

NPS Form 10-900
1024-0018
(Rev. Aug. 2002)
2009)

OMB No.
(Expires 1-31-

SENT TO D.C.

6-28-06

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

historic name Lowell Park

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2114 Lowell Park Road

not for publication _____

city or town Dixon

vicinity _____

state IL

code IL

county Lee code 103

zip code 61021

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

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

William L. ... / 6-28-06

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Lowell Park
Name of Property

Lee County, Illinois
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register _____

___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined eligible for the _____
National Register

___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register

___ removed from the National Register _____

___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private

x public-local

___ public-State

___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___ building(s)

x district

___ site

___ structure

___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing

12 6 buildings

1 0 sites

3 1 structures

4 1 objects

20 8 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

Lowell Park
Name of Property

Lee County, Illinois
County and State

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/Park

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/Park

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

DOMESTIC/Hotel

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Limestone; CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT; METAL/Sheet metal

walls WOOD/Shingle, log, plywood

STONE/limestone

other BRICK; STUCCO; WOOD

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

Lowell Park
Name of Property

Lee County, Illinois
County and State

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

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

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1907 - 1956

Significant Dates 1907, 1912

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Coleman, Arthur C; Simmonds, O.C.; West, Roy C.

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

Lowell Park
Name of Property

Lee County, Illinois
County and State

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Dixon Park District archives, administrative office

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property 200

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	293004	4641141	3	16	294065 4640313
2	16	293984	4641111	4	16	292947 4640338
						<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.

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

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

Lowell Park
Name of Property

Lee County, Illinois
County and State

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title DeAnn Williams, Secretary for the Dixon Park District

organization Dixon Park District

date October 2005

street & number 804 Palmyra Street

telephone 815/284-3306

city or town Dixon

state IL

zip code 61021

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name Dixon Park District, Debra Carey, Executive Director

street & number 804 Palmyra Street

telephone 815/284-3306

city or town Dixon

state IL

zip code 61201

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions; gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

With slight revisions the documentation was excerpted from Survey of Historic Parks of Dixon, Illinois, Dean Sheaffer, Landscape architect, November 1990

7. DESCRIPTION

Narrative Description

Lowell Park is located just north of downtown Dixon in Lee County, Illinois. The historic boundaries encompass the original 200 acres bound by Lowell Park Road on the west, a private estate on the north, a residential subdivision on the south, and the Rock River on the east. The 1978 addition of 44.9 acres is not included in the nomination. The site includes the park benches, picnic tables, roadways, stone retaining walls, stone fireplaces, stone sewer system, in addition to three contributing structures (the stone entrance pillars, the well at Woodcote, and the historic boat ramp), 4 contributing objects (a historic plaque, the stone boulders delineating the parking area from the picnic area, the historic swim top, and the 1920s playground equipment) and 12 contributing buildings (Woodcote and the garage, 6 stone shelters, the bath house, stone concession stand, stone spring house, and stone pump house). There are 6 non-contributing buildings (the Nature Center, 2 modern pavilions, 1 modern restroom, and 2 modern maintenance shops), 1 non-contributing structure (a modern boat ramp), and 2 non-contributing objects (modern grills and a new plaque). The circulation system consists of asphalt-paved roads, graveled roads, and paved and graveled parking areas. The north and south roads are relatively long, narrow, winding, and slow, one-way passages through native forest and wildflowers, bluffs and ravines, and underlying limestone where it is exposed at cuts. The south road passes through a tunnel of forest at an overlook, which has been the subject of postcards and many photos. The overlook provides a view of the valley 170 feet below and the dramatic change in elevation is a sharp contrast to the prairie plateau at the beginning of the road. From the overlook the road winds down by hairpin turns through the trees to a terrace below. Past the terrace, the road turns and opens to the broad river near at hand and a long view up the river.

The north road is a loop entirely on the upper plateau ending near the point where it started. At one time, this road had two overlooks. Now the views are hidden by trees; the more northerly of the views today include a housing development.

The third and main road is the most direct route to the lower terrace. It is a two-way

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

road that roughly follows a ravine to the bottom. During the spring the ravine is filled with bluebells in bloom. At the bottom of the descent the roadside opens out with a long side view down the swale and a long view ahead to the riverfront and picnic areas.

Along the roads there are numerous stone headwalls and culverts, most of them small but a few of great size. There are some drywells where trees are near the road bed. The condition of much of this stonework is deteriorating, but this is barely noticeable because it has become overgrown and blended with the landscape. There are also several inlets and grates near the roads for the storm sewer system that the landscape architect, O. C. Simonds, designed. Quarry stones were set at regular intervals between the road and the picnic and play areas to keep carriages, then automobiles, out. The date of their placement is not known, but they appear in photos from the 1920s. These large, rough stones still exist, laid out on long curving lines repeating the curve of the roads. They form an integral part of the identity of Lowell Park.

Natural Features:

In Lowell Park, the designed landscape is subordinate to the natural landscape. Outside the main entrance to Lowell Park are traces of the original shrub planting that have naturalized into the border of the woods and pinetum. A large shrub bed in the entry island, adjacent to the highway, employs species representing O. C. Simonds's palette of plants, including a large number of *Rosa virginiana*, the whole bounded by two rows of junipers presumably added after reconstruction of the entrance drives in 1929. The deciduous shrubs periodically are cut back. The original purpose of the shrub plantings was to provide masses of fragrant flowers in scale with the landscape in spring, leaf color in fall, and to shape and direct the flow of space.

Inside the entrance there are clusters of American cranberry bush at the edges of the woods on either side of the points at which the roads enter the woods. One remnant crabapple remains in the central mowed island between the roads. There is an especially good bed of shrubs, representative of Simonds' work, between the head of the main road and the end of the north road.

Where the south road reaches the lower terrace, a great planting of hemlocks was done in the 1910s. They have done so well as to naturalize, and regeneration is in process. Several hemlocks grace the ravine parallel to the main road and add interest to the woods in winter.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

The swale was initially an unmowed natural area, where water stood much of the year. Arthur Coleman Comey, who drew the plans for the park, considered it to be among the most beautiful natural features of the park. Simonds heightened the effect by planting a group of sycamores at the edge of the woods at the far north end as seen from the long road.

The natural features of the picnic and playground area include the vistas along the river, the shoreline, and the canopy of oak trees.

Built Features:

Lowell Park has the only sizable collection of historic structures in the Dixon Park District, a collection that is unusual for a municipal park. In both major and minor structures there is a uniformity of construction, vocabulary, and siting, and a successful use of native materials that creates harmony with the landscape and at the same time stamps the park with a distinct identity and personality. Throughout the many years of development of Lowell Park, the designers and the park board never lost sight of their goal to subordinate the structure and roads to the natural features, to retain simplicity and never build more than was required for comfort and utility. The condition of various built features ranges from excellent to non-existent, the majority being good. The numbers in parenthesis following the structures are keyed to the attached site plan

Woodcote (8, contributing) is a Dutch Colonial Revival dwelling that was built for the caretakers of the park. The house has two adjoining gambrel roofs with a pent, creating flared overhanging eaves. Although the roof was designed to hang over the gable ends to align with the hip, it was built flush. The roof has shed dormers, two in front (east) and one in back. The addition built seven years later is identical in style and of virtually the same dimensions, also with four shed dormers. Otherwise, it differs only in that it has an exterior chimney of native stone whereas the interior chimney of the main building is brick with stucco that is peeling. The addition abuts the main house on the north end wall and is offset to the back. The walls of both Woodcote and the addition are native stone at the first floor and stucco on the gable ends; however, the stucco has been covered for some time with fancy butt shingles. The stone was quarried in the park and set coursed, roughly squared and more or less ranged. The stone walls are in excellent condition. The windows and concrete sills are in good shape. The floor of the main front porches has been set back at the perimeter to clear the stone columns. One

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

porch is screened, screens having first been built several years after the house was constructed. The roof materials are non-historic asphalt shingles. The galvanized gutters are new and of the same style as the previous gutters. A cistern was put in one year after Woodcote was completed. On the exterior, the building is in good and sound condition. A historic, semi-circular, stone wall around the well and pump is located at the north end of the building.

To the east and adjacent to the garage is a converted shop. In 1927, the caretaker was authorized to remove the loft floor of a barn and convert it into a shop with large, hinged garage doors at one end. It now has a gable roof covered with sheet metal and a stone chimney that is said to have been added at the time of the conversion. Most of the windows would have been added at the same time.

The bathhouse (19, contributing), designed and built in 1922, is a one-story structure consisting of a main building that served as a concession stand and a checking area for clothing baskets, the men's wing to the south and the women's to the west, all with hipped roofs. The architect of the bathhouse is unknown, although O. C. Simonds had some responsibility for it. Holabird & Roche, to whom Simonds often turned for architectural services, did drawings for a bathhouse in 1921, but the structural scheme they drew then is not for the bathhouse that was built. Native stone was used from the ground to the height of the serving counters of the concession building and for the foundations of the two wings; above that the walls were stuccoed on the exterior. All stone work was coursed and roughly squared. The bathhouse was a seasonal building and never heated. It was ventilated by raising the hinged board covers of the screened window openings. The steel-supported roof was covered originally with black-blue slate shingles, however, it was replaced in 1934 and now is asphalt shingled. The overhang is broad with exposed rafters.

The great platform in front of the historic concession stand (contributing) was paved with asphalt many years ago, and has stone steps that wrap around three sides.

The small stone house with gable roof behind the bathhouse (contributing) is a former pump house, now used for storage. The sheet metal roof, found on several other small structures used for utilitarian purposes, is probably not original.

The well house containing the bronze Lowell memorial plaque (14, contributing) was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

designed by Comey and built according to his plans. Now the hand pump is gone and the horse watering trough at the front is also gone, but the original open gable ends with decorative king post trusses distinguish the small structure. The stone work is coursed and roughly squared, with a pronounced horizontal emphasis that harmonizes with the broad overhang to the roof.

Next to the well house is an older concession stand that, unlike the structures above, does not face square to the river. However, the views through the openings are up and down the river. Now the drop panels are gone. Built of coursed and roughly squared native stone, it has a gable roof. The wooden gable ends are covered with shingles in a staggered overlap pattern. The roof covering is not original.

There are seven stone shelters including those built with WPA funds in the 1930s. The stonework on all of them is in good to excellent condition except for damage to Vaile Shelter at the old overlook on the north road. The two columns on either side of the front entrance of the Vaile Shelter (5, contributing) were knocked out when a snow load collapsed the roof in 1978; they were not replaced. The former hip roof was replaced with a gable roof that is ill-suited to the structure. Some tuck pointing was done to the Vaile Shelter as well as to low retaining walls at the edge of the road by an untrained state prison work crew. Vaile Shelter must be considered deteriorated. Lowell Shelter (27, contributing), the oldest shelter, made of native logs and stone, is in only fair shape. The condition of all the others is good to excellent. All are constructed of locally quarried limestone, coursed and roughly squared, with low hip roofs and broad stone chimneys for the fireplaces set into the back walls. The small "stone house" shelter (16, contributing) between the Lions Club Shelter and the parking area differs from all the others in size and in detail, having four small window openings, two in front and one on each end. The other four shelters – Pitcher (6), Raymond (24), Hoberg (12), and Barton (13) – are all contributing and are identical with wide entries and openings of equal width providing ledges at seat wall height. All four are set back against the woods, sited on an angle to the river to afford the best views. They were built according to plans furnished by the Simonds & West firm, who were reported in 1934 to have planned all the WPA work in Dixon's parks. All stone shelters except Lowell have new floors consisting of 3" depth concrete poured over the old asphalt floors.

Lowell Shelter (27, contributing) at the south road overlook predates the others. Stone is used only for the low ledge between the timber columns. Part of the two sides and the entire

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

back wall above the stone is horizontal logs, interlocked at the back corners and chinked with mortar. There is no fireplace or chimney. It is the most rustic structure in the park; still it is similar in feeling and proportion to the later WPA work. The stone retaining wall at the edge of the road is deteriorating and poorly tuck pointed. Across the road, the stone wall on the edge of the road at the overlook is in good condition, with scarcely any indication of age.

Throughout the picnic areas on the lower terrace are a number of fireplaces, two-foot high square stone structures with steel grates and no chimneys. They are all identical and were built by WPA labor. The total number that was built has not been documented, but it is said that there were more. The design of coursed, roughly squared and mostly ranged stone is very simple, harmonizing with the other stone structures in the park. Overall, the remaining stone fireplaces are in good condition.

One of the most impressive minor structures built with WPA funds was the pair of stone gate pillars (1) at the main entrance to the park. They were built under the supervision of C. Roy West, however Simonds had provided a design for the stone piers years earlier. Although the original gates are gone, the massive piers remain in very good condition. The limestone is locally quarried, set coursed, roughly squared, and perfectly ranged. The courses are widest at the bottom, narrowing at a uniform rate as they go up. At the top are two courses stepped back, and finally a third course stepped back further. The piers are of excellent proportion and scale, simple, and unique. They establish a strong identity for Lowell Park and serve to introduce the horizontal, native limestone design motif to the entering visitor.

High on the agenda of Board President F. N. Howell in 1907, was the purchase of park benches from the Hennecke Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Over the ensuing years, a large number were purchased and set out in Lowell and other parks. It is not known how many have been lost or destroyed, but many remain and are in use to this day. The Hennecke bench consists of 4-foot wood slats for the seat and back bolted to bent steel channel legs and back supports. The slats are painted green, as they always were within memory. The bench may be bolted down or free standing, as they are in Lowell Park. The condition of those still in use is fair to good, some of the slats being worn or missing and some steel channel bent out of alignment.

Oak picnic tables included a large percentage of those built by WPA workers in the 1930s. Only a few remain; they are of hardwood, painted green and easily identified by their

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

great weight. Overall, the older benches are in fair condition, some planks having been replaced and some showing decay. Other tables built more recently in the same style are of treated pine and are lighter. Pavilion tables have been replaced by more portable aluminum tables as various civic organizations frequently borrow them. Park workers would prefer to replace all of them because they are difficult to move while mowing.

Non-historic structures are the new Lions Shelter (17), the Dixon National Bank Shelter (11) at the north end on the riverfront, the modern rest-room facility (21) near the bathhouse, and the nature center building (2) near the main entrance to the park. The nature center is set in an historical opening in the woods. The edge of the opening near the gate has historical native shrub plantings, but the planting of landscape shrubs around the nature center are formal and clipped. The impression is of a small tract house. None of the non-historic structures utilize native stone or timber.

The boat ramps are new, broad, and concrete. One of them replaces one of the two historic ramps. The historic ramps were narrow and separated by about 100 feet, with a gravel road at the base of the river bank joining them. A new length of paved road has been added parallel to the historic road to service the ramps. Between the two roads are several island plantings edged with contemporary, random-height landscape posts. The beach where a teen-aged Ronald Reagan once life-guarded was just north of the boat ramps and was abandoned in the early 1960s. There is no longer any trace of it nor any beach equipment except two pieces placed into storage and one on display adjacent to the historic bathhouse.

Integrity

Lowell Park maintains sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The natural and man-made features of the park have experienced little change over time and remain in keeping with the original plan. In recent years, disease in some pines and the effect of the drought on others has caused some deterioration. Initial attempts have been made at regeneration. Among the attributes of this planting are the masses of white pines, which appear to be thriving, the excellent scale and the flow of space, and the road around and through the plantings. This area, in spite of its problems and maturity, is in good condition. The pine planting around the bathhouse is excellent. Similarly, the plantings around Woodcote are widely varied in their condition. Few people realize that the hemlocks are not natural. The condition of the planting is excellent. And, despite the fact that due to boat wakes the river

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

bank is eroding and gradually reducing the width of the area, the overall effect of the landscape here is in good condition. Over the decades the forest has regenerated as intended and become quite dense. Unlike the historic period, the ravines and wooded areas are no longer cleaned, and the invasion of exotic landscape shrubs and mulberry trees is increasing together with the spread of blackberry thickets and gooseberries. In this sense the actual condition of the forest may be considered to be declining and must be rated only fair, but relative to the forest that existed in the years of development the condition is good and the experience of it continues to be very good.

There have been some changes which have occurred to the landscape over the years. The persimmon and redbud that had grown between the head of the south road and the pinetum road have all been lost. Shrub plantings and hawthorns in the area of the bathhouse are missing or declining. Finally, the construction of the nature center building and the parking adjacent to the road is a change from the pastoral scene that historically greeted the visitor upon entering the park.

The overall condition of the structures in the park is good. For the most part, the roads are intact and the experience of traveling them has not changes but for loss of the two overlooks and the inclusion of the large boat trailer parking lot near the end of the south road just before the road opens out to the river. Although fewer in number, there still remain a great deal of original park benches and picnic tables. The original stone elements of the park – the fireplaces, retaining walls, headwalls and culverts—are also largely intact. There were five cast-iron hand pumps along the riverfront that were taken out and the wells closed for public health reasons.

All of the original buildings are intact, except for the wood pavilion built in 1907 and the stone pavilion based on a 1939 design by Kling. The stone pavilion was damaged by ice floes and replaced with the contemporary, large Lion's Club Shelter. The historic wood pavilion was raised with a wood floor, and closed wood rail, and a hip roof. The stone pavilion had coursed stone rails with columns and a hipped roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
Narrative Statement

Lowell Park is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for community planning and development, social history, and entertainment and recreation, and Criterion C for landscape architecture. The park has local significance for its association with Dixon's designed landscapes as defined in the Historic Resources of Dixon Parks Multiple Property Document. It meets the registration requirements of Parks and Related Park Improvements established in the Historic Resources of Dixon Parks Multiple Property Document.

The park is important for the role it played in the beginning of a park system in Dixon and establishing the historical objectives of the park system, which were scenic beauty and civic beautification, as espoused by Olmsted Brothers, by Simonds, and by the City Beautiful Movement. "The essential characteristics of rural parks are that all of the numerous objects it may serve are subordinated to the provision of beautiful scenery and to rendering this scenery accessible and enjoyable by large numbers of persons," F. L. Olmsted wrote in 1915. "Subordinate objects are met in such ways and to such a degree as will not interfere with the simplicity and the rural and natural quality of the scenery."

The design intent and initial recommendations for improvement of Lowell Park were provided in a report by Olmsted Brothers' firm in 1907. John Olmsted was a leading park designer of his age, and is regarded as highly influential and a master of the Romantic style. In particular, he was noted for his ability to fit his designs to the local circumstances. The plans were drawn by Arthur Coleman Comey, a graduate cum laude of Harvard. Comey had traveled in Europe studying parks and had been recommended for the position of superintendent of Lowell Park by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Comey's plans were in complete accord with the Olmsted report. After Lowell Park (his first job), Comey went on to a distinguished career in design and city planning. The development and implementation of the designs and the supervision of the park for most of the historic period were by Ossian Cole Simonds, from 1912 to 1931, and his associate C. Roy West, from 1931 to 1941.

Lowell Park has maintained its distinctive scenic and natural recreational resources for public use. The valley of the Rock River from Dixon upstream past Oregon contains bluffs and unique rock outcroppings that create a natural beauty, inspiring the sobriquet, "Hudson of the West." Due to its particular arrangement of natural features and its proximity, there was no place on the river better suited than the Lowell property to become a large, rural park. Its immediate success with the public and its continued attraction to large numbers of people have

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

made it a "natural" landmark.

The History of Lowell Park

Lowell Park, Dixon's first recreational park, was established thanks to the philanthropy of Carlotta Lowell. Carlotta Lowell was the daughter of Charles R. and Josephine Lowell. Charles and his brother, James Russell Lowell, a famous Boston poet, first came to the area as guests of Alexander Charters, a wealthy New York businessman, who entertained many persons of national prominence in politics and the arts. Charters had purchased his estate, a large wooded estate overlooking the river north of Dixon, in 1837, and named it Hazelwood for the many hazelnut trees. His home, which he built on a high bluff later became the estate of Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Walgreen, founder of the drug store chain that bears his name.

Charles Lowell was a guest at Hazelwood and was so taken with the beauty of the area that he purchased the adjacent tract of land as a place to live and as an investment. He married Josephine Shaw, originally of Boston, then of Staten Island, New York. When the Civil War broke out, Charles enlisted and was soon promoted to the rank of colonel. He was killed at the Battle of Cedar Creek in 1864. Their daughter, Carlotta, was born six weeks after his death. The family never had the opportunity to live on their newly purchased property, although Josephine maintained ownership of the land for a time.

Josephine kept the land in Dixon. In 1874, she moved to New York City and spent the rest of her life in philanthropic work. She has been characterized as the Jane Addams of her time. One of her many interests was parks. She was acquainted with Frederick Law Olmsted and shared his belief in the social and spiritual benefits of natural parks. According to Carlotta, Josephine had long held the idea that the land should become a park for the people of Dixon. She had visited the property in 1868 and was aware of its potential as a rural park. She died in 1905.

In 1906 Carlotta offered the property to the City of Dixon for a park in memory of her mother and father. It was then discovered that there was no law that permitted a city to hold land not within or contiguous to the city limits. With the help of Illinois State Senator Charles Hughes, who secured passage of an amendment that permitted Dixon to accept Miss Lowell's gift, the city was able to receive Carlotta's land donation.

Upon acceptance of the land, the mayor of Dixon named five prominent citizens to serve on the first Lowell Park Commission under the provision of the Dixon City Council. The president of the commission was E. N. Howell, who had a great interest in landscape gardening. Howell was familiar with the land, for he had taken his family there on outings and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

knew the whereabouts of the hepaticas, yellow lady slippers, wild phlox, rare Indian pipes, and other wild flowers that abounded near the bluffs. He was one of the most active members of The Citizens' Association, the precursor of the Dixon Chamber of Commerce that had as one of its missions the promotion of the natural beauty of the area and the beautification of Dixon.

Carlotta still kept involved with the park planning. The same year that she donated the land to the city, she engaged the Olmsted Brothers (John and Frederick Jr., stepson and son respectively of Frederick Law Olmsted) of Boston, to visit the site and prepare a report on its development as a park. John Olmsted, senior member of the firm, and an influential designer of parks in cities across the United States, came to Dixon. In a letter dated May 10, 1906, he penned to his wife that he had visited the park that day and was entertained for dinner that evening at Howell's home.

Olmsted submitted his recommendations to the city in a report. Work began on the park in 1907. The owner of cattle running on the land was ordered to remove them. A dirt road was made which ran from the entrance down to the riverfront. Construction commenced on wooden docks, two wells, toilet facilities, a large wooden pavilion with seats and tables, and 100 hitching posts. A Clean-Up day was scheduled and 100 men from all walks of life volunteered cutting weeds, dead wood, stumps, and brush, and clearing the lower terrace near the riverfront and around the new pavilion. Two days later, the grand opening was held. Merchants took charge of the event. Most closed their stores, and 6,000 people converged by boat and carriage for the "merchants' picnic". Boat races, ball games, and contests were held. A band played, and the merchants served coffee. This set the tone for the use of the park for decades to come.

In 1908, at Olmsted's suggestion, Arthur C. Comey, a graduate cum laude of Harvard University, was hired as superintendent to begin implementation of Olmsted's recommendations. During his two-year tenure, he catalogued 150 species of birds and drew landscape architectural plans as well as plans for the caretaker's house (to be called "Woodcote") and other structures to be built with limestone quarried from the site.

Comey reported to Lowell Park commissioners in 1909 that among the valuable results of habitual use of the park will be the cultivating of a love for nature, which is a refining influence, both because it underlies an appreciation of art and because it gives people an added interest, thus bringing people out of their surroundings and into a healthy outdoor life. He pointed out the constant succession of wildflowers and the bird life. He stated that at no other place within easy reach of Dixon could be found such a variety of advantages for a park whose main purpose was the enjoyment of rural scenery.

He recommended that a general scheme of forest development be carried out and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

included an extensive list of woody plants suitable for planting in Lowell Park. He reiterated that native plants rather than showy foreign species and artificial varieties be planted. In the spring, of 1909 Isaac Graybill was employed as park keeper, and surveying and work on roads continued. In the late summer and fall, a well house and Woodcote, as designed by Comey, were built. A bronze tablet sent by Carlotta Lowell was placed on the back wall inside the well house as a memorial to her parents.

By 1911, the city had given the Lowell Park Commission other city property to manage. When Comey left Dixon that same year, the Lowell Park Commissioners agreed to offer O.C. Simonds the position to supervise the parks in Dixon. Bryan Lathrop, the commissioner of Chicago's Lincoln Park had recommended Simonds for the job, and Commission President Howell had employed Simonds in 1909 to prepare a plan for the grounds of his home. Simonds had already made a tour of Lowell Park in 1911 and was "so charmed by the various aspects of the bluffs, view, ravines, and river that he agreed to direct development..." In 1912 he began to lay out work plans and take over general supervision of the park, which he would do for the next two decades and for most of Dixon's park properties.

Simonds believed that parks were more than recreational space: "The main purpose of a park is to preserve, restore, develop and make accessible natural scenery. A park is not primarily a place for play, but rather to feed one's soul." He provided a plan for the main entrance in 1915, and in the spring of that year, shrubs and evergreens were planted. A plan for stone gate posts was provided but not built at this time. Simonds moved the entry back from the road one rod and made the turnoff less abrupt. A new driveway, the north road, was laid out from the main road to the north bluff, with a "superb view" up and down the river. It was expected to be more popular than the south overlook. A stone and log shelter was planned at the new overlook. Asters and goldenrod from Commissioner Howell's home garden were set out.

Lowell Park was designed in the American Romantic style, with its emphasis on natural scenery, native plant materials, native building materials, curvilinear roads, and avoidance of formal design. One of the characteristics that has made this particular park so successful in achieving its goal of bringing people into contact with nature are the entry passages. In order to reach the social and recreational gathering places on the lower terraces, one must travel either on the river or pass through the forest down one of the roads that wind along the ravines and bluffs. Another is that at the time of its inception, there was no other public park like it in the region. Lowell Park predated the development of state parks in areas of outstanding natural attractions — but not the demand for them — by many years. It is one of the earliest instances in the state where the need for preservation of a natural area of unusual beauty as a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section __8__ Page __13__

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

public park was met in a timely manner. At the time of Lowell Park's completion in the late 1930s, the *Dixon Evening Telegraph* reported that it was said to be the only park of its kind in the Midwest.

The skill and vision with which all the designers involved arranged the manmade features and subordinated them to the scenic beauty is exceptional. The pinetum was the only large area of the landscape designed totally by man, contrasting with the native forest; and in evolving into a mature forest, it too, has finally achieved the intended unity with the rest of the park. The unification was facilitated by the historical transplanting of some of the white pines to scattered locations along the roads and on the lower terrace where they now appear to be quite natural.

The craftsmanship evident in the native limestone work, especially the shelters and the entrance gates built during the 1930s, the beauty and simplicity of the design of the shelters, and the placement of the shelters, bathhouse, and Woodcote to harmonize and blend with the edge of the woods, and the use of the native limestone for numerous minor structures, create exceptional architectural heritage that is essential to the identity of Lowell Park. Only one major structure, a large pavilion built in 1972, is poorly sited in relation to space, access, and other buildings, and facilities. That structure also does not blend with the natural features; it alone of all structures in the park is sited in the middle of an open space, and it obstructs the scenic view from the front porch of Woodcote.

Lowell Park is the only public place in the Dixon area that preserves a trace of the Boles Trail to Galena. The trace was well-known when the park was established but is nearly forgotten now. Traces across private property in north Dixon have all been lost to development or agriculture in recent years, except a trace that remained some years ago on the adjacent Walgreen estate, Hazelwood. The ruts through Lowell Park were marked with signage some years ago by a Boy Scout troop and were staked again in 1986 by a local landscape architect. Due to the thick undergrowth, they are visible now only in winter after a light snowfall. Nevertheless, the trail is an important historical landmark inextricably linked with the history of Dixon, and its preservation in Lowell Park adds to the significance of the property.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

Chronology of Events

1826... the Boles Trail from Peoria, Illinois to Galena, Illinois, crossed the property between what is now the Pinetum and the south road. Boles established the first direct route, crossing the river above the present city of Dixon. The trail was super-ceded by the famous Kellogg Trail.

1836.. .The first and only Caucasian family, named Richards, to live on the property, built a house on a bluff overlooking the north road. John Richards cleared part of the bottom land along the river and eleven acres of the current Pinetum for the planting of crops. Because fresh water was not nearby, after two years they moved the house across the frozen river.

1842.. . The land was surveyed for the government by Colonel William Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton. The initial 201 acres that would eventually make up the park, were entered at the U.S. Land Office, Galena, Illinois, on June 2, 1842 and patented to Philip Kearney on May 1, 1843. Kearney, an officer in the Army who had inherited great wealth from his grandfather, was the nephew of General Stephen Watts Kearney. In 1841, the younger Kearney was aide to General Winfield Scott, who had served at Dixon's Ferry in the Black Hawk War in 1832. After the Civil War erupted, he was appointed brigadier general and achieved great fame for his dash and valor in a number of engagements. He was killed September 1, 1861, at Chantilly.

1854. . . Major Kearney sold the land to Lucius G. Fisher and Hazen Cheney of Beloit, Wisconsin for \$4,000. Three years later they sold it to Robert Harris of Racine. In 1859 Harris sold the north half to Cornelius S. Masten of Dixon, who thereby became indentured to a Thomas A. Harris of New Hampshire. Masten in turn sold it to George Russell of Washington County, New York. In 1860 Russell sold it to Thomas A. Harris.

1860... On Feb. 29, Charles Russell Lowell, Jr. of Burlington, Iowa, bought the north half from Thomas A. Harris for \$875. He bought the south half from Robert Y. Harris, of Harris County, Houston, Texas, on Nov. 22 for \$500.

1864... Charles Lowell was killed at the Battle of Cedar Creek during the Civil War.

1905... Charles Lowell's wife, Josephine, dies and the property is inherited by their

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

daughter Carlotta.

1906... Carlotta offers the park to the City of Dixon and hires the Olmsted Brothers to visit the site and prepare a report on its development.

1907... Mayor Edwards of Dixon appoints five commissioners of Lowell Park. Volunteers cleared the park and a grand opening was held. The commission searches for a person to oversee the planning of the park and perform caretaking duties.

1908... Upon the recommendation of the Olmsted Brothers' firm, Arthur C. Comey, a graduate cum laude of Harvard University, was hired as superintendent to begin implementation of the Olmsted recommendations. During Comey's two-year tenure, he catalogued 150 species of birds and drew landscape architectural plans as well as plans for the caretaker's house (to be called "Woodcote") and other structures to be built with limestone quarried from the site.

1909... The "First Report of the Lowell Park Commission" stated that the "feature on the land of greatest historical importance is the deep ruts of the old Boles Trail stretching also across Hazelwood. It would be fitting to place a marker here when one thinks of all the men who afterward became so important in our national life, as well as the stream of emigrants from the east and south who passed this way." The report continued: "Shortly before Col. Lowell bought the lands some of the timber had been cut for fuel for the construction of the Illinois Central railroad nearby, and part of the bottom land near the river had been cleared and put under cultivation for a brief time only... Excepting the cultivated field of eleven acres in the southwest corner the land has practically remained in a wild state since Mr. Lowell bought it, growing into ideal conditions for a natural park. The high plateau, the level bottom land, the bluffs and ravines, woodland and meadow and the half mile of beach-like river front make diversified scenery which is interesting and beautiful." According to park historian B. H. Lanphier, the surveyor Joseph Crawford, who visited the tract when Richards lived there, had told E. E. Wingert of Dixon that the land originally was covered by large trees with an almost total absence of underbrush.

1911... Comey left Dixon to take another position, and O. C. Simonds agreed to take general supervision of Lowell and other parks in Dixon. Improvements continued as called for by Simonds' plans.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

1912...O. C. Simonds was retained to supervise the landscaping of all parks in Dixon.

1916...Plans for an addition onto Woodcote, which included additional dining space on the first floor and sleeping rooms above, were implemented.

1918...The Commission set aside monies to apply on the building of a bath house, which was to be "located and erected according to the scheme laid out by Mr. Simonds, the park architect." The Chicago Travel Club scheduled weekly sightseeing excursions that included a boat trip from Dixon up the river to Lowell Park and beyond.

1920...For the second consecutive year ferns, bluebells, marsh marigold, galax, and other wildflowers were set out in the park.

1921...Bus service from Dixon to the park was initiated. The Art Extension Committee of the Illinois Better Community Movement began a three-day tour of points in the Rock River Valley with a tour of Dixon parks followed by lunch at Graybill's Woodcote. Famous sculptor Lorado Taft was chairman. In July a longer dock was installed at the beach, extending 75 feet into the river with a springboard platform. The new bathhouse would accommodate as many as 800 bathers. Electric service was added at the park. Lighting permitted the beach to remain open until 10 p.m.

1922...A large grant from the local chapter of the Red Cross accommodated the purchase of first class playground equipment.

1923...Inspecting the park in late May when the wild crabapples were in bloom, Simonds made extensive recommendations for plantings of shrubs and trees. He suggested a pinetum in the vacant land under cultivation at the southwest corner, "quite distinct from the present area of the park in character as it would include plants from other countries while the present park should be maintained as the great American forest." Not quite sure that he approved of the idea himself, he thought it worthy of consideration, "although a pure white pine forest would be suitable as there is already a native white pine forest in the area."

1925...Lowell Park is named one of the state's 100 outstanding "beauty spots." The list

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

was compiled from nominations requested by Dr. R. E. Hieronymus, community adviser of the University of Illinois.

1926... Ronald Reagan applied for the job of lifeguard. nd was retained as life guard until he was through college.

1927... A concrete floor was put in the wood pavilion near the river, and public toilets for men and women were installed in the wings of the bath house under the supervision of Simonds.

1928... Plans for the pinetum were implemented under the supervision of Simonds and a forester.

1930... One thousand wildflower plants were set out.

1931... The main road from the entrance to the bath house (one mile) was paved with asphalt. O. C. Simonds passed away.

1933... Reforestation Corps were assigned to eradicate wild gooseberry and currant bushes, which can host white pine blister rust, from the park. In November, Civil Works Administration (CWA) projects for building Simonds' plans for stone piers at the entrance were approved. The intention was to open a new quarry for stone and gravel. Additional improvement projects were the building of a stone shelter, one-half mile of new road, and construction of 75 hardwood picnic tables (many of which are still in use today).

1934... CWA projects completed included the hard-surfacing of the north and south roads and the addition of a new perimeter roadway three-tenths miles long around the pinetum. Two thirds of the 3,000 pines that had been planted in 1928 had been transplanted to other parts of the park. One thousand white pine seedlings and 1,500 seedling of another variety were started in the pinetum. Five new shelter houses were constructed, two that had been in use were repaired, and a number of stone fireplaces for picnic food were built on the lower terrace. A native stone fireplace was built into the addition at Woodcote. A storm drain ditch near the bathhouse was eliminated by tiling and covering it, providing additional parking space. Other projects undertaken were the completion of a natural stone abutment wall along the beach drive, the removal of brush throughout the park, a small amount of grading and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 18

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

seeding, and the completion of a bridle path two mile long, that involved clearing brush in a 10-foot width. Work relief superintendent for Lee County was J. E. Reagan, Ronald's father. Works Progress Administration (WPA) field supervisor reported that "the layout of roads, bridle path, and shelters are well suited and designed to fit the general scheme of the park. The project was well manned, and the work as a whole was very good."

On May 30th the park was reported to be about the most popular spot in northern Illinois, with an estimated 5,000 people visiting all day long and far into the night. A large number of new benches were set out. In the fall, a complete new roof was put onto the bathhouse.

1939...Cited as work to be done was a picnic pavilion of native stone with a hipped roof

1942...The commissioners reported that the work was at last completed. It had taken 35 years to realize the dream of a small group of public-spirited citizens "that the people of Dixon and vicinity should have this beautiful place for the refreshment of body and spirit, for all time."

1944...Shelters were repaired.

1948...The climb-around and horizontal ladder were installed in the playground.

1959...The beach was finally closed after ten years of declining usage due to the opening Memorial Pool in Vaile Park. The bathhouses are used only for storage, but the concession stand continued to operate until the late 1980s when no further bids were received for its use.

1960s...Additional playground equipment was installed in the vicinity of the original equipment. Ice floes had destroyed one of the two original slides, a small swing set and one horizontal ladder. Elm trees planted along Lowell Park Road approaching the entry gates had died and were removed, as was the old barbed wire fence between the highway and the pinetum.

1971...Dixon National Bank contributed \$10,000 for the construction of a large pavilion or shelter, which was placed near the river at the north end of the park.

1978...The nature center building was erected by the Kiwanis Club inside the park

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

entrance, with parking on the north side of the main road. Howard Smith, city building commissioner, was the principal builder. Subsequently, a split rail fence, landscaping, and a concrete sidewalk were added. Heavy snow that winter collapsed the roof and two stone columns of the Vaile shelter on the north road. The dogwood trees near the Woodcote were also lost due to the cold. A parcel of 43 acres bordering the south side of Lowell Park and primarily on the lower terrace was given to the Park District by Charles Walgreen, Jr., owner of Hazelwood.

1979... An asphalt parking lot for boat trailers was constructed on the donated property. A larger boat ramp facility with new docks was installed in place of two existing boat ramps, and changes were made in the road circulation pattern in front of the bathhouse to accommodate boat trailer traffic.

1980... The toilets in the bathhouse were closed following construction of a modern restroom facility south of the bathhouse.

1987... Diseased and dead trees were removed from the central island of the pinetum and restoration plantings initiated. Opening of the overlook on the south road, which had become overgrown, was accomplished by logging on the slope below the overlook and on a large parcel of land on the terrace below.

1990 Plans for an addition to the nature center by the Kiwanis Club were approved.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 20

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bibliography

"Arthur Coleman Comey, A Biographical Minute." Landscape Architecture Quarterly, Vol. 44, No. 3, p. 153. April 1954.

Board of Park Commissioners. First Report of the Lowell Park Commission, Dixon, Illinois. 1909.

Board of Park Commissioners, Dixon, Illinois. Minutes.

Chamber of Commerce. Wonderland of Illinois, Rock River at Dixon. Dixon, Illinois. 1909.

Chicago Historical Society. Holabird & Root archives.

Citizens' Association. Vacation Days in Rock River Valley. Dixon, Illinois. 1910.

City of Dixon Annual Report of the City of Dixon, Illinois. 1922.

City of Dixon, Illinois. Council Record Books.

Dictionary of American Biography. 1900.

Dixon Evening Telegraph. Numerous articles.

Earl W. Hayter Regional History Center, Swen Parson Hall, Northern Illinois University. Dixon Chamber of Commerce archives.

F. L. Olmsted. "The Landscape Treatment of Parks." Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture, Vol. 3, pp. 1801-1807. 1915.

Illinois State History Library, Springfield, Illinois. Federal Writers Project Records.

NPS Form 10-900-a
OMB No. 1024-0018
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 21

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

Lamb, George. Dixon, A Pictorial History. G. Bradley Publishing, 1987.

Lanphier, Beatrice Howell. "Talk given at Lowell Park before the State Historical Society. Oct 16. 1943"

_____ History of Lowell Park and the Dixon Park System. Unpublished manuscript, 1941.

Loeb Library, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University. Arthur C. Comey archives; correspondence of John C. Olmsted.

Loveland Community Building Museum. Lowell Park File, Lennon & Farney Collection photos; George C. Dixon Collection photos.

National Archives, Washington, DC. WPA Central Office Files; WPA Project Files.

Pray, James Sturgis. "John Charles Olmsted, A Minute on his Life and Service." Landscape Architecture Quarterly, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp. 129-135. April 1922.

NPS Form 10-900-a
OMB No. 1024-0018
(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 22

Lowell Park, Lee County, Illinois

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

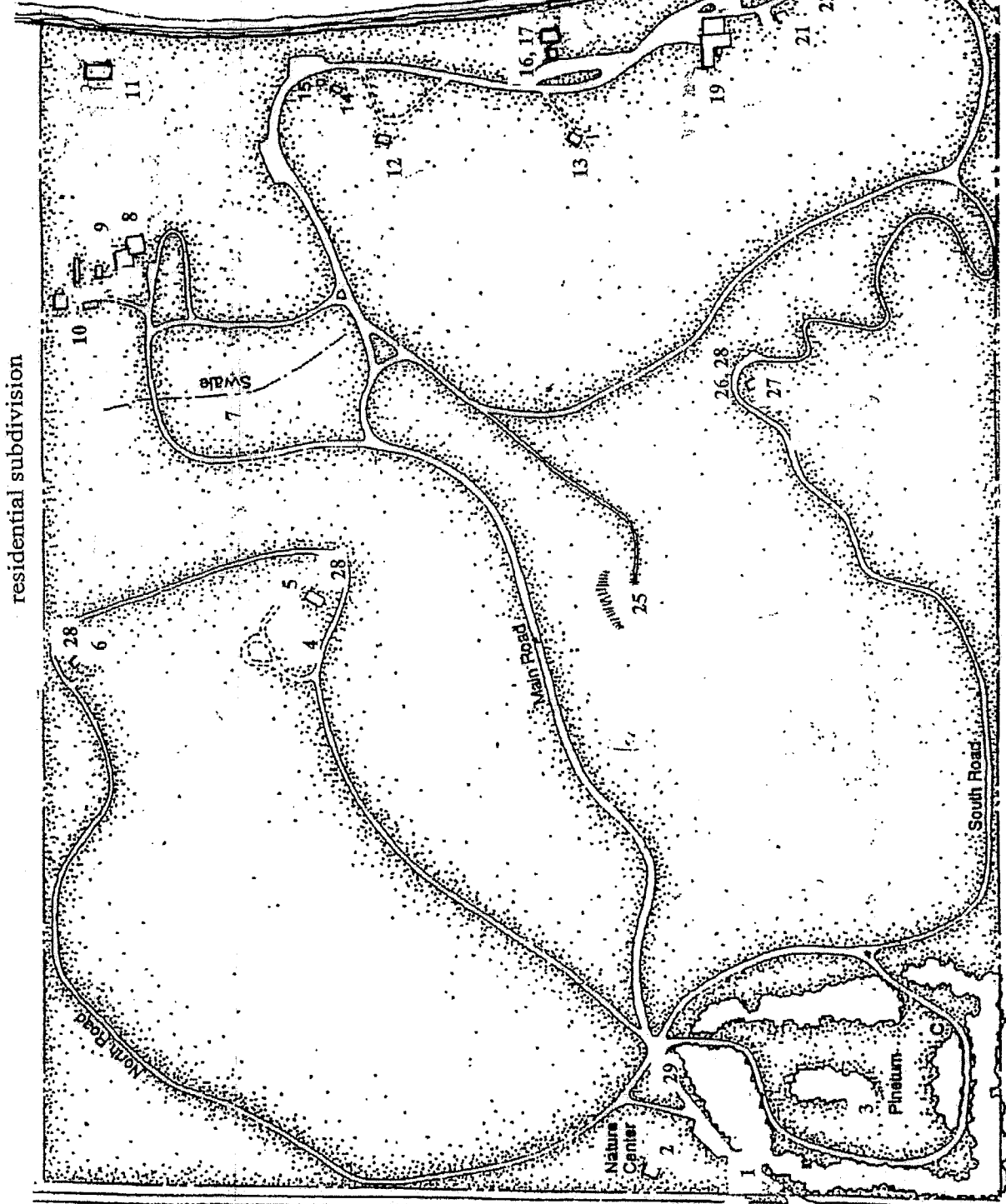
Lowell Park, 2114 Lowell Park Road, Dixon, Illinois is bounded on the west by Lowell Park Road, a county highway; on the east by Rock River; on the south by Walgreen estate, a private, wooded estate and open fields; on the north by a Forest Park Subdivision, a residential subdivision.

Boundary Justification

These are the acres of land associated with the park; historically, during its period of significance. The nomination does not include the 44.9 acres added to the south of the park in 1978.

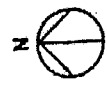
residential subdivision

1. main entrance w/ pillars
2. Nature Center
3. Pinetum
4. historic foundation
5. Valle Shelter
6. Pitcher Shelter
7. natural swale
8. Woodcote
9. Woodcote well
10. maintenance bldgs.
11. DNB Shelter
12. Hoberg Shelter
13. Barton Shelter
14. original well house
15. original concession stand
16. stone house
17. Lions Shelter
18. former beach / Ronald Reagan
19. historic bathhouse
20. north boat ramp
21. modern restrooms
22. historic swim top
23. south boat ramp
24. Raymond Shelter
25. stone quarry
26. scenic overlook
27. Lowell Shelter
28. limestone retaining wall
29. Boles Trail wagon ruts



private residence

open farm fields



private residence

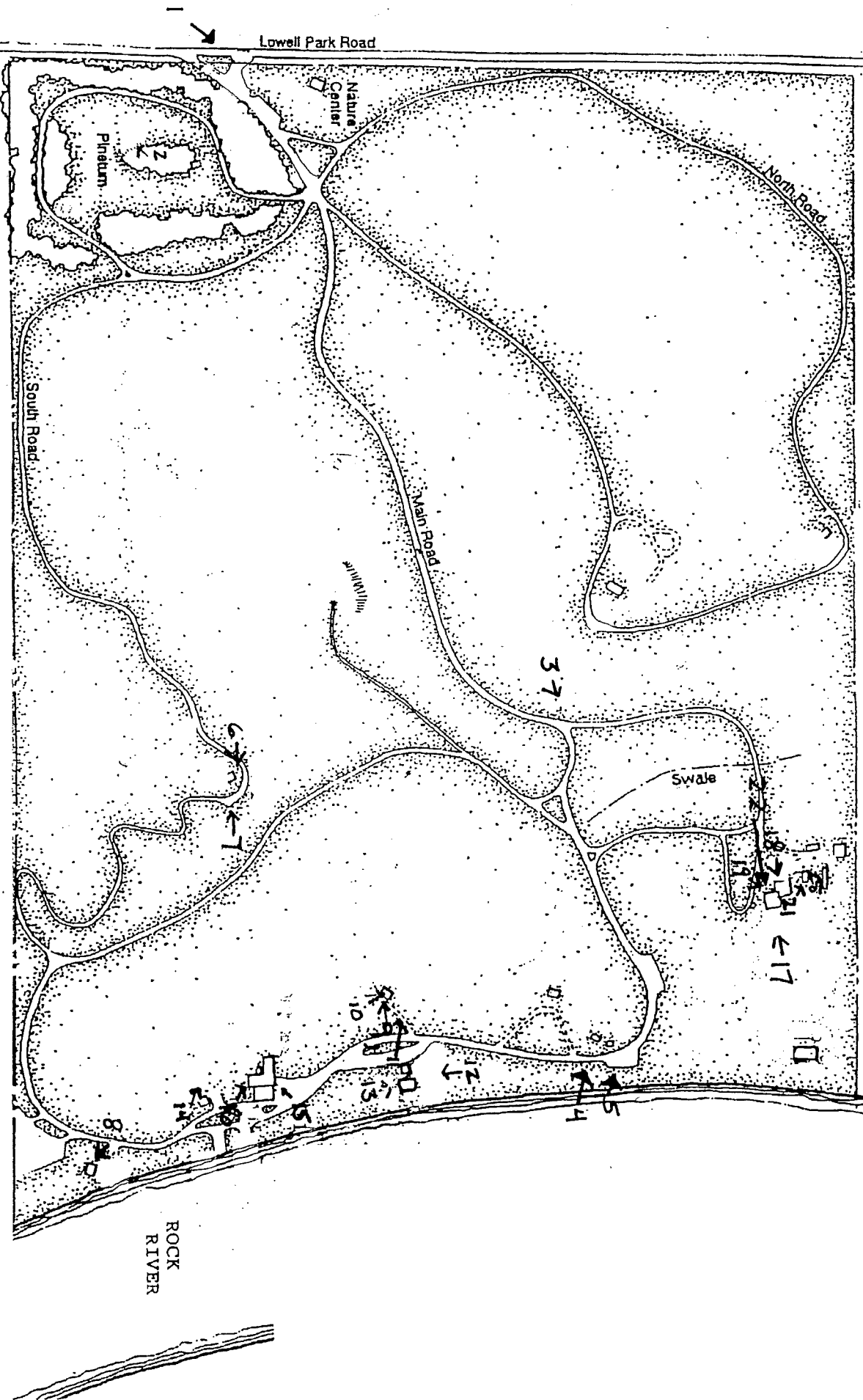
private estate

LOWELL PARK

Dixon, Lee County, Illinois

Lowell Park Road

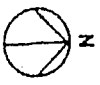
residential subdivision



private residence

open farm fields

private estate



LOWELL PARK
 Dixon, Lee County, Illinois

Photo Key