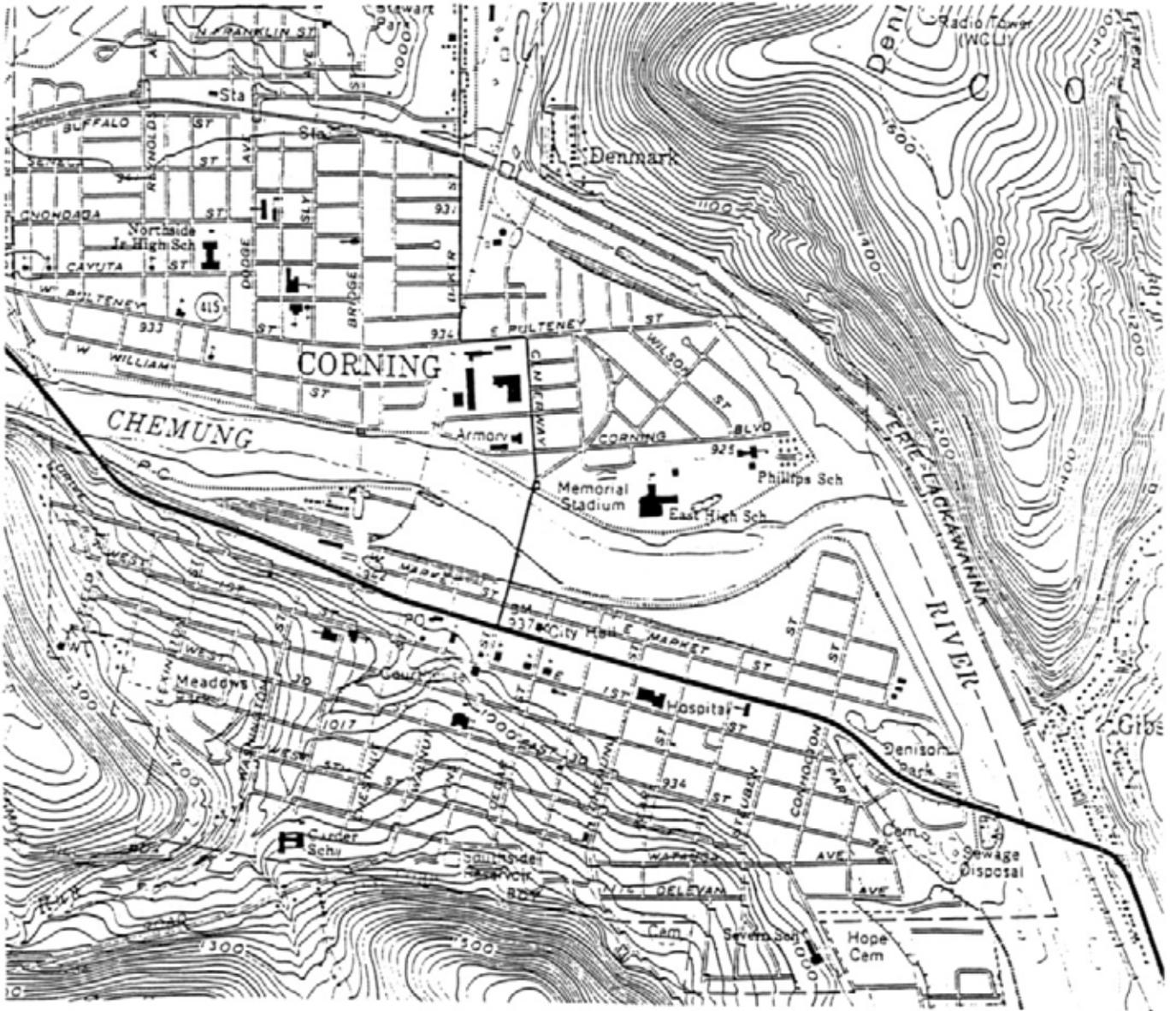


Figure 0.2: Location Map, Corning, NY (USGS, 1953).

Denison Park is located on the eastern edge of the city, next to the Chemung River. The park is surrounded by East Market Street to the north, Hammond Street to the south, Park Avenue to the west and the Chemung River Levee to the east. Denison Park covers 33 acres.

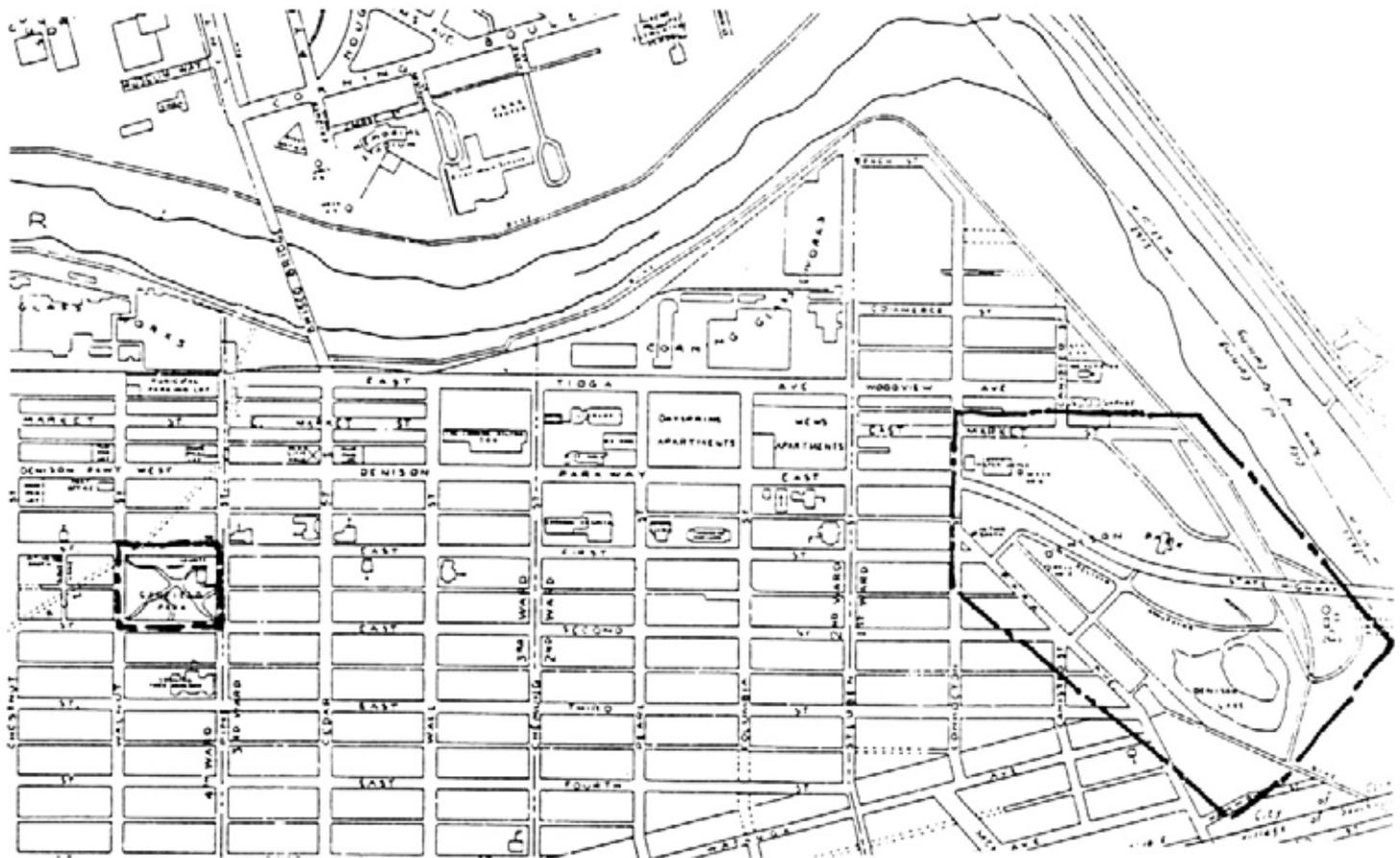


Figure 0.3: City of Coming, NY (James W. Moore. February 1979, revised January 1984).

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of a Historic Landscape Report is to document the historic evolution of a landscape and its character-defining features. See **Appendix A** for a list of the features and their definitions. The historic development of a landscape is typically organized and presented based on periods of ownership or major events that have occurred in the landscape. An assessment of the existing conditions is included which provides the bases, when compared to the historic conditions, to establish the significance and integrity of the landscape. Based on the significance and integrity, general preservation treatment recommendations are proposed. A Historic Landscape Report provides guidance to those who are responsible for the management and maintenance of a historic landscape.

## **HISTORIC LANDSCAPE REPORT FOR CANFIELD AND DENISON PARK**

This report contains two Historic Landscape Reports, one for Canfield Park and the other for Denison Park. Both reports were composed in a comparatively short time period due to funding constraints. Thus neither of the reports are fully developed. The time constraint affected the park reports in two ways. First, historic research was limited to known material and resources that were accessible. Second, certain sections within each report were not fully developed.

The Canfield Park report is basically complete. It includes all sections that would be included in a historic landscape report with the exception that the preservation treatment section is limited to preliminary recommendations. The historic information available basically documents the design, construction and early history of the park. Little information is available regarding the park after Canfield's 1912 Report on Progress on Block 66 Park. Thus there is an 82 year gap in information regarding the park's evolution.

The Denison Park report does not include the existing conditions section nor treatment recommendations. There is only a preliminary statement of significance and evaluation of integrity. The historic information available does not include the original design plans for the park. The first topographic survey of the park available was produced in 1973. Thus documentation of the early history of the park was based on written accounts and a limited number of photographs.

A search for the original design plans of Denison Park was made through research on the Landscape Architect Harold A. Caparn. The plans were not located and only a small amount of information was uncovered regarding Caparn. Several sources were pursued. Charles Birnbaum of the National Park Service, Preservation Assistance Division, Wash., D.C., was contacted on June 6, 1994. He had a limited amount of information on Caparn in the Pioneers of Landscape Architecture File. Research at Syracuse University's Bird Library produced only Caparn's obituary from the New York Times. From both of these sources an attempt was made to locate Caparn's daughter, Rhys Caparn Steel, in Connecticut. But it was not successful. It is not known whether she is still alive or whether she has Caparn's office files. Additionally, the Catalog of

Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill, Bronx, NY., was contacted to locate archives that might have Caparn's drawings. Catha Rambusch of Wave Hill had no information on Caparn in their computer records. A brief mention of Caparn was found in *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*, edited by William H. Tishler in 1989. All of the information located on Caparn has been copied and is located in **Appendix B**.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT**

This report is organized into two sections, one presenting the information on Canfield Park and the other presenting the information on Denison Park. Due to the variety of available information for each park, the organization of the two chapters is some what different. Each chapter is set up as follows:

### **Chapter 1: Canfield Park**

Historic Overview

Period 1: 1907–1912

Period 2: Existing Conditions 1994

Statement of Significance

Assessment of Integrity

Preservation Treatment: Preliminary Recommendations

### **Chapter 2: Denison Park**

Historic Overview

Period 1: 1907–1910

Period 2: 1911–1945

Period 3: 1947–1972

Period 4: 1973

Preliminary Statement of Significance and Assessment of Integrity

At the end of the report extensive appendices include such items as a List of Landscape Features—**Appendix A**, Harold A. Caparn's Obituary—**Appendix B**, a Description of Steuben County Court House—**Appendix C**, and a List of Canfield Park Commissioners and Committee Members—**Appendix D**.

## CHAPTER I

### CANFIELD PARK

The public square where Canfield Park is sited was part of the mid 1830's plan of Corning. The Corning Company reserved Block 66 for the residents of Corning to enjoy, as well as for public use as a site for government and church buildings.<sup>30</sup> One of the reasons behind the planning of Block 66 as a site for public use was the topography. It was fairly steep and uneven making it less desirable for residential sale. By the 1850's, Block 66 had begun to take form as a public space with the erection of a Baptist Church on lot 1, a Methodist Church on lots 3 and 4, a Presbyterian Church on lot 8, a small schoolhouse on lot 16 and a larger schoolhouse on lots 4 and 8.<sup>31</sup>

In November of 1853, Corning was selected for the second seat of the Southern Jury District of Stueben County.<sup>32</sup> Ground was broken for the first court house on May 19, 1854, and the corner-stone was laid by Davis and Stafford (brick and stone work) on July 20, 1854.<sup>33</sup> It was built on lot 2 and the western 20 feet of lot 3. The jail was built on lot 9. Both were completed in 1856-57.<sup>34</sup> On April 24, 1862, the schoolhouse on lot 16 was bought by the Afro-American Community of Corning and converted into a Zion Church.<sup>35</sup> The Presbyterian Church on lot 8 was purchased by the Free Baptist Society of Gibson in December of 1866.<sup>36</sup> The church was in use by the Free Baptists until 1883, followed by the Salvation Army for only a few weeks.<sup>37</sup>

During a heavy snowfall on January 25, 1877, the roof of the Zion Church (lot 16) collapsed and destroyed the building beyond repair.<sup>38</sup> The Old Presbyterian Church (lot 8), burnt to the ground on March 2, 1889.<sup>39</sup> In the Spring of the same year, the Episcopal Society requested permission to construct a church on the northeastern corner of Block 66 (lot 8), and it was granted.<sup>40</sup> Soon there after the Village Board of Trustees reclined, based on an 1840 state statute that defined the uses a village could make of its real estate and churches were not included.<sup>41</sup> In spite of the Trustees' action, the church instructed the contractors to begin building the foundation anyway. Supreme Court Judge Adams stopped construction on June 13, 1889.<sup>42</sup>

By 1894, the original county court house was in need of extensive repairs so thought was given to the construction of a new court house instead.<sup>43</sup> On December 19, 1902, the Board of Supervisors voted to build a new court house at a cost of \$25,000.<sup>44</sup> In 1903, a leading architect of Rochester, New York, J. Foster Warner, was retained to design the new court house.<sup>45</sup> In the spring, Robert H. Canfield, the future designer of Court House Park, was appointed City Engineer after the resignation of Robert O. Hayt.<sup>46</sup> On June 2, 1903, Drake and Company was awarded the contract to build the new court house on lots 6, 7 and 8.<sup>47</sup>

After the completion of the county court house, the Common Council decided to improve public square. On January 7, 1905, the council passed a resolution authorizing City Engineer Canfield to prepare drawings and estimates for the conversion of the public square into a park. Having previous knowledge and interest in the plan to create a park, Canfield already had a drawing finished and it was said to be very well liked by those that had been allowed to see it. The design focused on three important criteria, beauty of design, economy of cost and practicality.<sup>48</sup>

The City Engineer's plans provide for the permanent improvement of the balance of the square. The design provides for a main entrance of cement steps, broad and wide, facing First Street about opposite the J. B. Maltby driveway. There is a cement landing and then another broad, easy flight leads to the grand plaza, 125 feet in width with a beautiful bandstand in its center. From the plaza to the right is another entrance from Walnut Street. The approach to the plaza on this corner will be broken by beautiful terraces, this plan utilizing the highest part of the square without much cost for grading. It is proposed to line the entrances and border the plaza with arc lights making it doubly attractive at night.

From the grand plaza to the south west runs a winding path leading to the corner of Walnut and Second Streets. To the south runs a gravel walk to a 64 foot plaza where a handsome fountain graces the center. Extending almost due east is a pergola leading to another 64 foot plaza which sets off a beautifully designed flower bed. From this plaza runs a winding walk in a diagonal direction toward the corner of Second and Pine Streets.

It is planned to set a clump of Lombardy poplars in back of the Courthouse. This would provide a pleasing perspective. The whole plan provides for winding walks, all of which connect, making passage across the park rapid and easy. Each of the walks are to be lined with shade trees and park benches. The plot allows three large grass plots and also provides a path running from the courthouse entrance to the grand plaza.<sup>49</sup>

Excavation (hauled away)	
15,000 yards .....	\$4,500.00
Grading, Sodding and Seeding	
3 Acres .....	1,500.00
Gravel Walks and Plazas	
20,750 square feet .....	830.00
Tilling and Drains	
5,000 feet .....	400.00
Cement Steps	
180 cubic yards .....	1,080.00
Cement Walks	
8,000 square feet .....	800.00
Trees, Large	
200 .....	400.00
Shrubs	
400 .....	200.00
Water Pipes .....	175.00
Gas Pipes .....	100.00
Fountain Basin .....	250.00
Band Stand .....	400.00
Pergola .....	300.00
Park Benches	
50 .....	250.00
Total	
	\$11,185.00
Contingencies 10% .....	1,118.50
Grand Total .....	\$12,303.50

Figure #1.1: R. H. Canfield's Cost Estimate of February 1905, to the Mayor, Park Commissioners and Common Council.<sup>50</sup>

Canfield's original estimates ranged from \$10-15,000 for the implementation of his park plans on Block 66.<sup>51</sup> Because the city was bonded to the capacity of the law, bonding to pay for the park construction was not possible.<sup>52</sup> In January 1905, Mayor Retigg appointed a park committee of prominent men of the community to solicit subscriptions in order to raise the funds necessary for the parks construction. Originally, Mayor Retigg figured that an appointment of 20 people to the committee would be sufficient.<sup>53</sup> However, in February, he invited nearly the entire clergy of the city to join in the fund raising crusade, and increased the committee to nearly 60 members.<sup>54</sup> Clergy, businessmen, manufacturers, doctors and other men of influence set out to raise the estimated \$12,000 needed.<sup>55</sup> On the 15 of February, Mayor Retigg, Canfield and City Clerk Fedder started the subscriptions rolling by donating \$100, \$75 and \$25 respectively,

to the park fund.<sup>56</sup> In 1906, construction began with grading and sodding, followed by the installation of the walks, trees and shrubs.<sup>57</sup> The work and installation of the key design elements moved along very slowly displeasing the residents of Corning.<sup>58</sup> In 1907, Canfield drew a new, revised plan for the park that modified and deleted some of the elements. The 1907 Plan was implemented, although it is unclear whether the bandstand was constructed.

Canfield made reports to the commission regarding the progress on Block 66. It is not known how often or how many of these reports he made. Canfield reported there to have been an all out effort by the summer of 1907, with a large crew working to carry out the plans he describes.<sup>59</sup>

There is to be a large circle 140 feet in diameter a little to the northwest of the center of the plot. When completed, in the center of this circle will stand the bandstand. Around its outer edge will pass settees being ranged on either side. Within the outer circle will be a grass plot and then another double row of trees. Leading from the top of the court house steps and from the junction of First and Walnut Streets, long winding walks bordered with trees will lead through the circle and on to the diagonal corners of the plot.

Southeast of the large circle will be two smaller circles about 200 feet apart connected by a pathway over which the crests of the trees on both sides will touch. In the midst of one of these circles will play a fountain. The other will probably be utilized temporarily for flower beds. The circles will be about 60 feet in diameter.

Carolina poplars and elms will be planted alternately all about the park. The poplars give a fine shade, and are noted for their rapid growth. They will provide shade until such time as the elms have become of sufficient size to allow the poplars to be done away with. 60

By July 9, 1907, \$3,600 had been spent on the park's construction. According to Canfield's reports, \$1,600 had been spent in 1906 for the work completed and \$2,000 by the close of the season in 1907 for seeding, sodding, tree settings and the laying of the gravel paths. The sections of the park that are terraced were sodded and the remainder was sown with seed. The park was expected to be near completion, except for the bandstand and fountain, by the time the winter snow began.<sup>61</sup> Superintendent Canfield claimed that in the coming year the park would have seating, the fountain added, flower beds planted and the bandstand erected.<sup>62</sup>

A popular public play ground will be found in the heart of the city. The park will add much to the appearance of the locality which it will adorn. While for a number of years yet it can not be used to any great extent on a hot day it will still be found a very comfortable place for spending the early evenings.<sup>63</sup>



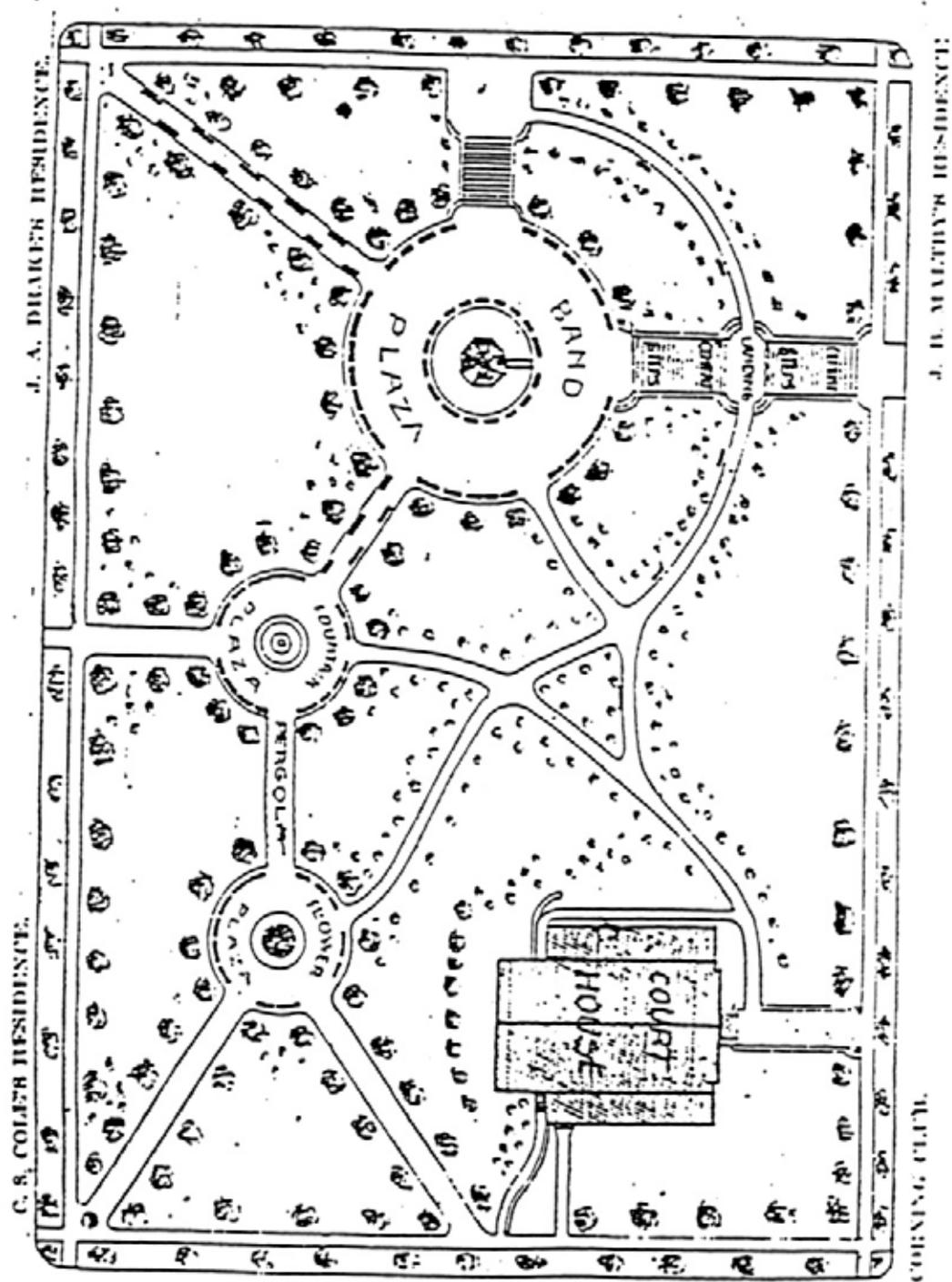


Figure 1.3: Canfield Park Plan, 1905 (Leader, February 7, 1905).

In spite of Canfield's optimistic 1907 report, it was not until 1909 that the park was nearing completion. During the week of April 26, 1909, 50 new benches were ordered to be placed along the paths.<sup>64</sup> The large plaza that was designed for the bandstand was still incomplete, there were no shade trees, only shrubs and flower gardens.<sup>65</sup> The circle was laid out with plants and flower beds since the bandstand had not been built yet, further upsetting the citizens over the "raw deal" that the park had become.<sup>66</sup> The citizens were upset over the length of time it was taking to build the park and the fact that all that was promised was not being delivered. On June 25, 1909, now Superintendent of Public Works Canfield, ordered 50 more benches for Court House Park and they were to be placed immediately upon receipt.<sup>67</sup> By the end of September in 1909, the 25 foot diameter, cement fountain that Superintendent Canfield designed was finally installed.<sup>68</sup> During the spring of 1910, approximately ten evergreens were planted in the park and then several hundred tulip bulbs were planted in the fall.<sup>69</sup> The entire cost of the park, when fully completed, was under the original estimate.<sup>70</sup>

The park in Block 66 has been greatly admired and enjoyed by multitudes of people during the summer and it has been found that so many people use the cross paths in the winter that it was thought best to keep part of the electric lights burning throughout the year.<sup>71</sup>

Canfield's Report to the Park Commissioners in January of 1912 stated that the park has been well maintained.<sup>72</sup> He also added that due to young vandalizers, the public drinking fountains in the park would no longer be available.<sup>73</sup>

In the years since Canfield's 1912 report, a number of proposals have threatened the park. In the winter of 1920, the Common Council refused the use of Court House Park as a construction site for the new Free Academy Building.<sup>74</sup> On October 2, 1944, Court House Park, which residents popularly referred to it because of its location, was officially renamed Canfield Park, in honor of its designer.<sup>75</sup> Mayor Keenan in 1958 proposed building a modern city hall and suggested that Canfield Park should be the site for it, but the community was not in agreement with him.<sup>76</sup> In 1990, the Parks and Recreation Department made some plans and began a revitalization project for Canfield Park.<sup>77</sup>

## PERIOD 1

### CANFIELD PARK 1907-1912

#### Plans pertaining to Period 1, Canfield Park:

*Topographical Layout of Proposed Design for Court House*, by unknown, date unknown.

*Steuben County Court House*, by J. Foster Warner, 1903.

*City Park, Block 66*, by R. H. Canfield, 1907.

#### Topography

The topography of Block 66 was fairly steep and uneven. The land sloped from the southwestern section of the block with a high of 1005.0' above sea level. However, the corner was not the highest point due to a 5 foot drop in elevation in the southern corner. The contours began to arch from the center of Second Street, and then exited on Walnut street. This caused a fairly even southwest to northeast slope along with a corresponding but steeper grade from the southwest to the northwest. The lowest point is the northeastern corner of First Street and Pine Street with an elevation of 945.0' above sea level. The northwestern corner only drops to 960.0 feet, leaving an even rise in grade from the corner of Pine and First Streets to the corner of Walnut and First Streets. Canfield designed the northern slopes with terraces, creating space for areas of a mild grade to make pathways possible.

#### Vegetation

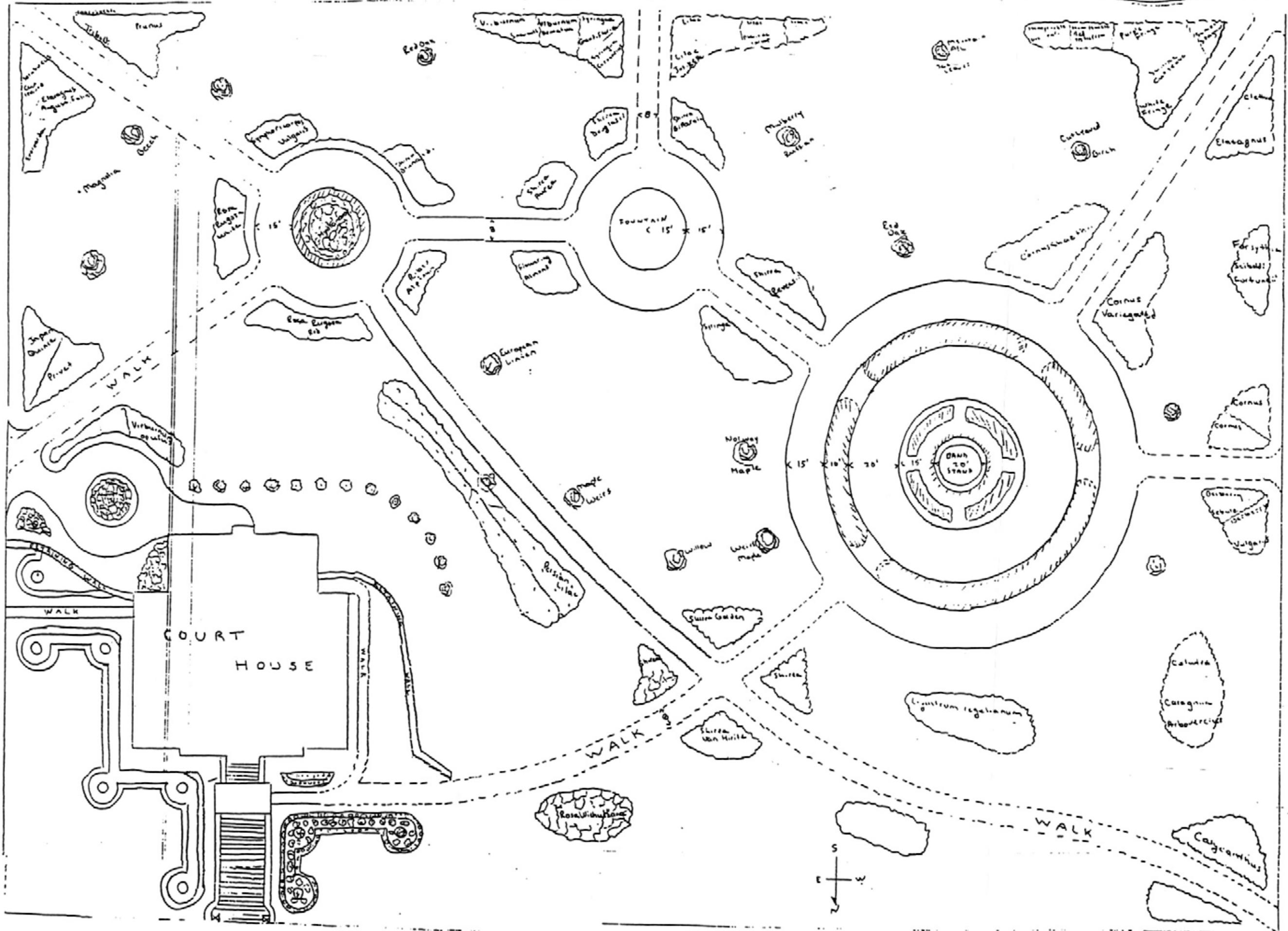
Canfield designed the park with a variety of shrubbery, flower beds and shade trees. He used several species in order to create mixed massings of shrubs bordering the terminuses of the pathways. Between the court house and the diagonal pathway, leading to the hydrangea bedded plaza, was an arched row of trees that followed the perimeter of the building and retaining wall. The variety of the trees was not specified on the plan but was identified in a report as being Lombardy Poplars (this was verified in a photograph owned by Peetie Dimitroff). Between the rows of trees and the diagonal path was a double row of Persian Lilacs extending approximately

58 feet along the northeastern boarder of the walk. Shade trees were lining the inside boarders of the pathways connecting the plazas, along with a few others that lined the entrance paths from the southern and western entrances. The bandstand plaza was to contain an inner and outer broken ring of an unspecified species. The entry staircase was boardered with shrubbery of an unknown species.

Many individual plants are marked on the plan and a full plant schedule for the documented vegetation on the 1907 Plan can be found in the following list and corresponding plan. The 1907 Plant List was copied from the 1907 Plan by R. H. Canfield. The corresponding list was made by looking up the 1907 name in the Manual of Woody Landscape Plants, by Michael A. Dirr and translating them into current terms of identification, when possible.

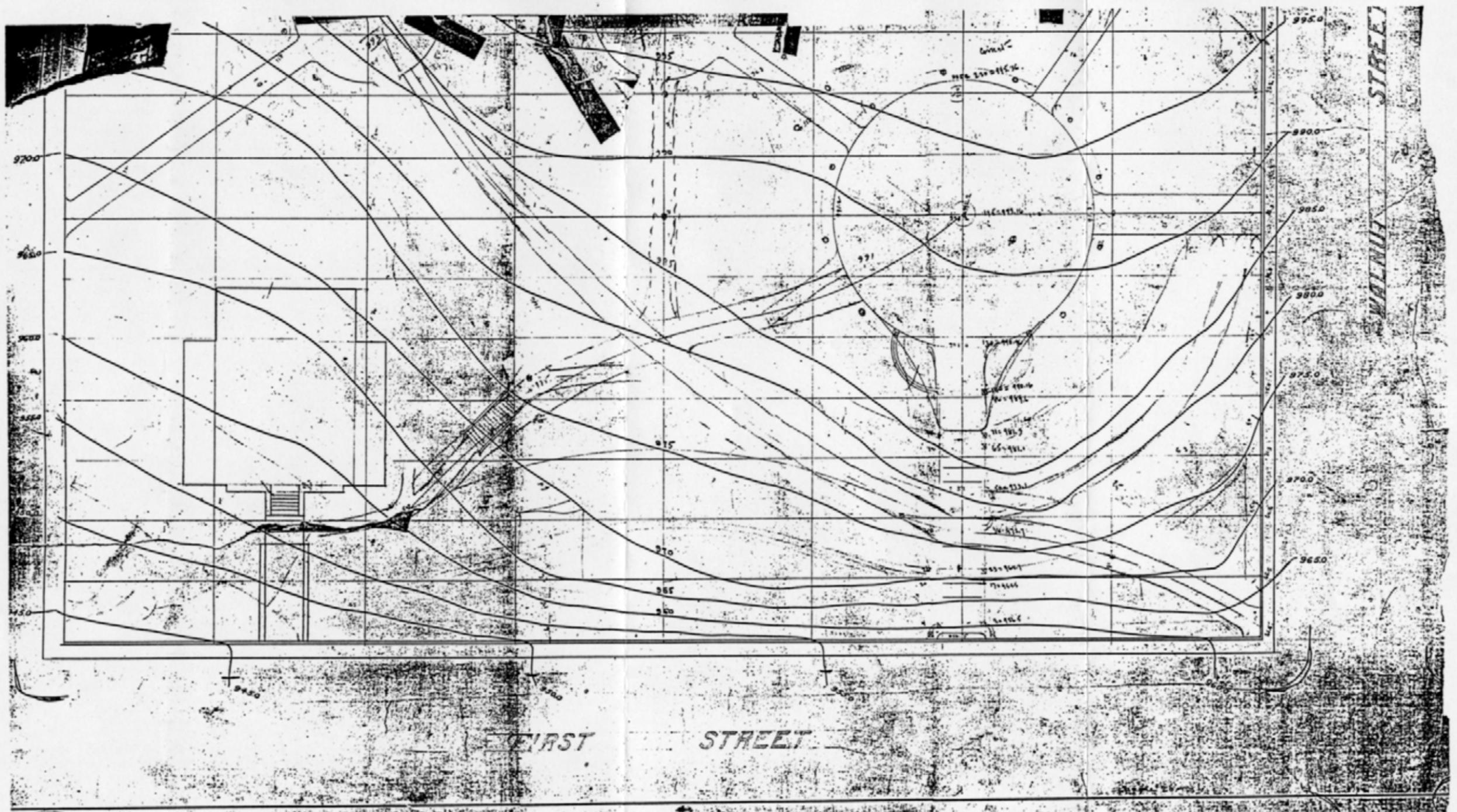
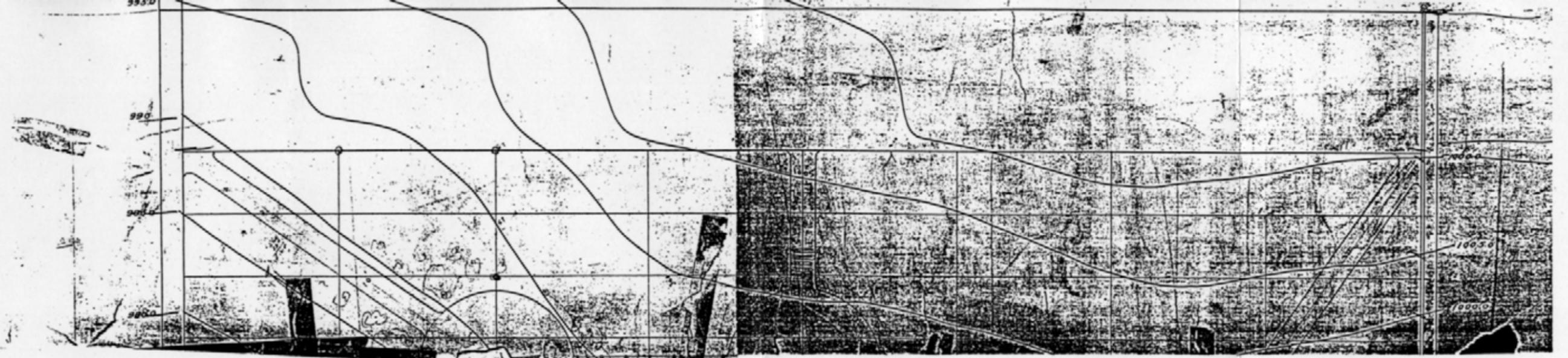
PINE ST.

WALNUT ST.



CITY PARK - BLOCK 46  
 SCALE 1/4" = 10' - 0"  
 R. H. HARRIS 1907

FIRST ST



34



## 1907 COURT HOUSE PARK PLANTING SCHEDULE

<u>1907 Plant List</u>	<u>Current Plant List for 1907(Michael A. Dirr)</u>
1 Calycanthus	Calycanthus floridus (Common Sweetshrub)
2 Colutea	Colutea arboresceris sp. (Common Bladder-senna)
Caragaua	Caragaua arboresceus sp. (Siberian Peashrub)
Arborercius	(unknown)
3 Berberry sebuldi	Berberis sp.
Berberry vulgaris	Berberis vulgaris (Common Barberry)
4 Cornus	Cornus sp.
Cornus	Cornus sp.
5 Cornus variegated	Cornus sp.
6 Forsythia	
Seiboldi	Forsythia suspensa 'Sieboldii' (Weeping Forsythia)
Fortunei	Forsythia fortunei
7 Clethra	Clethra sp.
Elaeagnus	Elaeagnus sp.
8 Honeysuckle wh. yar.	Lonicera sp.
Honeysuckle red	Lonicera tatarica (Tatarian Honeysuckle)
Purple Fringe	Chionanthus sp.
Sumac staghorn	Rhustyphina (Staghorn Sumac)
Sumac cut leave	Rhustyphina 'Dissecta' or 'Laciniata'
White Fringe	Chionanthus virginicus (White Fringe tree)

(con't.) 1907 Plant ListCurrent Plant List for 1907(Michael A. Dirr)

9	<i>Lugustrum regelianum</i> (?)	
10	<i>Cornus shaethii</i> (?)	<i>Cornus alba</i> 'Spaethii' (Tatarian Dogwood)
11	Cut leaved birch	<i>Betula pendula</i> 'Dalecarlica' sp. or 'Laciniata' (European white birch)
12	Mountain Ash (Oak leaves?)	<i>Sorbus</i> sp.
13	<i>Spiraea</i>	<i>Spiraea</i> sp.
14	Weirs Maple	<i>Acer saccharinum</i> 'Wieri'
15	Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
16	<i>Shirea reveesi</i>	<i>Spiraea cantoniensis</i> 'Canceata' (Double Reeves Spirea)
17	Mulberry russian	<i>Morus alba</i> 'Fatarica'
18	<i>Shirea Van Hirite</i>	<i>Spiraea x vanhouttei</i>
19	<i>Shirea golden</i> ?	<i>Spiraea</i> sp.
20	Norway Maple	<i>Acer platanoides</i>
21	<i>Syringna</i>	<i>Syringa</i> sp.
22	<i>Shirea bilburaii</i>	<i>Spiraea x billiardii</i> ( Billard Spirea)
23	Lilac	<i>Syringa</i> sp.
	Lilac mariede grust (?)	<i>Syringa</i> sp.
	Lilac	<i>Syringa</i> sp.
	Lilac jusikea (?)	<i>Syringa</i> sp.
24	<i>Rosa wichubana</i>	<i>Wichuraiana</i> (Memorial Rose of Sunshine)
25	<i>Shirea</i>	<i>Spiraea</i> sp.
26	Willow	<i>Salix</i> sp.
27	Maple weirs	<i>Acer saccharinum</i> 'Wieri'

<u>(con't.) 1907 Plant List</u>	<u>Current Plant List for 1907 (Michael A. Dirr)</u>
28 Shirea douglasii	Spiraea sp.
29 Viburnum snowball	macrocephalum (Chinese Snowball Viburnum)
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum
Syringna grandiflora (?)	Syringa sp.
Syringna coronarius (?)	Syringa sp.
30 Persian Lilac	Syringa x persica
31 European Linden	Tilia x europaea (also T. vulgaris)
32 Flowering Almond	Prunus triloba
33 Shirea aurea (?)	Spiraea sp.
34 Ribes alplnum	alpinum (Alpine current)
35 Shirea brunaldi	Spirea x bumalda (Bumalda Spirea "Anthony Waterer")
36 Red Oak	Quercus rubra
37 Rosa rugosa red(?)	
38 Hydranga	Hydgrangea sp.
39 Symphoricarpos vulgaris (?)	(Common Snowberry)
40 Virburnum opurus	Opulus (European Cranberry bush Viburnum)
41 Japan Quince	Chaenomeles japonica
Privet	Ligustrum sp.
42 Rosa rugosa white(?)	
43 Magnolia	Magnolia sp.
44 Beech	Fagus sp.

(con't.) 1907 Plant List

Current Plant List for 1907(Michael A. Dirr)

45 Sarabucus (Cut leaved)

Sambucus sp. (Elder)

Elaeagus angustifolia

Elaeagnus angustifolia (Russian-olive)

Exoreorda

Exochorda racemosa (Common Pearl Bush)

46 Honeysuckle

Lonicera sp.

Triboldi

(?)

Prunus

Prunus triloba (Flowering Almond)

## **Spatial Organization**

The park, in general, was composed of four main elements or focal points. The major element was the court house itself, which created the northeastern border of the park. The bandstand plaza commanded the most attention within the park area. Being placed on the highest terrace, the views and vistas from this plaza that is 140 feet in diameter, were astounding during the cooler months. Views of the city and river were framed by the overhanging tree canopies in the summer months. This plaza created a central hub on the western half of the site from which one could pass to the twin plazas or to the court house.

The twin plazas (both 60 feet in diameter) ran parallel to second street, which created the southern central and eastern focal points as well as the boundaries to the site. The eastern hydrangea plaza was the directional hub to the eastern and southeastern entrances. From the hydrangea bed plaza, one could pass through the park as a shortcut to the northwestern most entrance, or follow the path to the fountain plaza. The fountain plaza acted as the central hub from the center of Second Street to access the park.

The three plazas were to be bedded with gravel. The open lawn spaces provided views of the main elements and the pathways, being lined with shrubbery, created frames for the views.

## **Circulation**

Surrounding the park was a 4 foot perimeter sidewalk. There were entrances to the park from all of the corners except the northeastern corner where the court house is sited. The entrance to the park from the northeast was via the staircase off of First Street. Entrances were located at the center point of the east, south and western borders that lead to three plazas. From the corners ran semi-serpentine, diagonal pathways to the opposite corners. The three plazas were interconnected via short linear paths. The 8 foot wide pathways within the park were gravel with large (2-4" diameter) stones on the uphill edge acting as run-off gutters. Running along the west wall of the Court House was a 4 foot wide cement sidewalk that connected the entry staircase with the western rear entry to the Court House. The perimeter sidewalks were made of concrete. All other dimensions, materials specifications and characteristics are unknown.



Figure 1.7: Canfield Park, facing east from northwest corner of path (Dimitroff Collection).

## Buildings and Structures

### Courthouse

The Steuben County Court House was the only building on the property at the time construction began on the park. Several structures in and around the park and court house also existed. The neo-classical court house was rectangular with a small extension on its southern side, creating a truncated T-plan. The front of the building was a total of 84 feet in width. The entrance area was 48 feet in width and dropped back to the south on both ends by 3 feet. Both sides then extended an additional 18 feet to the east and the west. The sides of the court house went south for 59 feet and then nitched in on both sides by 13 1/2 feet. From that point, both sides traveled south for an additional 22 feet. The back of the building extended from the east and west walls, inward by 25 feet. The sides then moved south 3 feet and then made a right angle connecting with one another. This section was 8 feet in length.<sup>78</sup> A full description of the court house, as noted in the November 10, 1988, Building-Structure Inventory Form, can be found in **Appendix C**.



**Figure 1.8:** Canfield Park, court house, facing southwest (Dimitroff Collection).

### Court House Entry Staircase

The entry staircase rose from the sidewalk on First Street in three ranks up to the court house doorway. The first rank included 27 concrete steps with 1 1/2 foot treads. At the base were two 3 foot by 3 foot cement boarder blocks with pyramidal tops. Their height is unknown. The second rank was the 12 foot deep by 17 foot wide concrete landing. The third rank was comprised of five stone steps with 1 foot treads and a 6 foot deep by 12 foot wide landing which narrows to 10 feet wide about 3 feet back from the front of the landing. There was also an additional stone step with a 1 foot tread that meets with a stone sill. The third rank was boarded with stone walls that were 2 1/2 feet wide and 9 feet deep. The height of the walls are unknown. The riser heights of the steps are unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Steps (West Wall)

Located to the south of the west wall of the court house were two eastern rising cement steps with 1 foot treads and a width of 5 1/2 feet. They met with a stone sill that was 1 1/2 feet in depth and 3 1/2 feet in width. The riser heights are unknown. These steps provided access to the western rear entry of the court house. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Iron Stairs

There was an iron set of stairs located on the southern side of the eastern wall of the court house. There were an unknown amount of steps with treads of 8 inches. The western rising stair way was 4 feet in width. The height of the risers and character of the staircase is not known. These steps provided access to the eastern rear entry of the court house. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Steps (Eastern Access)

Located at the base of the serpentine cement walk, to the south of the eastern side of the court house, were seven cement steps with approximately 1 foot treads. These steps provided access from the sidewalk to the cement walk that lead to the eastern rear entry of the court house.

The stair way was semi-curved and was 4 feet in width. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Bandstand

According to Canfield's 1907 Plan there was to be a 20 foot diameter bandstand located in the center of the large western plaza. The actual construction of such a structure was never documented.<sup>79</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

## **Site Engineering Systems**

### Gutters

Along both the east and west sides of the entry staircase were 1 1/2 foot wide concrete gutters. They extended from the base of the upper set of stairs, after the landing, all the way to the base of the staircase. The gutters were installed in 1903 when the staircase was constructed. To the west of the west walk was a 1 1/2 foot wide concrete gutter that was approximately 73 feet in length. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Retaining Walls

To the west of the court house was a 2 foot wide retaining wall that ran from the center of the western rear wall, out to the walk that came from the steps running parallel with First Street, to the bandstand circle. From the eastern corner of the court house a 1 1/2 foot serpentine retaining wall ran out to Pine Street. The material of the two walls was concrete. The height and character of the two walls is unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

## Furnishings and Objects

The 1907 Plan does not locate any furnishings or objects, although it is known from newspaper clippings that benches lined the pathways and drinking fountains were available. The benches have been verified through photographic documentation and they appear to be iron or steel framed with two wooden slats for a back and the seat. The legs curved inward from the seat and then back out to be in line with the end of the seat's base. The drinking fountains were removed not to long after they were installed and there is no documentation as to what they were made of or looked like or when exactly they were removed. There were also two black, cylindrical lamp posts, one on each of the tops of the bordering walls of the upper set of stairs to the Court House. The posts were topped with large round, white glass globes. Other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are undocumented.



Figure 1.9: Canfield Park, Fountain Plaza, facing northwest (Dimitroff Collection).

## Water Features

The only water feature within the park was a 25 foot diameter concrete fountain. It was located within the southern, central plaza. The fountain was surrounded with six pilasters that broke up the seating rim on the outer edge. The pilasters were to support large terra-cotta flower vases that were a donation from M. E. Gregory, the proprietor of Corning Brick Terra-Cotta and Tile Company.<sup>80</sup> In the center of the fountain was a huge, conical stacked pile of sandstone boulders.<sup>81</sup> There was a spray from the top that showered over the mound along with a light to illuminate the fountain in the evening hours.<sup>82</sup> The sandstone was originally intended to be covered with moss but whether or not this was done is unknown.<sup>83</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

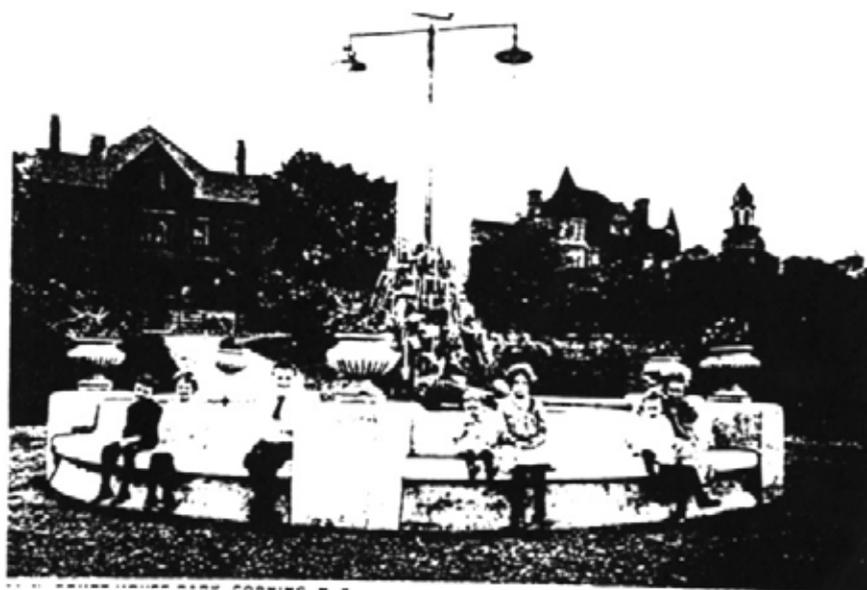


Figure 1.10: Canfield Park, fountain, facing southwest (Dimitroff Collection).

**PERIOD 2**

**CANFIELD PARK**  
**EXISTING CONDITIONS**  
**1994**

**Plans pertaining to Period 2, Canfield Park:**

*Site Survey of Canfield Park*, by Hunt Engineers and Architects, 1994.

**Topography**

The topographical form of Canfield Park has not changed significantly since the park's construction (1907-1912). The park's highest point is 200 feet above sea level and is located 90 feet to the east of the southwestern corner of the park along the setback. The lowest point is 130 feet above sea level and is located in the far northeastern corner of the block.

From the high point the ground slopes in a shallow arch toward the area that was the bandstand plaza with the extremities of the arch sloping to the northwest and northeast. The approximate slope in this area is 12%. The area that was the bandstand plaza is 140 feet in diameter and slopes toward the north at an approximate grade of 6%. The western area of the park, from the center of the north side of the plaza to the northwest corner of the block, the land all slopes northwest with an average grade of 26%. The northern area of the park, from the northern point of the bandstand plaza to the northwestern corner of the block, and from the same northern point down the trail to the west side of the court house steps the land all slopes north to northwest with an average grade of 33%.

The remaining eastern area of the park, east of the bandstand plaza and fountain plaza, slopes in the northeastern direction. The area southwest of the trail that cuts almost diagonally from the southeastern corner of the block toward the northwest has an average grade of 20%. The area closest to the west side of the court house to the northeast of the trail has an average northeastern slope of 43%. The area south of the court house and northeast of the court house has an average northeastern slope of 25%.

The two playground areas are fit within the contours in order to have gentle slopes on an average of 6%. The twin plazas, the fountain plaza and the hydrangea plaza, have gentler slopes than the other areas of the park. The area that the fountain once stood on has a grade of 5%. The old hydrangea plaza area has a grade of 7.5%.

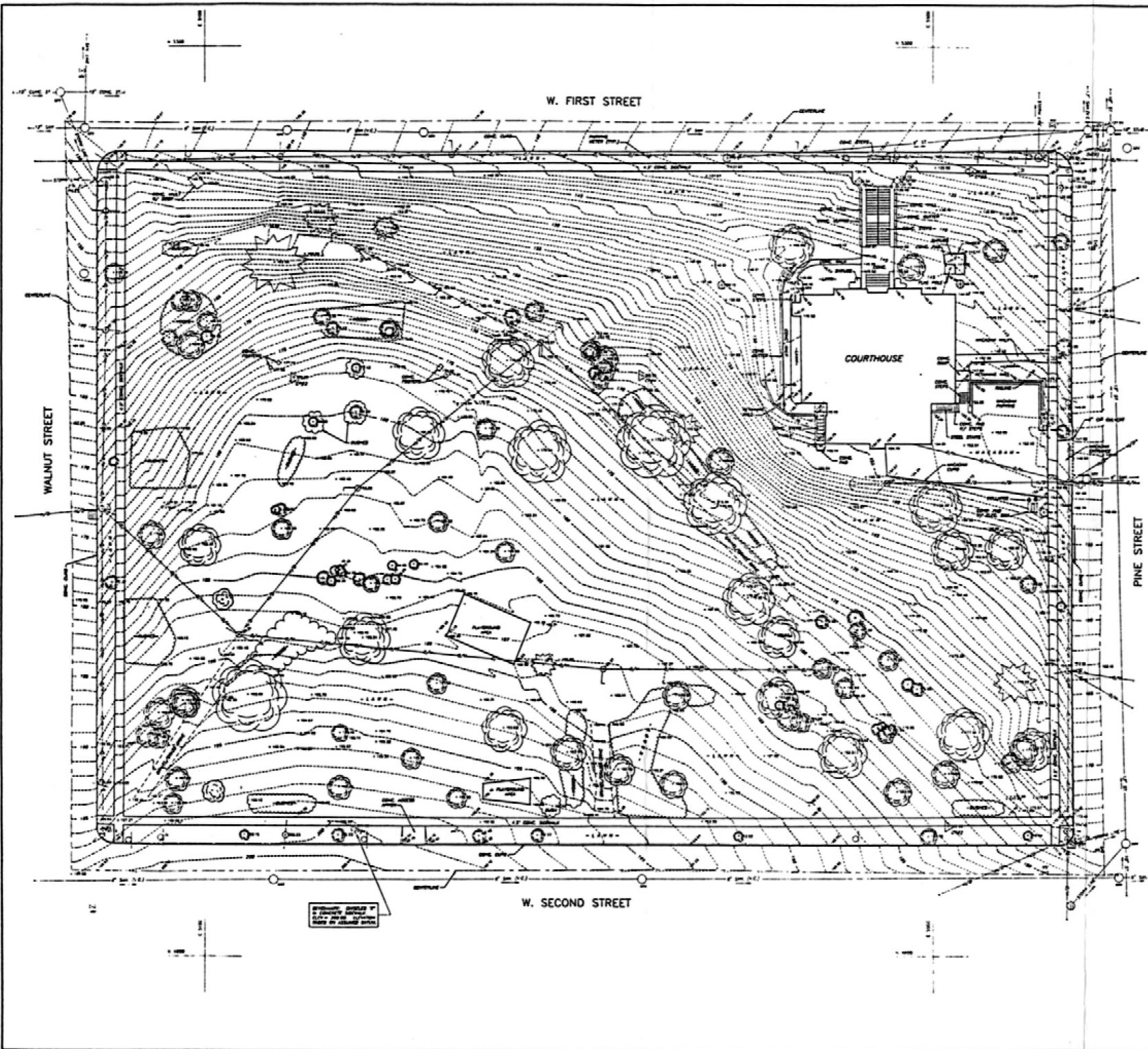
The trails of the park create small flat terraces in the general topography. Along the northern boarder is a terrace that interrupts the steep grade of this section of the park.<sup>84</sup>

## Vegetation

The existing vegetation is recorded on the following pages and is keyed to the map that also follows. Plant names were derived from two books, including *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants*, by Michael A. Dirr, and *Wyman's Gardening Encyclopedia*, by Donald Wyman. The numbering system records the locations of the specimens and does not refer to quantity. The plant list is set up to correspond to the numbering system and thus they are not in alphabetical or type order. The list reads from left to right and starts with the location number. The list then gives the scientific name, common name, number of specimens (if it was recorded as more than one), the number of major stems (if applicable) and the approximate diameter (in inches), measured at breast height. Shrubbery was not measured except for a few very old specimens. The condition of the individual plant materials was not recorded do to time constraints.

A site visit was made on August 16, 1994, to measure and identify all of the major plant materials within the park. The survey did not include the street trees or the many saplings. The 1994 Site Survey by Hunt Engineers and Architects (that was utilized for the plant materials survey) does not locate individual shrubs but rather expresses the locations in massings. Therefore, the exact locations of the individual shrubs were not recorded but an attempt was made to count them when it was deemed important. Although the numbers were not all recorded it should be noted that most of the shrub massings did include several of the same species.

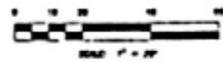
On a follow up visit, on September 8, 1994, it was noticed that historic plant material in location numbers 10, 32, 55, 72, 85 and 88 had either been severely pruned or completely cut to the ground.



**LEGEND:**

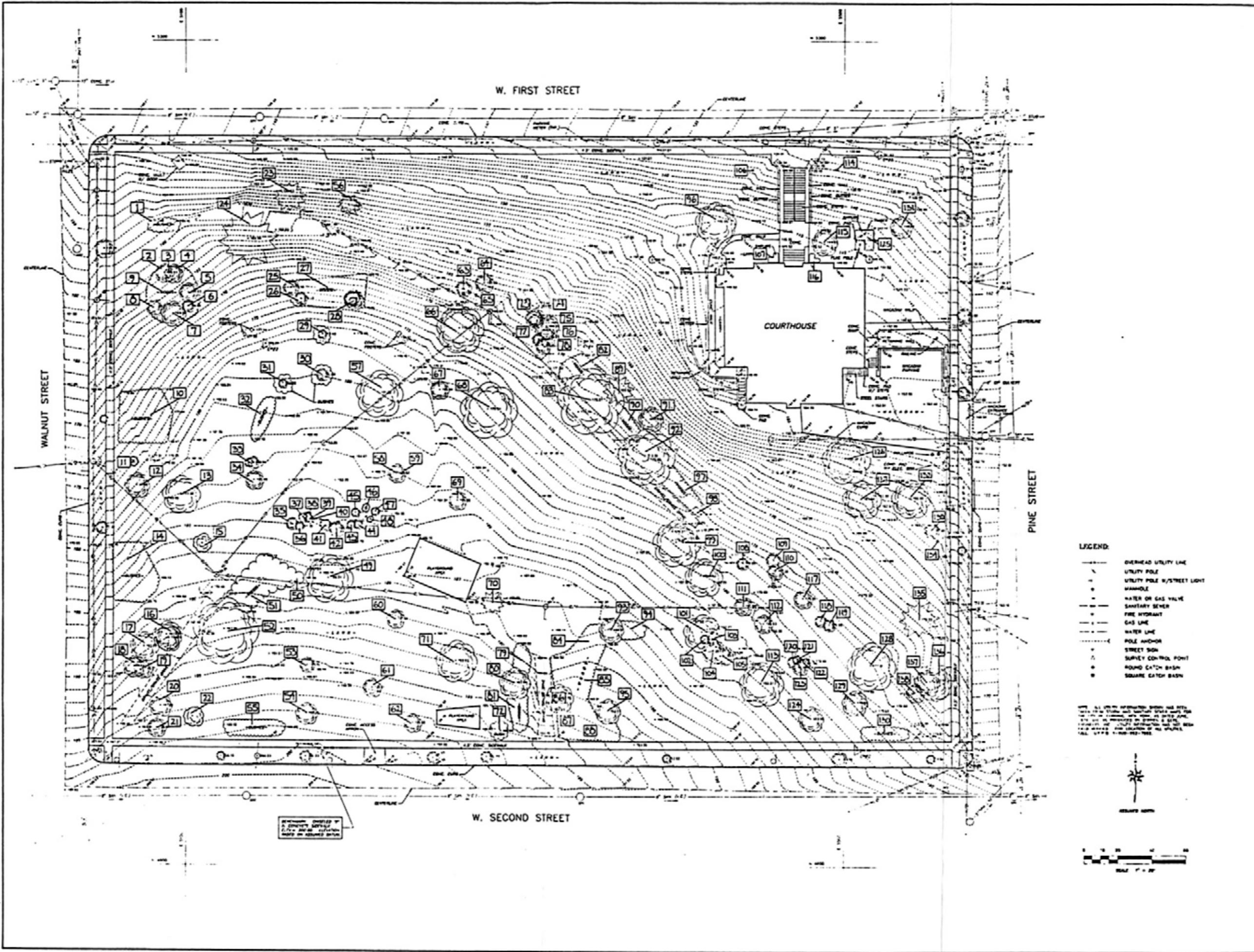
- OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE
- UTILITY POLE
- UTILITY POLE W/ STREET LIGHT
- MANHOLE
- WATER OR GAS VALVE
- SANITARY SEWER
- FIRE HYDRANT
- GAS LINE
- WATER LINE
- POLE ANCHOR
- STREET SIGN
- SURVEY CONTROL POINT
- ROUND CATCH BASIN
- SQUARE CATCH BASIN

REVISIONS:  
 1. 11/15/64  
 2. 11/15/64  
 3. 11/15/64  
 4. 11/15/64  
 5. 11/15/64  
 6. 11/15/64  
 7. 11/15/64  
 8. 11/15/64  
 9. 11/15/64  
 10. 11/15/64



STREETS SHOWN TO  
 BE EXISTING UNLESS  
 OTHERWISE INDICATED  
 BY A DASHED LINE

DRAWN BY: S.M.H.
CHECKED BY: S.L.T.
DATE: AUGUST 1964
SCALE: AS SHOWN
REVISION:
ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS 185 EAST CORNING ROAD CORNING, NEW YORK 14830 (607) 962-3131
SITE SURVEY CANFIELD PARK MARKET ST. RESTORATION AGENCY CORNING, NEW YORK
<span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">1</span>
PROJECT NO: 0310-003



- LEGEND:**
- OVERHEAD UTILITY LINE
  - - - UTILITY POLE W/ STREET LIGHT
  - MANHOLE
  - - - WATER OR GAS VALVE
  - - - SANITARY SEWER
  - - - FIRE HYDRANT
  - - - GAS LINE
  - - - WATER LINE
  - - - POLE AND/OR
  - STREET SIGN
  - SURVEY CONTROL POINT
  - ROUND CATCH BASIN
  - SQUARE CATCH BASIN



ALL DIMENSIONS SHOWN ON THIS PLAN ARE BASED ON THE SURVEY DATA AND FIELD NOTES. THE CLIENT ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE DATA AND THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN.

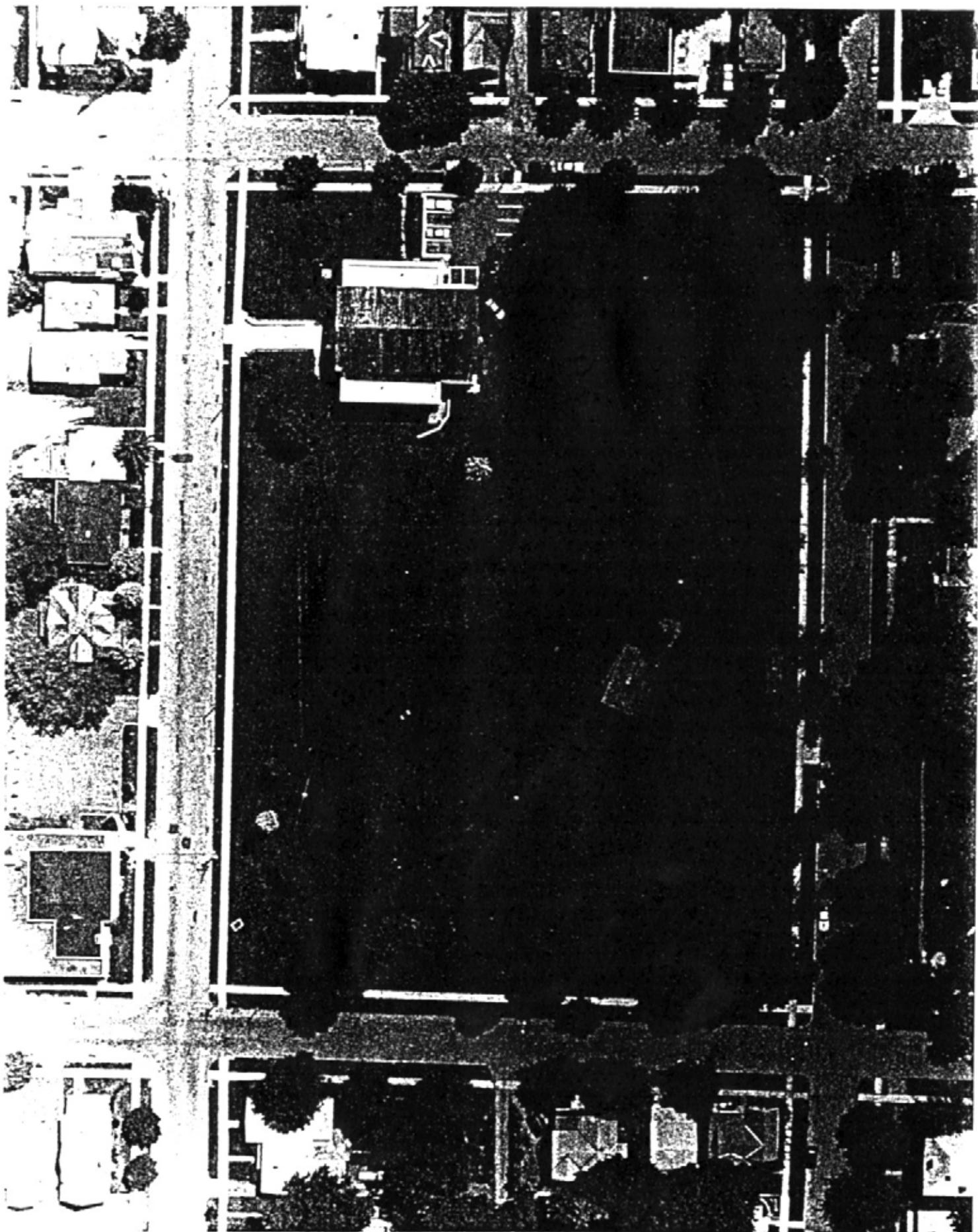
DATE: 10/15/1964  
 DRAWN BY: [Name]  
 CHECKED BY: [Name]

EXISTING CONDITIONS  
 PLANTING SCHEDULE

ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS  
 185 EAST CORNING ROAD  
 CORNING, NEW YORK 14830  
 (607) 962-3137



SITE SURVEY  
 CANFIELD PARK  
 MARKET ST. RESTORATION AGENCY  
 CORNING, NEW YORK



## PLANT LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	Dia.
1 Acer negundo	Boxelder	un
Berberis	Barberry	un
Rosa	Roses	un
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	un
Philadelphus coronarius	Sweet Mockorange	un
2 Fraxinus americana	White Ash (double trunk at 48 inches)	12"
3 Acer saccharinum	Silver Maple	12"
4 Taxus	Yew	un
5 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	12"
6 Fraxinus americana	White Ash	8"
7 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	15"
8 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	10"
9 Colutea arborescens	Common Bladder-senna (6)	un
Ligustrum	Privet	un
Lonicera	Honersuckle	un
Rosa	Roses	un
10 Celastrus scandens	American Bitter sweet	un
Tilia	Lindens	un
Ligustrum	Privet	un
Rosa wichuraiana	Memorial or Sunshine rose	un
Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un
11 Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un

Scientific Name	Common Name	Dia.
12 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	15"
13 Tilia americana	American Linden	27"
14 Forsythia	Forsythia	un
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple (saplings)	un
Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un
Fraxinus	Ash	un
Ligustrum	Privet	un
15 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	9"
16 Broussonetia	Mulberry	21"
17 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	23"
18 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	19"
19 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	12"
20 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	19"
21 Ulmus americana	American Elm	14"
22 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	12"
23 Picea pungens Glauca	Blue Spruce	15"
24 Pinus thunbergii	Japanese Black Pine	29"
25 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	8"
26 Sorbus	Mountainash	4"
27 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple (saplings)	un
Ulmus	Elm (saplings)	un
Viburnum lantana	Wayfaringtree Viburnum	un
Platanus x acerifolia	London Planetree	un

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Dia.</u>
Ligustrum	Privets (31)	un
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	3"
28 Sorbus	Mountainash (2 stem)	13"
29 Acer rubrum	Red Maple (7 stems)	3-6"
30 Ulmus	Elm (3 stem)	un
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	un
Ligustrum	Privet	un
Barberis	Barberry	un
Rosa	Rose	un
Euonymus	Euonymus	un
31 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple (3)	un
Ulmus	Elms (2)	un
Fraxinus	Ash	un
Rosa	Rose	un
Ligustrum	Privet	un
Vitus	Grapes	un
Barberis	Barberry	un
32 Ligustrum	Privet	un
Barberis	Barberry	un
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple (3)	un
Ulmus	Elms (10)	un
Deutzia gracilis	Slender Deutzia (20)	un
Acer negundo	Boxelder (2)	un

Scientific Name	Common Name	Dia.
Ulmus glabra	Scotch Elm (8)	un
Ulmus americana	American Elm (2)	un
33 Tilia	Lindens	6-8"
Rosa	Rose	un
Vitus	Grapes	un
34 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	13"
35 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	7"
36 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	5-7"
37 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	5"
38 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	6"
39 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	5"
40 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	4"
41 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	5"
42 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	5"
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	7"
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	3"
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	6"
43 Ulmus	Elm	11"
44 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple (4 stem)	2-6"
45 Syringa x chinensis	Chinese Lilac	un
46 Fraxinus	Ash	6"
Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	4"
Fraxinus	Ash (3)	4"

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Dia.</u>
47 <i>Spirea x vanhouttei</i>	Vanhoutte Spirea	un
48 <i>Ulmus</i>	Elm	6"
49 <i>Fraxinus</i>	Ash	30"
50 <i>Cornus mass</i>	Cornellian Cherry	un
51 <i>Cornus mass</i>	Cornellian Cherry (7)	un
<i>Tilia americana</i>	Basswood (also American Linden)	un
<i>Ligustrum</i>	Privet	un
<i>Lonicera</i>	Honeysuckle (3)	un
52 <i>Salix melanostachys</i>	Black Willow (3 stems at 60 inches)	54"
53 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	12"
54 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	13"
55 <i>Lonicera</i>	Honeysuckle (9)	≤8"
56 <i>Thuja</i>	Arborvitae (2 stem)	un
57 <i>Aesculus</i>	Horsechestnut (2 stem)	34"
58 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple (5 stem)	2-4"
59 <i>Ulmus</i>	Elm (6 stem)	3-6"
60 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	14"
61 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	11"
62 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	10"
63 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	11"
64 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	13-14"
65 <i>Ligustrum</i>	Privet (4)	un
<i>Spirea x vanhouttei</i>	Vanhoutte Spirea (2)	un

Scientific Name	Common Name	Dia.
Barberis	Barberry	un
66 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple (2 stem)	23"
67 Picea	Spruce (2 stem)	14"
68 Acer saccharinum 'wieri'	Wier Maple	36"
69 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	12"
70 Picea abies	Norway Spruce	34"
71 Broussonetia	Mulberry	37"
72 Syringa	Lilac (7)	un
Prunus	Cherry	un
73 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	12"
74 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	8"
75 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	60"
76 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	43"
77 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	4"
78 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	11"
79 Syringa	Lilac	un
Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un
80 Aesculus hippocastanum	Common Horsechestnut	20"
Rosa	Roses	un
Ligustrum	Privet	un
81 Syringa	Lilac (2)	un
Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un
82 Syringa	Lilac (5)	un

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Dia.</u>
Ligustrum	Privet (2)	un
Rhamnus	Buckthorn	un
83 Acer saccharinum 'wieri'	Wier Maple (2 stem)	23"
84 Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum (2)	un
85 Ligustrum	Privet	un
Rosa	Rose	un
Syringa	Lilac (3)	un
Physocarpus	Ninebark	un
86 Prunus serotina	Black Cherry	21"
87 Syringa	Lilac	un
88 Lonicera	Honersuckle	un
Symphoricarpus albus	Snowberry	un
Philadelphus coronarius	Sweet Mockorange (8)	un
Viburnum dentatum	Arrowwood Viburnum (8)	un
89 Picea abies	Norway Spruce	18"
90 Barberis	Barberry	un
91 Picea pungens Glauca	Blue Spruce	15"
92 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	29"
Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un
Ligustrum	Privet	un
Barberis	Barberry	un
93 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	16"
94 Prunus	Cherry (2 stem)	7-10"

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Dia.</u>
Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un
95 Platinus x acerifolia	London Planetree	17"
Euonymus fortunei	Wintercreeper Euonymus	un
96 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	24"
Ligustrum	Privet (2)	un
97 Calastrus scandens	American Bitter sweet	un
Ligustrum	Privet (4)	un
Lonicera	Honeysuckle (3)	un
Euonymus	Euonymus	un
98 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	4"
99 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	33"
100 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	21"
101 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	22"
102 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	8"
Lonicera	Honeysuckle	un
103 Robinia pseudoacacia	Black Locust	10"
104 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	15"
105 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	12"
106 un	Unidentified Shrub	un
107 Taxus	Yew (3)	3' wide
108 Fraxinus	Ash	9"
109 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	9"
110 Acer platanoides	Norway Maple	11"

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Dia</u>
111 <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	White Birch	9"
112 <i>Ulmus</i>	Elm	14"
113 <i>Quercus rubra</i>	Red Oak	26"
114 <i>Paeonia</i>	Peoni	un
115 <i>Lonicera</i>	Honeysuckle	un
116 <i>Taxus</i>	Yew (3)	3' wide
117 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	11"
118 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	8"
119 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	12"
120 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	8"
121 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	11"
122 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	9"
123 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	10"
124 <i>Acer rubrum</i>	Red Maple	16"
125 <i>Taxus</i>	Yew (5)	4' wide
126 <i>Prunus sorotina</i>	Black Cherry	28"
127 <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	Common Hackberry (2 stems at 72 inches)	22"
128 <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Common Horsechestnut	27"
129 <i>Ginkgo</i>	Ginkgo	15"
130 <i>Prunus triloba</i>	Flowering Almond	un
<i>Lonicera</i>	Honeysuckle	un
131 <i>Malus</i>	Flowering Crabapple (7 stem)	6"

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Dia.</u>
132 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	22"
133 <i>Ligustrum</i>	Privet (12, cut trunks)	un
134 <i>Picea abies</i>	Norway Spruce	21"
135 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	21"
136 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	17"
137 <i>Acer platanoides</i>	Norway Maple	12"

un : stands for unknown

## **Spatial Organization**

Canfield Park's existing spatial organization is different, in many aspects, from the original organization. Although the plazas no longer exist as hard edged, distinct spaces, they are still noticeable. The same is true for the pathways. They are no longer paved with gravel and bordered on the south side with large diameter stones but are well worn, distinct routes or linear spaces. Most of the paths are bordered by mature vegetation, which creates vertical and overhead planes. The diagonal pathways that criss-cross the park are fine examples of this. One can feel a strong sense of enclosure when the vegetation is close and tall, while when it is loose and open the sense of enclosure is more relaxed.

The park's organization is no longer formal. The edges are soft and spaces are fairly open. The park's spatial organization is almost divided into two halves by the line of vegetation that borders the diagonal pathway that travels from the northwest corner to the southeast corner. The steep topography of the northeastern half is sparsely dotted with large, mature trees, creating a vast area of open space. The southwestern half, while remaining fairly open toward the center of the park, is for the most part shaded or pleasantly enclosed with large shrubs and mature trees.

The play areas and court house are the major focal points of use. The spaces that the playground covers are west of the site of the old fountain plaza. These two spaces are small and open and attract the most use for the park, besides walkers utilizing the paths as a shortcut. The court house is more of a focal point since it is a solid element within the park area. It almost seems to stand on its own and does not become an interrelated element. Since it is only to be looked at by those that are visiting the park, the court house has its own purpose. Visitors are more than likely not there to experience the park.

## **Circulation**

The routes of circulation are divided into three categories. There are hard edged walkways, soft edged walkways, and vehicular access routes. The hard edged walkways include the following list of features: 4 1/2 foot wide, concrete sidewalks that border the perimeter of the park; a 10 foot long by 14 1/2 foot wide concrete handicapped access ramp that is 12 foot wide at the top, which is found to the west of the center of the Second Street boarder; 3, 12 foot wide concrete steps in front of the court house's entry staircase ( see the **Buildings and**

**Structures** section for more information); the 3 1/2 foot concrete walk that connects the entry staircase and the steps along the western side of the court house; the 4 foot wide concrete walk that runs parallel with the western wall of the court house; the 4 foot wide by 51 foot long macadam walk that runs perpendicular to the eastern wall of the court house providing access from the sidewalk.

The soft edged walkways encompass all of the 8 foot wide pathways within the park. These walks are either soil, grass or a combination with gravel and stone (gravel and stone in some areas is original). All of the soft edged walkways are original in width and in orientation.

The vehicular access includes two elements which are both located near the southeastern corner of the court house. The first is the 25 foot wide by 8 1/2 foot long macadam entrance to the parking lot from Pine Street. The second is a parking area that is 89 feet long at its longest point, 61 feet wide at its widest point and has a stepped profile. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

## Buildings and Structures

### Court House

The Steuben County Court House has not been seriously altered since it was erected in 1903. Currently, there is a small wooden entry way that was added to the north corner of the western wall. Otherwise, the building is existing as described in the previous period's **Buildings and Structures** section and in Appendix C.



Figure 1.14: Canfield Park, court house, facing southwest (K. Allen. SUNYCESF, 1994).

### Court House Entry Staircase

The entry staircase was altered at an unknown time during the early to mid-twentieth-century. The staircase exists today with those alterations. The flight of steps was divided at the tenth step with a 13 foot by 5 foot concrete landing. The second rank of steps continues for an additional eight steps before meeting with the large original landing. The steps all have 1 1/2 foot treads, 6 inch risers, and are 13 feet wide with a black tubular metal railing dividing the stairway. The 3 foot by 3 foot boarder blocks were moved and canted north and south so that they created a terminus for the boarder walls. The pyramid shaped tops were removed. The concrete boarder walls are 2 1/2 feet in width and run 33 feet from the major landing to the base of the stairs where they curve outward and continue for 2 feet to meet with the boarder blocks. The original third rank of the staircase remained unaltered except for the removal of the light posts from the base of the boarder walls. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded (see fig. 1.14).

### Western Entry Steps

Located in the northwest corner of the western wall of the court house is an entry way. The entry consists of four steps with 1 foot treads and a landing. The steps are 5 feet wide, made of concrete and rise to the south for 4 feet. The date of its construction is unknown.<sup>85</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Steps (West wall - South)

Along the southern corner of the western wall is a concrete staircase, providing access to and from the parking area to the front of the court house. The southward rising staircase includes nine steps with 6 inch risers and 2 foot treads as well as landings on both ends. The stairway's width is approximately 4 feet and overall length, including landings, is 26 1/2 feet. The lower landing is 6 1/2 feet long and 5 feet wide while the upper landing is 6 1/2 feet wide at the base, 4 feet wide at the top and has a depth of 3 1/2 feet. The date of construction is unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Steel Stairs

The westward running stairway is located on the southern end of the eastern wall of the court house. The stairway includes two sections, one of which is the concrete base. It is 15 feet in length with two steps that are 4 1/2 feet wide with treads that are 1 foot. The other section is the nine step steel staircase that is 3 1/2 feet wide with approximately 10 1/2 inch treads and has a length of 11 feet, including a 3 foot landing. The date of its construction is unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Steps (East Parking Access)

Located on the northwest side of the parking lot is a 5 foot wide flight of five steps with 1 foot treads. The northward running stairs are made of concrete and meet a concrete landing that leads to a ramp. The date of the stair's construction is unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Ramp

The ramp is located to the northwest of the parking lot above the flight of steps. The concrete ramp measures 8 feet in width and 5 1/2 feet in length. The slope of the ramp faces the south and has a grade of 3%. The date of the ramp's construction is unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Playground Area (North)

The larger of the two playground areas is rectangular and is located approximately 45 feet to the northwest of the center of the site of the fountain. The area is 25 feet in width by 40 feet in length. The soil is retained by landscaping timbers to allow the play area to be fairly flat. The southwestern corner of the top of the wall is 2.1 feet above the play area while the southeastern corner is 1.7 feet above the play area. The timbers extend to the north on the west and east sides of the area in steps to match the slope of the surrounding landscape. The play area is covered with rough wood chips. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Playground Area (South)

The southern playground area has a trapezoid shape and is located approximately 35 feet to the east of the southern central entry. The lengths of the area are 26 feet and the ends are 15 feet and 9 feet. The 9 foot end is on the western side. The playground area is bordered with landscaping timber and covered with rough wood chips.

The area contains a metal framed jungle gym that is in the shape of a wagon. There are also several rocking horses, with springs, that are located in front of the wagon heading in a westerly direction. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### **Site Engineering Systems**

#### Gutters

Located to the east and west side of the court house entry staircase are 1 foot wide concrete gutters. They extended from the top of the major landing 34 feet down to the base of the steps where they make a gentle 2 foot arc to their respective directions. The gutters were installed as part of the entry staircase and constructed in 1903. It is not known exactly when they were shortened and reduced in width. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

#### Gutter (West Walk)

To the west side of the concrete walk on the west side of the court house lies a 1 1/2 foot wide concrete gutter that is 73 feet in length. The gutter has a slight curve to the east at its northern end where it meets a drain grate. From the style, and material it was decided that this gutter is original to the construction of the park. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

#### Retaining Wall (West)

The western concrete retaining wall exists today but it has been modified and possibly replaced. The wall that stands today is made up of three segments and it measures 14 feet in

length. According to the 1994 Site Survey, the southeastern pointing wall is 3.5 inches high and gradually becomes 2.8 feet in height. The second segment is 10 feet in length, has 2.45 feet of exposed wall at its far end and is located in an east, southeast direction. The third segment of the wall connects with the staircase perpendicularly so that the 14 1/2 foot long section is parallel to the southern wall of the court house. The final segment terminates with a height of 2.45 feet. The wall is painted white. It should be noted that existing conditions photographs (taken on 9/8/94) indicate that the wall is higher than indicated on the 1994 site survey. However, field measurements were not taken. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.



Figure 1.15: Canfield Park, retaining wall, facing southeast (K. Allen. SUNYCESF, 1994).

### Retaining Wall (Parking Area)

The parking area to the southeast of the court house is supported by a three sided 2 1/2 foot thick retaining wall. At its highest point the wall is 7.76 feet. The rectangular wall system faces north and is both parallel and perpendicular to the court house and roads. The western segment is 18 feet in length. The northern segment is 42 feet in length and the eastern segment is 27 feet in length. The wall system is topped with a heavy railing. The rail measures 18 feet in length along the western segment, 42 feet along the northern segment and 27 feet along the eastern segment. The other dimensions and character of the railing were not recorded.<sup>86</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

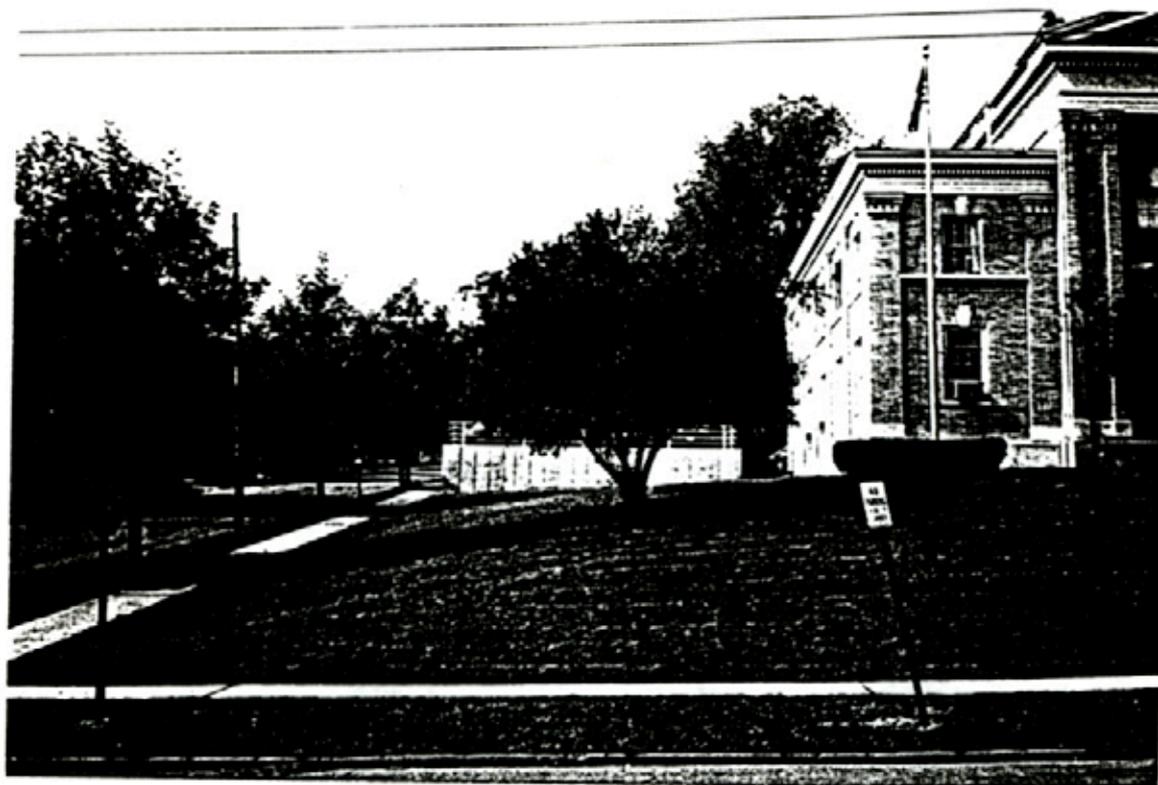


Figure 1.16: Canfield Park, east retaining wall, facing south (K. Allen. SUNYCESF, 1994).

### Retaining Wall (Timber)

Located off of the northeastern corner of the court house is a 9 foot long by 9 foot long, 6 inch to inch high timber retaining wall. The railroad tie wall located on two sides of a planting bed contains five 4 foot high hews. The railroad ties are deep brown in color and have a rough texture. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

## Mechanical Systems

### Drain Grates (Catch Basins)

There are six catch basins within the block. Two of the six were found to be covered with historic dome shaped, heavy iron grates. The historic grates are approximately 3 feet in diameter and a dark brown rust color. One is located approximately 40 feet to the west of the northwest corner of the court house. The other is approximately 5 feet north of the northeast corner of the court house. The grate that catches the water from the concrete gutter on the west side of the court house is metal and rectangular with holes that are approximately 1 inch in diameter. It is not known if this grate dates back to the original construction. A third grate is located 20 feet to the west of the corner of First and Pine Street. Another grate is located 10 feet to the southeast of the bollards behind the parking area. The exact dimensions of the grates were not measured in the field and the 1994 Site Survey by Hunt Engineers and Architects exaggerates the measurements. The final grate is found 192 feet to the west of the corner of First and Pine Street within the lawn area next to the road. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

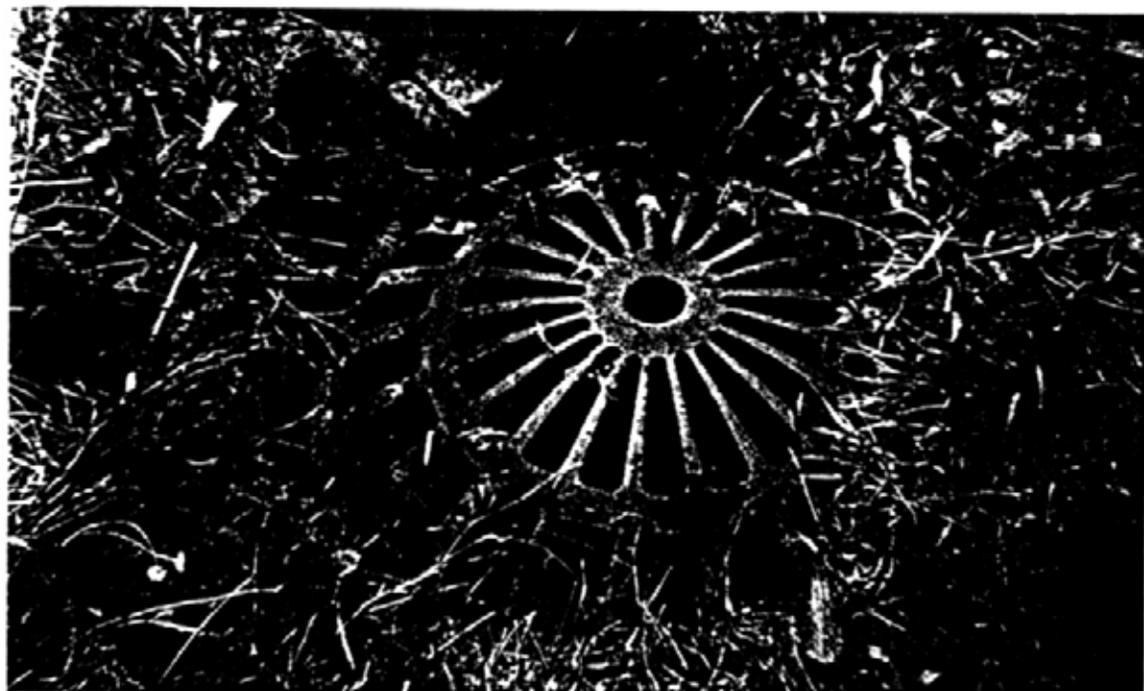


Figure 1.17: Canfield Park, historic drain grate, west of court house (K. Allen. SUNYCESF, 1994).

### **Manhole**

Located 5 feet to the north of the northwest corner of the court house is a standard sized manhole with a metal cover. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### **Furnishings and Objects**

#### **Flag Pole**

The flag pole is located off of the northeast corner of the court house. The flag pole is mounted on a 5 1/2 foot by 5 1/2 foot concrete base. The silver colored metal pole narrows towards its top where it has a metal sphere to cap it. The pole is approximately 30 feet in height. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

#### **Bollards**

There are two identical bollards on the lawn along the southeast corner of the parking area. Their material and dimensions were not recorded. The purpose of the bollards is to protect the electrical box that is positioned behind it. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

#### **Electrical Box**

Directly south of the bollards is an electrical utility box that is set on a 5 foot by 5 foot concrete pad. The box is 1 1/2 feet wide and 4 feet long and approximately 3 1/2 feet in height. The doors on the box have a mock wood grain finish, while the box is gray. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

#### **Cannon Footers**

There are two sets of concrete cannon footers located on the northwest and northeast sides of what was the bandstand plaza. The northwest set is the smaller of the two and they both are 1 1/2 feet by 1 1/2 feet. Their height was not measured but they are both approximately waist high. The set to the northeast are both 3 feet long by 2 feet wide at the base and they narrow to

approximately 1 foot square at their top. They are approximately breast high but were not measured for exact dimensions in the field. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Vault

There is a concrete vault with a door located 35 feet to the east of the northwest corner of the block. The length is 7 feet and the width is 5 feet. The northern portion of the vault is waist high while the southern portion is nearly buried in the slope. The other dimensions and purpose of the vault are unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.



Figure 1.18: Canfield Park, vault, facing southeast (K. Allen. SUNYCESF, 1994).

## Signage

The block's perimeter is dotted with various signs. Included among them are stop signs, parking signs and a historic site sign referring to the court house. The historic site sign is located to the west of the steps in the curb on First Street. For the locations of all the signs refer to the 1994 Site Survey of Canfield Park by Hunt Engineers and Architects. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.



**Figure 1.19:** Canfield Park, court house signage, facing east (K. Allen. SUNYCESF, 1994).

### Parking Meters

Located in the lawn section closest to the road along First Street are nine parking meters. They are spaced 46 feet apart and start 75 feet in from each intersection. They are gray metal with two meters on top of a single metal cylindrical post. The meters are the standard design and are about breast high. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Utility Poles

There are a total of twenty utility poles placed on Block 66. Within the park itself there are eight poles and six of them have cobra style overhead lighting. There are poles located near the centers of what were the three plazas, one on the southwest path to the bandstand plaza, which has no light, and three along the path from the northwest corner to the hydrangea plaza. There is also one on the south side of the court house which also has no light. The remaining thirteen poles are located within the lawn area along the perimeter of the block. Only three of the perimeter poles include the cobra style lighting, two along First Street and one on the corner of Second and Pine Street. The utility poles are of the standard rough brown timber type. The cobra lighting is gray metal.<sup>87</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Fire Hydrant

Located 20 feet to the south of the corner of First and Pine Street is a standard fire hydrant. The main part of the hydrant is yellow and the cap and ends are painted red. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown or unrecorded.

### Water Features

Currently there are no water features in Canfield Park. The fountain that previously existed has been removed.

## **Statement of Significance**

Canfield Park, (named in honor of its designer, Robert H. Canfield, in 1944) is a 3-acre site located in the historic southside neighborhood of the city of Corning, New York. It is situated on Block 66 in the center of the 340-acre tract of land the Corning Company purchased and layout in a grid system in 1835. In 1836, the settlement was named Corning in honor of Erastus Corning, principle financier of the Corning Company. The Company reserved Block 66, bounded by West First Street on the north, West Second Street on the south, Pine Street to the east and Walnut Street to the west, for the residents of Corning to enjoy and as a site for churches and government buildings. It is locally significant for its historic role as a public space in the neighborhood and city from the initial planning of Corning to the present. It is also significant as an example of park design from the early twentieth-century. Canfield Park meets National Register Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development for illustrating the role of open space in the layout, growth and development of Corning for the last 159 years. It meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture for embodying the characteristics of a distinct landscape type, the public square.

The public square and the grid system of blocks and streets was first introduced to the United States when William Penn layout Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1682, although the concept of a public square as the center of economic, social and civic activity dates back to ancient Greece. James Oglethorpe's 1733 grid plan for Savannah, Georgia, included three-acre public squares for each residential ward. In both Penn and Oglethorpe's plan the public square was an important aspect of the overall plan for the city. These plans were followed by many others as the expanding United States moved to the west. Whether residential, commercial, civic or a combination of these uses, the public square has been an important planning concept in the development of urban centers throughout the history of the United States. Thus, in 1835, when laying out Corning in a grid pattern, the inclusion of a public square, as a site for churches and government buildings, was based on 150 years of the development of the concept in United States urban and civic design.

The initial development of Block 66, known as Public Square Park, included churches and school houses. By the 1850's it was the location of a Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian Church and two schools. In 1854, ground was broken for the first court house which was

completed in 1857 and Public Square Park became popularly known as 'Court House Square'. The Corning Company played an active role in the development of Block 66 and the village until it was dissolved in 1854 and it executed deeds to the trustees of the village of Corning (incorporated in 1848) for land they were still holding. Block 66 was not included in the executed deeds. However, in 1855, they executed a deed to the village trustees for Block 66 to be used by the inhabitants of the village of Corning as sites for public buildings and for a public park. Included in the examples of public building were churches or places of public worship, as they had been when Block 66 was set aside for public use in 1835. The idea that public lands could be used for churches or places of worship raised many questions.

The concept of public land being used or sold to churches and religious groups was not resolved until 1889. In a complex case brought by the village of Corning et. al. against Christ Episcopal Church et. al., Supreme Court Judge Adams held that under a 1840 Act passed by the State Legislature a village holding property for specified purposes could not include religious purposes and thus the deed of 1855 from the Corning Company was void. This decision ended the era of occupation of Court House Square Park by churches and places of public worship.

In 1883, the trustees of the village created a Park Commission to have control and management over Block 66. The resolution stated that the commission was to oversee the work of grading, layout and improvement of the park. In 1894, the village recognized the need to make improvements to the 1854 court house. It was decided that the original court house should be demolished and a new court house constructed. In 1902, the Board of Supervisors voted to build a new court house and, in 1903, they hired Rochester Architect J. Foster Warner to design the new building. In 1905, upon the completion of the new court house, the Common Council decided to improve the public square. They passed a resolution authorizing City Engineer Robert H. Canfield to develop plans and cost estimates for the improvements of Court House Square.

Court House Square was thus reconfirmed as the public square at the turn of the century, seventy years after the establishment of the square as the central place of civic activity in the original 1835 plan for Corning. By this time the earlier buildings had been removed or destroyed and the square was cleared of all religious institutions and opened for Canfield to develop a plan that included the new court house and a public square. Thus Block 66 retained its central focus

as a planning unit in Corning's physical development and entered a new phase as a designed public square.

The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago produced a wave of enthusiasm for civic planning and design throughout the United States. The spatial and design ideals used in the plan were based on classic planning and architectural principles taught by the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris where many architects of the time had studied. The grandeur and scale of the fair gave the United States a new vision of what city design could be and popularized a new architectural style. The new urban planning approach became known as the City Beautiful Movement and the Beaux Arts style in architecture. Both Warner and Canfield based their designs on the principles and styles made popular by the Columbian Exposition.

The new court house was located in the northeast quadrant of the square at the corner of West First and Pine Streets. To site the court house in this location a considerable amount of grading had to be done. Warner chose the classic form and style of the Greek Temple for the court house which was placed approximately 10 feet above the sidewalk elevation of West First Street. The approach to the front door was via a grand stair case.

Canfield's plans for the public square were equally as grand and based on the design principles of the Beaux Arts style and City Beautiful Movement. Canfield's plan was presented to the public in 1905. It was slightly altered in 1907, presumably based on the projected costs of the 1905 Plan. The outer edge of the square was defined with a curb, a grass strip and a four foot sidewalk. Street trees were planted in the grass strip equally spaced around the square. The interior plan for the square was structured and spatially organized based on the location of the court house and three formal circular plazas, the Band Plaza, Fountain Plaza and Flower Plaza. The placement and relationship of the four major features of the square were skillfully sited considering the rather severe slope of the block.

In analyzing the structure of the plan it was divided into four equal north-south, east-west quadrants. The two south quadrants contained relatively gentle to moderate north facing slopes. The two north quadrants contained relatively steep north facing slopes. The northeast quadrant was the location of the court house, with the main entrance facing north on West First Street. The Band Plaza was centrally located in the two western quadrants. The 140 foot diameter circle

was accessed by a central entrance off Walnut Street and a diagonal entry path from the corner of West Second and Walnut Streets. Located in the center of the south-east quadrant was the Flower Plaza. The 60 foot diameter circle was accessed by a diagonal path from the corner of West Second and Pine Streets. A second entry was centrally located on Pine Street. The path entered the circle on a diagonal from the Pine Street entrance. The Fountain Plaza was located in the center of the two south quadrants. The 60 foot diameter circle was accessed by a central entrance off West Second Street. The three plazas were connected by straight radial paths from the center of each circle. The Band Plaza was connected to the entry landing of the court house by a slightly curving path on the slope. The final entry to the square was located at the corner of Walnut and West First Streets. The gently curving path went up the slope, intersected the Band Plaza-Court House path and connected to the center of the Flower Plaza

All of the major features and spaces of the square were carefully articulated and defined. Each entry to the square was delineated with plantings of shrubs on both sides of the path. The three plazas were defined by tree and shrub plantings around the circles. Each plaza had a major focal point from which the names were derived. The Band Plaza was to have had a pavilion at the center, however, it was never constructed. The Fountain Plaza had a 25 foot stone water basin with a sculptured fountain at the center. The Flower Plaza had a large planting of hydrangeas at the center. Each of the plazas were surrounded by benches. The front of the court house had a very formal planting scheme of shrubs and perennials. The back of the court house was planted with large trees. This planting provided a backdrop for the building when viewed from West First Street and also as a screen to block the back of the building from the rest of the square. Canfield's design for the square was highly articulated and skillfully organized, considering the severe slope of the site. Its overall structure, particularly its sub-components, reflects the basic principles of the City Beautiful Movement. Based on Canfield Park's history and local significance as a central planning unit in the development and growth of the city and as an example of park design the period of significance for Canfield Park is 1835 to 1912.

### **Assessment of Integrity**

Assessment of integrity is based on an analysis of each character-defining feature present during the historic period compared to those which exist today. Each of the features are listed as historic if they were present during the period of significance and existing or not existing. A

determination was then made regarding the contribution of each existing feature to the significance of the square. A contributing feature is one "... present during the period of significance and possesses historic integrity reflecting the character at that time or is capable of yielding important information about the period."<sup>88</sup> A non-contributing feature is one "... not present during the significant period, or due to alterations, disturbances, additions or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity reflecting its character at that time or is incapable of yielding important information about the period."<sup>89</sup>

### **Topography (Historic, Existing and Contributing)**

Although a copy of the historic topographic map was not located, in laying the 1907 Plan over the 1994 topographic map there is a perfect match.

### **Vegetation (Historic, Existing and Contributing)**

Many of the trees and shrubs located on the 1907 Plan still exist, although they have not been maintained in recent years. Throughout the park many invasive species (including Norway Maples, Boxelders, Elms, etc.) have appeared. This is particularly so in some of the shrub massings.

### **Spatial Organization (Historic and Contributing)**

While the structure and organization of the 1907 Plan is clearly visible in the ground plane, the vertical definition along the paths and three plazas has been altered due to the growth of plant materials or the removal of plant materials.

### **Circulation**

- \* Perimeter Sidewalk- existing and contributing; the historic walk was 4 feet wide and has been replaced (date unknown) with a 4 1/2 foot concrete walk in the same location.
- \* Court House West Walk- historic, existing and contributing.
- \* Court House East Entry Walk- historic, not existing.

- \* 8 Foot Wide Park Paths- historic, existing and contributing; The location and alignment of the historic paths are visible in the topography of the site. In most cases the width is also visible. The gravel and stone gutters have been covered with soil and grass. However, in eight different locations the existing cover was removed to reveal the paving material and stone gutters.
- \* Court House Service Area- historic, not existing.
- \* Court House East Entry Walk- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Second Street Access Ramp- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Court House Three Steps (curb sidewalk)- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Vehicular Access and Court House Parking Lot- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.

### **Buildings and Structures**

- \* Court House- historic, existing and contributing.
- \* Court House Entry Stairs- existing and contributing. The stairs were altered (date unknown) by adding side boarding walls which allowed a landing to be constructed in the middle of the original single flight of stairs. The original 3 x 3 foot boarder blocks were also realigned.
- \* Court House West Entry Steps- historic, not existing.
- \* Court House Iron Stairs- historic, not existing.
- \* Court House East Access Steps- historic, not existing.

- \* Bandstand- not existing; Although the Bandstand was located on the 1907 Plan it was never built.
- \* Court House West Entry Steps- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* East Retaining Wall Steps- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Court House Steel Stairs- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Playground North- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Playground South- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.

#### **Site Engineering Systems**

- \* Gutters, Court House Entry Stairs- historic, existing and contributing.
- \* Gutters, Court House West Walk- historic, existing and contributing.
- \* Retaining Wall West of Court House- existing and non-contributing; The original retaining wall was altered or removed (date unknown) and the existing wall constructed (date unknown).
- \* Retaining Wall, East of Court House- historic, not existing.
- \* Retaining Wall, Court House Parking Lot- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Retaining Wall, Playground North- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.

## **Mechanical Systems**

- \* Drain Grates (6)- 2 historic, existing and contributing; 4 existing and non-contributing; No mechanical information was included on the 1907 Plan, however, one early postcard did illustrate a round drain grate. The 1994 Topographic Survey locates six drain grates. Field inspection confirmed two to be identical to the one in the postcard. A third grate appears to be historic, but is unconfirmed. Three grates were added later (date unknown) and are not historic.
- \* Manhole Cover- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.

## **Furnishings and Objects**

- \* Benches- historic, not existing.
- \* Drinking Fountains- historic, not existing.
- \* Flagpole- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Bollards- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Electrical Box- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Cannon Footers- existing, undetermined; The cannon footers did not appear on the 1907 Plan. No information was located regarding these features. However, they may have been added after World War II and could be significant in their own right.
- \* Vault- existing, undetermined; The vault did not appear on the 1907 Plan. No information was located regarding this feature. However, it may have been associated with the original drainage system.

- \* Parking Meters- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Signage- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Utility Poles- existing and non-contributing, were added (date unknown) after period of significance.
- \* Fire Hydrant- existing and non-contributing, was added (date unknown) after period of significance.

### **Water Features**

- \* Fountain- historic, not existing.

Based on the significance of Canfield Park and the analysis of the existing features, the integrity of the property as a whole must be evaluated. "Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance."<sup>90</sup> According to the Secretary of the Interior, historic properties either retain their integrity or they do not. Assessment of integrity is based on the condition and existence of the physical features of the property and how they convey its significance.

In order to evaluate and assess integrity, seven aspects or qualities that define it have been established. The seven aspects are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

- \* Location- the place where the historic property was constructed or where the historic event took place.
- \* Design- the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.
- \* Setting- the physical environment of a historic property.
- \* Materials- the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

**Workmanship-** the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period of history or prehistory.

**Feeling-** a property's expression of aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time.

**Association-** the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.<sup>91</sup>

As documented, Canfield Park is significant to Corning's growth and development and for its landscape design as a public square. In assessing the seven aspects of integrity, those that are important to a public square are integrity of location, design, materials and feeling. The following is a description of the property's existing condition in regards to each of the seven aspects of integrity.

**Location-** Canfield Park retains high integrity of location. It is located in the same place as during the period of significance.

**Design-** Canfield Park retains partial integrity of design. The overall structure and organization of the property is intact. The spatial arrangement of the plan is evident in the base plane, but is not completely evident in the vertical plane.

The fountain, which was a very important feature to the park, no longer exists and a number of contemporary features have been added to the property. While these alterations and contemporary features detract from the historic character, they do not damage the overall design and organization of the property.

**Setting-** Canfield Park retains high integrity of setting. Although an assessment of the setting was not a part of this report, the park is located in the historic southside neighborhood which is presently being considered for nomination as a Historic District.

**Materials-** Canfield Park retains partial integrity of materials. Many of the historic plant materials are extant and from site inspection it appears that some portion of the historic path material remains.

**Workmanship-** Canfield Park, as a whole, retains low integrity of workmanship. However, the grading of the property retains a high degree of integrity.

**Feeling-** Canfield Park retains partial integrity of feeling. The park is still used as a park, although the activities and use are different from the historic period. The historic plaza's of the park are evident in the topography but only partially evident as spaces. The lawn and plant material provide only a partial feeling of what the historic park was like.

**Association-** Canfield Park is not associated with an important historic event or person.

**Integrity of the Property as a Whole-** Canfield Park possesses some degree of integrity in all of the applicable aspects of integrity. It possesses high or partial integrity in location, design, setting, materials and feeling illustrating that Canfield Park retains integrity.

#### **Preservation Treatment- Preliminary Recommendations**

Preservation treatment recommendations are based on the significance and integrity of a property and proposed use and future plans for the property. An assessment of the city's future intentions and needs regarding Canfield park was beyond the scope of this project. Thus the recommendations with regard to treatment are limited and only preliminary. "Four approaches currently are recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for the treatment of historic resources: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Restoration."<sup>92</sup> "Choosing an appropriate treatment is critical in deciding the future of the historic resource. This decision is based on several factors including '... the historical significance, the physical condition, the proposed use, and intended interpretation."<sup>93</sup> Based on the fact that the city's proposed use and intended interpretation are unknown, it is difficult to recommend an overall treatment for Canfield Park. However, in light of the research for this report, the observation of use during site visits and the fact that this is a public park, it would seem reasonable to assume that rehabilitation would be the proposed primary treatment for the entire park in the future. The Secretary of the Interior's definition of Rehabilitation is as follows: "Rehabilitation is the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values."<sup>94</sup> Under the framework of Rehabilitation as the primary treatment for the entire park, recommended treatments for individual features could include the other three treatments.

At this point in time, based on this report and a lack of knowledge of the city's intentions for the park, the recommended treatment is Preservation. The Secretary of the Interior's definition of Preservation is as follows: "Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project."<sup>95</sup> To assist those responsible for the maintenance and management of a historic property the Secretary of the Interior has developed eight standards related to the Preservation Treatment. They are as follows:

"Standards for Preservation : (1) A property shall be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that maximizes the retention of distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships. Where a treatment and use have not been identified, a property shall be protected and, if necessary, stabilized until additional work may be undertaken.

(2) The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The replacement of intact or repairable historic materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property shall be avoided.

(3) Each property shall be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Work needed to stabilize, consolidate, and conserve existing historic materials and features shall be physically and visually compatible, identifiable upon close inspection, and properly documented for future research.

(4) Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved.

(5) Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.

(6) The existing condition of historic features shall be evaluated to determine the appropriate level of intervention needed. Where the severity of deterioration requires repair or limited replacement of a distinctive feature, the new material shall match the old in composition, design, color, and texture.

(7) Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, shall be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials shall not be used.

(8) Archeological resources shall be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures shall be undertaken."<sup>96</sup>

Specifically for Canfield park, two Preservation recommendations should be considered for immediate action. Both are necessary to retain and preserve existing historic material of the park.

#### Vegetation

The practice of indiscriminate removal and pruning of historic plant material should be stopped. If it continues, it will damage and/or eliminate the integrity of the vegetation at the site and ultimately diminish the historic character of the park. If pruning is to proceed it must be based on the knowledge of what materials are historic and what materials are not. Removal of invasive species would be an initial recommended approach.

#### Topography

Steps should be taken to stabilize those sections of the park where erosion is occurring. In specific areas erosion is not only affecting the topography, but it is damaging the existing historic materials which covered the park paths.

A final recommendation is that the city take whatever actions are necessary to produce a document of treatment recommendations for Canfield Park. In the meantime, adopting the treatment of Preservation and the general standards will protect the historic resource from further deterioration and damage.

## CHAPTER 2

### DENISON PARK

The site of Denison Park was originally a swamp.<sup>97</sup> In 1805, Ansel McCall built a sawmill and grist mill on the land and later it came to be known as The Mills.<sup>98</sup> At the beginning of the twentieth-century the area took on a new identity when the residents of Corning decided that the city could use a park that was suitable for all to use.<sup>99</sup>

On July 14, 1906, the subject of building a new park was first brought up during a regular meeting of the Corning Business Men's Association.<sup>100</sup> They became interested in the proposition and immediately began to search for a suitable site.<sup>101</sup> The site found for the park was the swampy area on the east side of the city, around the site of the Johnson Mill.<sup>102</sup> Later in July, the Business Men's Association decided that they would purchase the property. In addition to the Johnson Mill the site also was the location of the East Side Ball Park.<sup>103</sup> The remainder of the site was a swamp and dumping grounds.<sup>104</sup>

On September 6, 1906, the 33 acres of land chosen for the new park was purchased from the Johnson Estate.<sup>105</sup> Harold A. Caparn, a prominent Landscape Architect from New York City, was hired to draw up a set of plans for the park and construction began in April of 1907.<sup>106</sup> Around the same time, Mill Street, which bordered the park property to the west, was changed to Park Avenue.<sup>107</sup> On May 14th through the 18th, the Business Men's Association held an elaborate country fair at City Hall in order to raise the funds needed to construct the new public park, which had not yet been named.<sup>108</sup> The fair raised approximately \$3,100.<sup>109</sup>

During the first year of construction, funding for the work was extremely difficult to raise.<sup>110</sup> In April of 1908, a generous benefactor saved the project from financial ruin.<sup>111</sup> Charles L. Denison, the son of lifelong resident and businessman of Corning, Charles G. Denison, gave \$10,000 to the park project in the memory of his father.<sup>112</sup> In recognition of his generous contribution to the park fund, the new east-side recreation grounds was named Denison Park, after his father, Charles G. Denison.<sup>113</sup> During the summer of 1908, work progressed rapidly.<sup>114</sup> In an effort to raise more funds for the park, the community held a local talent 'Society Circus' on the afternoons and evenings of August 19, 20 and 21 of 1908.<sup>115</sup>

In July of 1909, a joint commission of the Bureau of Public Works and the City Common Council, took a tour of the park to examine the work done and give their approval of the project.<sup>116</sup> An odd donation in 1909 of several animals added a zoo to the new and incomplete park.<sup>117</sup>

On September 2, 1909, at a meeting of the Corning Business Men's Association, it was announced that Charles L. Denison of New York had donated an additional \$15,265.<sup>118</sup> This contribution enabled the Business Men's Association to transfer Denison Park, debt free, to the city.<sup>119</sup> On September 6, 1909, Labor Day, a public ceremony was held to present Denison Park to the City of Corning.<sup>120</sup> Mayor McNamara accepted the deed from Dr. George F. Showers, president of the Business Men's Association, with the stipulation that the city maintained the park and that the park should be officially named 'Denison Park.'<sup>121</sup> Charles Denison had personally contributed more than half of the park's \$40,000 construction cost.<sup>122</sup>

For the most part, the residents of the city were thrilled to have their new park.<sup>123</sup> Unfortunately, some were less appreciative. Only three days before the park's opening ceremony, some social deviants made a rampage through the park.<sup>124</sup> They damaged shrubs, broke the roof of the zoo's pigeon house, killed a fox and overturned the park's cannon for reasons unknown.<sup>125</sup> Some of the passive opposition only spoke nostalgically of the old East Side Park and the high school football and semi-professional baseball games as well as the numerous circuses held there.<sup>126</sup>

Work continued in the park through 1910. A concrete children's wading pool was built, picnic pavilions were erected, and drinking fountains were placed in the park.<sup>127</sup> The concrete bridge, designed by R. H. Canfield, the designer of Court House Park and Superintendent of Public Works, was also constructed at this time.<sup>128</sup> It was located in the southern section of the park. A ball field was also installed in 1910, along with a quarter mile running track and a playground which included slides, swings and seesaws, located in the northern section of the park.<sup>129</sup>

For many years to follow, summers in Corning meant that there would be fun, relaxation, recreation, exhibits and special events to look forward to in Denison Park.<sup>130</sup> In September of 1911, Corning's firemen planned a convention that was to include exhibition airplane flights by

Jean Godet of the Curtiss Exhibition Company.<sup>131</sup> On September 6, 1911, approximately 20,000 people paid 25 cents each to watch Godet fly his Curtiss biplane. Unfortunately, the weather was not cooperative and the concerned Glenn Curtiss advised Godet not to attempt the flight.<sup>132</sup> Godet did not take Curtiss' advice and flew the plane.

Calmly and coolly, Godet seated himself in the flimsy looking structure, examined the levers, waved his hand to his mechanics and went speeding across the Denison park ball diamond and out on to the greensward. In a twinkling he had tilted his machine upwards and was making for the upper currents.<sup>133</sup>

Once Godet reached approximately 100 feet, a gust of wind tilted the aircraft and Godet crashed behind the river dike.<sup>134</sup> He walked away harmed only in pride.

The firemen arranged another exhibition flight on Friday afternoon, September 22, 1911, this time by Eugene B. Ely, also a Curtiss aviator.<sup>135</sup> His successful flight took him to an altitude of 1000 feet above Denison Park.<sup>136</sup>

Flying in such a beautiful setting which the natural surroundings of Denison Park affords, is a pleasure even to one more than ordinarily inured to the thrills which make aviation a rare sport and a pastime rather than a mere vocation.<sup>137</sup>

A number of changes were made to the park from 1916 through 1919. In 1916, the park received the first power lawnmower in the area to cut the vast acreage of grass.<sup>138</sup> Later the following year, sandboxes, a large open-air picnic pavilion and tennis courts were added to the park.<sup>139</sup> With the onset of World War I, the price of animal food sky rocketed and caused the zoo to close in 1917.<sup>140</sup> Two years later, in 1919, the Memorial Gate was designed by James Walker, an Architect from Buffalo, New York. The gate was erected at the main entrance off of Conhocton Street, and dedicated at noon on Memorial Day, May 30th, 1919.<sup>141</sup>

In 1919, the park's benefactor, Charles L. Denison, donated the funds necessary to build a public swimming pool in the park.<sup>142</sup> The pool's heating apparatus was also paid for by Denison and the pools construction was under way by early summer.<sup>143</sup> It was projected that the pool would be completed and open the following summer. However, due to water shortages in the city and problems with the heater, the pool's opening was delayed.<sup>144</sup> During the spring of 1921, Charles Denison presented the city with a chlorinator for the park's pool which aided in the conservation of water, allowing the pool to finally be opened on May 30, 1921.<sup>145</sup> The Bath

House was designed during this same year. The project was headed by William O. Drake, Civil Engineer of the Corning Board of Public Works. The pool was closed again in 1923 due to another water shortage but reopened and was in full use by the summer of 1924.<sup>146</sup> Financed by public subscription over a drowning in the river, the pool was opened despite a very tight city budget.<sup>147</sup>

People did not only come to Denison Park for the recreation but also for the culture. Every Sunday for years, band concerts were an afternoon tradition.<sup>148</sup> Nearly 12,000 people from Corning and the outlying rural areas congregated at Denison Park on Labor Day, September 6, 1920.<sup>149</sup> The arrangements were made by the Chamber of Commerce and all enjoyed the day picnicking in the park.<sup>150</sup>

Because a large portion of the park was constructed on the swamp, water and wet grounds were a constant problem. It became necessary to redesign the park to provide a drainage system to remedy the situation.<sup>151</sup> In 1927, Charles L. Denison once again made a generous donation of \$12,000 to build the park lake to deal with the water problem.<sup>152</sup> This left the city with a bill of only \$3,000 to cover the remaining costs.<sup>153</sup> The city honored Denison at a public dinner when he visited Corning to check the work of the completed lake.<sup>154</sup> It is unknown when the lake was completed, what its limits were (both in size and shape), or who was responsible for its design.

The summer of 1929 brought a new attraction to Denison Park. A 12 minute boat tour around the park's lake was available for visitors enjoyment. The trip began at the boat house and toured the entire lake via a light motorboat. The tour cost adults 10 cents and children only a nickel. The son of the caretaker of the pool at Denison Park, Lloyd Sutherland, was the boats captain. This new venture was a gift from the park's benefactor, Charles L. Denison. The boat was purchased with the interest that had accrued in the original park fund from 1909. The \$272.00 interest was forwarded to Charles, but he had returned it to the city to be put towards something for the park, thus the motorboat tour.<sup>155</sup>

Throughout the 1930's, Denison Park continued to draw visitors and was a focal point of the community.<sup>156</sup> The park was very popular as a tourist camp, attracting tent campers and trailer campers alike.<sup>157</sup> Visitors came from neighboring states each summer.<sup>158</sup> Family reunions were en vogue and the park was an ideal location to hold them.<sup>159</sup> This created a high

demand for the pavilions and reservations became necessary.<sup>160</sup> The country schools would hold their annual field days in the park each spring.<sup>161</sup> The city conducted a recreation program during the children's summer vacations and, during the Great Depression, a special effort was made to have programs for the unemployed adults of the community as well.<sup>162</sup> With three softball leagues competing for usage of the ball field, the park always had visitors during playing seasons.<sup>163</sup>

Unfortunately, sometimes people are never happy with what ever you give them and such was the case with the serpentine lake that was built in the late 1920's.<sup>164</sup> Neighbors complained about the mosquito infestation and odors that resulted from the water being stagnant.<sup>165</sup> During the fall of 1939, a large portion of the wings of the lake were filled in to help alleviate the problem.<sup>166</sup>

In June of 1945, the city was host to "Here's Your Infantry," a demonstration team out from Fort Benning, Georgia.<sup>167</sup> They performed in Denison Park to help entice people to purchase War Bonds. The Bond Drive was a huge success, with \$747,391 worth of E bonds sold in the Corning area.<sup>168</sup>

In 1946, there was a major flood that set new records in Corning.<sup>169</sup> The force of the flood waters weakened the already deteriorating Gibson Bridge to the point that the structure was shaky and unsafe for use.<sup>170</sup> It was necessary to come up with a solution because Route 17, a heavily used route, crossed over the river on Gibson Bridge. Route 17 connected Elmira to Corning and East Market Street.<sup>171</sup> Shocking the citizens, the State Department of Transportation's solution was to re-site the western approach highway for the bridge replacement, straight through the middle of Denison Park.<sup>172</sup> This plan was not well received as many of Corning's citizens felt that bisecting the park with a highway would ruin it.<sup>173</sup> Concerned over the possible destruction of the park people were quick to bring up the fact that the park was specified to be used for recreation and the highway would violate Denison's intent and wishes.<sup>174</sup> Others were only concerned over whether the new highway was to be rerouted through the business district of the city.<sup>175</sup> They preferred that the highway would be routed through less congested areas of the city.<sup>176</sup> Those that advocated the State's plan pointed out that the State would not be responsible for covering the expense of the new bridge and repaving if Route 17

did not cross the park and go through the city.<sup>177</sup> The whole city was in a ruckus over the plan, both for and against.<sup>178</sup>

The Common Council decided it would mean political suicide if they assumed the responsibility for the decision. Therefore, in November of 1946, it was put to a vote in a referendum.<sup>179</sup> The vote was very close and 95% of all the registered voters participated.<sup>180</sup> Unfortunately for the future of Denison Park, the vote was in favor of building the highway through the park.<sup>181</sup> The opposition obtained an injunction but in February the injunctions were denied and the route had legal clearance.<sup>182</sup> The plans included four-lane approaches and a bridge.<sup>183</sup> Construction began in 1947 and was finished in September of 1950. The new Gibson Bridge was dedicated by Governor Thomas E. Dewey on October 4, 1950.<sup>184</sup>

The elevated approach through the park was designed and landscaped so that it blends into the natural scenery of the area. Under-passes permit users to go from one part of the park to the other.<sup>185</sup>

The park continued to be used, although because of the new highway it had to be almost completely re-built.<sup>186</sup>

In 1960, the school board was considering building a high school and had chosen the northern edge of Denison Park for its site.<sup>187</sup> Again, opponents objected fiercely on the grounds that the school would be depriving the city of recreational land.<sup>188</sup> The board attempted to cool the issue by promising that the school's recreational facilities would be open to public use.<sup>189</sup> In February of the same year, the plan was defeated.<sup>190</sup>

The 1972 flood that destroyed a good portion of downtown Corning also destroyed much of Denison Park. The city spent thousands of dollars in rehabilitating and repairing the park.<sup>191</sup> Through a grant from New York States Parks and Recreation Division, Denison Park had a new pool built to replace the original 1920's pool and bathhouse.<sup>192</sup>

**PERIOD 1**  
**CONSTRUCTION OF DENISON PARK**  
**1907-1910**

**Plans pertaining to Period 1, Denison Park:**

None Available

**Photographs utilized for research for Period 1, Denison Park:**

1908-1909 Concrete Bridge (94.0.650)

1907-1909 Construction (94.0.651)

1909 View of Bandstand (94.0.655)

1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.654)

1907-1909 Construction (94.0.652)

1907-1909 Construction (94.0.653)

1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.656)

Note: All photos mentioned are the property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society (CPPHS).

**Topography**

The topography of Denison Park during the execution of Harold A. Caparn's design was primarily flat. The evidence of this came from analyzing historic photographic documentation since the original plan could not be located during the research for this report..

The north and western sections of the park had a slight undulating pattern to the grade. In the northeastern sector of the park the grade rose toward the east, near the river boarder, where the levee was constructed. The levee was approximately 10 to 15 feet high with approximately a 30% side slope in some areas.

The park was enclosed by a deep swale that was located on the eastern boarder. It widened out in the southern section and then narrowed to the west almost to the location of the wading pool. The swale, which contained several islands, had an approximately 4 to 5 foot drop in elevation to the water level. Depending on the season, the swale at times was nothing more than a shallow swamp. The swale gave the park character by creating elevation differences and by creating land features such as islands and peninsulas.<sup>193</sup>

### Vegetation

Without the information that would have been provided on the original plans, it is difficult to identify what was planted, how many and where. From the historical photographs, and the apparent age of some of the existing trees some of the original park's plant materials were located, although complete identification of them was not possible.



Figure 2.1: Denison Park, vegetation (CPPHS, #94.0.652).

On the northwestern side of the park, low shrubs lined the sidewalk near the children's wading pool. There were numerous deciduous shade trees of approximately 4 to 6 inches in diameter, dispersed around the wading pool and encircling the water feature. The carriage paths in this section of the park were lined with low shrubbery and young deciduous trees.

Toward the northeastern boarder a grove of mature deciduous trees existed. Besides this grove, there were only scattered large and mature deciduous shade trees spotting the central section. There were, however, small trees and shrubs planted throughout the park. Along the center of the eastern boarder several large deciduous trees existed and were complemented by new trees, approximately 2 inches in diameter. These plantings helped to define the edge of the carriage road at the base of the levee.

The southern section of the park, which was one of the most heavily visited areas, was planted with young shrubbery as well as small caliber deciduous trees. To the south of the cement bridge, along the southern side of the carriage path, was a plot of three even rows of low growing shrubs. At the intersection of paths, across from the bridge was another matching triangular plot of rowed shrubs. The island south of the cement bridge was dotted with 2 inch caliber trees and one large 8 inch tree marking the center of the island. The carriage and walking paths in the southern section of Denison Park were also lined with small young shade trees.<sup>194</sup>

## Spatial Organization

Prior to the highway/bridge being introduced in the late 1940's, the park had been broken into four sections: North, South, East and West sections. Areas are presented as delineated until Period 3.

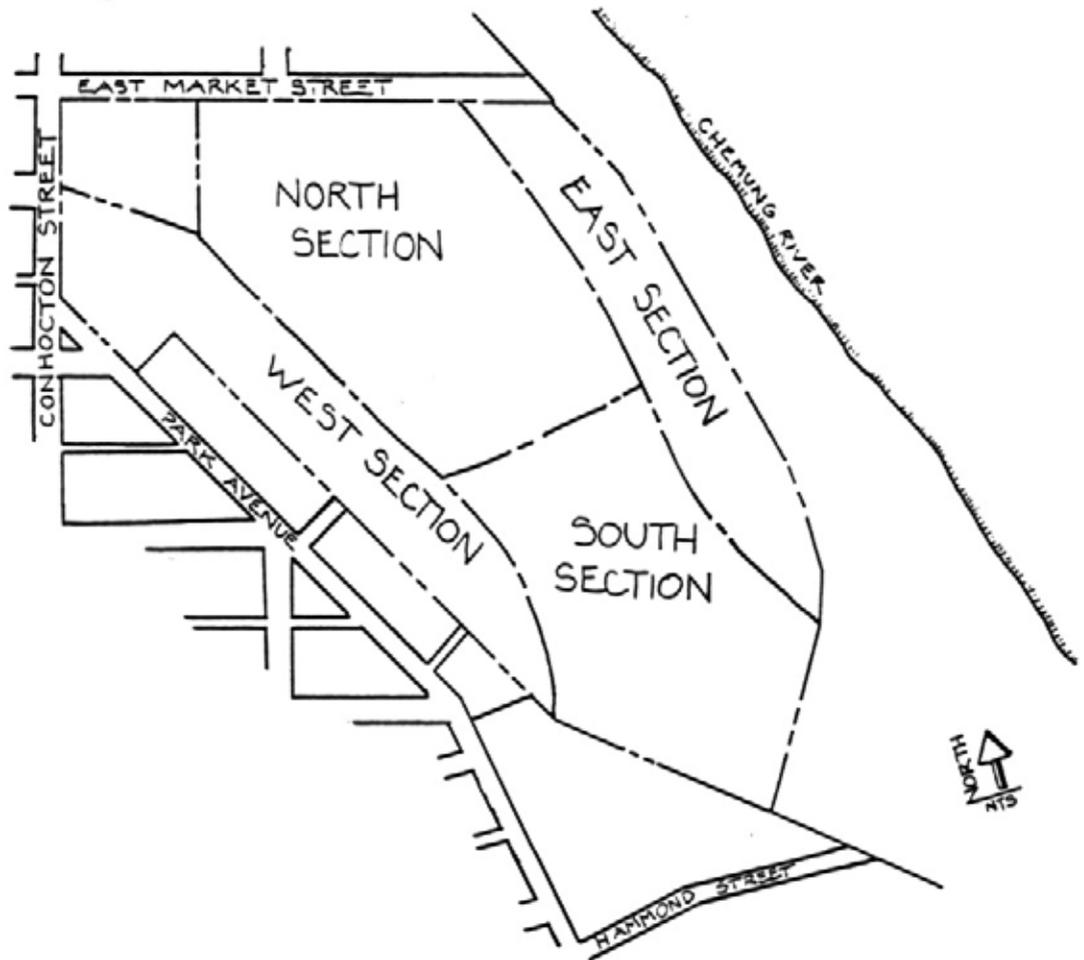


Figure 2.2: Denison Park, sectional division (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

The parks exact spatial organization is not fully known during this period because of the lack of availability of an original plan. From historic photographs of the period and later maps, a general spatial organization has been surmised.

The park was broken down into four attraction areas with open space and paths between them. From the East Market Street entrance to the park, the baseball field dominated the northern central section of the park. To the southeast of the baseball field, in the southern central section, the bandstand/gazebo, tower and concrete bridge stood together creating a gathering and focal point. Surrounding the central sections, along the western, southern and eastern borders was the water feature and island system. This attraction area was mainly open space for walking and carriage paths. The final attraction area was located in the northwestern section of the park, surrounded by the carriage paths from the main Conhocton Street and Park Avenue entrances. This area was probably the busiest due to the location of the children's wading pool and the playground equipment area near by.<sup>195</sup>

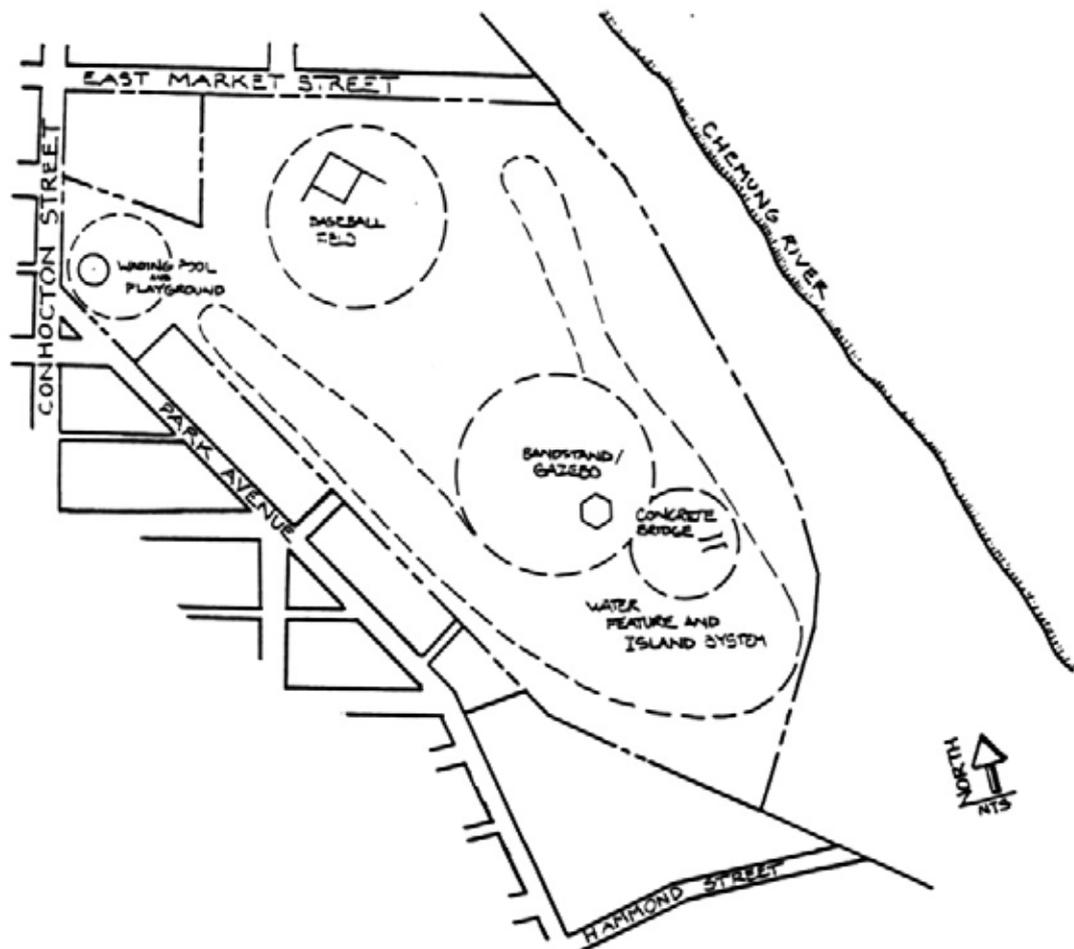


Figure 2.3: Denison Park, spatial organization, 1907–1910 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## Circulation

Due to the unavailability of a plan for the construction period, the exact circulation routes are unknown. However, historic photographs illustrate that carriage paths and walking paths were located throughout the park. It is also known that a one quarter mile running track was built during this period.<sup>196</sup> Its exact location is unknown. Comparing historic photographs with a later plan, the location plan of the major pathways was produced. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>197</sup>

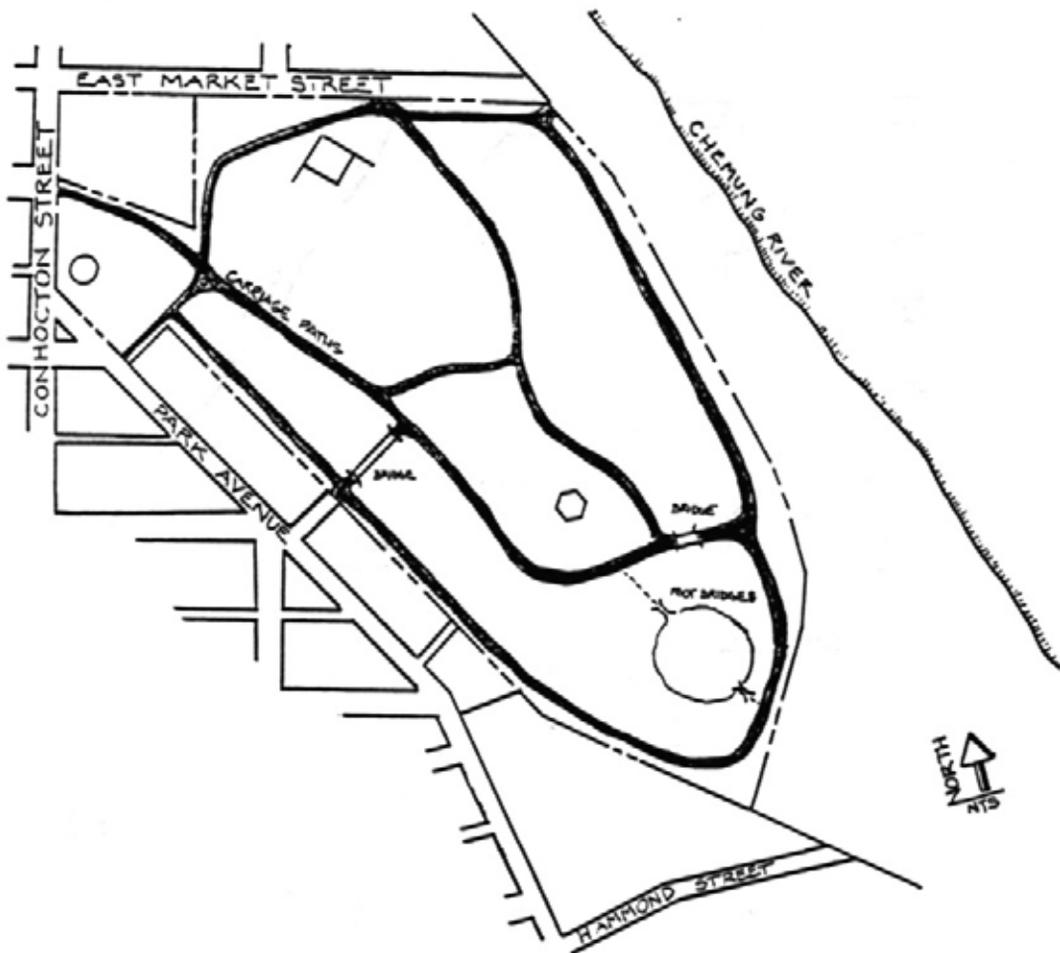


Figure 2.4: Denison Park, estimated circulation 1907–1910 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## Buildings and Structures

### Shed

The only building known to exist during this period was a small wooden shed. Located in the southern central section of the park, the shed was approximately 20 feet directly west of the concrete bridge. The shed was approximately 8 feet in width, 10 feet in length and 8 feet in height at the peak of the roof (the actual dimensions are unknown, this is only an estimate based upon the visual assessment of a 1909 photograph). The purpose, or use, of the shed is not known.<sup>198</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

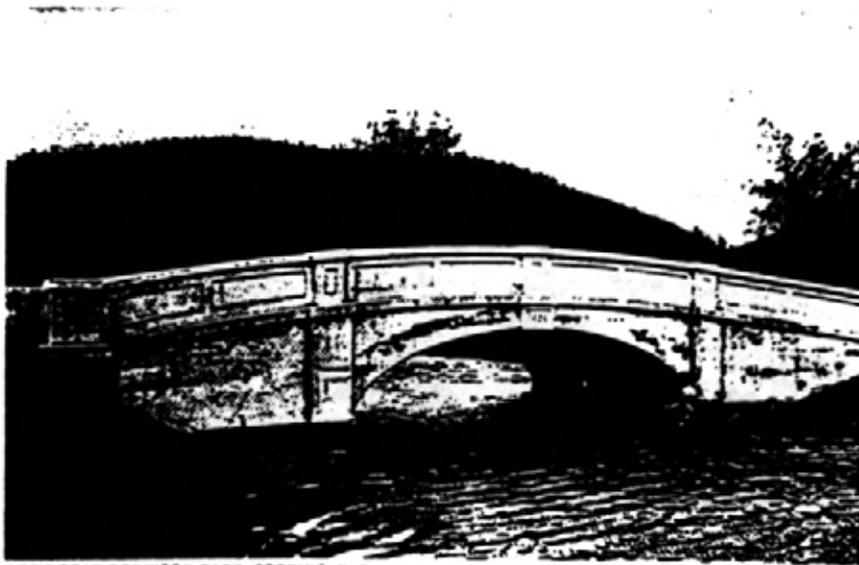


Figure 2.5: Denison Park, South section (CPPHS, #94.0.655).

## Concrete Bridge

The concrete bridge was one of the major structures of the southern central section of the park. Designed by the Superintendent of Public Works, R. H. Canfield, the bridge was completed in 1910. The purpose of the bridge was to allow carriage and pedestrian travel across the eastern wing of the water feature. The design of the bridge was fairly simple and it was not very ornate. The base of the bridge was designed with a center, shallow arch that met straight and solid abutments on either side. The center of the arch had a block that was inscribed to frame the date 1909. The structure was completely symmetrical and was inlaid with rectangular shapes to decorate the low walls that bordered the gently curved road bed. The walls were capped and included a slight, but recognizable, overhang.<sup>199</sup>

The bridge measured 18 feet in width (inside edge to inside edge) at the center. From the outside edge to the outside edge, the measurement was 20 1/2 feet in width. The outer width at the ends of the bridge were 29 feet, 5 inches. The bridge's overall length was 60 feet. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>200</sup>



BRIDGE IN DENISON PARK, CORNING, N. Y.

Figure 2.6: Denison Park, concrete bridge (Dimitroff Collection).

## Tower

Located directly to the west of the concrete bridge was the location of the concrete tower. The tower was cylindrical and included an iron or steel frame basket on the top of the cylinder. The basket was covered with a metal, inverted disk-shaped overhanging roof. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>201</sup>

Driveway in Dennison Park, Corning, N. Y.



Figure 2.7: Denison Park, west side of tower and bridge (Dimitroff Collection).

### Gazebo / Bandstand

To the northwest of the tower and concrete bridge, in the southern section of the park, stood a large wooden framed gazebo/bandstand. The platform was six-sided and elevated to approximately 10 feet above ground level. The platform was bordered with a rustic wooden railing that was approximately waist high. The roof of the structure mimicked the platform in shape with an overhang and included a flag pole jutting upward from its peak. The roof and platform were supported by six large wooden posts and were covered, from the platform to the ground, with horizontally mounted boards. The actual dimensions and color of the structure are unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>202</sup>



Figure 2.8: Denison Park, South section of park (Dimitroff Collection).

## Pavilion

There was a large wooden framed, open air pavilion located in the southern section of the park, on the island. The rectangular structure was almost due south of the concrete bridge. The open sided structure had a peaked roof that also had four sides and was supported by large wooden posts. From the information provided on the 1945 Map of Denison Park and the 1947 Plan of Denison Park Alterations, the length of the pavilion was 25 feet and the width was 15 feet. The pavilion's other dimensions and color are unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>203</sup>

## Bridges

There were four rustic, wooden bridges constructed in the park between 1907 and 1910. The bridges were two separate, matched sets. The larger set of bridges were located off of the western central entrance. They spanned the western water features and ended on the island that separated the two. In direct line with one another, the bridges were designed to allow carriages and pedestrians to access the central section of the park from Park Avenue. From historic photographic documentation, the materials of the bridges have been determined to be: steel 'I' beams, supporting the bed, placed on concrete footings and supports; rustic-cut, barked logs for side railings and railing supports, and wooden planks for the bed. The combined length of the bridges was 120 feet.<sup>204</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

The other bridge set were located in the southern section of the park, connecting the island with the rest of the park. The one bridge spanned the southeastern bank of the levee to the island and the other was located directly across the island from it, to the northwest. Both of these bridges were designed for pedestrian travel only. They were constructed in a similar manner to the other bridges and apparently of similar materials. The main difference between the two sets of bridges, besides the smaller size of the latter pair, is that the second set was designed in a shallow inverted 'V' shape. The spans of the two bridges were 40 feet each. The width of the bridges was 8 feet. All other dimensions and the color of the bridges are unknown.<sup>205</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

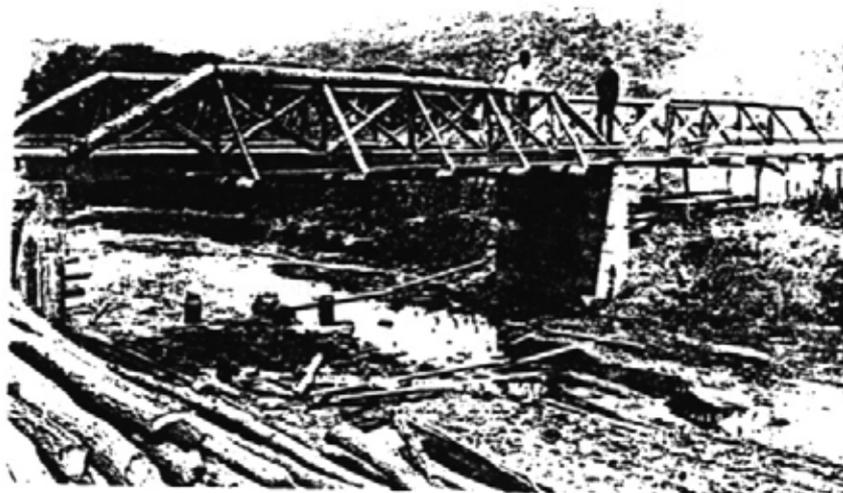


Figure 2.9: Denison Park, Park Ave. bridge facing south (CPPHS, #94.0.653).



Figure 2.10: Denison Park, Island footbridge, facing east (Dimitroff Collection).

## Ball Field

The ball field was located in the northern section of the park and the diamond was oriented in a north to south direction. Whether or not the ball field had a backstop or bleacher is unknown. Documentation of other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics has not been found.

## Site Engineering Systems

### Levee

The levee that prevents the Chemung River from flooding the park every spring was constructed during the 1907-1910 period. The levee borders the entire eastern side of the park. From historic photographs, the height of the levy was approximated to be between 10 and 15 feet. The side slopes in some of the pictures appear to be nearly a 3 to 1 slope in some areas. The top of the levee was wide enough to be used as a carriage path. The original dimensions of the levee are unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>206</sup>



Figure 2.11: Denison Park, levee, facing northwest (CPPHS, #94.0.651).

## Furnishings and Objects

### Bollards

Appearing in several historical photographs are knee high wooden bollards. They boarded the walk to the wading pool from Park Avenue. They also surrounded the wading pool, acting as an open barrier. On the opposite end of the park, in the southern section, the bollards were placed at the entrances of the foot paths, where they met with carriage paths. The color of the bollards is unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>207</sup>



Figure 2.12: Denison Park, wading pool and playground area, facing north (CPPHS, #94.0.648).

## Benches

Benches were located in all sections of the park that included a major feature. The standard bench utilized was constructed of steel or iron for the frame and wood planks for the seat and back. The seat appeared to have been made up of many long and narrow strips to conform to the curved shape. The back incorporated two wide, long planks in order to provide support. The benches appear to have been approximately 6 feet in length. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>208</sup>

## Play Equipment

Play equipment was installed in 1910 and was sited around the children's wading pool, off of Park Avenue. There were several types of swing sets, seesaws and slides. The material utilized for a majority of the equipment was wood. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>209</sup>

Play-Grounds, Denison Park, Corning, N. Y.



Figure 2.13: Denison Park, wading pool and playground area, facing northwest (Dimitroff Collection).

### Drinking Fountains

In 1910, drinking fountains were added to the park. Their location and all other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown

### **Water Features**

#### Children's Wading Pool

The concrete wading pool was round with a concrete walk bordering it and was 75 feet, 6 inches in diameter (including the walk). The walk was 4 feet in width. The center of the pool was adorned with a large bronze statue of a child blowing a horn. From the horn sprayed an immense fountain of water. The statue was donated by James A. Drake.<sup>210</sup> The name of the sculptor is unknown. The pool was located east of the intersection of Conhocton Street and Park Avenue. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>211</sup>

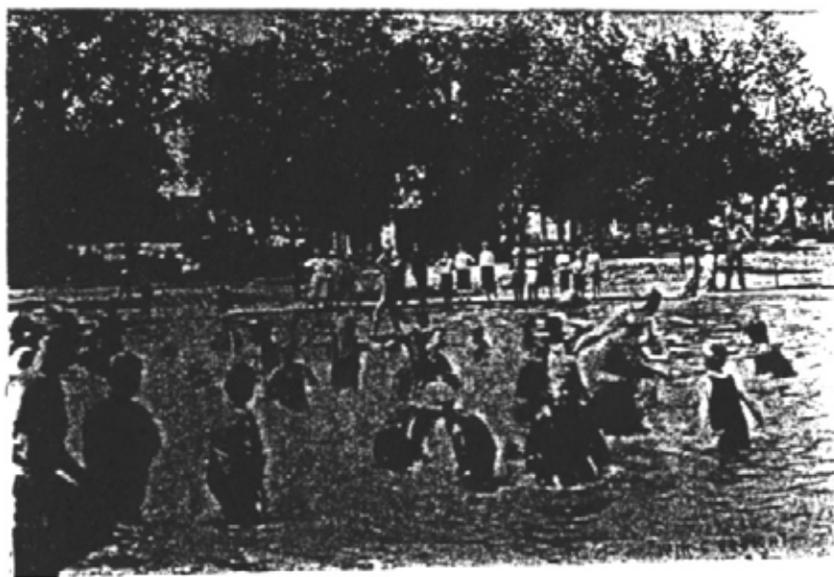


Figure 2.14: Denison Park, wading pool, facing south (CPPHS, #94.0.657).

## Lake Area

Although the lake in Denison Park was not built until 1927, during the construction period deep and wide swales were dug. This created a few small islands along the western edge and one large island near the southern boarder of the park. The water level fluctuated, leaving the swales full at times and swampy during dryer periods. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>212</sup>



Figure 2.15: Denison Park, West section of park, facing northwest (Dimitroff Collection).

**PERIOD 2**  
**DENISON PARK**  
**1911-1945**

**Plans pertaining to Period 2, Denison Park:**

*Design for the Denison Memorial*, by James Walker, date unknown.

*Map of Denison Park*, by unknown, 1945.

*Denison Park Bath House*, by William O. Drake, 1921.

*Denison Park Lake Improvement*, by the Board of Public Works, 1927.

**Photographs utilized for research for Period 2, Denison Park:**

1915 Children's Wading Pool (94.0.665)

1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.648)

1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.649)

Gateway (94.0.662)

Entrance (94.0.658)

Pool and Bath House (94.0.661)

Wading Pool (94.0.657)

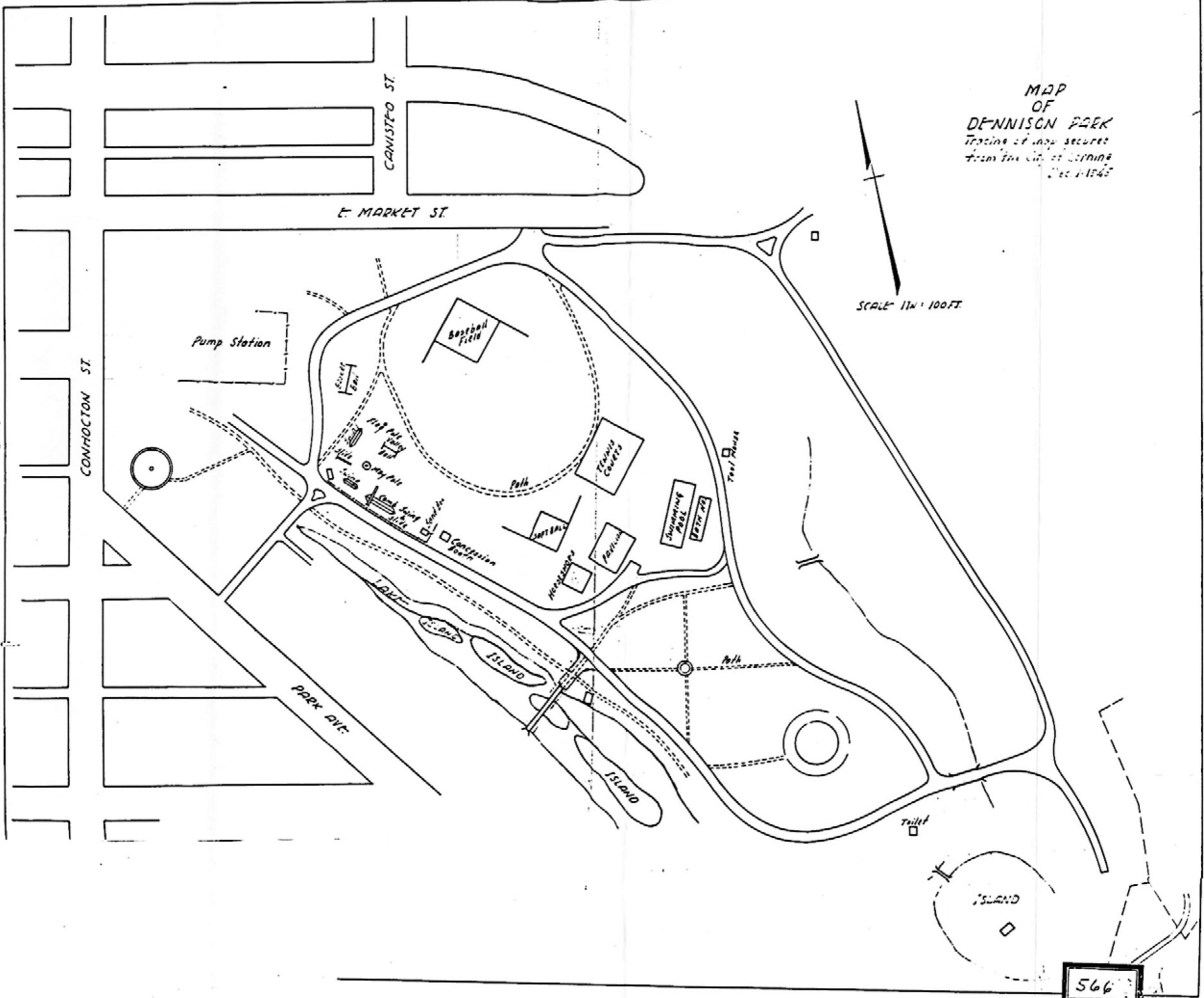
**Note:** All photos mentioned are the property and copyright of the Coming Painted-Post Historical Society.

**Topography**

The only known major alterations to the topographical form of Denison Park during the period of 1911-1945 was the filling of a section of the lake in 1939. The 1945 Map of Denison Park makes no reference to topography and does not include contours.

MAP  
OF  
DENNISON PARK  
Tracing of map secured  
from the City of Learning  
Dec. 1-1948

SCALE 1 1/2" = 100 FT.



## **Vegetation**

Photographic documentation of the period shows only that the plantings made during the construction period were growing and, in some cases, maturing. The 1945 Map of Denison Park does not include plant materials to compare and analyze, leaving no clues to any additions or alterations that may have occurred during this period.<sup>213</sup>

## **Spatial Organization**

The spatial organization of the park underwent its first major metamorphosis during this period. There was an effort to reorganize and bring many of the features and attractions closer together. The addition of the tennis courts, softball field, swimming pool, bath house, pavilion, horseshoe pits and the tool house created an entirely new dimension to the park's usage. These structures acted as a new section within the eastern central region of the park. This focal point of usage and attention was equally offset by the western central region's re-define ment as a playground. These two spaces filled the open space that was previously surrounding the outfields of the baseball field. During the latter part of the period the majority of the park's usage was focused into the central region of the park. This is not to say that the other regions went without use. However, the main elements were compressed into a smaller space to allow for better views, vistas and open space. This, for example, left plenty of available space for the many campers who visited Denison Park during this period. The other sections of the park included the northwestern wading pool area, the southern central bandstand/gazebo and fountain area, and the surrounding lake and island area which covered the southwestern, southern and eastern border areas.

## **Circulation**

Minor additions to the existing circulation system occurred during this period. The existing main carriage and pedestrian paths were expanded by the addition of a few new roads and walking trails. The roads and paths created access loops that enclosed the central regions of the park. The park's access loops were connected to the entrances at Park Avenue and East Market Street. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

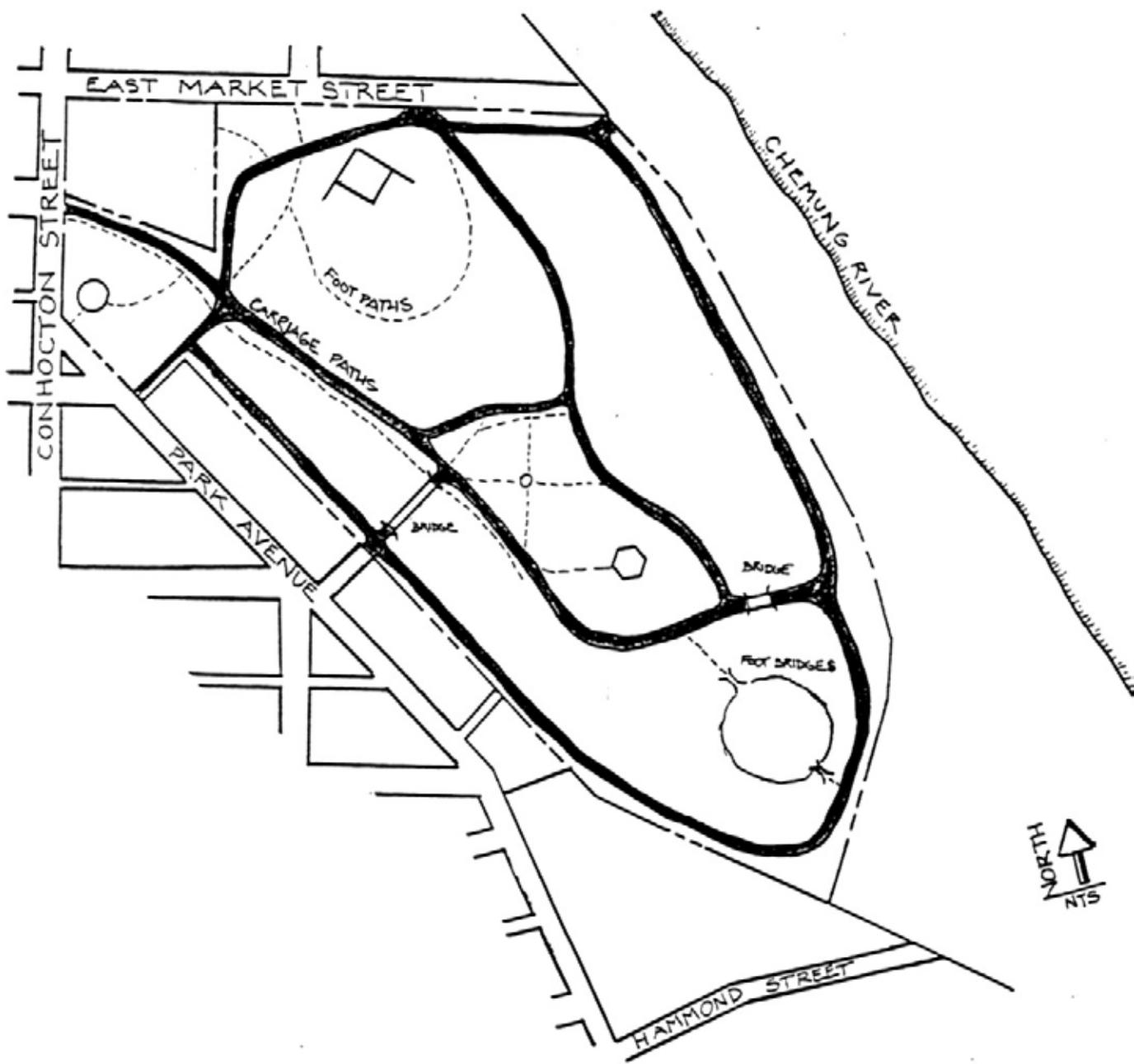


Figure 2.17: Denison Park, circulation, 1911–1945 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## **Buildings and Structures**

### Sandbox

In 1917, a sandbox was installed in the play ground area east of the southwestern park road's northern half. The rectangular structure was 10 feet in width and 15 feet in length. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Large Pavilion

A very large open air pavilion was erected almost due south of the baseball diamond in 1917. Located in the center of the park, the wooden rectangular structure measured 75 feet in length and 60 feet in width. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Memorial Gateway

The Memorial Gateway, designed by James Walker, an architect from Buffalo, New York, was dedicated on May 30, 1919. The gateway was erected above the main entrance to the park, which was off of Conhocton Street, south of the city's pump station. The existing Walker design sketch illustrates an arched gateway. However, the built gateway had a lintel and post construction. The entire base of the structure was limestone block. The twin rectangular brick pillars, and concrete columns with limestone bases, supported the lintel. "Denison Park" was inscribed into the lintel. Above the lintels was an ornate crest that includes the initials 'D/P'. Above the lintel was a lower layer of limestone, a center of brick in a running bond pattern, and a concrete molding with an overhanging cap. The main section measured 36 feet and 2 inches in overall width and approximately 16 feet in height. The opening was 18 feet, 2 inches in width and approximately 12 feet in height.

Besides the main section of the gateway, which the carriage path passed through, there was a wing attached on both sides that was approximately a third of the height of the main structure. The wings were 6 feet, 3 inches in height, 'L'-shaped and reached out 12 1/2 feet to the sidewalk where they connected with another set of rectangular block pillars (1 foot, 9 inches

square). The pillars on the northern side were connected by a matching wall that was 5 feet in width and it held a bronze sign containing the parks dedication.

Erected by the citizens of Corning, New York, in memory of C. G. Denison, the father of C. L. Denison, a true friend of Corning, whose bountiful gift made the park possible.

The rectangular sign had a bright frame, dark background and bright lettering. It was mounted with four large bolts which were inside of the dark space, one in each corner.

The opposite (south) side lacked the connecting wall between the pillars, creating a boarded entrance for pedestrians that was 5 feet in width. The tops of all of the pillars were capped with a raised concrete piece that included an overhang just before the very top of the cap.

The two main columns had metal lighting fixtures about half way up with round white globes. On top of the corners of the overhead section, as well as on the tops of the four outer pillars, were planter urns.<sup>214</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>215</sup>

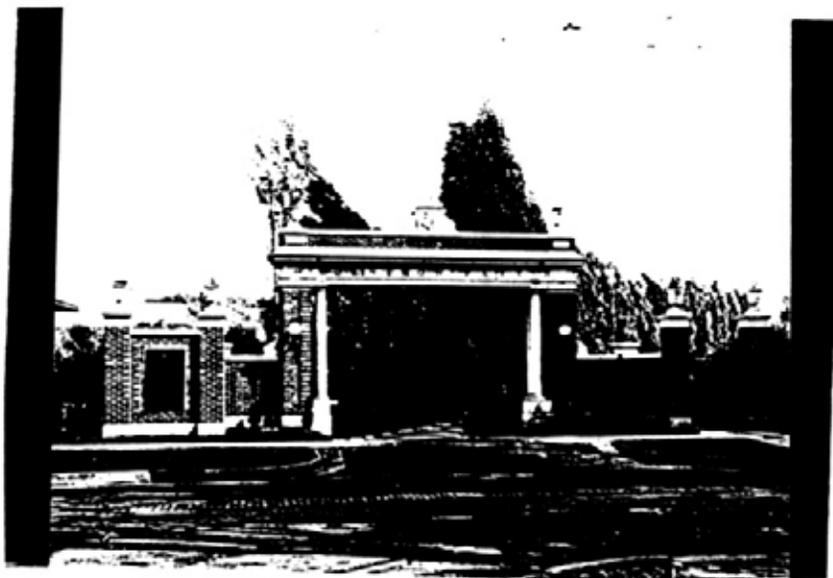
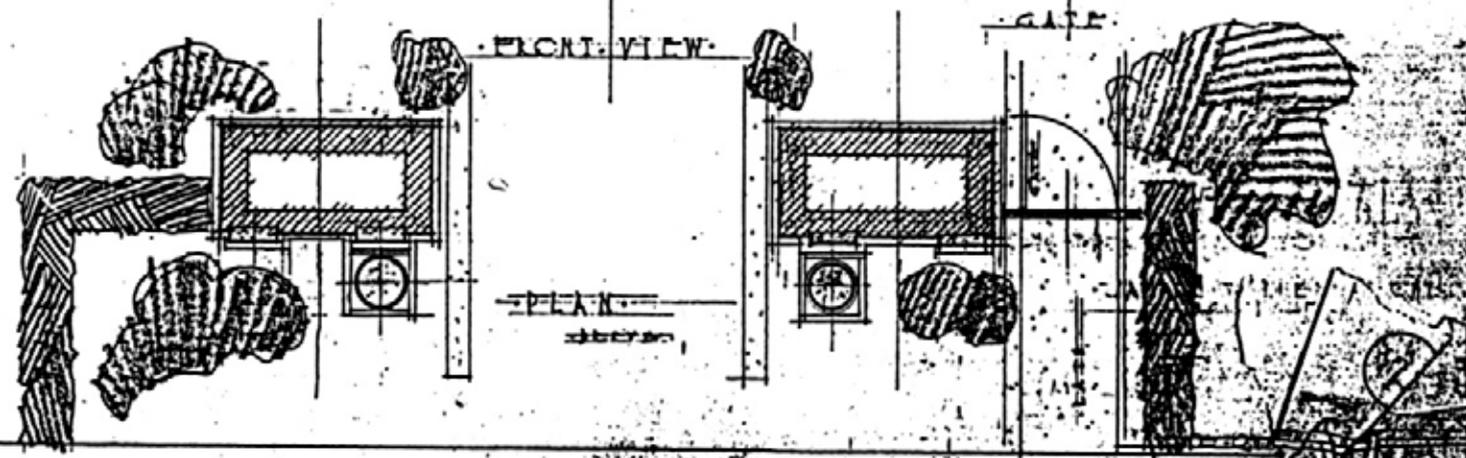
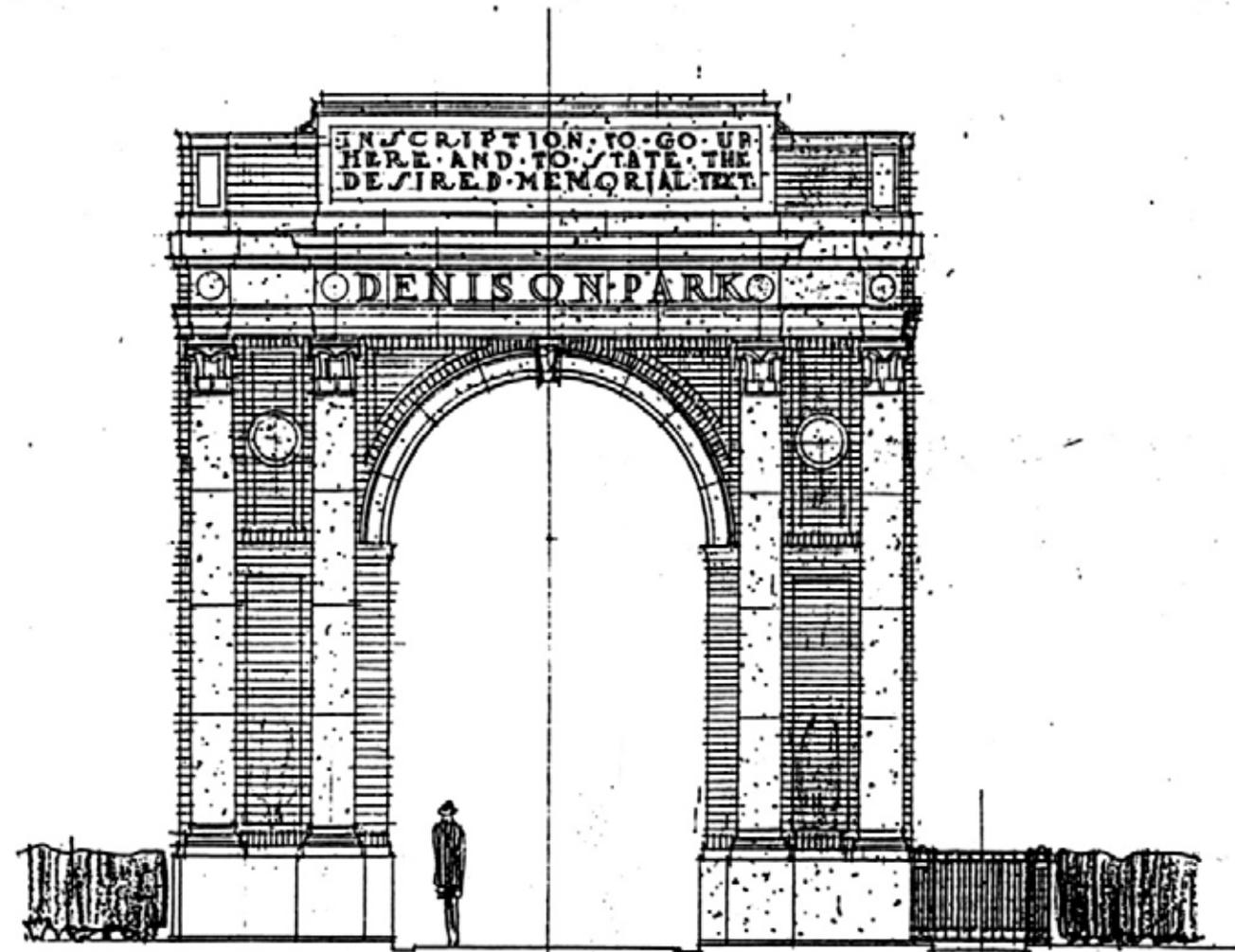


Figure 2.18: Denison Park, Memorial Gateway, facing east (CPPHS, #94.0.662).

DESIGN FOR THE  
DENISON MEMORIAL  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

JAMES WALKER ARCHT.  
NEW YORK



### Tennis Courts

Two tennis courts were built in 1917. They were located to the southeast of second base of the baseball field and were oriented northeast to southwest. Together the courts dimensions were 80 feet in length by 78 feet in width. Individually the courts measured 35 feet in width and 80 feet in length with an 8 foot space separating the two. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Bath House

The pool's bath house was completed on October 8, 1921. The project was done by the Corning Office Board of Public Works which was headed by William O. Drake, a civil engineer. The bath house was located on the eastern side of the pool. The length of the bath house ran parallel to the length of the pool. The bath house was 80 feet in length and 20 feet in width. The center of both elevations had a pair of three foot wide double doors which opened outward. At the center of both of the lengthwise sides of the bath house were a pair of 3 foot-wide double doors which opened outward. The door ways were gabled with shallow peaks to match the hipped, slightly pitched roof. The roof was also covered with shingles. (Note the floor plan).<sup>216</sup>



Figure 2.20: Denison Park, pool and bath house, facing southeast (Dimitroff Collection).

### Tool House

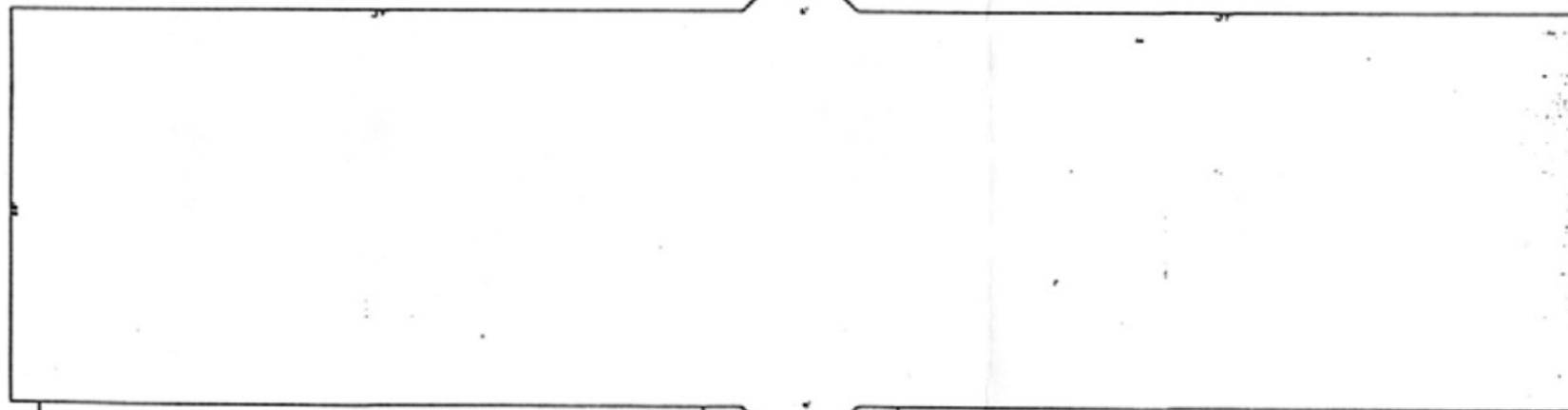
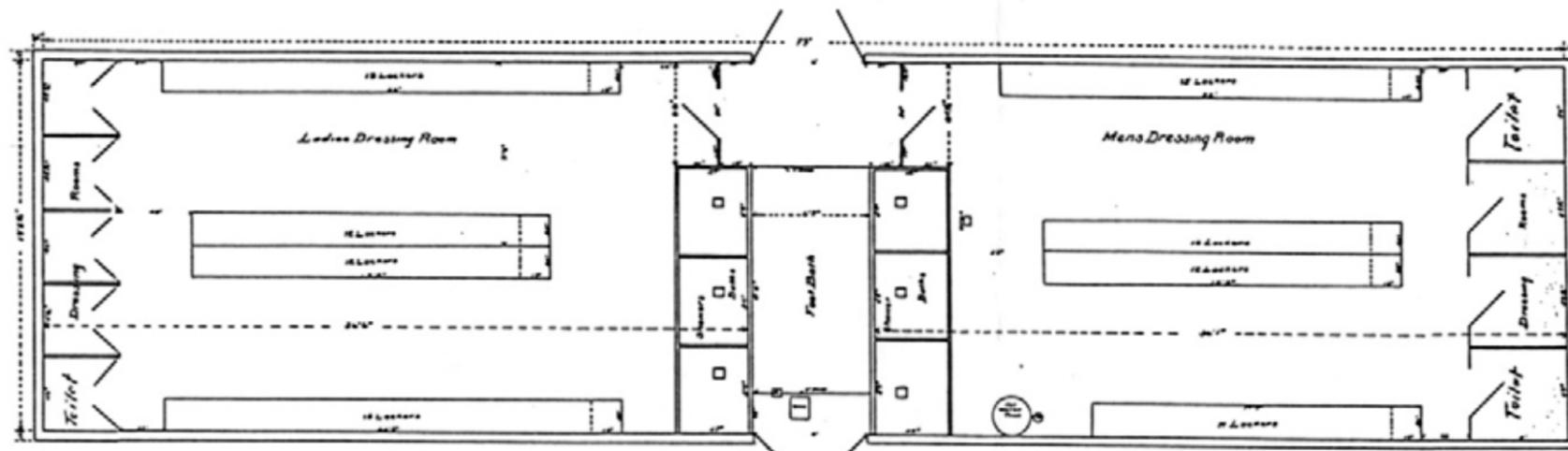
Almost parallel with the bath house, 80 feet to the northeast, was the tool house. The tool house measured 15 feet in length by 15 feet in width. It was designed to match the bath house, with the identical cedar shake outer walls and the same four sided roof with a light pitch. There were windows on each side. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>217</sup>

### Lake Pump House

During the lake improvement project of 1927, a pump house was built in order to draw water from the Chemung River to fill Denison Park's lake. The pump house was located to the southwest of the old Gibson Bridge, near the far entrance to the park from East Market Street. The building consisted of two floors, a ground level entrance and a basement for the pumping apparatus.

The exterior dimensions of the pump house were 15 feet 10 inches in length by 10 feet, 8 inches in width. The walls were 8 inches thick and made of brick. The door way was built into the north side and the door's dimensions were 3 feet 6 inches by 7 feet 6 inches. The three remaining walls each had a 3 foot 2 inch by 4 foot 8 inch window with a sill that was 2 feet 4 inches from the interior floor.

The building had a hipped roof with a central peak. The peak was capped with an 8 inch ventilator, glass top, and the roof had a 1 foot 8 inch over hang. The shingle material and color are unknown. The project was done by the Coming Board of Public Works under William O. Drake, the Superintendent, with H. Burdett Cleveland, from New York City, as the consulting engineer. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.



Wall

Wall

Swimming Pool

**DENISON PARK BATH HOUSE**

CORNING, NEW YORK

Office Board of Public Works

WILLIAM G. DRANE, C.E.

October 8, 1921

Scale 3/16" = 1'-0"

J. OWING

Floor Plan of Dressing Rooms and outside dimensions.

25

### Bridge

Located southeast of the bath house, crossing the eastern water feature, another bridge was built. The structure was situated 500 feet to the northwest of the concrete bridge. From the 1945 Map of Denison Park, the span of the bridge has been determined to be 50 feet. There is no other documentation recording this particular bridge. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Boat House

The boat house was located approximately 40 feet to the east of the twin bridges that connect the park's interior with the Park Avenue entrance. The dimensions of the building were 20 feet in length and 15 feet in width. The boat house was sited on the eastern boarder of the western water feature, with the 20 foot side of the building facing the water. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Toilet

The toilet building was sited to the north of the main island's interior bridge and to the southwest of the concrete bridge. The building was 16 feet, 1 inch in width and in length was oriented north to south. The structure was constructed from red brick and had a men's room on the west side and ladies' room on the eastern side. The toilet had a hipped roof covered with dark composition shingles.<sup>218</sup>

### Playhouse

The play house was located adjacent to the eastern corner of the main intersection of the carriage roads which stemmed from the main Park Avenue entrance. The building was oriented with the length running north to south. From the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Map, it is known that the play house had at least six windows and a set of doors. The building was constructed from brick and lumber, and had a shingled, hipped roof. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Concession Booth

Twenty feet to the southeast of the sandbox and west of the softball field a concession booth was constructed. The booth's dimensions were 15 feet in length by 15 feet in width. It was oriented with its side parallel to the carriage path. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Softball Field

A softball field existed during this period and it was located 60 feet northwest of the large pavilion. The field was oriented south to north so that home plate and second base were nearly in line with the baseball diamond, which was across the field. The diamond was 60 feet long. Whether or not the softball field had a backstop is unknown. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Concrete Bridge

The concrete bridge remained unaltered during this period.

### Bridges (Rustic)

The four rustic bridges, the first two providing entrance from Park Avenue and the other small twin bridges connecting the large southern island with the park's mainland, were unaltered during this period.<sup>219</sup>

Located southeast of the bath house, crossing the eastern water feature, was another bridge. The structure was situated 500 feet to the northeast of the concrete bridge. From the 1945 Map of Denison Park, the span of the bridge was determined to be 50 feet and the width was approximately 10 feet. Since there is no other documentation recording this particular bridge, all other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>220</sup>

### Tower

The tower west of the concrete bridge remained unaltered during this period.<sup>221</sup>

### Gazebo/Bandstand

The gazebo/bandstand was located on the 1945 Map of Denison Park. It was located approximately 200 feet to the northwest of the concrete bridge. Two concentric circles are shown on the map, the inner being 80 feet in diameter, and the outer being an additional 20 feet in width. It is not known whether or not the gazebo/bandstand structure was altered or removed past 1913 when it last appeared in a photograph. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Pavilion (On Island)

The pavilion that was sited just off center, to the south, on the southern island, remained unaltered during this period.

### Ball Field

The ball field remained unaltered during this period.

### Horseshoe Pits

Located 40 feet to the south of the softball diamond and 20 feet to the southwest of the pavilion was a horseshoe pit. The pit's dimensions were 40 feet in length by 40 feet in width. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Basketball Court

Located to the east of the baseball field was a basketball court. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### **Site Engineering Systems**

The levee, as constructed during the 1907-1910 period, remained unaltered during this period.

## Furnishings and Objects

### Bollards

The original wooden bollards are known to have existed until 1915 when they appeared in photographs. The 1945 Map of Denison Park does not make any references to their existence. Whether or not they remained through the latter part of the period is not known.

### Play Equipment

The play equipment remained in its original location until 1915. The exact date when the equipment was moved is unknown. The equipment is shown on the 1945 Map of Denison Park as being relocated to the western central section, which is to the southwest of the baseball diamond. The equipment included basketball courts, a 40 foot long swing set, a 30 foot long slide, a 30 foot long swing set, a may pole set in a 15 foot diameter ring, a volleyball court, a large combination slide and swing set (40 foot slide, and 60 foot swing set) and a 10 foot wide by 15 foot long sandbox (refer to the Buildings and Structures section). The playhouse was included in the playground and can be referred to under **Buildings and Structures**. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

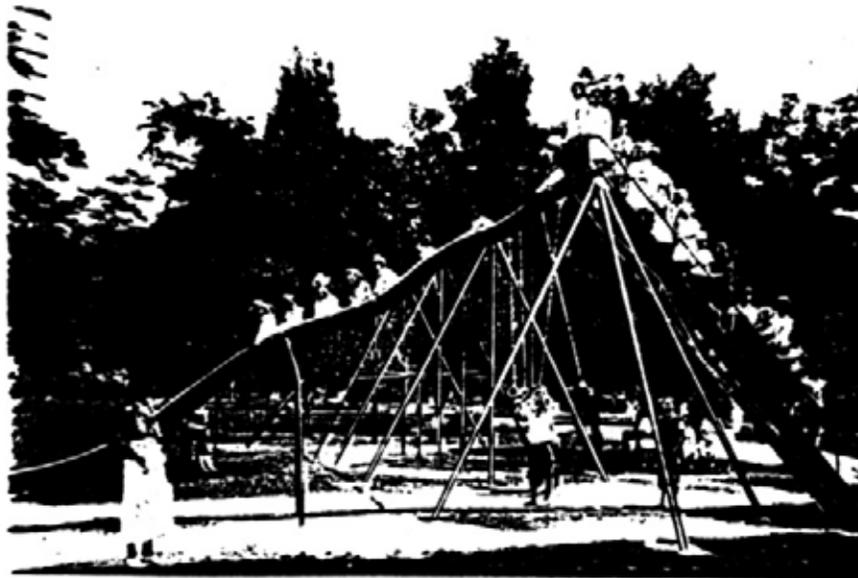


Figure 2.22: Denison Park, major slide in playground (Dimitroff Collection).

## Benches

Benches of the original style that were installed remained during the 1911-1945 period. The 1945 Map of Denison Park does not include them but photographs of the pool and bath house from the 1920's show the benches.

## Flag Pole

Located to the northeast of the play equipment was a flag pole. It was 180 feet from the first base baseline of the ball field in the southwestern direction. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

## Fence

There was a 220 foot long fence which started from the rear corner of the playhouse and ran parallel with the road, approximately 8 feet past the sandbox, at which point the fence made a right angle turn and continued northeast for 40 feet. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

## **Water Features**

### Children's Wading Pool

The wading pool remained unaltered during this period. From historical photographs, the pool seemed to be well used by park visitors and was probably a major attraction during hot summer days.<sup>222</sup>

### Memorial Garden Fountain

In 1912, a small, 5 foot in diameter fountain was installed. The concrete fountain had four vertical plaques, equidistant from one another. The basin of the fountain was concrete while the outer wall was made up of twenty terra-cotta ornate stones. There were five stone sections between each plaque panel and they each measured 1 foot, 5 inches in width and 1 foot, 8 inches in height. The 4 panels measured 1 foot, 9 inches in width. The base diameter of the fountain was 11 feet.<sup>223</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

Presented to the City of Coming, 1912

Mayor F. A. Ellison

Board of Public Works, J. D. Carlton, S. E. Quakenbush, S. L. Smith

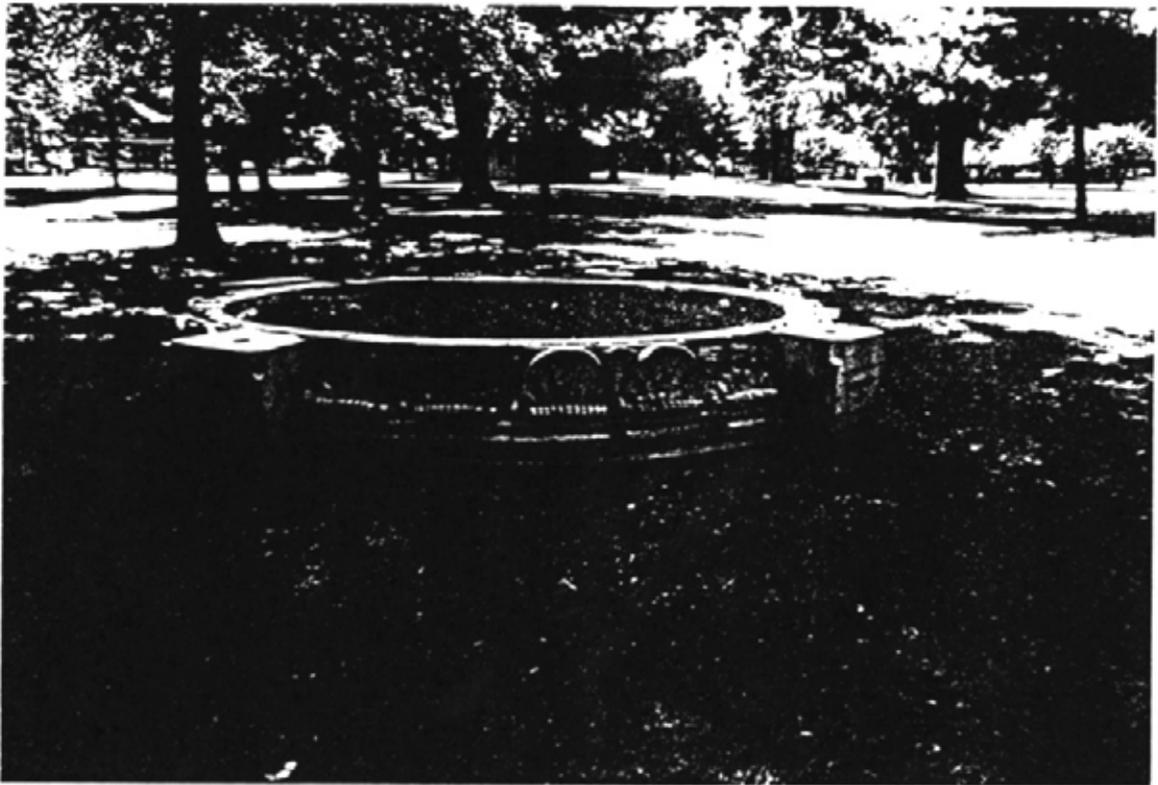


Figure 2.23: Denison Park, remains of fountain (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## Swimming Pool

The original swimming pool, donated by Charles L. Denison, was built in 1919. The concrete pool measured 120 feet in length and 40 feet in width. The depth of the pool is unknown. The pool was bordered by a raised rectangular edge that measured 1 foot in width and approximately 10 to 12 inches in height with a rounded, formed top outer lip. The entire pool was surrounded by a concrete walk that measured 5 feet in width. The pool area was raised, although the pool itself was in the ground. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>224</sup>



Figure 2.24: Denison Park, pool and bath house, facing northeast (CPPHS, #94.0.661).

## Lake

In 1927, the park's major water feature was improved. Charles L. Denison made a generous donation in order to build a park lake that would alleviate the drainage problems that were caused from the park site's history as a swamp. The construction of a pump house (describing under **Buildings and Structures**) and its corresponding pipe system allowed the original swales that covered the eastern, southern and western sections of the park to be filled and maintained at a constant level.

Due to stagnation, mosquitoes infested the park from breeding in the lake. In the fall of 1939 a large section of the western wing of the lake was filled in an attempt to alleviate the problem. The area which was filled eliminated the islands from the western section of the water feature. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

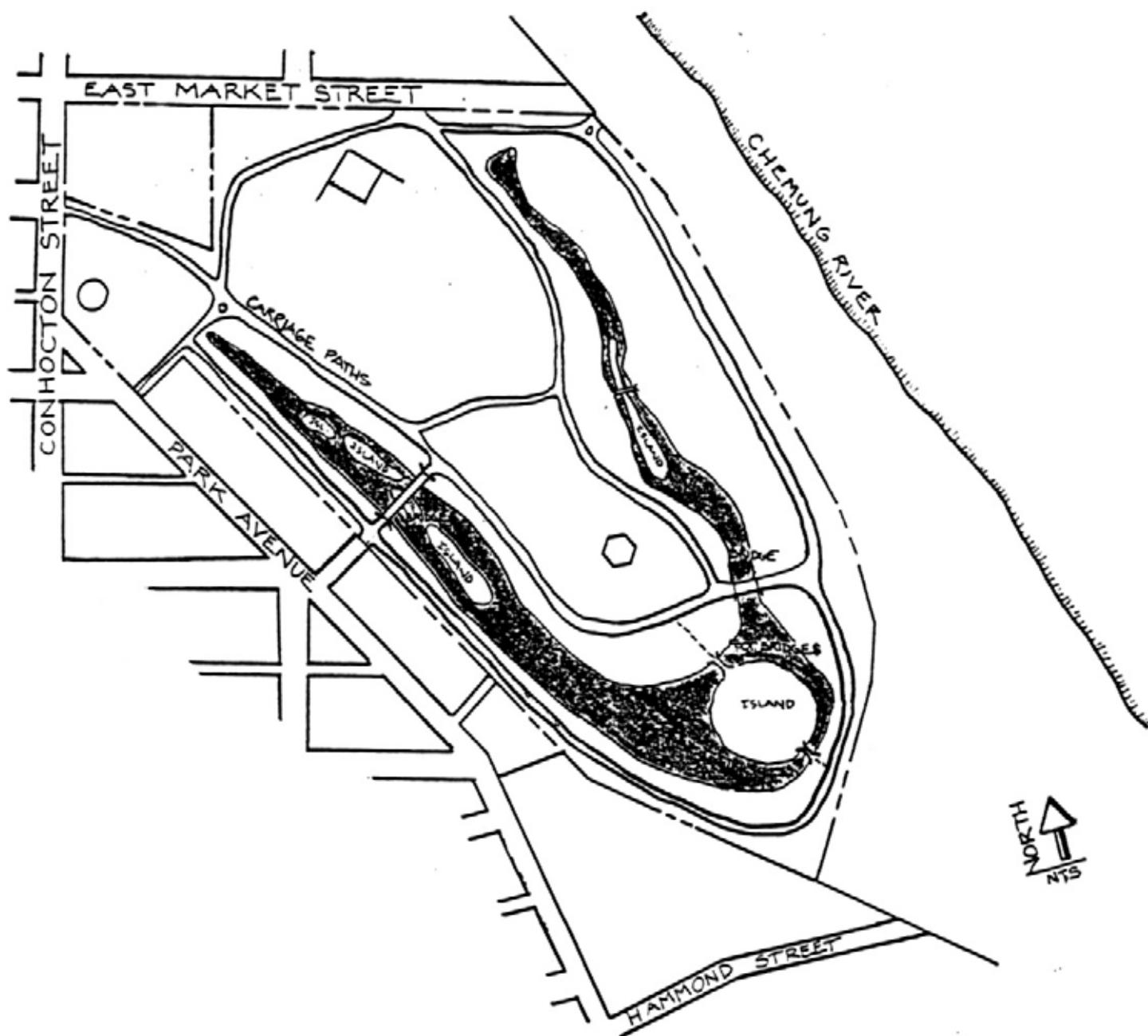


Figure 2.25: Denison Park, approximate lake configuration, pre 1939 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

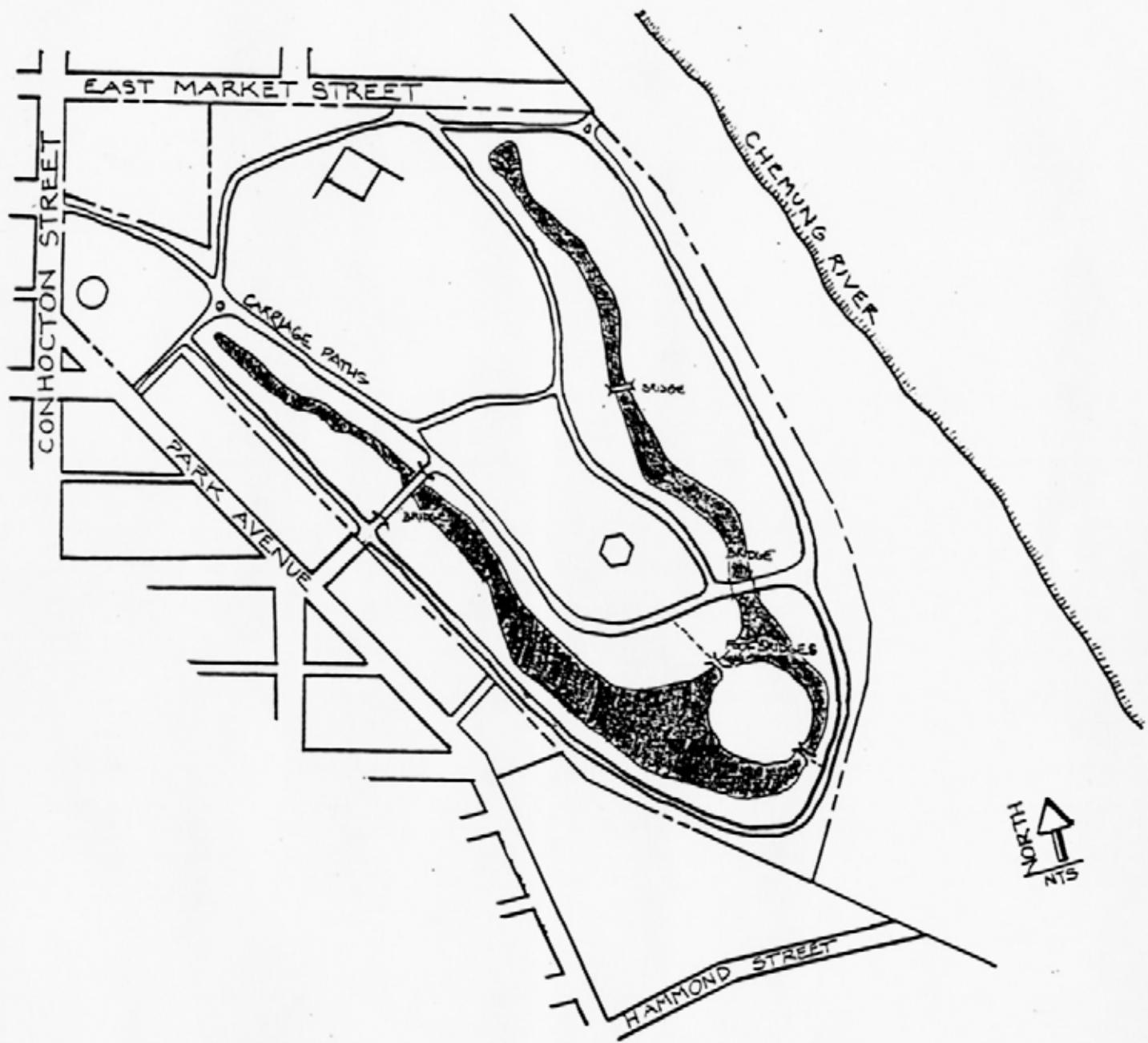


Figure 2.26: Denison Park, approximate lake configuration, post 1939 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## PERIOD 3

### RECONSTRUCTION OF DENISON PARK 1947-1972

#### Plans pertaining to Period 3, Denison Park:

*Proposed Swimming Pool*, by Joseph A. Connell, 1970.

*Topographical Layout*, by Ward and Moore, 1959.

*Playground Area of Denison Park*, by Supt. of Dept. of Public Works, 1947.

*Denison Park Alterations Required by State Highway Construction*, by Richard C. Ward, 1947.

#### Topography

The topographical form of Denison Park once again was not recorded. The 1947 Denison Park Alterations Map makes no references to contours or spot elevations. The only recorded alterations to the topography were made with reference to the lake. The center of the eastern wing and the tip of the western wing were both filled and re-graded.<sup>225</sup> (Note the **Water Features** section for information regarding the lake)

#### Vegetation

A complete planting plan is not known to exist for this period of Denison Park's history. However, there is a partial planting plan for the southern central section included in the 1947 Playground Area, Denison Park Plan and the 1959 Topographic Layout Plan which included a partial planting plan for the northern central section.<sup>226</sup>

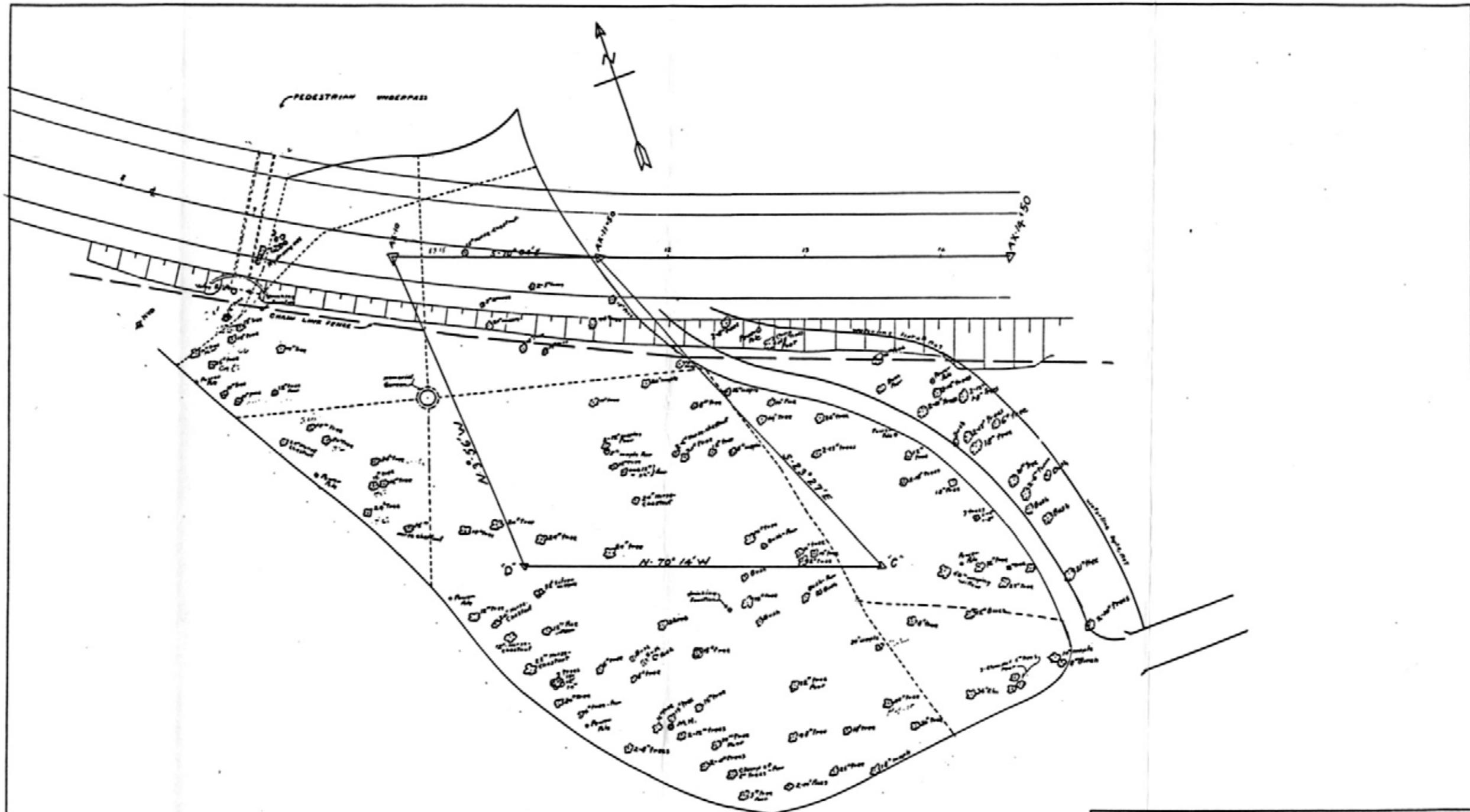
The southern central section is the area in which the fountain and gazebo/bandstand were located. The vegetation, for the most part, was very scattered but there was a concentration along the park road's boarder that ran south and then bent to the east. Both sides of the old road that ran in a curvilinear fashion, south, near the east boarder, were lined with large trees. Along

the park side of East Market Street was a hedge that was approximately 2 feet in width. The hedge ran the entire northern length of the park, only breaking at the entrances. The area where the fountain stood (memorial garden) was barren, possibly to provide unobstructed views to the fountain and memorial garden, as it was marked. Horse Chestnut is the dominant species found in this area and sizes ranged from 2 to 24 inches in trunk diameter. There were also many 5 to 30 inch Maples, several 12 to 14 inch Pines, and numerous unspecified shrubs. Several other species existed, possibly as specimen trees, on the plan. They included a 32 inch Silver Maple south of the fountain, a 60 inch Weeping Willow to the southeastern corner, an 8 and 12 inch Birch south of the Weeping Willow, near the intersection, a 47 inch Poplar to the south of where the bandstand once stood and a 36 inch Elm along the road to the southeast. There were many other large trees on the plan but they were not identified.

The 1959 Topographical Layout Plan of the northern central section is part of an incomplete survey done by Ward and Moore of Corning. The plan includes the area surrounding the pool and bath house to the north, east and west, and south of the structures was the new highway/bridge. Along East Market Street on the park's northern most boundary were a row of Elms with trunks ranging from 15 to 20 inches in diameter. There were a few 8 to 20 inch Maples and 18 to 20 inch Box Elders mixed in among the screen of street trees. On the opposite (south) side of the sidewalk bordering East Market Street were a variety of 8 to 12 inch Box Elders, 6 to 40 inch Elms and 6 to 15 inch Maples. Shrubs of unmarked varieties were located throughout the area.

The park road that ran south from East Market Street, past the east side of the pool house, was lined with predominately Elms with an occasional Maple or Box Elder. The area to the east of the park road, where the pavilion was relocated, was randomly planted with more of the same. There were a few other species listed including White Birch, Maple and Box Elders.

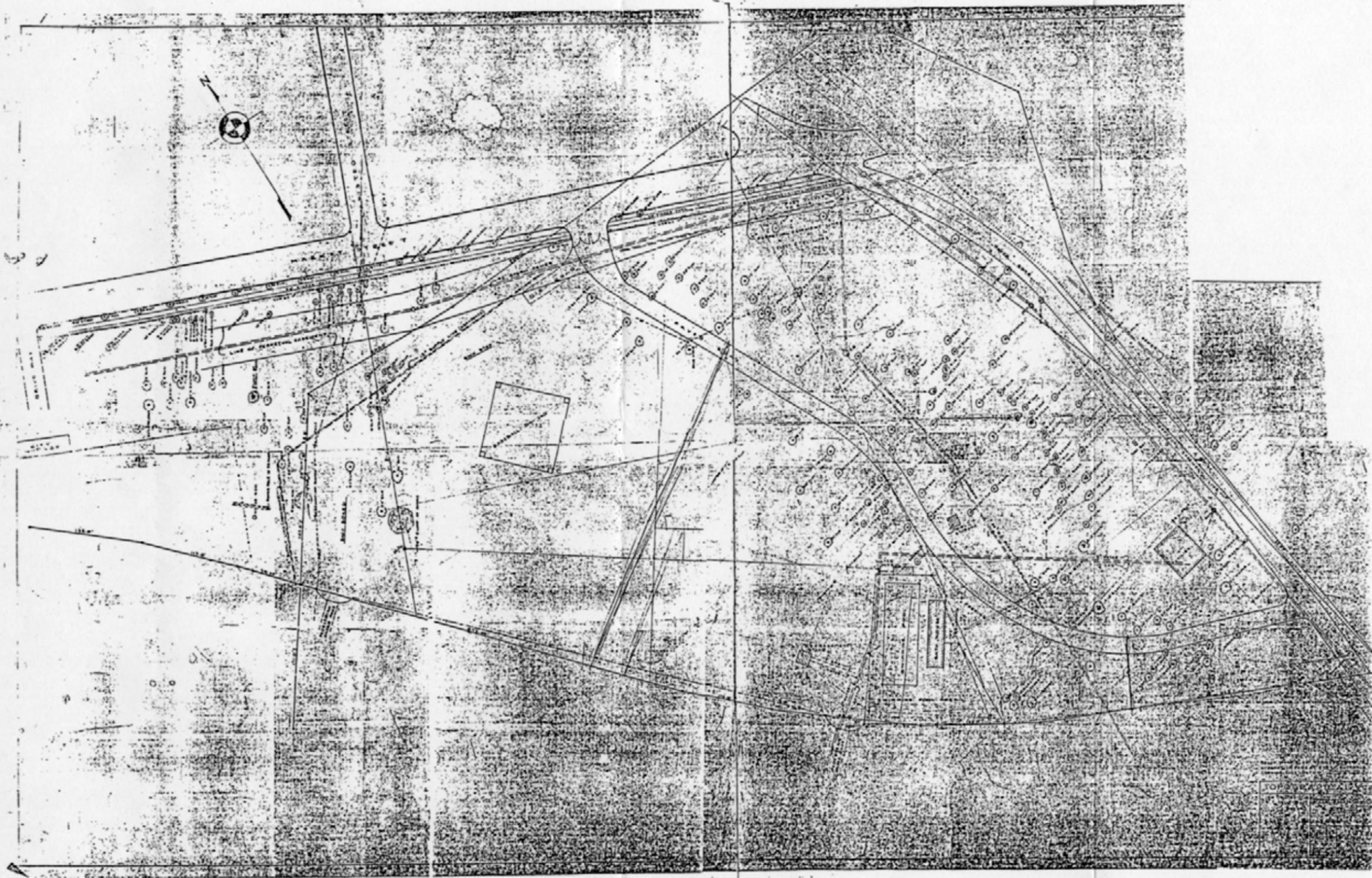
552

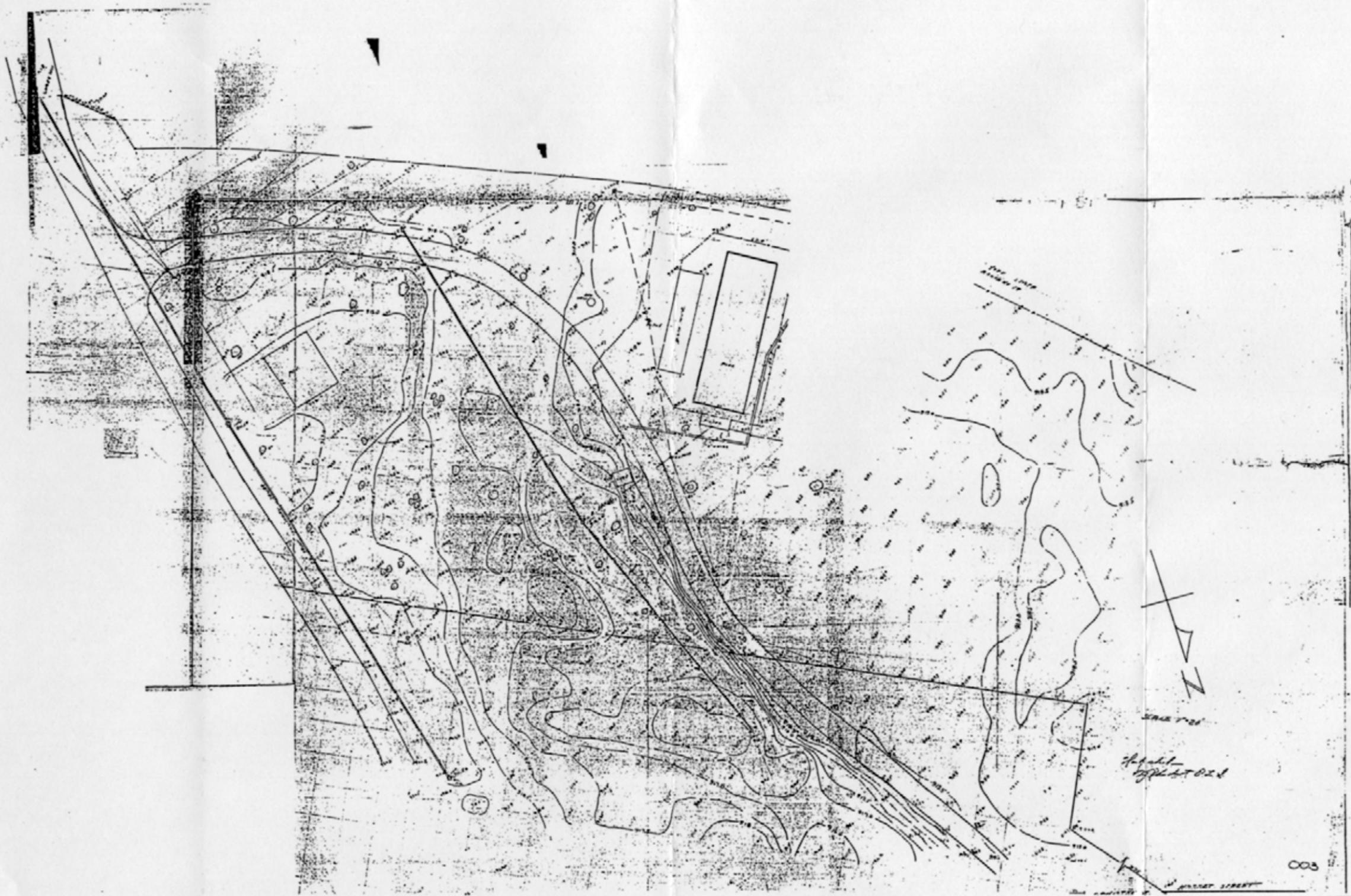


CITY OF CORNING  
BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
PLANS FOR DENISON PARK  
PLAYGROUND AREA  
DENISON PARK

Scale 1" = 50'  
Date - Sept. 6, 1947  
Drawn by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Checked by: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Supt. of Dept. of Public Works  
M.S. LICENSE NO. 18730





## Spatial Organization

The park's spatial organization underwent major changes with the construction of the new highway/bridge. Until the construction began late in 1947 the park remained as it had been during the prior period. Once the project was started the park's features were relocated or destroyed and separated by a four lane highway and bridge system that literally severed the park into two halves. Since 1950, with the completion of the highway, the park, for all intents and purposes, became two separate parks. From this point forward, the parks organization is presented as the north and south halves.

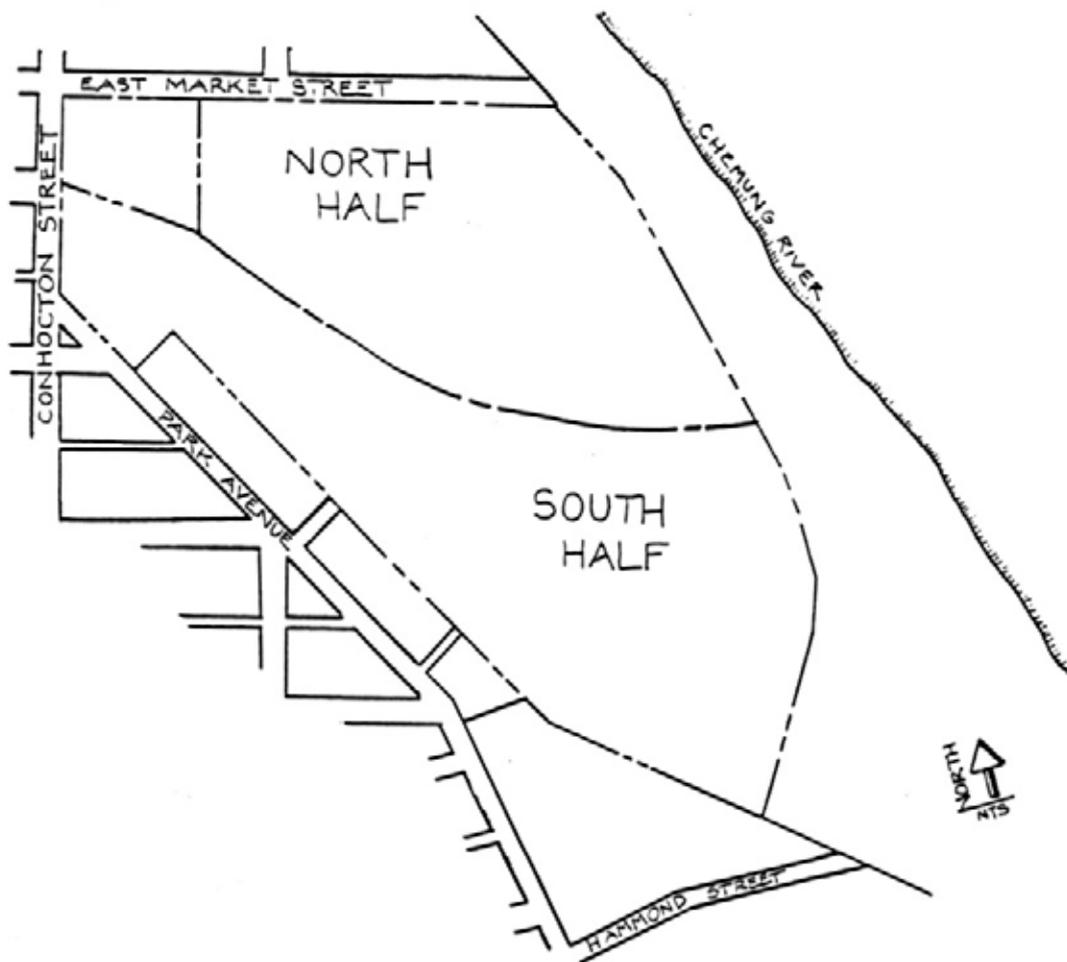


Figure 2.30: Denison Park, division of park after highway construction (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

The consolidation of elements, which had taken place during the 1911-1945 phase, was reversed. The major features were not only separated by the highway/bridge, but they were relocated some distance from one another. This movement obstructed much of the open space that was not covered in water. Almost all of the circulation patterns were altered to deal with this new concept and some of the lake's western upper and eastern middle wings were filled. Nearly all of the views and vistas that were created with the open space of the prior period were blocked out by the highway/bridge. All major viewsheds were from the northwest to southeast and vice versa.

The splitting of the park had separated the major uses and users of the park. The ball field, swimming pool, horseshoe pits, basketball courts and picnic area within the northern section were more attractive to middle school and high school children, adults and families with older children. The playground, walking paths around the lake and picnic areas of the southern section were more attractive to families with younger children and older adults.

### **Circulation**

The circulation patterns were redefined after the bisection of Denison Park. Many of the old carriage paths were replaced with new and different roads. The main park roads were all rerouted to connect to the original park entrances. The vehicular connection to the two sides of the park was through a new vehicular underpass along the eastern boarder. Footpaths replaced several of the old carriage paths since the routes were now inappropriate for vehicular usage. New footpaths were connected to the main roads surrounding the park, including East Market Street, Conhocton Street and Park Avenue, to allow access from the surrounding neighborhoods without mixing people with automobiles on the main park roads. Pedestrian connection to the two sides of the park was through two pedestrian underpasses.

By 1959, there was a parking area constructed to the east of the bath house, but the exact date of construction is unknown. It was approximately 3000 sq. feet in size. However, it had a very odd shape and it is difficult to calculate the number of vehicles the lot could accommodate.<sup>227</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

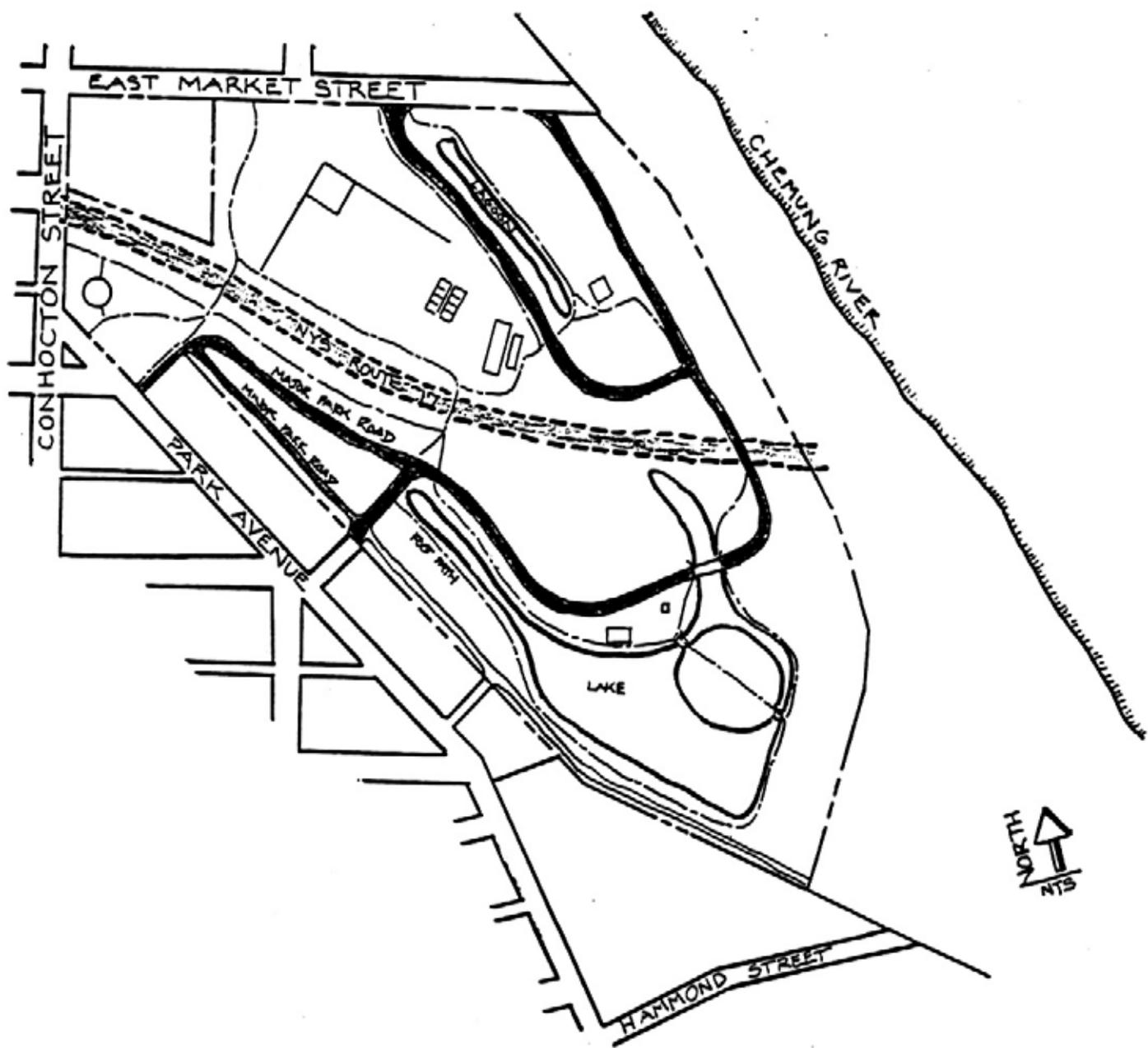


Figure 2.31: Denison Park, circulation plan, 1947–1972 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## **Buildings and Structures**

### **Memorial Gateway**

The Denison Park Memorial Gateway was relocated from its original position at the Conhocton Street park entrance to a new site southwest of the children's wading pool along Park Avenue. There were no known alterations made to the structure itself.

### **Play House**

The play house was dismantled and moved 860 feet southeast of its original location. The site was south of the memorial fountain and north of the center of the lake's western finger. The building was redesigned according to the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plan and rebuilt utilizing much of the salvaged material from the original. The new play house was constructed on a concrete foundation and floor and included lighting. The wooden play house was 20 feet long and 15 feet wide. The front had a double set of inward swinging 2 1/2 foot by 7 foot doors. Windows were located on each side of the doors, measuring 4 feet 10 inches wide by 4 feet 3 inches high. The sides of the structure each had a matching window and the back had two matching windows. The building had a hipped roof and was covered with composition shingles.<sup>228</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### **Tennis Courts**

The two original tennis courts remained unaltered according to the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plans. However, on the modified prints dated February 18, 1958, obtained through the Corning Department of Public Works, the tennis courts were crossed out.<sup>229</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### **Concession Stand**

The concession stand was moved intact from its original location to a new location 80 feet northwest of the swimming pool. The stand was placed on a new 30 foot 2 inch concrete slab that included lighting.<sup>230</sup> The stand was centered upon its new foundation leaving a 7 foot wide walk around the structure. On the 1959 Topographical Layout Plan, the concession stand is

remarked as a tool shed.<sup>231</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Horseshoe Pit

The original horseshoe pits were removed and new pits were constructed east of the southern point of the lagoon. Two sets of pits were built 20 feet apart from one another. The individual pits were 10 feet apart within each set. The pits were constructed with 6 foot wide by 6 foot long concrete walls around each 1 inch diameter iron stake.<sup>232</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Softball Field

The original softball field was removed during the reconstruction. The softball field was incorporated into the baseball field to the north, through the addition of a reduced size diamond within the baseball diamond. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Large Pavilion

The large open air pavilion was dismantled and removed from its original location and relocated south of the new horseshoe pits and east of the southern tip of the lagoon along the eastern park road. The pavilion was reconstructed to new specifications that included a set of interior walls that housed a bathroom facility, lighting, wiring and gas piping inside of the building. The new reinforced, 39 foot 5 inch wide by 47 foot 5 inch long concrete floor was supported with sixteen 2 foot square concrete piers below each wooden column of the structure was constructed.

The sixteen wooden columns supported the trusses of the four sided roof. The roof was covered with beveled siding and the 3 foot 6 inch high perimeter walls were finished with five horizontally mounted 2 x 6's anchored to 4 x 4 posts, with a 2 x 8 angled cap. The pavilion had an overall height of 22 feet from finished floor level to the ridge line, with 12 feet of interior head room.<sup>233</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### New Pavilion

A new open air pavilion was located to the southwest of the concrete bridge and toilet building along the lake. This pavilion was designed using salvaged and new materials. The structure was built upon a 60 foot by 30 foot reinforced concrete slab with 2 foot square concrete piers beneath each of the 16 columns. The entire structure stood 22 feet in height and had 12 feet of interior head room. A hipped roof, common to Denison Park's buildings, was utilized and covered with composition shingles. The pavilion's side walls were 3 feet 6 inches in height and were covered with 6 inch beveled siding. The pavilion had electric lighting.<sup>234</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Underpasses - Pedestrian

The construction of the new highway/bridge bisecting the park made it necessary to provide pedestrian access from one half of the park to the other. Two 100 foot long 10 foot wide arched underpasses were built under the road bed. Each tunnel was faced with a random cut buff sandstone arch with a keystone. The facade, which extended out to both sides of the openings, were faced with the same stone.

The first of the underpasses was located in the northern central section, northeast of the First Street entrance off of Park Avenue and west of the baseball diamond. The second underpass was northeast of the Second Street entrance from Park Avenue and west of the swimming pool. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.



Figure 2.32: Denison Park, pedestrian underpass (MSRA).

### Underpass - Vehicular

The construction of the highway/bridge also made it necessary to provide vehicular access to the two halves of the park. A 100 foot long by 40 foot wide underpass was constructed. The underpass was located northeast of the concrete bridge. The bridge abutments were faced with cut buff sandstone, like the pedestrian underpasses. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Toilet

The toilet building remained unaltered during this period.

### Pavilion (On Island)

The island pavilion remained unaltered during this period.

### Boat House

The boat house remained unaltered and appears in its original location on the 1947 Plan.<sup>235</sup> However, the boat house was removed or destroyed later in the period. The exact date of demolition is unknown.

### Shelters with Fireplaces

Prior to the construction of the highway/bridge, two 20 foot long by 10 foot wide shelters were installed along the southwestern bank of the lake. The date when these two shelters were constructed is unknown. The shelters were spaced approximately 380 feet from one another with the first shelter sited west of the new pavilion and the second being west of the island's pavilion. Both structures were to include a fireplace. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>236</sup>



Figure 2.33: Denison Park, vehicular underpass (MSRA).

### Sandbox

The original sandbox was relocated along with the other playground equipment. The new location was east of the western finger of the lake, within the southern central section of the park. The 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plan called for the sandbox to be dismantled and re-erected on the new site. The exact location within the new playground's parameters is not known. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Bath House

The original bath house remained unaltered during the reconstruction of Denison Park, after the highway/bridge was complete. However, on July 30, 1970, Joseph A. Connell, an architect, completed a proposed set of drawings for the new bath house and pool. In 1972, the original bath house and pool were demolished and the new bath house and pool were constructed and paid for through a New York State Parks and Recreation Grant.

The new bath house was shaped in an 'L' pattern and was composed of interlocking rectangular forms with flat roofs. The new pool is described under **Water Features**. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Basketball Courts

The basketball courts located west of the baseball diamond remained unaltered during this period.<sup>237</sup>

### Bridges

The original wooden, rustic foot bridges, providing access to the island, remained unaltered during the construction of the highway/bridge. However, the other two bridges that originally provided access from Park Avenue to the park's interior were demolished.<sup>238</sup> The exact date of demolition is unknown.

### Concrete Bridge

The concrete bridge remained unaltered during this period.

EAST ELEVATION

NORTH ELEVATION

10000

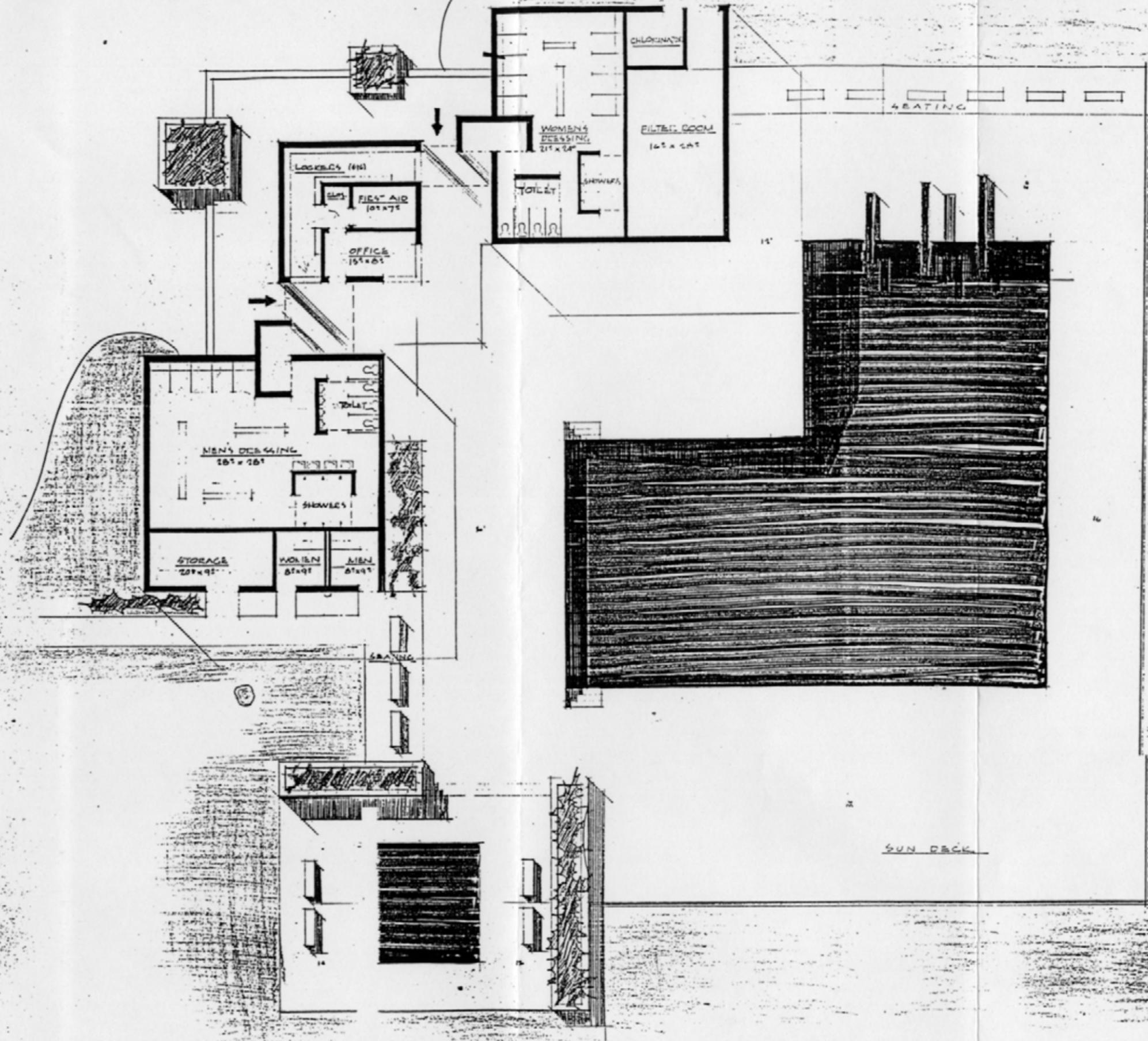
Received July 30<sup>th</sup> 1970  
Donald G. P...  
Arch. Dept.

SWIMMING POOL DENISON PARK · CORNING · N.Y.

JOSEPH A. CONNELL ARCHITECT

13 JULY 70

005



July 20th 1970  
 G. P. [unclear]  
 [unclear]

## Tower

The tower remained unaltered during this period.<sup>239</sup>

## Shed

A 13 foot by 13 foot tool shed was built just north of the bath house some time between 1947 and 1959, the exact date is unknown. The shed was not located on the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plan but was located on the 1959 Topographical Layout Plan, indicating that it was constructed after the highway/bridge was complete. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>240</sup>

## **Site Engineering Systems**

The original levee was added to during the reconstruction of Denison Park. The extension branched from the original levee, east of the southern foot bridge, to the island, and ran northeast in a 'D' shape until it met the original levee again, north of the new vehicular underpass. This 250 foot extension to the east was designed to make space for the sewage treatment plant. The new extension was called a "ring levee". All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>241</sup>

## **Furnishings and Objects**

### Drinking Fountains

There were several drinking fountains marked on the plans between 1947 and 1972. The 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plan located one 40 feet north of the upper, western corner of the new horseshoe pit. The 1957 Topographical Layout Plan located two handicap fountains, one 260 feet southeast of the fountain in the Memorial Garden, and the other on the south side, to the right of the second (eastern) pedestrian underpass. The 1959 Plan showed two drinking fountains. One was located 90 feet northeast of the concession stand and the other was located 130 feet northwest of the eastern pavilion. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Play Equipment

The entire set of original playground equipment was dismantled and relocated during the reconstruction of the park. The new location chosen was east of the western finger of the lake, within the southern central section. The area delineated on the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plan for the new site was 210 feet in length and 70 feet in width. The locations of the individual pieces within the new parameters is unknown.

### Flag Pole

The flag pole was located 40 feet west of the concession stand, on the 1959 Topographical Layout Plan. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>242</sup>

### Fire Hydrants

The 1947 Playground Area Plan locates a fire hydrant 60 feet west of the second pedestrian underpass. The 1959 Plan locates another hydrant 50 feet northwest of the upper (north) corner of the pool.<sup>243</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Fire Places

The 1959 Topographical Layout Plan locates two fire places east of the eastern pavilion, one of which was 100 feet to the northeast and the other was 50 feet to the southeast. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>244</sup>

### Chain Link Fence

The addition of the highway/bridge in Denison Park made it necessary to fence off the highway from the path. Two chain link fences were constructed. They were located on each side of the highway/bridge throughout the park, only breaking at the underpasses. The 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plan also included a 300 foot chain link fence, across the western boarder (along the road) of the new playground area. A fence was also constructed around the pump station, although it is not within the boundaries of Denison Park.

By 1959, a chain link fence was erected around the swimming pool and bath house. It measured 175 feet on the western side where it met the southern highway/bridge boarder fence. It followed the highway/bridge fence to the east for 170 feet, then continued north for 110 feet where it made a right angle to the gate to the bath house. The fence continued from the northeastern corner of the bath house for 35 feet and made a right angle and headed west to close with an additional 70 feet of fence.<sup>245</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

## **Water Features**

### Memorial Garden Fountain

The fountain was located on the 1947 Playground Area Plan but it was not shown on the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plans. The fountain exists today in its original location, however it is in disrepair and is filled with soil.<sup>246</sup> When it fell into disrepair is unknown.

### Children's Wading Pool

The children's wading pool was not affected by the construction and remained unaltered through the early part of this period according to the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plans. The wading pool does not appear on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey of Denison Park, so it can be assumed that the pool was filled some time in the latter part of the 1947-1972 period. It is not known whether the basin still exists. The exact dates and reasons for it are unknown.

### Swimming Pool

The original swimming pool remained unaltered during the early part of the 1947-1972 period. By 1959, a fence had been constructed around the pool. In 1970, a new pool was proposed. In 1972, the new pool and bath house were erected. Note the **Buildings and Structures** section as the pool and bath house were now one unit and are described under that feature heading which also includes illustrations.

## Lake

During the reconstruction of Denison Park, two major sections of the lake were filled. The upper wing of the western portion of the lake was filled, between First Street and Second Street. The eastern wing was also filled in starting approximately 200 feet north of the concrete bridge and continuing to west of the new horseshoe pits. The lake area north of the horseshoe pits was cut off and became a separate lagoon.

During the latter part of the 1947-1972 period, the lagoon and remainder of the western wing were filled. Around the same time a small 80 foot diameter island, west of the main island, was constructed. The exact dates and planning behind these projects are not known.<sup>247</sup> All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.



**Figure 2.36:** Denison Park, small island, facing west (Dimitroff Collection).

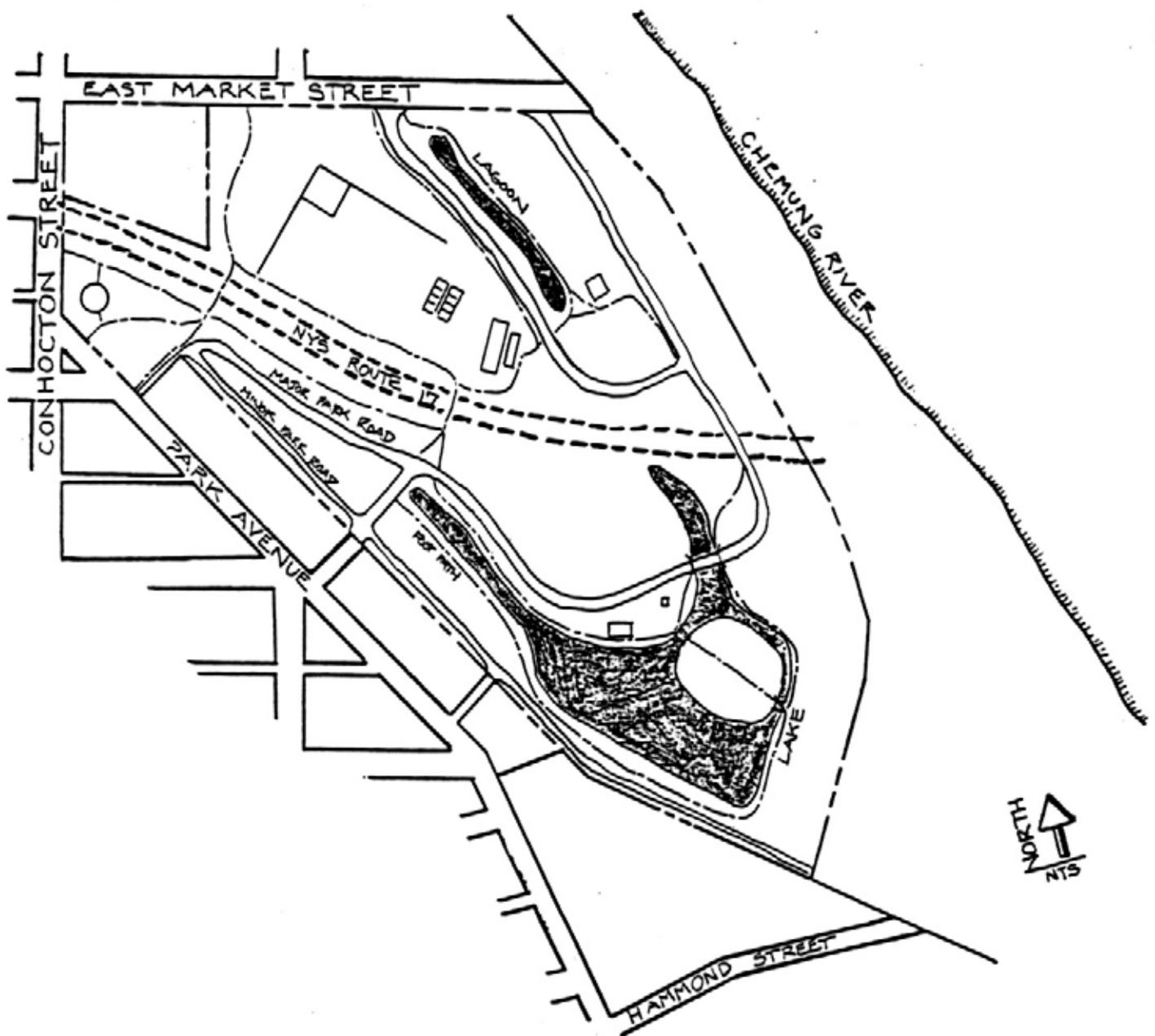
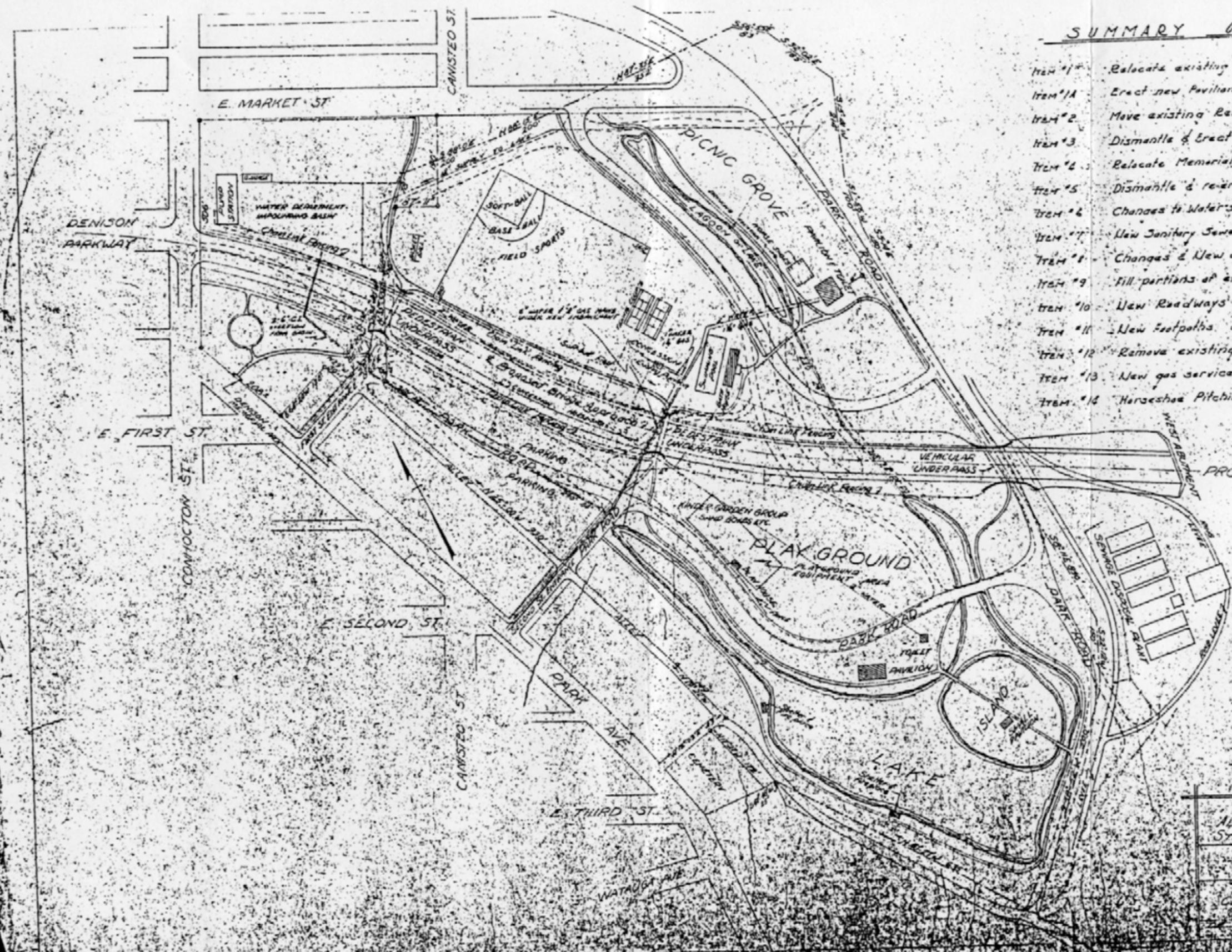


Figure 2.37: Denison Park, plan of lake (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).



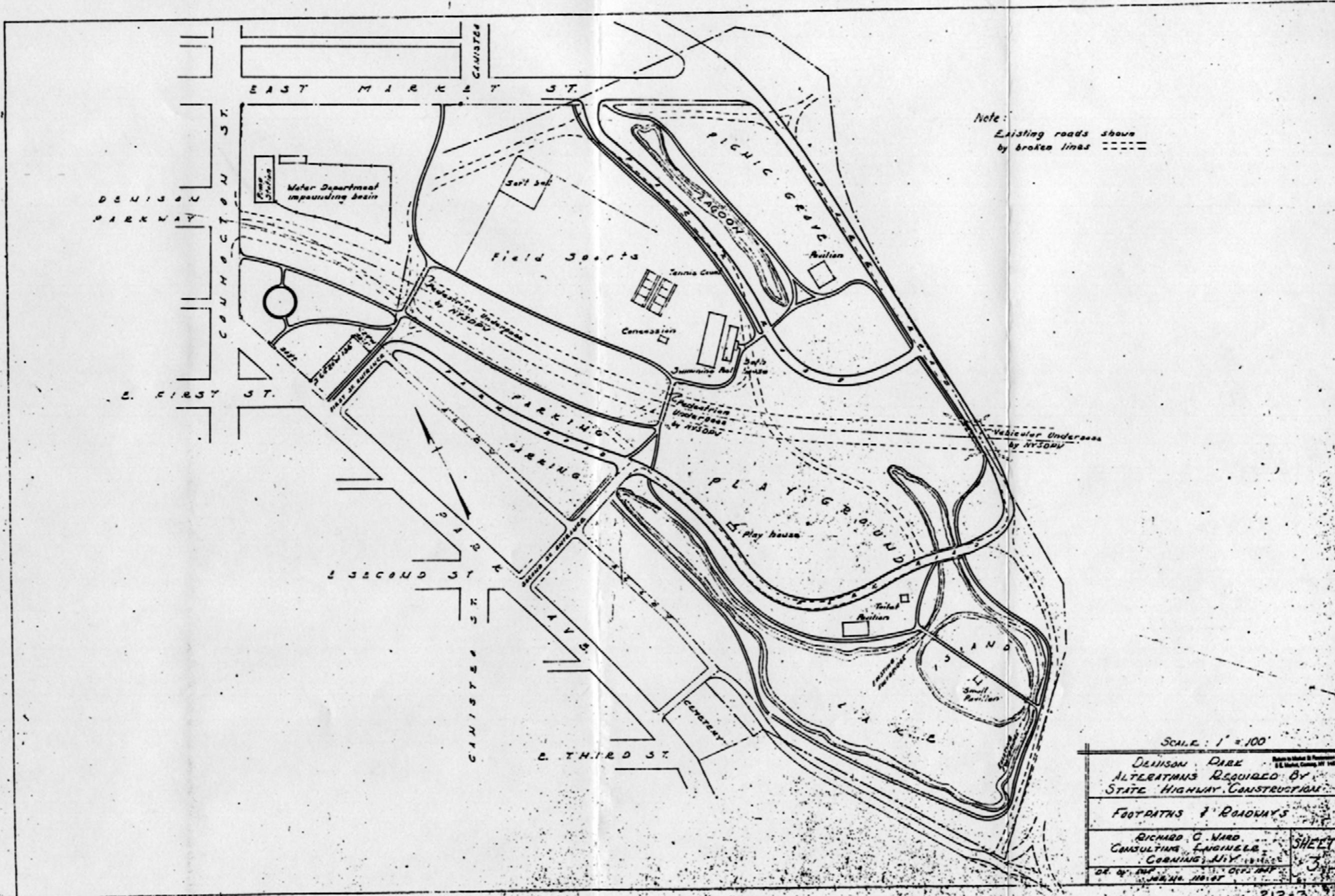
SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- Item #1 Relocate existing Pavilion See Sheet 4 & 5
- Item #1A Erect new Pavilion See Sheets 4 & 5
- Item #2 Move existing Refreshment Stand See Sheets 6 & 6A
- Item #3 Dismantle & Erect Playground Bldg See Sheets 8 & 8A
- Item #4 Relocate Memorial Arch
- Item #5 Dismantle & re-erect playground equipment
- Item #6 Changes to Water supply mains See Sheet 2
- Item #7 New Sanitary Sewer See Sheet 2
- Item #8 Changes & New drainage See Sheet 2
- Item #9 Fill portions of existing lakes See Sheet 4
- Item #10 New Roadways See Sheet 3
- Item #11 New Footpaths See Sheet 3
- Item #12 Remove existing Roads See Sheet 4
- Item #13 New gas service See Sheet 2
- Item #14 Horseshoe Pitching Courts See Sheets 4 & 6

Scale 1" = 100'

DENISON PARK ALTERATIONS REQUIRED BY STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	
GENERAL PLAN	
PREPARED BY	DATE
CONSULTING ENGINEER	
CORPORATION	





Note:  
 Existing roads shown  
 by broken lines

SCALE: 1" = 100'

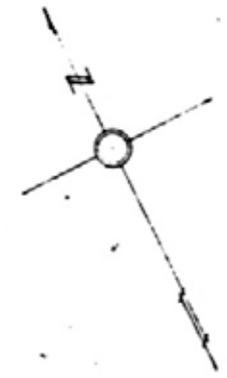
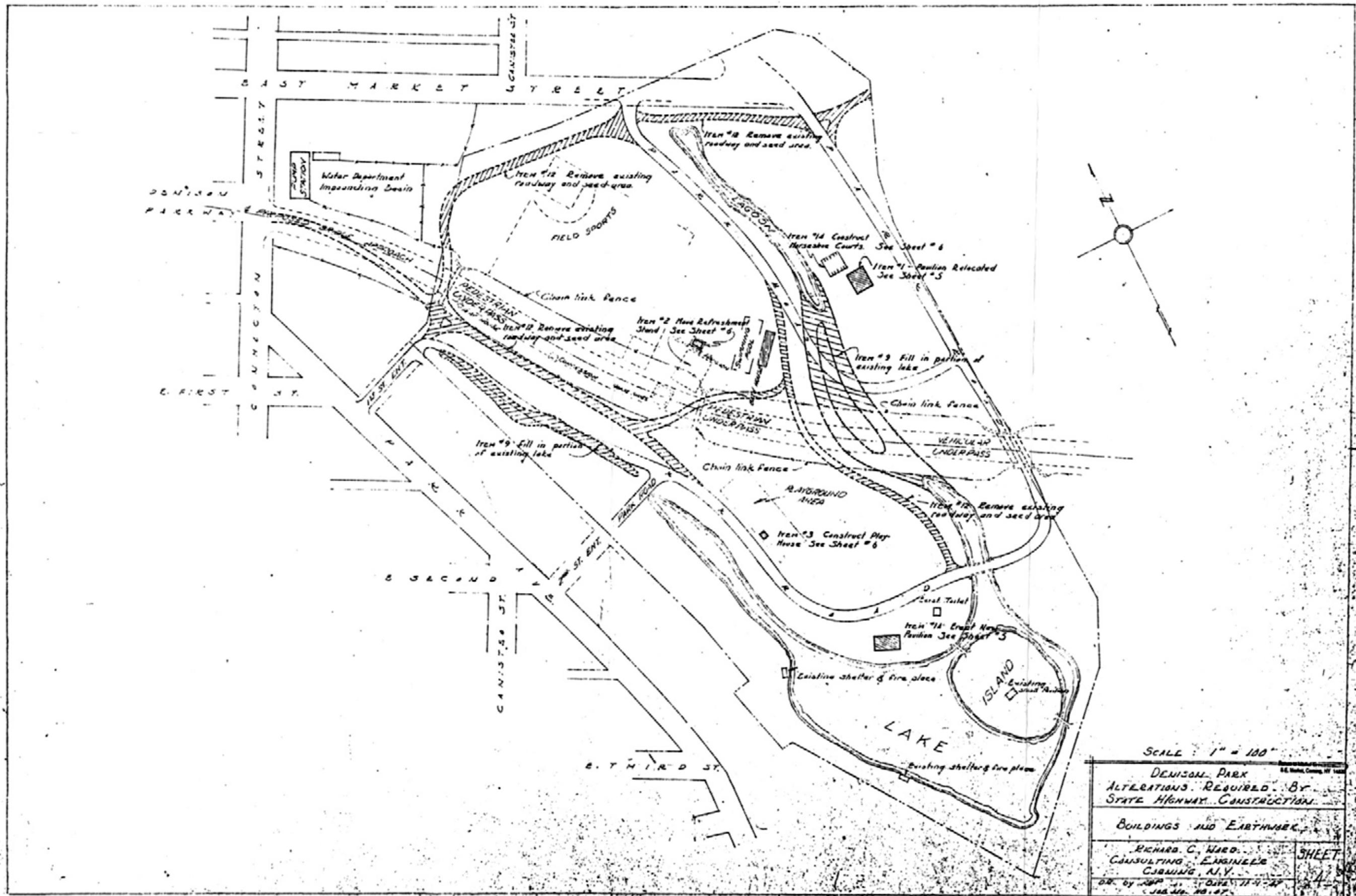
DENISON PARK  
 ALTERATIONS REQUIRED BY  
 STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION

FOOTPATHS & ROADWAYS

RICHARD C. NARD  
 CONSULTING ENGINEER  
 CORNING, N.Y.

DE. OF. DEP. OF. COR. DIV. 10/15/57

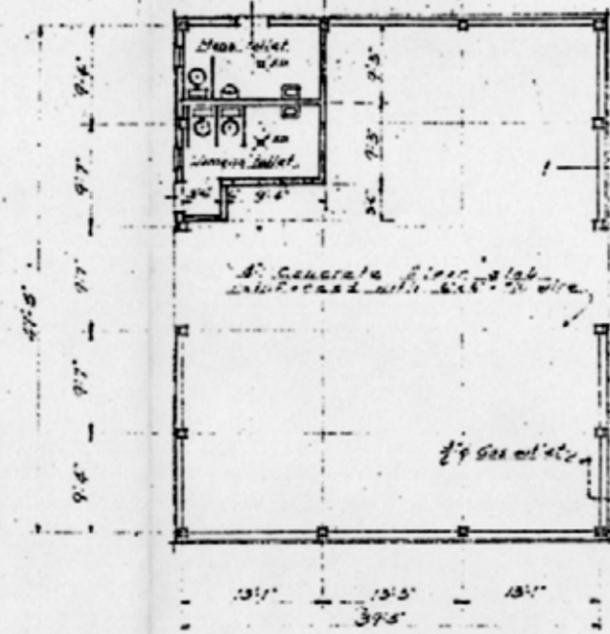
SHEET  
 3



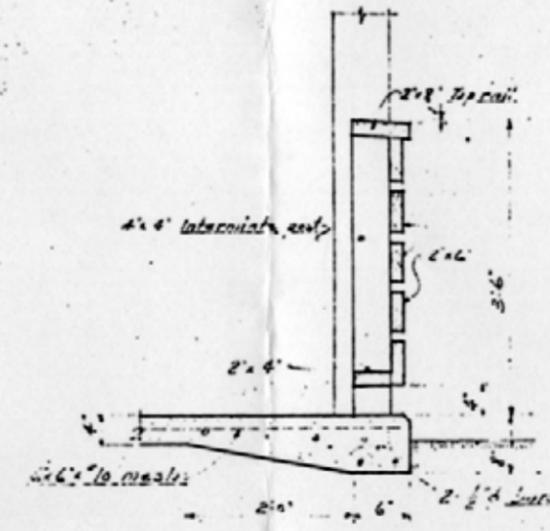
SCALE: 1" = 100'

DENISON PARK	
ALTERATIONS REQUIRED BY STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	
BUILDINGS AND EARTHWORK	
RICHARD C. HARD CONSULTING ENGINEER CRAWFORD, N.Y.	SHEET 4
DR. by J.P.P.	DATE: 11-9-27
JOB NO. 10-27	

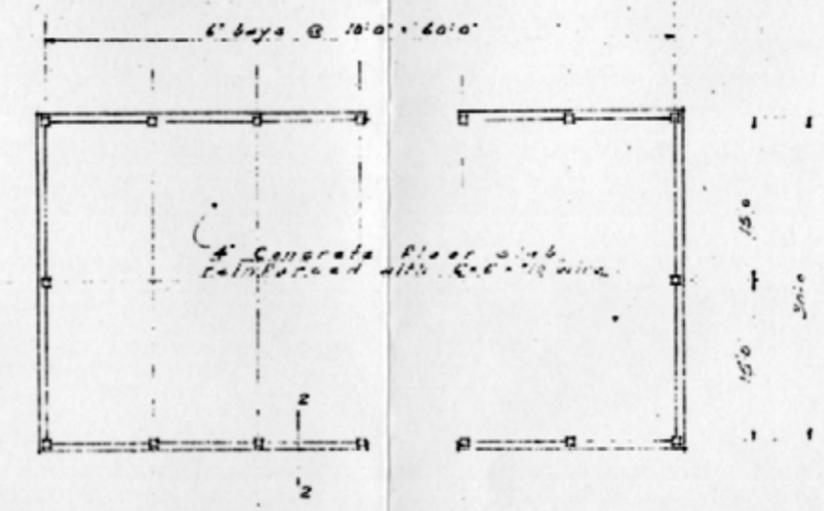
Total cornice extension with  
 finished siding  
 finished 1/2" boards  
 projecting 2" of cornice above  
 curb base.



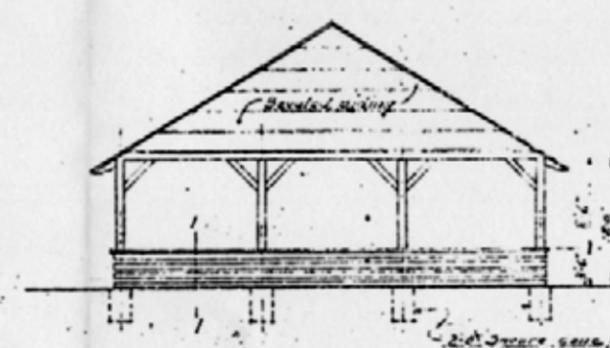
PLAN  
 SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



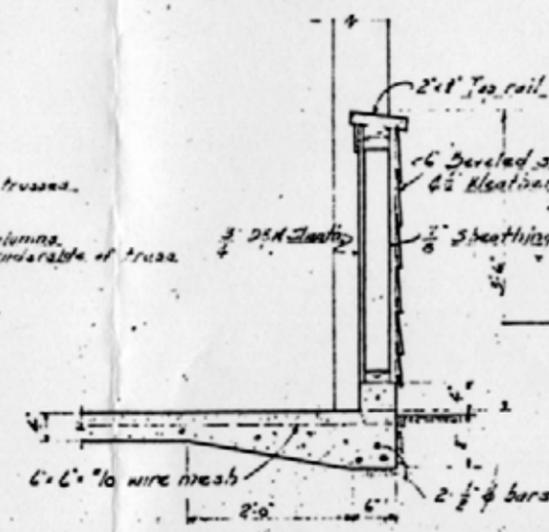
SECTION 1-1  
 SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



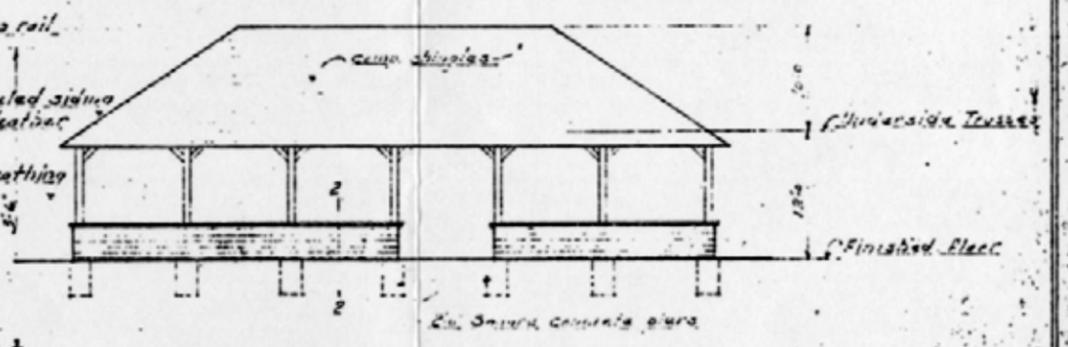
SECTION 2-2  
 SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



END ELEVATION  
 SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



SECTION 2-2  
 SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"



SIDE ELEVATION  
 SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

ITEM #1

Move and remodel main part of existing pavilion  
 to above layout. Include partitions, toilets, piping to sewer and  
 of bldg wall, electric lights & wiring and gas piping  
 inside of building.

ITEM #1A

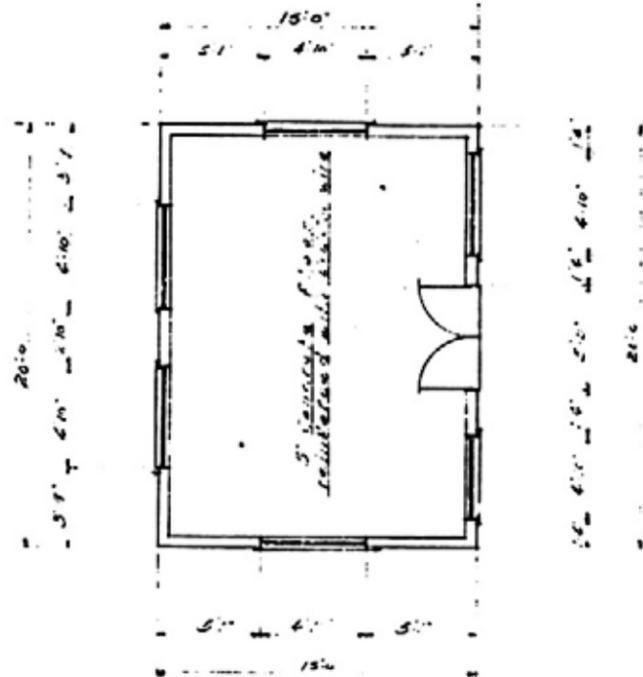
Construct new pavilion to above layout  
 include and materials include  
 piping electric lights and wiring.

SCALE: AS SHOWN.

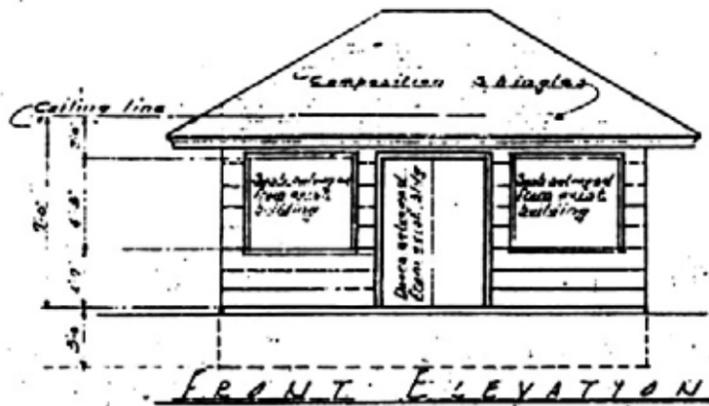
DENISON PARK ALTERATIONS REQUIRED BY STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	
DETAILS OF BUILDINGS	
RICHARD C. WARD CONSULTING ENGINEER CORNING, N.Y.	SHEET 5
Drawn by J.M.P. Date 11-12-25	Checked by J.M.P. Date 11-12-25

ITEM #3

Demolish existing playhouse, retaining deep  
 walls & foundation. Build new playhouse, to be  
 set below main concrete material.  
 Includes concrete floor, foundations & lights.



PLAN VIEW  
 Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



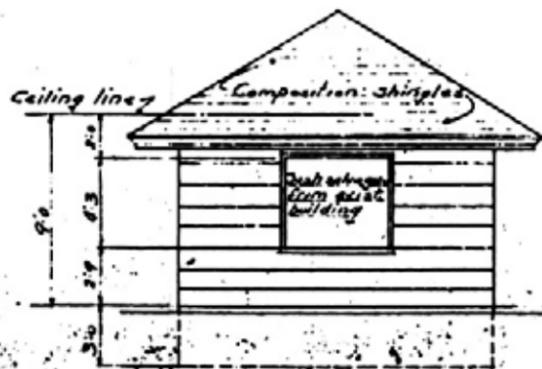
FRONT ELEVATION

ITEM #2

Move existing Rehearsal Stand to  
 new location. Provide concrete slab  
 shown below and electric lights.



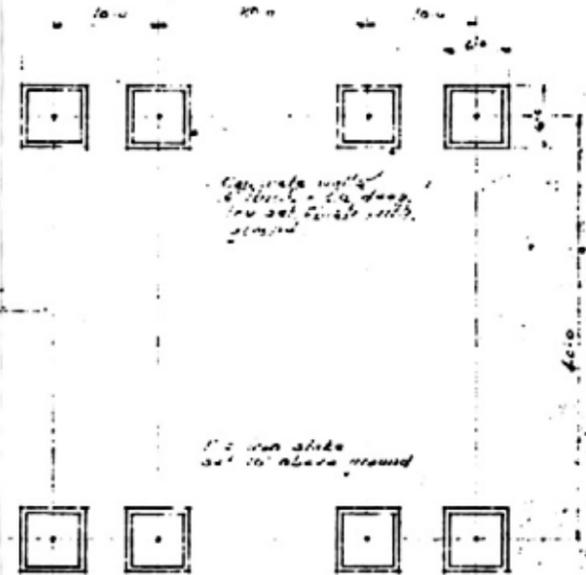
PLAN OF 10' x 10' REHEARSAL  
 STAND  
 Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"



SIDE ELEVATION

ITEM #4

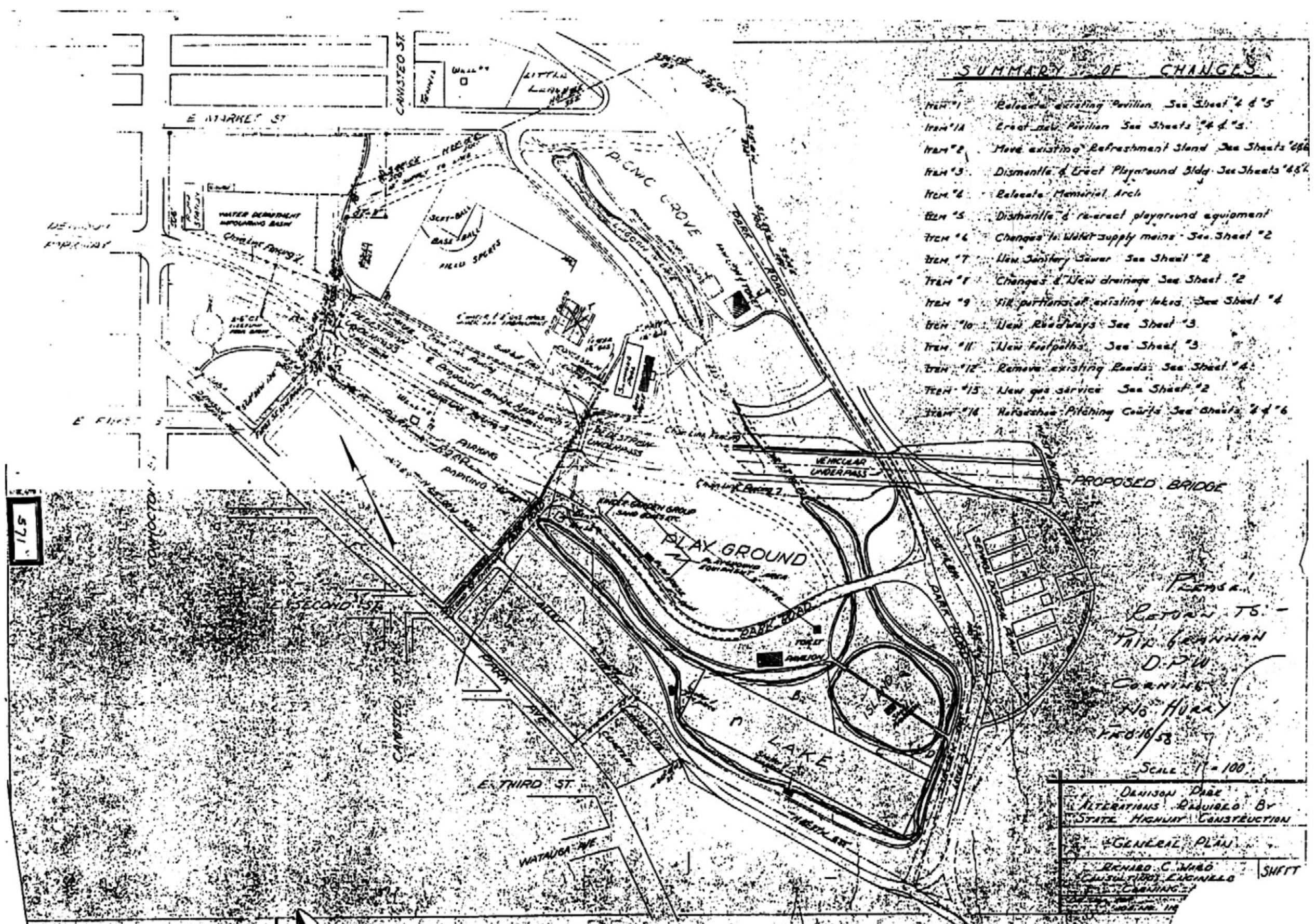
Construct temporary utility  
 building, no access to water.



LAYOUT TEMPORARY COURTS  
 Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

SCALE: AS SHOWN

DENISON PARK ALTERATIONS REQUIRED BY STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION	
DETAILS OF BUILDING	
RICHARD C. NIRD CONSULTING ENGINEER CARMING, N.Y.	SHEET 6
Drawn by J.M.H. DATE 11-5-57 Job No. 111-57	



SUMMARY OF CHANGES

- Item #1 Release existing Pavilion See Sheet 4 & 5
- Item #1A Erect new Pavilion See Sheets 4 & 5
- Item #2 Move existing Refreshment Stand See Sheets 4 & 5
- Item #3 Dismantle & Erect Playground Sldg See Sheets 4 & 5
- Item #4 Release Memorial Arch
- Item #5 Dismantle & re-erect playground equipment
- Item #6 Changes in Water supply mains See Sheet #2
- Item #7 New Sanitary Sewer See Sheet #2
- Item #8 Changes in New drainage See Sheet #2
- Item #9 Fill portions of existing lakes See Sheet #4
- Item #10 New Roadways See Sheet #3
- Item #11 New Footpaths See Sheet #3
- Item #12 Remove existing Roads See Sheet #4
- Item #13 New gas service See Sheet #2
- Item #14 Relocate Pitching Courts See Sheets 4 & 6

FRANK  
 RETURN TO -  
 FRANK BRANNAN  
 D.M.W.  
 CORNING  
 NO HURRY  
 MAR 16/58  
 SCALE 1" = 100'

DAVISON PARK  
 ALTERATIONS REQUIRED BY  
 STATE HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION  
 GENERAL PLAN  
 RICHARD C. WARD  
 CONSULTING ENGINEER  
 CORNING  
 SHEET



## PERIOD 4

### DENISON PARK 1973

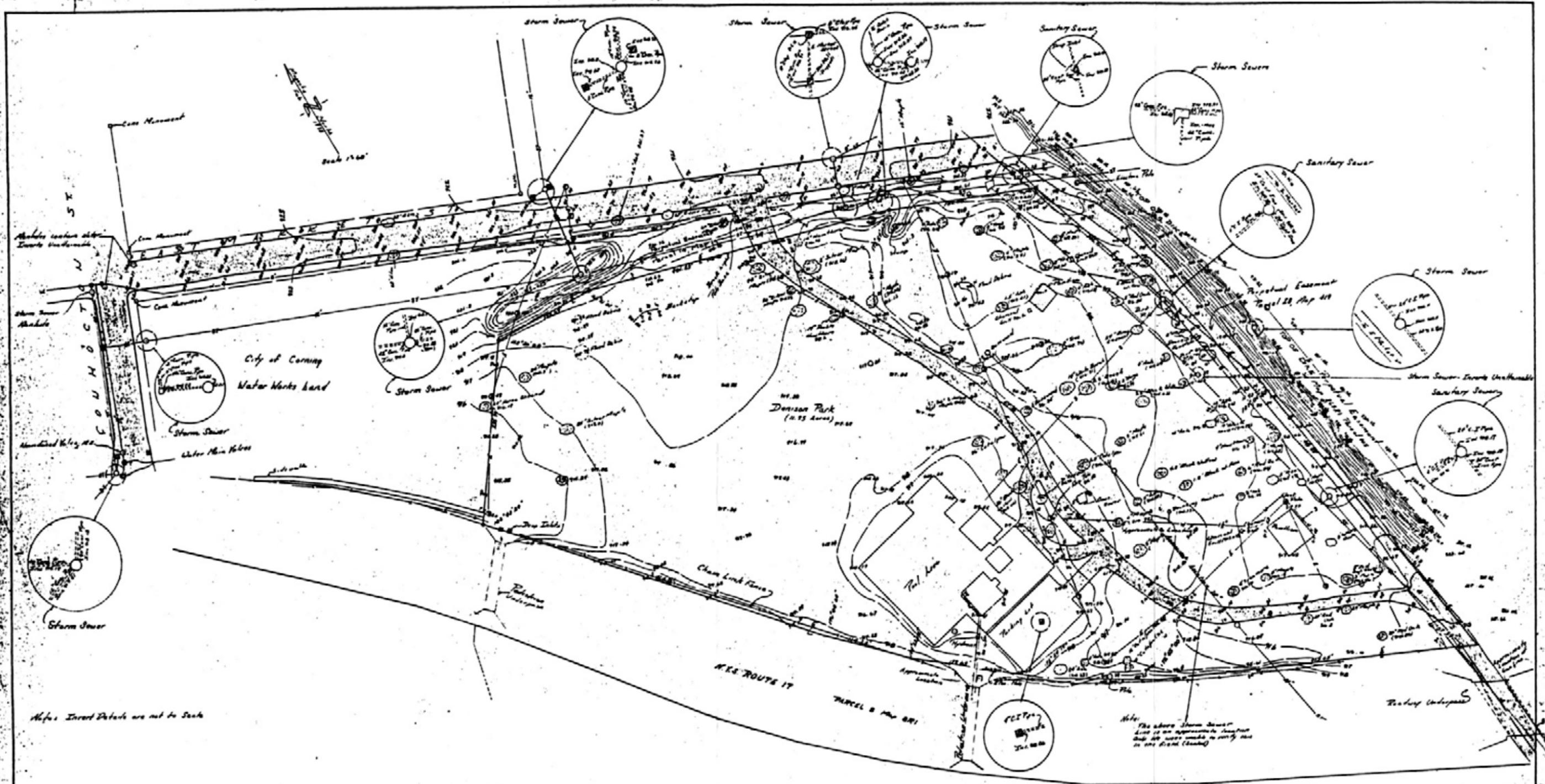
#### Plans pertaining to Period 4, Denison Park:

*Boundary and Topographic Survey*, by Ward and Moore, 1973.

#### Topography

The topography was recorded on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey in spot elevations and one foot contour intervals. This is the first complete topographic survey of the park found during the research for this report.

The northern half of Denison Park generally had a gently sloping topography. The far northwestern corner had a small oval shaped hill that rose 6 feet from the rear of the baseball backstop. The pool area was also approximately 2 feet higher than its surroundings. The eastern side of the park road in the northern section of the park sloped from the road to the center of the area and rose again, creating a slight depression where the lagoon once was. The eastern boarder was formed with the original levee that rose 13 feet above the park with a mean slope of 35%. The southern edge of the northern section rose an average of 2 1/2 feet to meet the boarder of the highway/bridge zone with an average slope of 20%. The southern half of Denison Park also had a generally gentle sloping topography. A majority of the park's open spaces (i.e. baseball field, playground area) were relatively flat. Aside from the levee, the lake area had the steepest sloping topography of the whole southern half. The average slope of the lake's boarder was 20% with an average 3 foot drop to the water level. The southern corner of the levee rose an average of 6 feet with an average slope of 13%. The eastern boarder levee was not completely shown. The average slope of the area of the eastern boarder that was shown was 17%.



- Legend:**
- Electric Lines
  - Water Mains
  - Storm Sewer Mains
  - Sanitary Sewer Mains
  - Fence Lines
  - Drop Inlet
  - Property Lines
  - Line of Perpetual Easement
  - Electric Pole
  - ⊥ Property Corners

**Description of Benchmark:**  
 Located on the east wall of the roadway underpass at the south end. Each horizontal line chiselled in face of wall. An orange square is painted around it. Height 74.00  
 Elev. 74.00

Alphas Insect Details are not to Scale

Revised June 5, 1921. Copies stamped.

**BOUNDARY and TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY**  
 NORTHERN PORTION OF  
**DENISON PARK**  
 CITY OF CORNING STEUBEN COUNTY, N.Y.

	DATE 3/24/23	SCALE 1" = 60'
	MADE BY W & M	JOB NO. 11-23
	CHECKED BY PSW	SHEET NO. 1 of 2

**WARD AND MOORE**  
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS  
 CORNING, N.Y.

DWG. NO. 237



## Vegetation

The 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey of Denison Park did include the park's vegetation. Unfortunately, not all of the trees were identified although the size of most was recorded. None of the shrubs on the plan were identified. However, most of them were measured.

The northern half of the park contained a variety of deciduous shade trees and a few shrubs. Along the sidewalk of East Market Street were a 28 inch diameter Elm, a 26 inch diameter Ash, a 29 inch diameter Silver Maple and two 12 inch diameter Maples. A portion of the hedge along the sidewalk still remained. On the west side of the entrance was a 60 inch diameter silver maple. The park road was lined with predominately 30 inch to 40 inch diameter Silver Maples, a couple of 8 inch to 24 inch diameter Red Oaks and a few 12 to 36 inch diameter Basswoods. The western side of the park, near the baseball field, had only a few scattered trees. They included a 24 inch diameter Maple, a 55 inch diameter Silver Maple and a 24 inch diameter Horse Chestnut.

East of the park road, in the pavilion area, were 4 inch to 12 inch diameter Hawthorns, 6 inch to 30 inch diameter Ashes, 4 inch to 6 inch diameter Maples, 18 inch to 60 inch diameter Black Willows, 5 inch to 30 inch diameter Red Oaks, a 48 inch diameter Sycamore, a 14 inch diameter Birch, a 36 inch diameter Basswood and a 24 inch diameter Horse Chestnut. These species were mixed and in no particular pattern. The mixture included a few other unidentified trees of various sizes.

The southern half of the park contained many of the same species as the northern section. The western area, before the eastern pedestrian underpass, had many unidentified shrubs. The area also included a few 12 inch to 14 inch diameter Spruce, 2 inch to 18 inch diameter Ash, 12 inch to 14 inch Hawthorns, 6 inch to 8 inch diameter Red Oaks and a 36 inch Horse Chestnut. Near the eastern pedestrian underpass were several Ash ranging from 3 inches to 36 inches in diameter, 27 inch to 30 inch diameter Horse Chestnut and a 24 inch diameter Basswood.

The playground area was mixed with 36 inch diameter Black Locust, 6 inch diameter Dogwood, 18 inch to 24 inch diameter Black Cherry, 26 inch to 48 inch diameter Black Willow,

48 inch diameter Box Elder, 48 inch diameter Oak, 28 inch diameter Norway Maple, 20 inch to 36 inch diameter Ash, 36 inch diameter Horse Chestnut and 26 inch diameter Basswood. As in the other areas there were some unidentified shrubs and trees.

The area south of the park road, before the lake, was sparsely planted, due to the lake occupying the area until late in the previous period. There were several varieties and they included a 4 inch diameter Ash, a 36 inch diameter Box Elder, a 12 inch diameter Birch, a 39 inch diameter Black Willow, 8 inch to 16 inch diameter Hawthorns, 2 inch to 32 inch diameter Maples, a 14 inch diameter Basswood and an Oak of an unspecified size.

The northwestern side of the lake had a 36 inch diameter Box Elder, 30 inch diameter Red Oak, two 30 inch diameter Horse Chestnuts, an 18 inch diameter Blue Spruce, a 24 inch diameter Maple, a 12 inch diameter Willow, a 26 inch diameter Chestnut Oak and several unidentified shrubs. The south side of the lake was predominately Willows, ranging from 4 inches to 60 inches in diameter. The eastern side had a 26 inch diameter Maple, a 54 inch diameter Willow and an 18 inch diameter White Birch. To the northeast of the lake was a 12 inch diameter Cottonwood, 26 inch diameter Maple, a 30 inch diameter Black Locust and many more species that were unidentified. Northeast of the 1909 bridge were three Ash, two were 26 inches in diameter and the other was 28 inches in diameter.

The large island was lined with Willows ranging from 12 inches to 48 inches in diameter. The island also had several Hawthorns that were between 6 inches and 12 inches in diameter and a couple Maples that were between 3 inches and 24 inches in diameter. A few other trees were located but they were unidentified.

The small island was covered with several unidentified shrubs, a 3 inch diameter Elm and two 28 inch diameter Black Willows.

### **Spatial Organization**

The spatial organization of Denison Park remained unaltered during this period.

## Circulation

The circulation remained unaltered from the previous period except for the redesign of the parking area for the new pool. The pool's new parking area was a rectangular, 65 foot by 110 foot lot. A circular drop off area was also added to the front of the bath house.<sup>248</sup>

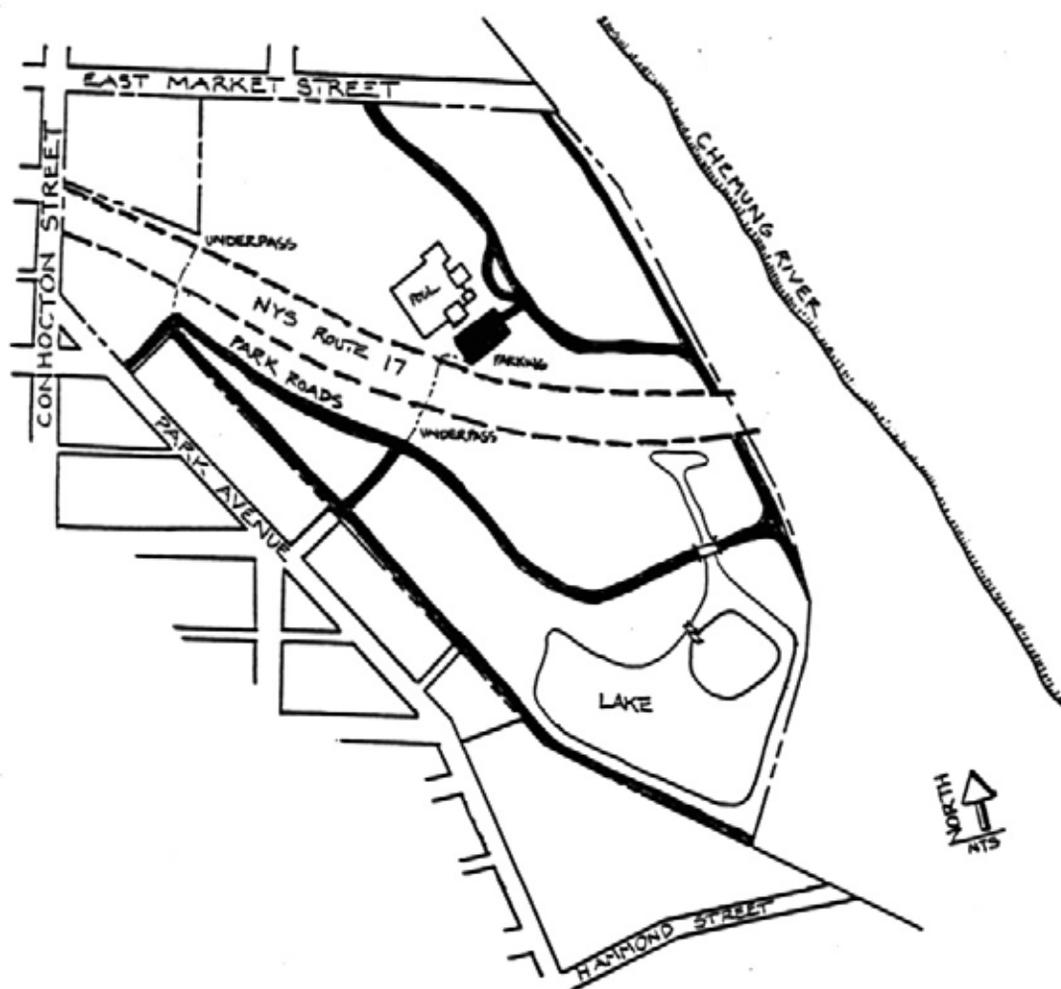


Figure 2.48: Denison Park, circulation plan, 1973 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## Buildings and Structures

### Memorial Gateway

The memorial gateway remained unaltered during this period.<sup>249</sup>

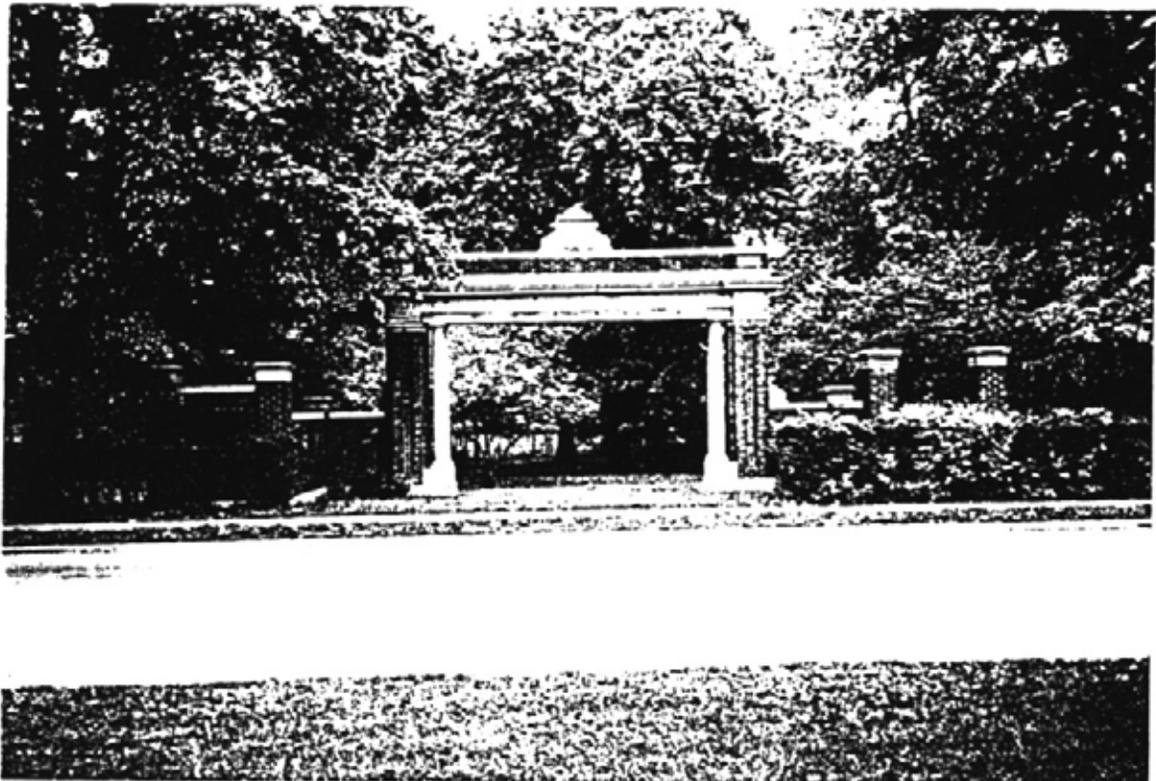


Figure 2.49: Denison Park, Memorial Gateway (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

### Underpasses - Pedestrian

The two pedestrian underpasses remained unaltered during this period.<sup>250</sup>

### Underpass - Vehicular

The vehicular underpass remained unaltered during this period.



Figure 2.50: Denison Park, pedestrian underpass, facing north (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).



Figure 2.51: Denison Park, pedestrian underpass, facing northeast (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

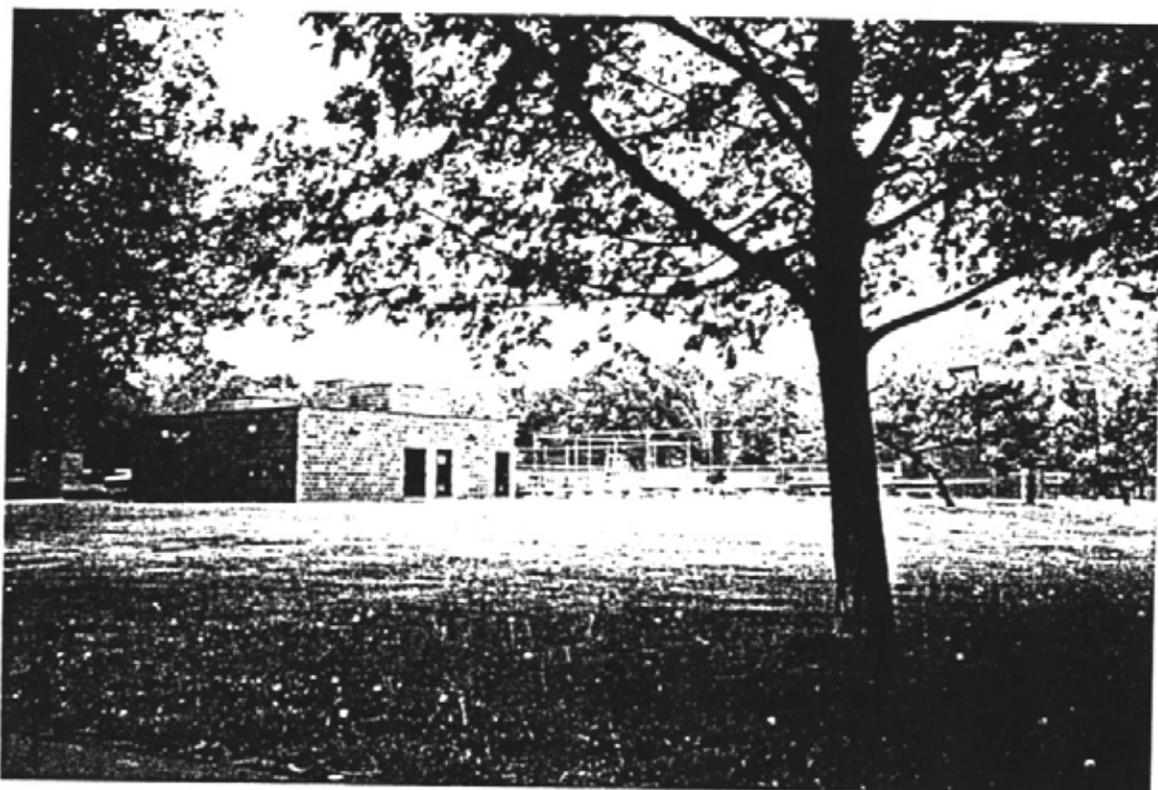


Figure 2.52: Denison Park, pool and bath house, facing south (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

### Bath House and Pool

The bath house and pool remained unaltered during this period.

### Small Pavilion

A small rectangular pavilion was added to the northern half of the park, approximately 250 feet northeast of the pool. The building measured 20 feet in width and 30 feet in length. The date of its construction and all other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>251</sup>



Figure 2.53: Denison Park, large pavilion, facing northeast (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

### Large Pavilion

The large pavilion was located on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey. It is unknown if the building was altered since the only information available was the footprint on the plan, which matches the original dimensions.

### Well House

The 1973 Survey located a 10 foot wide by 14 foot long structure labeled 'Well House'. While it is labeled well house there is no other existing information to verify this. It was located approximately 210 feet northwest of the Second Street entrance. The walls of the structure were made of brick and it sat upon a concrete foundation. The roof was flat and made of concrete. The date of its construction is unknown.<sup>252</sup>



Figure 2.54: Denison Park, Playhouse, facing southeast (MSRA).

#### Play House

The children's play house remained unaltered during this period, although the survey labels it as a brick building.<sup>253</sup>

#### Sandbox

The sandbox was located on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey within the new playground area. It was located approximately 110 feet to the east of the play house.<sup>254</sup>

#### Concrete Bridge

The concrete bridge was located on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey and remained unaltered.



Figure 2.55: Denison Park, Bridge and Tower, facing northwest (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

#### Footbridge Abutment

A foot bridge abutment was located on the northern edge of the new small island. No bridge was located, just the abutment. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>255</sup>

#### Toilet

The toilet building remained unaltered during this period.<sup>256</sup>



Figure 2.56: Denison Park, Pavilion, facing south (MSRA).

New Pavilion

The new pavilion remained unaltered during this period.

Tower

The tower remained unaltered during this period.<sup>257</sup>



Figure 2.57: Denison Park, Tower, facing south (MSRA).

### Site Engineering Systems

#### Retaining Walls

The 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey locates two small retaining walls. The first was located approximately 240 feet southeast of the concrete bridge. The other was located approximately 80 feet to the southeast of the large island. The walls were approximately 10 feet in length. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Manhole Structure

There was a concrete manhole structure located in the southern most corner of Denison Park. The outer diameter was 20 feet while the internal rectangle measured 7 feet in width and 10 feet in length. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Unknown Structure

A 2 1/2 foot in diameter concrete structure was located off of center on the large island. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Concrete Ditch

The 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey located a concrete ditch of an unknown length and depth. It was located on the south side of the vehicular underpass and lead run-off water to the tip of the lake's eastern wing. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Head Wall

There were two head walls located on the southern half of the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey. One of the head walls was located approximately 120 feet to the west of the vehicular underpass. The other head wall was located approximately 150 feet to the southeast of the concrete bridge. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Levee

The levee remained unaltered during this period.<sup>258</sup>

### **Furnishings and Objects**

#### Chain Link Fence

The two fences bordering the highway/bridge remained unaltered during this period.

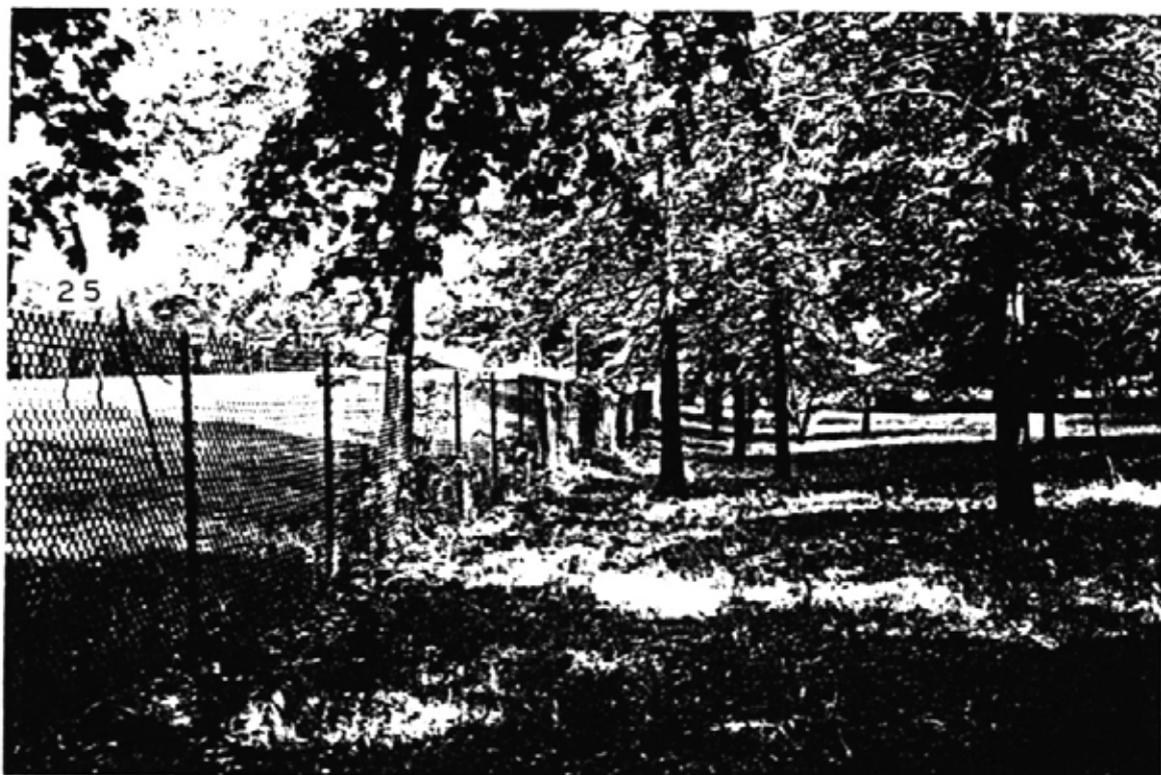


Figure 2.58: Denison Park, Border Fence, South Half, facing southeast (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

#### Baseball Backstop

The 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey located a backstop for the baseball field in the northern half of the ball field area, approximately 150 feet to the southwest of the East Market Street entrance. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

#### Light Pole Base

A brick light pole base was located along the west side of the East Market Street entrance. The base was two offset squares with sides that were approximately 4 feet each. The squares were attached at the lower right corner of the first and upper left corner of the second. The date of its construction and all other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Charcoal Grills

There were three charcoal grills located on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey. Two of the grills were near the small pavilion in the northeastern corner of the park. One was approximately 8 feet to the southwest of the pavilion and the other was approximately 45 feet to the east of the pavilion. The third grill was located approximately 30 feet to the west of the large pavilion, east of the pool. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Drinking Fountains

The 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey located three drinking fountains. The first was approximately 250 feet to the north of the large pavilion. The second was approximately 140 feet to the west of the large pavilion. The third was approximately 30 feet to the east of the western side of the large island, where the footbridge. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Fire Hydrants

There were four fire hydrants that were located on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey. One of the hydrants was immediately to the south of the bath house. The second hydrant was approximately 60 feet to the southwest of the eastern pedestrian underpass. Another hydrant was on the levee, approximately 80 feet to the east of the center of the eastern shore of the large island. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Flagpole

A flag pole was located in the center of the old memorial garden fountain. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

### Play Equipment

The individual pieces of play equipment were drawn on the 1973 Boundary and Topographic Survey. Their sizes and locations were as follows:

Swing Sets: There were five swing sets within the play ground area of various sizes. Included were one 23 foot long set, two 35 foot long sets, one 15 foot long set and one 30 foot long set. The 23 foot long set was located 80 feet to the southeast of the flagpole by the fountain. Southeast of the 23 foot long set by 90 feet was the 30 foot long set. One of the 35 foot long sets was northeast of the sandbox by 50 feet. North of that set by 75 feet was the 15 foot long set. The second 35 foot long set was 30 feet to the north of the children's play house. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

Pipe Railing: The pipe railing for play and exercise was located approximately 70 feet to the northwest of the children's play house. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

See-saw: The see-saw was located 60 feet to the north of the sandbox and was 15 feet in length. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

Monkey Bars: There was a 15 foot long set of monkey bars located approximately 110 feet to the northeast of the sandbox. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

Posts: There were two 8 foot high posts located approximately 90 feet to the east of the sand box, with 40 feet separating the two parallel posts. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

Slide: A 25 foot long slide was located 20 feet to the northeast of the children's play house. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

Street Lamp Pole: A light pole was located within the playground area, 125 feet to the northeast of the sandbox. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.<sup>259</sup>

Electric Line Poles (with lights): Electric light poles were found through out the park during the period. They lined most of the park road, branched to cover the main features and carried electric service to many of the buildings and structures. All other dimensions, materials, specifications and characteristics are unknown.

## Water Features

### Memorial Garden Fountain

The fountain was no longer utilized by 1973. Although the survey had the fountain marked as a flag pole, the structure existed. It is unknown when or why the fountain fell into disrepair.<sup>260</sup>

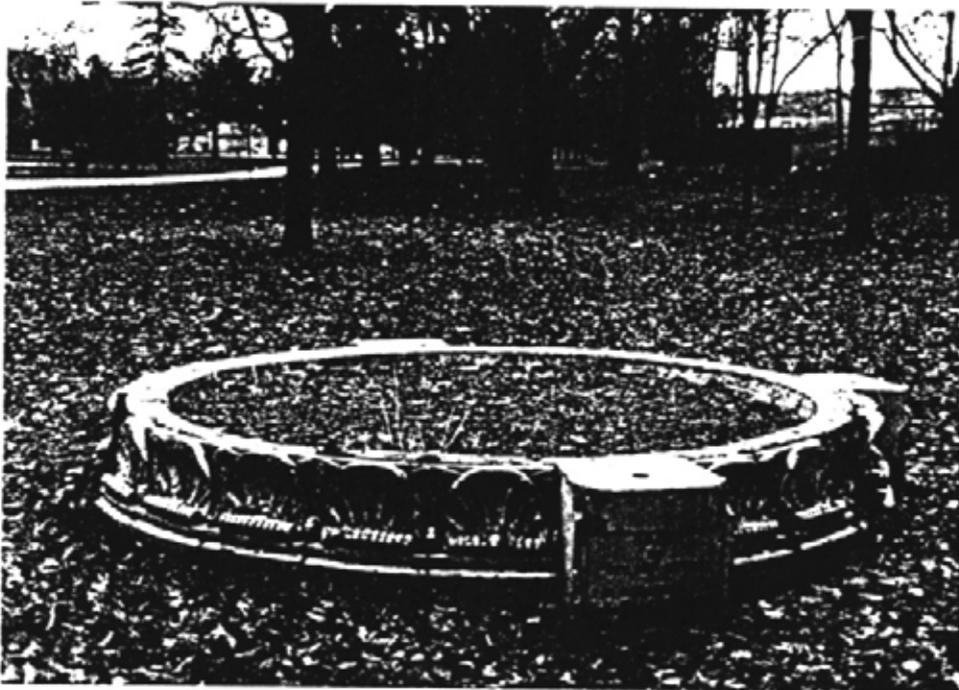


Figure 2.59: Denison Park, remains of Fountain, facing northwest (MSRA).

### Children's Wading Pool

The children's wading pool was filled with soil. It is unknown whether the basin remained. The walkway that surrounded the pool was all that remained of the feature.<sup>261</sup>



Figure 2.61: Denison Park, remains of walk surrounding the Wading Pool, facing southwest (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

### Swimming Pool

The swimming pool remained unaltered during this period.

### Lake

The lake was reduced in size and its shape during this period. The western wing was completely filled in by 1973 and the western side of the lake was squared off. The remaining parts of the lake remained unaltered. The exact dates and reasons for the filling and reshaping of the western section is unknown.

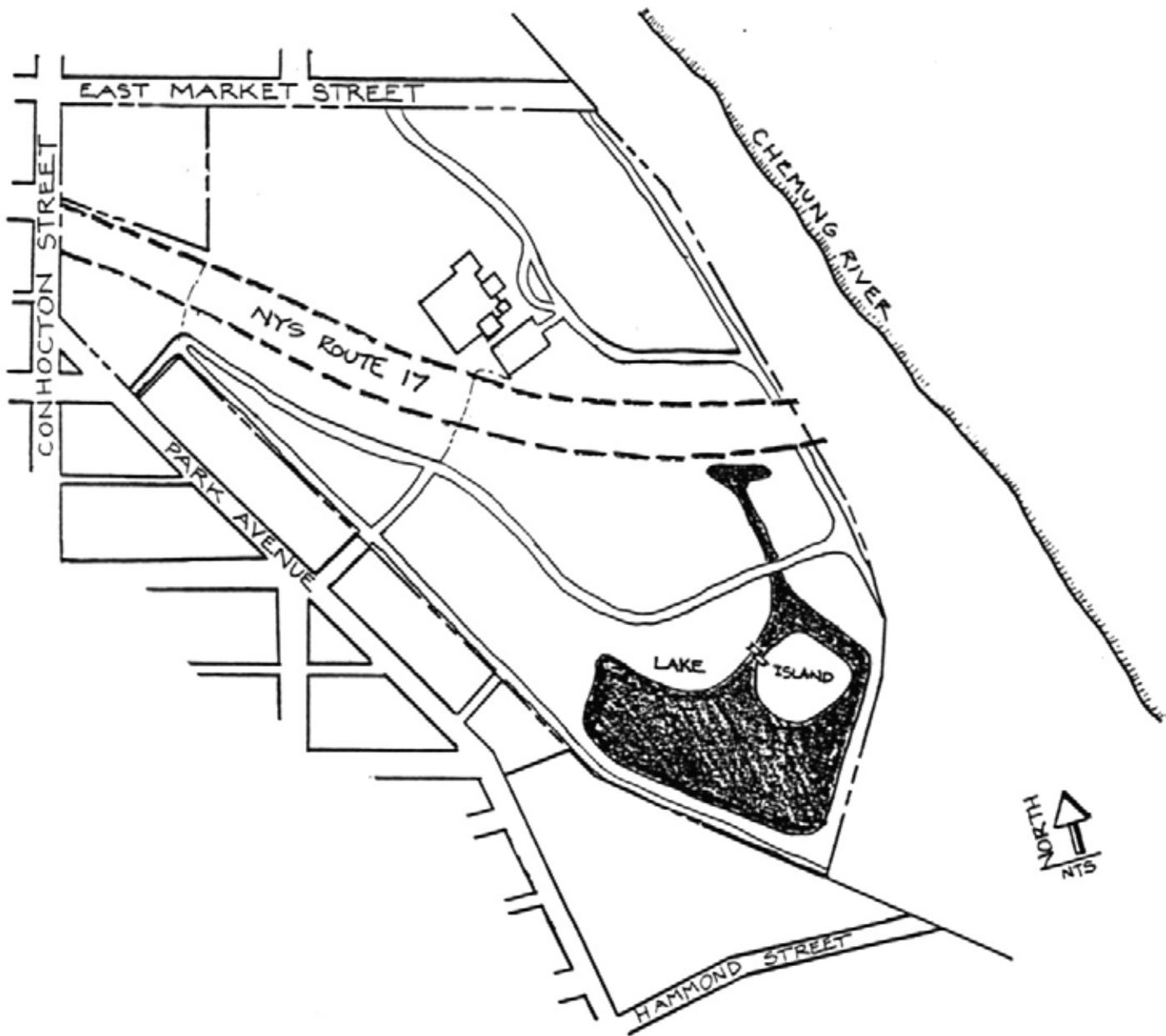


Figure 2.61: Denison Park, Denison Lake, 1973 (K. Allen. SUNY CESF, 1994).

## PERIOD 5

### DENISON PARK PRELIMINARY STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE AND ASSESSMENT OF INTEGRITY

#### Plans pertaining to Period 5, Denison Park:

*Denison Park*, by Taliaferro and Niederman, 23 August 1974.

*Site Survey of Denison Park*, Hunt Engineers and Architects, August 1994.

#### Introduction

During August of 1994 the Boundary and Topographic Survey, prepared by Ward and Moore in 1973, was updated by Hunt Engineers and Architects. The survey locates all major landscape features. However, it does not identify plant materials. The schedule of this study did not provide the time necessary to complete an evaluation of the existing conditions and an assessment of the extant character-defining features of Denison Park. However, the historic research, the Hunt Survey and a number of site visits to the park provide the basis to offer some initial comments on the significance and integrity of Denison Park.

#### Significance of Denison Park

Based on the National Register criteria for evaluating significance Denison Park may be significant based on Criteria C. The quality of significance is present in sites "(t)hat embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction..."

Denison Park was designed in 1906 by Harold A. Caparn (1864-1945), a prominent New York City Landscape Architect. Research on Caparn completed for this report is not definitive. However, it is known that Caparn had a very active practice in New York from 1902 to 1945. His office was located at 144 East Thirtieth Street. "... His work included school and college grounds, parks in New Jersey and New York, the grounds of the House Office Building in

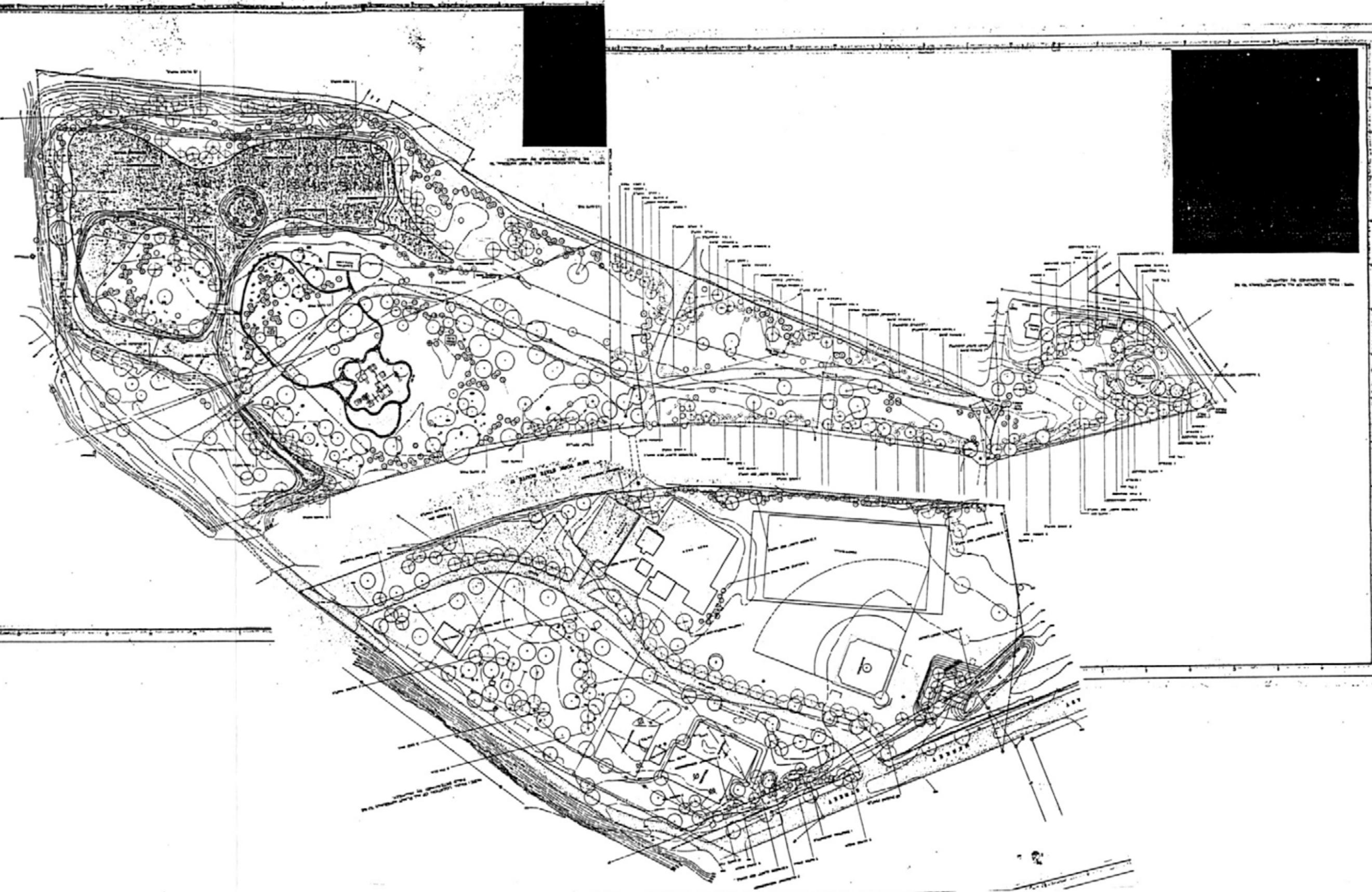
Washington, and many private places on Long Island and in Westchester County and Connecticut."<sup>262</sup>

During Caparn's 43 years of professional practice he was the designer of many projects. Among the most significant were: New York Zoological Park, Bronx, NY. (1900-1905); Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY. (1912-1945); Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY. (1937-1945); and the estates of Mrs. Ben Ali Haggin, Tannersville, NY. (no date).<sup>263</sup> Caparn was also a consultant to the National Park Service.<sup>264</sup>

Caparn's work at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden was extensive. His work began in January, 1912, and he continued as a consultant to the garden until his death in 1945. When he began this work, "... the garden was in its preliminary stages. The design of the walks had been done by Olmsted brothers, but from then on nearly all of the garden's features, including the Rose Garden, the Water Gardens, the Horticultural Sections and the Systematic Section, with its plant families in botanical sequence, were designed by Mr. Caparn."<sup>265</sup>

Harold A. Caparn was an early and active member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. He served on the Board of Trustees for twelve years (1907-1918). He was Treasurer from 1909-1911, President in 1912 and Vice President from 1915-1918. He was made a Fellow of the Society in 1908.<sup>266</sup>

From the information collected on Harold A. Caparn it would seem that he and his work are significant to the profession of Landscape Architecture. Thus, Denison Park could be significant based on Criteria C- "...representing the work of a master..." If the park is significant as the work of a master, then the period of significance would likely be 1906-1915. In 1906, the park was designed and, in 1915, the park's construction was complete. (Note: All the information collected on Harold A. Caparn during the research for this report is located in **Appendix B.**)



2-3

Talafiero and Niederman  
Architects  
806 Cathedral Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

**DENISON**  
**PARK**

CORNING, NEW YORK







## **Integrity of Denison Park**

"Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance."<sup>267</sup> Assessment of integrity is based on the condition and existence of the physical features of a property and how they convey its significance. To evaluate and assess integrity seven aspects or qualities have been established by the National Park Service. The seven aspects are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

The original design plan(s) for Denison Park prepared by Harold A. Caparn were not located during the research for this report. However, the accumulation of changes recorded in the documents that were located during the research for this report clearly indicate that the park has been significantly altered from its original design.<sup>268</sup> Every character-defining feature to some extent has been modified through removal, relocation, realignment or redesign. With the exception of location, none of the other aspects of integrity with regard to the condition and existence of the physical features of the park are retained. And thus the initial assessment of the park's integrity, based on its potential significance, is that the park has lost its integrity and does not have the ability to convey its significance.

## APPENDIX A

### LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

Topography- the inextractable framework of the landscape; the three dimensional configuration of the earths surface characterized by configuration (ground slope, configuration of contours, visual forms, etc.) and orientation (elevation, solar aspect, etc.) of the landscape.

Buildings and Structures- the elements constructed in a cultural landscape primarily for sheltering any form of human activity are buildings (houses, barns, garages, stables, etc.) and the functional elements for purposes other than sheltering human activity are structures (bridges, windmills, gazebos, silos, dams, etc.). Included in this category are mechanical and engineering systems.

Mechanical Systems- the features and materials which combine to provide utility service to the landscape (power lines, hydrants, culverts, etc.).

Site Engineering Systems- the systems and individual features which provide a physically stabilizing factor to all of a portion of the landscape (retaining walls, dikes, foundations, etc.).

Vegetation- the individual and associated deciduous or evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers and herbaceous materials, whether indigenous or introduced to the cultural landscape (specimen tree, hedge, forest, orchard, bosquet, vegetable garden, agricultural field, perennial bed, etc.).

Circulation- the spaces, features and applied material finishes which constitute the movement systems of the cultural landscape (paths, walks, plazas, squares, roads, parking facilities, etc.).

Spatial Organization- the structure or order of the landscape; the three dimensional organization of physical and visual associations. The organization of elements creating the base,

vertical and overhead plane define and create spaces. The functional and visual relationship between these spaces is integral to the character of the landscape (open space, enclosed space, corridor space, etc.). Views and vistas are included in this category as an element of the spatial organization.

Water Features- the built features and elements which utilize water to create thematic or aesthetic elements within the cultural landscape (fountains, pools, ponds, lakes, cascades, canals, streams, etc.).

Furnishings and Objects- the elements which provide detail and diversity while addressing functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the cultural landscape (fences, benches, urns, flagpoles, sculptures, markers, monuments, signs, etc.).

## APPENDIX B

### OBITUARY OF HAROLD A. CAPARN

#### **H. A. Caparn Dead; Landscape Expert**

Consultant to Botanic Garden, Brooklyn,  
1912-1945, Designed Many of Its Features

Harold A. Caparn, consulting Landscape Architect to the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens from 1932 until early this year, died yesterday in the Manhattan General Hospital after a brief illness. He resided at 230 West Fifty-ninth Street and had an office at 144 East Thirtieth Street. His age was 81.

Born in Newark-on-Trent, England, of Welsh and English descent, he was a master at the Cathedral School, Canterbury, and then studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, before coming to New York more than forty-five years ago.

His work with the Brooklyn Botanic Garden began in January, 1912, when the Garden was in the preliminary stages. The design of the walks had been done by Olmsted brothers, but from then on nearly all of the Garden's features, including the Rose Garden, the Water Gardens, the Horticultural Sections and the Systematic Section, with its plant families in botanical sequence, were designed by Mr. Caparn.

He was also the designer of the campus of Brooklyn College, and did landscape work for the New York Zoological Park in the Bronx, the House Office Building in Washington, D.C., and Lincoln Park in Newark, N.J.

Mr. Caparn designed many gardens on private estates in Long Island, Westchester County and Connecticut. One of his best pieces of work was done at Tannersville, N. Y., for Mrs. Ben Ali Haggin. He was long a crusader against encroachments on Central Park and other parks in the city. Mr. Caparn protested against proposed exhibits of sculpture in Central Park, denounced suggestions of swimming pools, and wading pools, a stadium and other features as a

memorial to the dead of the first World War and opposed ripping up a boarder of the park for subway construction. Parks, he maintained, were things of beauty and not playgrounds or places for commercial activities.

Mr. Caparn was a former president of the New York Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, had been vice president of the City Gardens Club and chairman of its committee on parks and was a member of the Architectural League of New York. He had served on the City Club's park committee. At one time he taught landscape architecture at Columbia University.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Clara Jones Caparn; two daughters, Mrs. Johannes Steel of New York, wife of the radio commentator and writer, and Mrs. Robert M. Moore, Jr., of New York; a brother, Arthur Caparn, and a sister, Mrs. Annie Shackleton of Short Hills, N. J., and two granddaughters.

*(The New York Times, 25 September 1945)*

## H. A. CAPARN DEAD; LANDSCAPE EXPERT

Consultant to Botanic Garden,  
Brooklyn, 1912-45, Designed  
Many of Its Features

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At one time he taught landscape architecture at Columbia University.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Clara Jones Caparn; two daughters, Mrs. Johannes Steel of New York, wife of the radio commentator and writer, and Mrs. Robert M. Moore



HAROLD AP RHYSCAPARN  
BLACK & Shaffer, 1941

## MRS. F. E. CLARK, 94, RELIGIOUS WORKER

Widow of Christian Endeavor  
Founder Dies—Was a Leading  
Promoter of the Society

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
NEWTON, Mass., Sept. 24—Mrs. Harriet E. Clark, widow of the Rev. Dr. Francis E. Clark, who founded the Christian Endeavor Society, died today in the Vernon Court Hotel, where she made her home. Her age was 94.

Known as the "Mother of Christian Endeavor," she worked with her husband in all sections of the world to build the society from a group of forty boys and girls at Portland, Me., into an organization of 4,000,000 persons in 104 countries. Dr. Clark died in 1927.

When her husband was pastor of the Williston Congregational Church in Portland in the early Eighteen Eighties, Mrs. Clark was the teacher of a class of young people banded together in the Mizpah Circle. This small group, called together on Feb. 2, 1881, by Dr. Clark, was the beginning of the society to provide the "opportunity for self-expression by means of words and services for Christ and church."

This movement spread rapidly and Mrs. Clark, as her husband's first assistant, traveled around the world five times in the interest of the society. She maintained an active interest in its activities, attending conventions and other meetings, until three years ago. Since then she has kept up correspondence with society officers and members throughout the world.

## FRANCIS BARTOW, BANKER 41 YEARS

Former J. P. Morgan Partner  
Dead in South—Had Been  
First National Executive

Francis Dwight Bartow, a former partner in J. P. Morgan & Co., who had been engaged in banking in New York for forty-one years until his retirement in 1943, died yesterday in Charleston, S. C., a few hours after being stricken at his home, the Brewton Plantation at near-by Yemassee. He would have been 64 years old on Nov. 13.

Born at Annapolis, Md., a son of Jacob Field Bartow and the former Anna Key Steele, Mr. Bartow attended the Rectory School at New Milford, Conn. In 1902 he began his career here as an employe of the First National Bank, of which he was made an assistant cashier in 1911, a vice president in 1915.

Joining the staff of J. P. Morgan & Co. in the late autumn of 1924, Mr. Bartow became a partner two years later. When the firm changed its status to that of a State-chartered trust company in April, 1940, he became a vice president and a director of the new corporation. He resigned the former office in 1941, and in January, 1943, relinquished his post on the board of directors. An ailment from which he had suffered since 1935, and which eventually proved a principal contributing cause of his death, forced his retirement.

He purchased the Brewton Plantation at Yemassee, and thereafter spent his winters there; his summers at Woods Hole, Mass.

Mr. Bartow had been a vice president and a member of the finance committee of the United Hospital Fund; a trustee of Roosevelt Hospital, a member of the executive committee of the Greater New York Fund, a director of the Corn Exchange Bank, Johns-Manville Corporation, and the American Radiator Corporation. He was a member of the Links and Jekyll Island Clubs, and had belonged to the New York Yacht, Recess, and National Golf Links Clubs.

In May, 1908, Mr. Bartow married Sabina Redmond Martin, who survives; as do three sons, Capt. Clarence Whittemore Bartow, AUS, Francis D. Jr., and Philip Key Bartow, and a brother, the Rev. Howard K. Bartow of Cohasset, Mass. His New York residence before his retirement, was at 57 East Sixty-sixth Street, his country home at Glen Cove, L. I. He was a Republican and an Episcopalian.

RT. REV. LOGAN H. ROOTS  
Episcopal Missionary, Bishop of  
Hankow for 33 Years

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
MICHIGAN



FRANCIS D. BARTOW  
1936

## PROF. M. M'LAREN OF PRINCETON, 76

Electrical Engineer Is Dead—  
Headed Department at the  
University for 29 Years

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.  
PRINCETON, N. J., Sept. 24—Prof. Malcolm MacLaren, chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Princeton University for twenty-nine years and well-known in the electrical industry in this country and in England, died today at Princeton Hospital. He was 76 years of age.

Professor MacLaren was born in Annapolis, Md. He was the son of the late Rear Admiral Donald C. MacLaren, Navy chaplain, and Elizabeth Stockton Green MacLaren, member of an old Princeton family.

He was graduated from Princeton in 1890 and received a degree in electrical engineering in 1892 and a Master of Arts degree the following year. From 1893 until 1908 he was associated with the Westinghouse Electric Company, serving for nearly half that time as chief electrical engineer of the British Westinghouse Electric Company in Manchester.

He held the post of chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at his alma mater from 1908 until his retirement in 1937. During the first World War he served as a major with the Army engineers and was assigned to the power section of the War Industry Board.

His book, "The Rise of the Electrical Industry During the Nineteenth Century," was published two years ago. He had membership in

campus of Brooklyn College, and did landscape work for the New York Zoological Park in the Bronx, the House Office Building in Washington, D. C., and Lincoln Park in Newark, N. J.

Mr. Caparn designed many gardens on private estates in Long Island, Westchester County and Connecticut. One of his best pieces of work was done at Tannersville, N. Y., for Mrs. Ben Ali Haggin.

He was long a crusader against encroachments on Central Park and other parks in the city. Mr. Caparn protested against proposed exhibits of sculpture in Central Park, denounced suggestions of swimming pools, a wading pool, a stadium and other features as a memorial to the dead of the first World War and opposed ripping up a border of the park for subway construction. Parks, he maintained, were things of beauty and not playgrounds or places for commercial activities.

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At one time he taught landscape architecture at Columbia University.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Clara Jones Caparn; two daughters, Mrs. Johannes Steel of New York, wife of the radio commentator and writer, and Mrs. Robert M. Moore Jr. of New York; a brother, Arthur Caparn, and a sister, Mrs. Annie Shackleton of Short Hills, N. J., and two granddaughters.

### HAROLD R. M'NAMEE

Member of Boston Advertising Firm of Alley & Richards

Harold R. MacNamee, a partner in the Alley & Richards Company, an advertising agency, died in the Newton Hospital, Newton, Mass., Sunday night at the age of 48 after an illness of several weeks. His office was in Boston and his residence at 73 Dean Road, Weston, Mass.

Born in Watertown, Mass., Mr. MacNamee joined the Smith & Parris Advertising Agency upon his discharge from the Army in 1919. He later served as the New England representative of the Butterick Publishing Company.

### DWIGHT E. DEAN

Oldest Active Banker in U. S. Dies in Connecticut at 97

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn., Sept. 24.—Dwight E. Dean, president and chairman of the board of directors of the National Iron Bank of this place and oldest of active American bankers, died today after a brief illness at the age of 97. He had served the bank for eighty years.

Except for a holiday of three weeks to see the Chicago world's fair in 1893, Mr. Dean spent his entire life in this village.

### MRS. ARTHUR J. HENRY

SCARSDALE, N. Y., Sept. 24.—Mrs. Gladys Dillon Henry, wife of Arthur J. Henry, a customers' broker with H. Hentz & Co. of New

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

NEWTON, Mass., Sept. 24.—Mrs. Harriet E. Clark, widow of the Rev. Dr. Francis E. Clark, who founded the Christian Endeavor Society, died today in the Vernon Court Hotel, where she made her home. Her age was 94.

Known as the "Mother of Christian Endeavor," she worked with her husband in all sections of the world to build the society from a group of forty boys and girls at Portland, Me., into an organization of 4,000,000 persons in 104 countries. Dr. Clark died in 1927.

When her husband was pastor of the Williston Congregational Church in Portland in the early Eighteen Eighties, Mrs. Clark was the teacher of a class of young people banded together in the Mispah Circle. This small group, called together on Feb. 2, 1881, by Dr. Clark, was the beginning of the society to provide the "opportunity for self-expression by means of words and services for Christ and church."

This movement spread rapidly and Mrs. Clark, as her husband's first assistant, traveled around the world five times in the interest of the society. She maintained an active interest in its activities, attending conventions and other meetings, until three years ago. Since then she has kept up correspondence with society officers and members throughout the world.

Mrs. Clark disclaimed any credit in the founding of the organization but she had a major share in the success of the movement through her encouragement and aid.

Born in Hampton Falls, N. H., she was the daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Sereno T. Abbott. She met Dr. Clark when he was a student at the Andover (Mass.) Theological Seminary. They were married on Oct. 3, 1876.

She leaves two sons, Prof. Harold Clark of Rumford, N. J., and Sidney A. Clark of Sagamore, Mass., author and traveler; and a daughter, Mrs. William F. Chase of Newton. Another son, Prof. Eugene Clark of Dartmouth College, died several years ago.

### MISS LEYLA GEORGIE

Actress and Playwright Seen Here in 'What Price Glory?'

Miss Leyla Georgie, actress, playwright and novelist, who created the sole feminine role, Charmaine, in the play, "What Price Glory?" died on Sunday in the West Side Hospital after a three-day illness. She lived at 240 Central Park South. Her age was 39.

Born in Budapest, Miss Georgie was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander Major of New York, a vocal coach. Her stepfather, Henry Major, is a painter and cartoonist. The actress was a granddaughter of the late Bernard Alexander, Professor of Philosophy and Literature at the University of Budapest.

Miss Georgie acted here in "Evensong" as well as in "What Price Glory?" That was in 1933. She and Gladys Unger wrote the play "25 An Hour," which was staged here in 1939, and Miss Georgie and Jack Kirkland were co-authors of "I Must Love Someone," a play which was on Broad-

board of directors. An ailment from which he had suffered since 1935, and which eventually proved a principal contributing cause of his death, forced his retirement.

He purchased the Brewton Plantation at Yemassee, and thereafter spent his winters there; his summers at Woods Hole, Mass.

Mr. Bartow had been a vice president and a member of the finance committee of the United Hospital Fund; a trustee of Roosevelt Hospital, a member of the executive committee of the Greater New York Fund, a director of the Corn Exchange Bank, Johns-Manville Corporation, and the American Radiator Corporation. He was a member of the Links and Jekyll Island Clubs, and had belonged to the New York Yacht, Regatta, and National Golf Links Clubs.

In May, 1906, Mr. Bartow married Sabina Radmond Martin, who survives; as do three sons, Capt. Clarence Whittemore Bartow, AUS, Francis D. Jr., and Phillip Key Bartow, and a brother, the Rev. Howard K. Bartow of Cohasset, Mass. His New York residence before his retirement was at 87 East Sixty-sixth Street, his country home at Glen Cove, L. I. He was a Republican and an Episcopalian.

### RT. REV. LOGAN H. ROOTS

Episcopal Missionary, Bishop of Hankow for 33 Years

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich., Sept. 24.—The Right Rev. Logan Herbert Roots, for thirty-three years missionary Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Hankow, China, and since 1938 a leading spirit in the Moral Rearmament movement, died today at the age of 75. He was attending the MRA world training center here.

Bishop Roots knew China from the time of the Manchus to Chiang Kai-shek, who was his friend. In that time he saw rebellion and war, fire, famine and flood.

Born in Tamaroa, Ill., he was graduated from Harvard in 1891 and, after a year as traveling secretary for the Young Men's Christian Association, entered the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge. He went to China almost immediately after being ordained to the diaconate in 1896, arriving just at the first stirrings of the Boxer Rebellion. Accepted into full priesthood in 1898, he married Eliza Lydia McCook of Hartford, Conn., a member of the Hankow mission staff, in 1902. She died in 1934.

### SOL L. BUSCHMAN

President and a Director of the National Can Corporation

Sol L. Buschman, president and a director of the National Can Corporation, died in his home at 336 West End Avenue yesterday afternoon after a long illness. He was 55 years old.

Mr. Buschman had been with the corporation and its predecessors for more than thirty years. He also had served as president of the Canonsburg Steel and Iron Works in Canonsburg, Pa., and chairman of the Industrial Salvage Committee of the sheet-metal industry.

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

PRINCETON, N. J., Sept. 24.—Prof. Malcolm MacLaren, chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at Princeton University for twenty-nine years and well-known in the electrical industry in this country and in England, died today at Princeton Hospital. He was 76 years of age.

Professor MacLaren was born in Annapolis, Md. He was the son of the late Rear Admiral Donald C. MacLaren, Navy chaplain, and Elizabeth Stockton Green MacLaren, member of an old Princeton family.

He was graduated from Princeton in 1890 and received a degree in electrical engineering in 1892 and a Master of Arts degree the following year. From 1893 until 1908 he was associated with the Westinghouse Electric Company, serving for nearly half that time as chief electrical engineer of the British Westinghouse Electric Company in Manchester.

He held the post of chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at his alma mater from 1908 until his retirement in 1937. During the first World War he served as a major with the Army engineers and was assigned to the power section of the War Industry Board.

His book, "The Rise of the Electrical Industry During the Nineteenth Century," was published two years ago. He held membership in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers and in the Newcomen Society of England.

He leaves a widow, the former Angelina Post Hodge of Princeton, whom he married in 1900; two sons, Prof. Malcolm MacLaren Jr. of Syracuse University, who has just been honorably discharged from the Navy, and Lieut. Comdr. Wistar MacLaren, USNR, of Philadelphia; two daughters, the Misses Angelina and Elizabeth MacLaren, both of Princeton, and two sisters, Mrs. Philip H. Waddell Smith of Princeton and Mrs. Edwin S. Simmons of New York.

### WILDER M. RICH

Municipal Manager, Had Served Hackensack, Other Cities

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HACKENSACK, N. J., Sept. 24.—Wilder M. Rich, who had been municipal manager in various cities in the United States, died in his home, 100 Prospect Avenue, last night at the age of 59.

Born in Tustin, Mich., he was graduated from the University of Michigan in 1907 as a civil engineer. After serving with the United States Department of Engineering and as city engineer for Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., he helped organize the City Manager Association of the United States. Cities he served in this capacity included Sault Ste. Marie, Goldsboro, N. C.; Alexandria, Va.; Ironwood, Mich., and Hackensack. He came here in 1933 and resigned in 1939 to become municipal consultant on bonds, administration and finance for Campbell, Phelps, Inc., of New York.

### JOHN L. GEIST

WATERBURY, Conn., Sept. 24.—John L. Geist, credit manager

The Preservation Press  
National Trust for Historic Preservation  
1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States is the only private, nonprofit organization chartered by Congress to encourage public participation in the preservation of sites, buildings and objects significant in American history and culture. Support is provided by membership dues, endowment funds, contributions and grants from federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of the Interior, under provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Interior Department. For information about membership in the National Trust, write to the above address.

Dedicated to the memory of my father, William John Tishler, a skillful builder, and my mother, Mary Sarter Tishler, an avid gardener.

William H. Tishler wishes to thank the following persons for their special assistance with this book: Arnold R. Alanen, Barry Buxton, Leslie Rose Close, Sally Domini, Carol Doty, Pat Filzen, Raymond L. Freeman, Mara Gelbloom, Robert E. Grese, Kenneth I. Helphand, Catherine M. Howett, Daniel W. Krall, Richard Longstreth, Miriam Easton Rutz, John R. Stilgoe, Betsy L. Tishler, Dell Upton, Michael Van Valkenburgh, Christopher Vernon and Cynthia Zaitzevsky.

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- 1/13/90

## NATIONAL PARKS

Raymond L. Freeman

The world's first national park was established in 1872 when Congress designated more than two million acres in Wyoming as Yellowstone National Park. By the 1980s more than 300 diverse parks had been incorporated into America's world-renowned national park system. The concept of such reserves, pioneered in this country, was a significant contribution to world civilization, and other nations eventually followed this inspiring model.

The history of our national parks and the profession of landscape architecture have long been intertwined. Today about 200 landscape architects have a vital role in providing stewardship for many of our nation's most cherished natural and cultural resources through the National Park Service, a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

In 1864 President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation setting aside the magnificent Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Big Tree Groves to be held by the state of California for "public use, resort and recreation inalienable for all time." Frederick Law Olmsted was appointed a commissioner for these reservations and supervised the preparation of an influential report for their administration. In addition to his skillful plan for managing this park, he advocated a policy of establishing national parks across the nation and laid the foundation for our current national park system.

To fill the need for a separate division to oversee these parks, the secretary of the interior in 1910 recommended creating a Bureau of National Parks and Resorts specifically to employ landscape architects for their expertise in planning park development. Three years later the new position of general superintendent of the national parks was created. Mark Daniels, a practicing landscape architect from California, filled this job for two years. His most significant accomplishment was bringing sensitive design into park administration and planning.

It was not until 1916, however, that the National Park Service was formally established. That year the annual meeting of the American Society of Landscape Architects had passed a resolution supporting the National Park Service bill. The ASLA also addressed park issues requiring landscape architectural expertise, including the delineation of boundaries in consonance with topography and landscape units and the development of comprehensive plans for managing natural and developed areas.

Stephen Mather, the first National Park Service director, took the ASLA recommendations to heart. He and subsequent directors, relying heavily on landscape architects in guiding the development of the national park system, together with an array of consultants including Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., James Pray, Warren H. Manning, Harold Caparn and James Greenleaf (all former ASLA presidents), continued the accelerated work of establishing boundaries, campgrounds, buildings, roadways, bridges and other park facilities. During this period, a National Park Service landscape architect, Daniel P. Hull, developed a distinctive nonintrusive, rustic park building design, sometimes referred to as "parkitecture." Built in the early 1920s, the Ranger Club House, designed by staff landscape architect Charles P. Puschard, Jr., for the Yosemite National Park in California, and Hull's Administration Building, now a museum in the Sequoia National Park in California, became



The Ahwahnee (1927), "parkitecture" at Yosemite National Park, Calif., Carleton Knight III, NTHP.



Hiker at Yosemite. Richard Frear, National Park Service.



# FAX Message

**National Park Service  
Preservation Assistance Division  
Washington D.C.**

**(FAX) 202-343-3803**

**To:** Ken Allen  
**FAX Number:** 315. 470.6540  
**From:** Charles Birnbaum  
**Date:** 7 June 1994

**Number of pages (including cover sheet): 16**

## MESSAGE

Information from the Pioneer's project files on Harold A. Caparn (1864-1945) for your use and information.

P.O.Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

THE COUNCIL OF FELLOWS  
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Date July 8, 1977

NAME: Harold ap Phys Caparn  
First Middle Last

BORN: Newark-on-Trent Notts, England Dec. 18, 1964  
City/Town State/Country Date

ADDRESSES (St., P. O. Box, Rt. No.; City/Town, Zip; (X) Preferred mailing address):  
d. Sept. 24, 1945

( ) \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Deceased

PHONE NUMBERS: Residence \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_  
Area Code Number Area Code Number

NAME OF SPOUSE (AND CHILDREN): Clara Howard Caparn, Anne and Phys

EDUCATION (College/University/Other):

Magnus School, Newark, England

London University 1888 matriculated and placed in First Div.  
Degree(s) Dates

Columbia University 1904 (architecture)  
Degree(s) Dates

\_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) Dates

TRAVEL/STUDY (Where, When and What):

Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris

Buray's Atelier, Paris 1908

EMPLOYMENT: (Specify only relevant; e.g., nursery, contracting, teaching, related professional [e.g. engineering], public or private professional)

Firm, Institution or Agency Position Dates

1894-99 worked in office and held for J. William Elliott & Pittsburgh  
design landscape practice in 1902

landscape Architect at New York Zoological Park  
1900 - 3

Consulting landscape Architect at Brooklyn  
Botanic Garden 1911 - 1945

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS (Partnership, Corp., Other):**

	<u>Position</u>	<u>Dates</u>
Partnership with Ferruccio		
Vatore, before 1917		

**MAJOR EMPHASIS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE OR EMPLOYMENT:**

Please comment below or on a separate page regarding your most significant professional interests and list the major types of work or emphasis of your professional practice, or of your role as a teacher, administrator or employee of an agency of government.

Planning of city parks  
 I write places  
 Teacher at Columbia University & Catholic School  
 Which made plan for U.S. Govt. ~~at~~ World War I Caterline

**FELLOWSHIP ELECTION CATEGORIES:**

**EXAMPLES OF WORK AND PROJECT RESPONSIBILITIES (use separate sheet if necessary):**

<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Owner</u>
City Park of	Newark	
City Park	Newark	
N.Y. Zoological Park	Brooklyn, N.Y.	
Brooklyn Botanic Garden	Brooklyn, N.Y.	
✓ Mrs. Ben W. Hygien	Dalton Park, N.Y.	Mrs. Hygien
J.P. Willmore	Madison, N.Y.	Mr. Willmore
✓ Hart J. Park	Long Island	Mr. Park
✓ House W. B. Building	Wash. D.C.	U.S.

(Indicate availability of drawings and photos by check (X)).

Brooklyn College records 1937-45 (✓) Adley - re - Hudson  
 LOCATION OF PROFESSIONAL RECORDS (Books, Drawings, Photos, etc.):

Blue Capone Steel  
 Taunton Iron Road  
 Newton, Conn. 06470

(Office, home or institution with address)

**HONORS AND AWARDS (Including special service to state or nation):**

Counselant on selection of National Park at  
Tachon Hole Wyoming 1924-5 (?)

**COMMUNITY OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES (Offices held, etc.):**

Conservationist of forest public lands;  
defender of parks against encroachment. Writer of smoke  
danger & city environment (1945). Active member of  
National Roadside Council. Plans for residential zone  
nearby N.Y. Park

**PUBLICATIONS: (Indicate (A) for Article, (B) for Book. If listings are more than the spaces allow, place all on separate sheet and so indicate below.)**

	<u>Title</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Dates</u>
A	<u>State Parks</u>	<u>Supplement National Municipal Review</u>	<u>Nov. 1921</u>
(A)	<u>Urban &amp; Forest</u>		
(A)	<u>Landscaping Architecture</u>		
(A)	<u>Parks &amp; Recreation</u>		
(V)	<u>Garden Encyclopedia</u>	<u>Houghton-Winifred</u>	<u>1936</u>
(V)	<u>Arts &amp; Decorations</u>		<u>1934? 5</u>
( )	<u>Letter to New York Times &amp; other papers for many</u>		<u>years</u>

**MILITARY SERVICE:**

<u>Branch of Service</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Area of Service</u>	<u>Dates</u>

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

Elected Fellow of ASCA 1908. Member Board of  
Trustees for 12 years first as Regional Trustee  
1907-08, Treasurer 1909-11, Pres 1912, Regional  
Trustee 1913-14, Vice-Pres. 1915-18. Served on  
many committees & largely responsible for Society's  
statements of Policy to Masters of Public Trusts

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATI: (Give State, Certificate No. . Year):

Teacher of Landscape & Design, Columbia University, Summer 1911  
Instructor in Architecture, Columbia University, Summer 1912

ASLA OFFICES:

Section:	Fellow 1908					
	Office	Dates	Office	Dates	Office	Dates
Chapter:	N.Y.					
	Office	Dates	Office	Dates	Office	Dates
National:	President 1912		Vice-Pres. 1915-18			
	Office	Dates	Office	Dates	Office	Dates

Nominations for national offices with dates:

Important Committees/Task Forces. Give dates and note if Chairperson;

N.Y. Pres. of A.S.L.A. local chapter  
Vice-Pres. City Garden Club & Chairman of its  
Committee of Parks. Member of Park Committee of City  
Club. Treasurer of National Brookside Council  
Council on National Parks, Forests and Game Reserves

HOBBIES:

Photography Reading Music  
Watercolor

BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Specify and if possible, enclose copy):

(Copies placed at Buick/Haus, N.Y. - many photographs available - 1910-32 addenda to examples of work)

Rita Casare Steel (daughter)  
Signature for the Record

N. B. If insufficient space, use additional pages. A cover letter on your professional stationery, a copy of office brochure and a photo with date taken and permission to use would be useful for record purposes. Notes about other Fellows, former employers, associates, friends, schoolmates, etc., would be appreciated.

Mr. HERBERT JOHANNES STEEL

July 8, 1977

Dear Mr. Woodward,

Thank you for your letter of June 14. I am sorry to have taken so long to answer the questionnaire you sent me. I hope that the facts I have listed down will be helpful additional to your biography of my father.

I regret having missed your visit to my exhibition. Thank you for coming.

Sincerely,

Philip Paganelli  
Comm.

Philip Paganelli  
Newtown, CT 06470

Philip Paganelli

P.S. May I keep the copy of the AS&A  
quarterly biography of my father?  
I would appreciate having it being  
much. Sincerely,

R.S.S.



# RHYS CAPARN

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION  
SCULPTURE AND DRAWINGS

BETHEL GALLERY

BETHEL, CT.

July 12, 1977

Mrs. Rhys Capern Steale  
Taunton Hill Road  
Newtown, CT 06470

Dear Mrs. Steale,

Please accept my thanks for your gracious letter and the accompanying questionnaire. Together with some notes I have accumulated, it will be forwarded to the chairman of the committee, John Scruggs shortly so he can report progress of the project to the annual meeting of ASLA in Minneapolis in late September.

It was a real pleasure to see your work in Bethel and I regret that we missed connections. I treasure the book on your work.

Sincerely,

ROUTE 1, TAUNTON HILL ROAD  
NEWTOWN, CONNECTICUT 06470

June 12, 1977

Dear Mr. Manswood,

Thank you for your letter  
I am the younger daughter of Harold & Betty  
Coyne. My sister, Anne Howard Moore,  
died in 1971.

I would like very much  
to contribute whatever information I can to  
father's history as a member of the American  
Society of Landscape Architects, and regret  
that my sister is not here to add her  
Memories. Please send me the questionnaire  
you mentioned, and I will look into my  
possibilities.

I am sending you a catalog  
raisonné, written by Reed Beverly Hale, which  
contains a mention of my father, and which  
I would like you to have.

Caparn

Laurent **Gallery** 5/22/72

## Bethel Sets Retrospective

*Daughter of Harold ap Rhys Caparn?*

The Bethel Gallery will have a preview party Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m. honoring Rhys Caparn, "one of the most original and experimental sculptors of her time," to quote Robert Beverly Hale, curator emeritus of the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

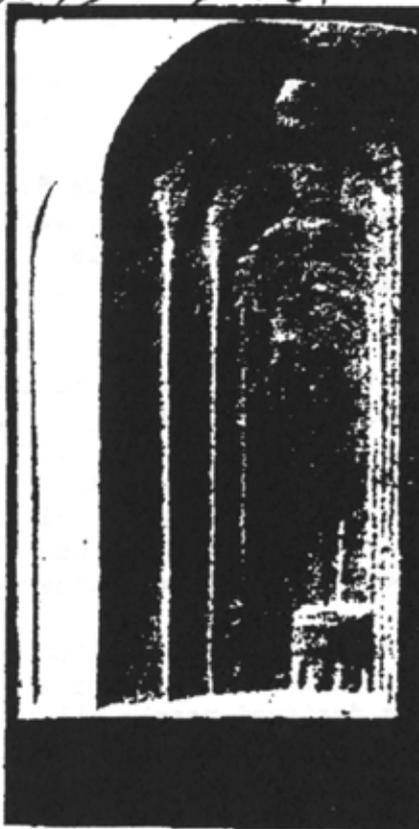
Her retrospective show of more than 100 pieces of sculpture and drawings span 47 years of creative work by this artist who lives in Newtown with her husband, Johannes Steel, a writer and radio commentator.

She works outdoors, seeking new ways to incorporate into her work all that she sees, hears and feels.

"I gather my forms from the apparitions of life: man, animals, birds, the lines of trees, the bulk of rocks, the shadows of ravines and crevasses, and slope of hills under snow. I am interested in the sound of movement: the round sound of birds beating their wings near water, the thin sound of wind in trees, and the silence of flight. The bas-relief, with its suggestions of light remains yet almost unexplored. I have used the arch not only for its symbolism of passage, and therefore change, but because in the midst of ruins it remains at ease with nature."

Ms. Caparn's work has been shown or is presented in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of New York, the Whitney Museum of New York, the St. Louis Art Museum, the Corcoran Gallery, the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Natural History and London's Tate Gallery of London.

The exhibition of her work will be at the Bethel Gallery, 186 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, from May 29 to June 22.



*Rhys Caparn's Reliefs*

ck AS  
Caparn  
June 14, 1977

Excerpt from LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - A Quarterly. Vol. XXVI-1, pp. 22,23

"ASLA NECROLOGY

HAROLD A CAPARN  
A Biographical Minute

December 18, 1864 - September 24, 1945

Harold ap Rhys Caparn, born in Newark-upon-Trent, Nottinghamshire, of Welsh and English descent, was the son of a surseryman and painter.

He was educated at the Magnus School, Newark, and at London University, and was a master at the Cathedral School, Canterbury, and a student at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris, before coming to this country. In 1904 he studied architecture at Columbia University, and in 1908 studied at Duray's Atelier in Paris.

From 1894 to 1899 he worked in the office and in the field -for J. Wilkinson Elliott of Pittsburgh. In 1902 he began private practice. During the many years that followed, his work included school and -college grounds, parks in New York and New Jersey, the grounds of the House Office Building in Washington, and many private places on Long Island and in Westchester County and Connecticut. One of his best known country estates was that of Mrs. Ben Ali Haggin at Tannersville, New York.

For many years he was consultant for the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, taking over in 1912 after it had been laid out and graded by Olmsted Brothers. From then on he designed nearly all of the Garden's features including the Rose Garden, the Water Gardens, the Horticultural Sections, and the Systematic Section.

His writings are to be found in Garden and Forest, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, Parks & Recreation, and other publications. He wrote often to the New York papers on subjects of local interest.

He was a staunch defender of the park idea, and particularly concerned himself with prevention of what we now call non-conforming uses in our parks. He was long a crusader against encroachments on Central Park, protesting against proposed exhibits of sculpture in the Park, denouncing suggestions for adding swimming pools, a wading pool, a stadium, and other features as a memorial to soldiers lost in the first World War, and opposing the ripping up of a border of the Park for subway construction.

In all his associations as in his writings and many activities, Harold Caparn was distinguished by his probity. He expressed his ideas well and always with firmness and conviction which was the result of his belief in the artistic and social value of the profession he had chosen.

Harold Caparn was early a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, having been elected as a Fellow in 1908. He held office as a member of the Board of Trustees for twelve years, first as Regional Trustee

(Harold A. Caparn - Excerpt from LAQ XXXVI-1, pp. 22,23)

in 1907-08, and then as Treasurer (1909-11), President (1912), Regional Trustee (1913-1914), and Vice President (1915-18). He served on many committees and was largely responsible for formulation of the Society's statements of Policy on matters of public interest.

In New York he had served as President of the Society's local Chapter, as Vice President of the City Gardens Club and chairman of its Committee on Parks, and as member of the Park Committee of the City Club. He was a member of the Architectural League of New York, and for many years served as Treasurer of the National Roadside Council.

He is survived by his widow, two daughters, a brother and sister, and two granddaughters.

C.D.L.

[Charles Downing Lay]

GAY

P.S. transcribed by GAYarwood 8/11/1980 from LAQ Jan. 11, 1911 (?) Reprt on Prof. Practice & Charges, p. 5.

"CAPARN, H.A., 5th Ave., NYCity. Writes that he has for some time past been practicing professionally. Training in the practice of landscape architecture received in office of J.W. Elliott, Pittsburg. Started in business for himself in 1899. Has written on landscape subjects for different periodicals. Principal works: NY Zoological Garden, 1900-1905; City Parks, Yonkers, NY., and numerous private places.

CB  
472  
#4X  
hart.

B. PIONEER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS IN THE UNITED STATES  
SAMPLE CITATION FORM

Practitioner: Harold Caporn.

Classification (Circle as many as required):

- a. Landscape Gardener/Horticulturist
- b. Horticulturist/Nursery Owner
- c. Landscape Architect
- d. Engineer
- e. Planner
- f. Architect
- g. Cemetery Designer
- h. Golf Course Architect
- i. Superintendent
- j. Educator/Writer
- k. Other

Source Reference (Circle one):

- a. Period Source by the Practitioner
- b. Period Source by Others
- c. Modern Source

Author (last name, first, middle): Elsa Behmann

Title of Book/Article\*: The Small Place

City, State: NY

Publisher: Knickerbocker Press Date: 1918

Abstract (25 words or less): Oblong piece of land - less than an acre located on Long Island Sound. "Historical Arrangement of a Small Property - as named by Caporn"  
\* photo's plan.

Form prepared by: sfk Date: -7.13.92

\* For periodicals: include volume, issue number, and page number. State if article includes photographs, plans, drawings, etc.

Smith

SB  
317.73  
WSG 218

B. PIONEER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS IN THE UNITED STATES  
SAMPLE CITATION FORM

Practitioner: Harold A. Caporn

Classification (Circle as many as required):

- a. Landscape Gardener/Horticulturist
- b. Horticulturist/Nursery Owner
- c. Landscape Architect
- d. Engineer
- e. Planner
- f. Architect
- g. Cemetery Designer
- h. Golf Course Architect
- i. Superintendent
- j. Educator/Writer
- k. Other

Source Reference (Circle one): a. Period Source by the Practitioner  
b. Period Source by Others  
c. Modern Source

Author (last name, first, middle): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Book/Article\*: Gardens on Parade

The Horticultural Exhibition at the NY World's Fair

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 1939

Abstract (25 words or less): Photos and descriptions of numerous display - some with designer specified.

Designed Woodland Garden pp. 54-5

Form prepared by: Boesberg Date: 7/30/92

\* For periodicals: include volume, issue number, and page number. State if article includes photographs, plans, drawings, etc.

## APPENDIX C

### STEBEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE IN CORNING, NEW YORK

The building is basically rectangular in plan with a small extension at the center-rear, creating a truncated T-plan. Of two stories, the five-bay (three central and one each in flanking wings) structure is built of cream-colored "roman" brick laid in common bond. The raised foundation is of stone; columns, caps, bases, and keystones of the principal windows appear to be of cast stone. The entablature and pediment are of wood; the acroteria at the apex and lower extremities of the pediment appear to be of cast stone as well (close inspection failing). The "Classical" belt-course, denoting the transition between the first and second floors, is noted with projecting, dentil-like brickwork. A single-course water table projects at the base of the building.

Both the central block and flanking wings are covered with low-hipped metal roofs. A single chimney is located in the center rear of the main block. The windows in the main block and the wings are double-hung with six-over-six lights. They are detailed by an over-sized key stone and flat arches. The foundation windows, over-door light, and court chamber windows are detailed with early twentieth-century-styled "criss-cross" grill muntins.

The facade bears a full Ionic entablature with fluted engaged Roman Ionic columns in antae, detailed with egg and dart, bead and reel, waterleaf, and anthemion motifs. The entrance is announced by a typical early twentieth-century neo-classical Roman Ionic columnar portico, surmounted by acroterion (possibly of cast iron) on the pediment. Glazed double entrance doors are framed by shouldered classical moldings, an over-door light with "x" and "o" muntins, and a dentiled pediment with console scrolls, detailed with anthemion motifs. The studied, elaborate and careful detailing of the facade indicates the high design and construction standards employed.

On the interior, architectural features display typical late neo-classical motifs of the early twentieth-century. The ground floor bears fluted square posts with classically inspired moldings and capitals detailed with egg and dart and rosette motifs. An open, slightly curved balustraded stair ascends to the second floor.

The second floor vestibule is delineated with pilasters ornamented with egg and dart and rosette bands supporting a full Ionic entablature. The entrance portico to the court room is framed with an Ionic entablature supported with pilasters. The court room is two stories high, the upper half opened to windows. Corinthian pilasters and a full dentiled entablature articulate the walls.<sup>269</sup>

## APPENDIX D

### LIST OF CANFIELD PARK COMMISSIONERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

#### Canfield Park Commissioners, 1905

Amory Houghton JR.  
Stephen T. Hayt

Quincy W. Wellington  
Marvin Oloot

#### Canfield Park Citizens' Committee, 1905

Valentine Rettig  
George B. Bradley  
James A. Drake  
Thomas G. Hawkes  
Chester S. Oole  
Jerome B. Maltby  
Austin Lathrop  
Joseph J. Tully  
Frank D. Kingsbury  
Arthur A. Houghton  
Benjamin W. Wellington  
Rev. Walter C. Roberts  
Rev. James M. Bustin  
Rev. Alfred J. Hutton, D.D.  
Rev. William H. Reese, D.D.  
Rev. Paul Allen  
Rev. Geo. B. Cutten, PH.D.  
Rev. Walter J. Lee  
Rev. John T. Cassidy  
Rev. Addis Albro  
Rev. Charles H. Hudson  
Dr. John L. Milleil  
Dr. Henry A. Argue  
Dr. George W. Lane  
Dr. Thomas A. McNamara  
William Gorton  
John W. Lynahan  
Cassius G. Andrews

John H. Lang  
John L. Lewis  
Charles B. Wing  
James M. Greig  
Aaron F. Williams  
Thomas E. Moran  
Robert W. Terrell  
John E. Bong  
Maynard Allen  
Morris Ansorge  
John McGannon  
Morris E. Gregory  
Harry H. Pratt  
Edwin S. Underhill  
John S. Kennedy  
J. Towner Hayt  
Albert K. Brown  
George W. Fuller  
Joseph C. Moore  
James Hoare  
Walter Egginton  
George L. Abbott  
J. D. Carlton  
William H. Smith  
James W. Shea  
Fred Remmel  
Frank J. Bantley

"Citizens Committee For Corning's Park," Evening Leader, 11 February 1905.

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- "Corning Zoo Drew Tourists, Residents to Denison Park." *The Evening Leader*, 22 April 1905.
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- "Subscription From People for the Park." *The Evening Leader*, 5 February 1905.
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\* Copy not included in the report due to redundancy of information.

\*\* Copy not included in the report because it is not reproducible

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- 3 Thomas Dimitroff and Lois Janes, *History of Corning: 200 Years in Painted Post Country* (Corning: Bookmarks, 1991), 343.
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- 65 "Wonder Where The Bandstand Is," *The Evening Leader*, 10 May 1909.
- 66 "Wonder Where The Bandstand Is," *The Evening Leader*, 10 May 1909.
- 67 "More Benches For Court House Park," *The Evening Leader*, 25 June 1909.
- 68 "The Fountain, One of the Newest and Most Attractive of Court House Park," *The Evening Leader*, 22 September 1909.
- 69 R. H. Canfield, *Report on Progress on Block 66 Park* (Corning, January 17, 1911).
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- 78 The measurements of the court house were taken from the *Steuben County Court House Plan*, by J. Foster Warner of Rochester, NY. The plan was dated October 28, 1903 and is call # 500 at the Department of Public Works in Corning, NY. Note: The plan is not in good condition and is extremely fragile, therefore it should not be handled if it is not necessary. Zerox copies were not able to be made for inclusion in this report. Photo-reduction is perhaps the only safe way to create a lasting copy of this plan.

79 An elderly Corning resident, William O'Hara, recalls that there was in fact a bandstand eventually constructed. He claims that it fell into disrepair and was removed not very long after it was built. Unfortunately, there was not any written or graphic documentation found that can support his claim.

80 "The Fountain, One of the Newest and Most Attractive of Court House Park," *The Evening Leader*, 22 September 1909.

81 "The Fountain, One of the Newest and Most Attractive of Court House Park," *The Evening Leader*, 22 September 1909.

82 "The Fountain, One of the Newest and Most Attractive of Court House Park," *The Evening Leader*, 22 September 1909.

83 "Fine Fountain For The Park," *The Evening Leader*, 7 August 1909.

84 The current topographical information was read from the 1994 *Site Survey of Canfield Park*, completed by Hunt Engineers and Architects, Corning, NY. The project number is 0340-003 and is available from Hunt Engineers and Architects or The Market Street Restoration Agency, Corning, NY.

There was a mistake found on the 1994 Site Survey. The far northwestern corner of the block has a trail continuing from the southeast to the northwest to meet with the intersection of the sidewalks. This is not portrayed on the Survey as it exists in the field, as was checked on a site visit on August 8, 1994.

85 The runs of the steps are measurable in the field and all other information was read from the 1994 *Site Survey of Canfield Park*, by Hunt Engineers and Architects Corning, NY. Copies may also be located at Market Street Restoration Agency, Corning, NY.

86 The railing can be field measured for exact sizes.

87 Refer to the 1994 *Site Survey of Canfield Park*, by Hunt Engineers and Architects (project #0340-003), Corning, NY. Copies are available from Hunt Engineers and Architects or Market Street Restoration Agency, Corning, NY.

88 *National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Presentation, Vol. 1. 24*, 1977, revised by Patricia L. Parker in 1985. p. 45.

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- 100 "Denison Park Once A Swamp," *The Evening Leader*, 22 June 1951.
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- 102 "Denison Park Once A Swamp," *The Evening Leader*, 22 June 1951.
- 103 Thomas Dimitroff and Lois Janes, *History of Corning: 200 Years in Painted Post Country* (Corning: Bookmarks, 1991), 147.
- 104 "Denison Park Once A Swamp," *The Evening Leader*, 22 June 1951.
- 105 "Denison Park Once A Swamp," *The Evening Leader*, 22 June 1951.
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- 107 Thomas Dimitroff and Lois Janes, *History of Corning: 200 Years in Painted Post Country* (Corning: Bookmarks, 1991), 147.
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- 193 Photographs used: 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.656), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.652), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.654, View of Bandstand (94.0.655), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.651). Photographs are the property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.
- 194 Photographs used: 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.656), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.652), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.654, View of Bandstand (94.0.655), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.651). Photographs are the property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.
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- 197 Photographs used: 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.656), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.652), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.654, View of Bandstand (94.0.655), 1907-1909 Construction of Denison Park (94.0.651). Photographs are the property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.
- 198 1909 Photograph View of Bandstand, property and copyright of Corning Painted-Post Historical Society (94.0.655).
- 199 Photographs used: 1908-1909 Photograph of Concrete Bridge (94.0.650); 1909 Photograph of View of Bandstand (94.0.655), property and copyright of Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.
- 200 Measurements made from the site visit on September 8, 1994.
- 201 Photograph used: 1909 View of the Bandstand (94.0.655), property and copyright of the Corning Painted Post Historical Society.
- 202 Photograph used: 1909 View of the Bandstand (94.0.655), property and copyright of the Corning Painted Post Historical Society.
- 203 Photograph used: 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.656), property of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society; Map- *Denison Park Alterations Required by State Highway Construction: ....*, call #571; Map- *Map of Denison Park: Tracing of Map Secured from the City of Corning*, call #566.
- 204 Although the 1945 Plan clearly marks the western set of bridges as one singular unit, it is in fact a set. The set of (2) bridges has been clearly identified in photographic documentation owned by Tom Dimitroff, of Corning, NY. *Map of Denison Park: Tracing of Map Secured From the City of Corning*. call #566.
- 205 The measurements came from the 1945 and 1947 Plans of Denison Park. They can be found at the Department of Public Works, Corning, NY. (1945) *Map of Denison Park: Tracing of Map Secured From the City of Corning*. call #566; (1947) *Denison Park Alterations Required by the State Highway Construction:....* Call #571, Job #118-47, By Richard C. Ward. Photographs utilized: 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.653), 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.652), 1909 View of Bandstand (94.0.655), 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.654), 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.656).
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- 207 Photographs used: 1907-1909 Construction of Denison (94.0.656), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.648), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.649), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.665), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.

208 Photographs used: 1920's Pool (94.0.661), 1915 Wading Pool (94.0.665), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.648), 1909 View of Bandstand (94.0.655), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.

209 Photographs used: 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.648), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.649), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.665), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.

210 Thomas Dimitroff and Lois Janes, *History of Corning: 200 Years in Painted Post Country* (Corning: Bookmarks, 1991), 148.

There were several conflicting sources regarding the diameter of the pool. Tom Dimitroff's book claims it to have been 90 feet. The 1945 Plan (call # 566, DPW of Corning) measures it to be 80 feet in diameter including the surrounding walk. The 1947 Plan (call #571, DPW of Corning), which was quoted, measured out at 75 feet including the walk. The remains of the walk are in the park and were measured for exact identification. The actual 1994 measurement is 75'6", edge to edge of the walk.

211 Photographs used: 1915 Wading Pool (94.0.665), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.649), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.648), Wading Pool (94.0.657), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.

212 Photographs used: 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.654), 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.653), 1909 View of Bandstand (94.0.655), 1908-1909 Concrete Bridge (94.0.650), 1907-1909 Construction (94.0.656), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.

213 Photographs used: 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.648), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.649), 1915 Pool and Playground (94.0.665), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.

214 The measurements for the gateway were made in the field from the existing structure. Note that the heights were only approximate and not physically measured, do to a lack of a ladder.

215 Photographs used: Gateway (94.0.658), Gateway (94.0.662), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.

216 Photograph used: 1920's Pool and Bath House (94.0.661)

217 Photograph used: 1920's Pool and Bath House (94.0.661)

218 The measurements provided were from the field study. The maps depict the structure as being a rectangle with a length of 18 feet and width of 15 feet. From the style, material and fact that the structure was never moved since it's erection the field measurements were concluded to have been original.

219 On 1945 Plan, the two bridges forming the entrance from Park Avenue are portrayed as a single bridge, although it is known from photographs that there were in fact two bridges.

- 220 The 1945 Plan (call #566) can be found at the Dept. of Public Works, Corning, NY. There is not any additional information that was found on the bridge in photographic or textual form to aid in a description or to date the bridges construction and eventual destruction.
- 221 The tower is not shown on maps but appears in photos and exists today in its original location.
- 222 Photographs used: Wading Pool (94.0.657), Wading Pool and Playground (94.0.665), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.
- 223 The measurements for the fountain were made in the field, being there was not any documentation that was found to include the specifications. Today only 3 of the plaque panels remain, so the inscription of the fourth panel is unknown.
- 224 Photographs used: Pool and Bath House (94.0.661), property and copyright of the Corning Painted-Post Historical Society.
- 225 There is a partial topographical survey (the 1959 *Topographical Layout Plan*) of the northern central region of the park that was made by Ward and Moore of Corning, N. Y., in 1959. It includes the northern surrounding area of the pool and bath house. The map is primarily spot elevations and estimated contours. These maps can be found at the Corning Department of Public Works.
- 226 Although this information only includes materials used in the interior of the park, the information combined with an existing survey could give clues as to what was original plant material by comparing age and location.
- 227 The 1959 *Topographical Layout* can be located at the Dept. of Public Works, Corning, NY.
- 228 Plans can be found at Hunt Engineers and Architects and DPW, Corning, N. Y., and were originally drawn by Richard C. Ward, Job #118-47, sheet number 6 of 212. DPW call #571.
- 229 Original 1947 Plans can be obtained through Hunt Engineers and Architects modified plans are found at the Corning Department of Public Works, call #571.
- 230 The footprint on the plan of the stand, measures 20 feet long by 10 feet wide, while its plan for moving shows measurements of 16 feet 2 inches by 16 feet 2 inches. Plan call #571, DPW, or 1947 Plan of Denison Park, sheet 6 of set 212 - Hunt Engineers and Architects, Corning, NY.
- 231 The 1959 *Topographical Layout Plan* was done by Ward and Moore, Corning, NY. The plan can be found at DPW, Corning, NY.
- 232 The 1947 Plan of the pits is part of Job #118-47, sheet 6 of set 212 - found at Hunt Engineers and Architects and the Department of Public Works, Corning, NY (call # 571).

- 233 For a fully detailed description of the pavilion, note the 1947 Plan, Job #118-47, sheet 5 of set of 212, at Hunt Engineers and Architects, or call #571 at the DPW, Corning, New York.
- 234 For detailed description of the new pavilion, see the 1947 Plan, sheet 5 of set of 212. This can be found at Hunt Engineers and Architects (Job #118-47), or at DPW (call #571), Corning, NY.
- 235 The boat house appears on the 1947 DPW Plan (call #571), but not the original set of drawings from Hunt Engineers and Architects. Also, it is not known if the boat house was removed later during the 1947-1972 period or destroyed in the 1972 flood, as it is not part of the 1973 survey.
- 236 It is possible that these features existed during the prior period but they first appear on the 1947 Plan noted as existing shelters.
- 237 The basketball courts appear on the 1947 Plan but are not part of the 1973 Survey, indicating that they may have been removed in the later part of the 1947-1972 period.
- 238 It is possible that these bridges were removed prior to the construction of the new highway/bridge. They may have been deleted when part of the lake was filled in 1939. Unfortunately the only documentation available are the maps of Denison park and they do not offer such information. The same was true for the eastern boarder bridge as it was not included as part of the 1947 Denison Park Alterations Plans and not on the map.
- 239 The tower was not marked on the 1947 Plans (call #571 at the DPW of Corning), but does appear on the 1973 Survey by Ward and Moore of Corning, NY., drawing number 8312. The tower was never moved from it's original location.
- 240 The 1959 *Topographical Layout Plan* by Ward and Moore of Corning, can be obtained through the Department of Public Works, Corning, NY.
- 241 The 1947 Plan (call #571, sheet 1 of a set of 212), can be found at Hunt Engineers and Architects, Corning, N. Y.. The ring levee for the sewage disposal plant was not within the boundaries of the park.
- 242 The map is located at the DPW, Corning, N. Y., and is identified as the 1959 Ward and Moore *Topographical Layout*.
- 243 Note the 1947 *Playground Area Plan*, call #553, at the DPW, Corning, N. Y., and the 1959 Ward and Moore *Topographical Layout*, also at the DPW.
- 244 The 1959 *Topographical Layout Plan* by Ward and Moore is found at the Corning DPW, NY.
- 245 All plans mentioned may be found at the DPW, Corning, NY. These include the 1947 Plan (call #571), and the 1959 *Topographical Layout Plan* by Ward and Moore of Corning, NY.

- 246 The 1947 *Playground Area Plan* (call #553), and the 1947 *Denison Park Alterations Plan* is Job #118-47 (call #571) and both are found at the Department of Public Works, Corning, NY.
- 247 The 1947 Plan (call #571, Corning DPW), only shows the filling of the original two sections, one creating the lagoon and the upper western wing. This is on sheet 4 of 212. The 1973 survey shows the lagoon being already filled and the remaining section of the western wing cropped off and filled. This survey also includes the new island. All other maps or plans have been found to explain the reasoning for filling and creating the island or when it was done.
- 248 The altering of the parking and addition of the pull through/drop off was more than likely done in 1972 with the construction of the new pool and bath house/changing facility.
- 249 Strangely, the memorial arch does not appear on the 1973 Survey by Ward and Moore (job #11-73), found at Hunt Engineers and Architects, Corning, NY. It is known to exist in the same location that it had been original relocated to during the park's reconstruction period because it is there today.
- 250 The information was found on a 1973 Survey by Ward and Moore (titled: *Boundary and Topographic Survey*), drawing number 8312, (job #11-73) and can be located at Hunt Engineers and Architects, Corning, NY.
- 251 The pavilion is first seen on the 1973 Survey (job #11-73) and is listed under the 1973 heading for this reason. The pavilion, however, was more than likely already existing with the onset of the 1973 period.
- 252 The 'Well House' first appeared on the 1973 Survey. Although it is likely that it was constructed prior to the 1973 period it had been described under the 1973 period since it was not part of an earlier plan. The purpose of the building may have been for pumping water into the old western wing of the lake.
- 253 The appearance of the play house and the fact that the surveyors marked it on the plan as only a brick building may be a clue that the building was locked and not in use, therefore, its use and name was unknown to them.
- 254 The 1973 Survey by Ward and Moore depicts the sandbox as a square with 13 foot sides while the 1945 plan (call #566 at the DPW, Corning, NY.) depicts the structure as being 10 feet in width and 15 feet in length. The Ward and Moore survey is drawing number 8312 and can be found at Hunt Engineers and Architects.
- 255 The island first appeared on the 1973 Survey but was more than likely constructed earlier. The abutment may have been for an earlier bridge that may have been destroyed by the flood of 1972 or removed earlier.
- 256 The 1973 Survey by Ward and Moore, drawing number 8312, found at Hunt Engineers and Architects, Corning, NY., only included the toilet's foot print. The measurements were 16 feet in width by 22 feet in length according to the 1973 survey. The original 1945 Plan (call #566 at the DPW, Corning, NY.) depicted the building to be 15 feet in width and 18 feet in length.
- 257 The 1973 Survey by Ward and Moore of Corning, NY., drawing number 8312 (job #11-73), makes reference to the tower as being brick.

- 258 The levee is only partially included in the 1973 *Boundary and Topographic Survey* by Ward and Moore. The drawing number is 8312 and can be located at Hunt Engineers and Architects in Corning, NY.
- 259 Being there was not an electric service line connecting it to the other light poles and the symbol was different, it was assumed that the light pole was not electrified and was part of the play equipment.
- 260 The existence of the fountain structure in 1973 is known due to its existence today.
- 261 The pool is not shown at all on the 1973 Survey (job #11-73) by Ward and Moore, found at Hunt Engineers and Architects, Corning, NY. It is known to have existed due to its remains being visible today.
- 262 "Harold A. Caparn - A Biographic Minute." *Landscape Architecture - A Quarterly*, Vol. XXXVI-1, October 1945, p. 22-23.
- 263 Steel, Rhys Caparn. "Biographical Data: The Council of Fellows, American Society of Landscape Architects." Unpublished paper, 8 July 1977.
- 264 Freeman, Raymond L. "National Parks" in William A. Tishler, ed. *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1989, p. 172.
- 265 "H. A. Caparn Dead; Landscape Expert, Consultant to Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, 1912-1945, Designed Many of Its Features." *The New York Times*, 25 September 1945.
- 266 "Harold A. Caparn - A Biographic Minute." *Landscape Architecture - A Quarterly*, Vol. XXXVI, October 1945, p. 22-23
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- 269 Susan Lassell, *Building-Structure Inventory Form: Courthouse Park* (Corning: Cornell University, 1992).