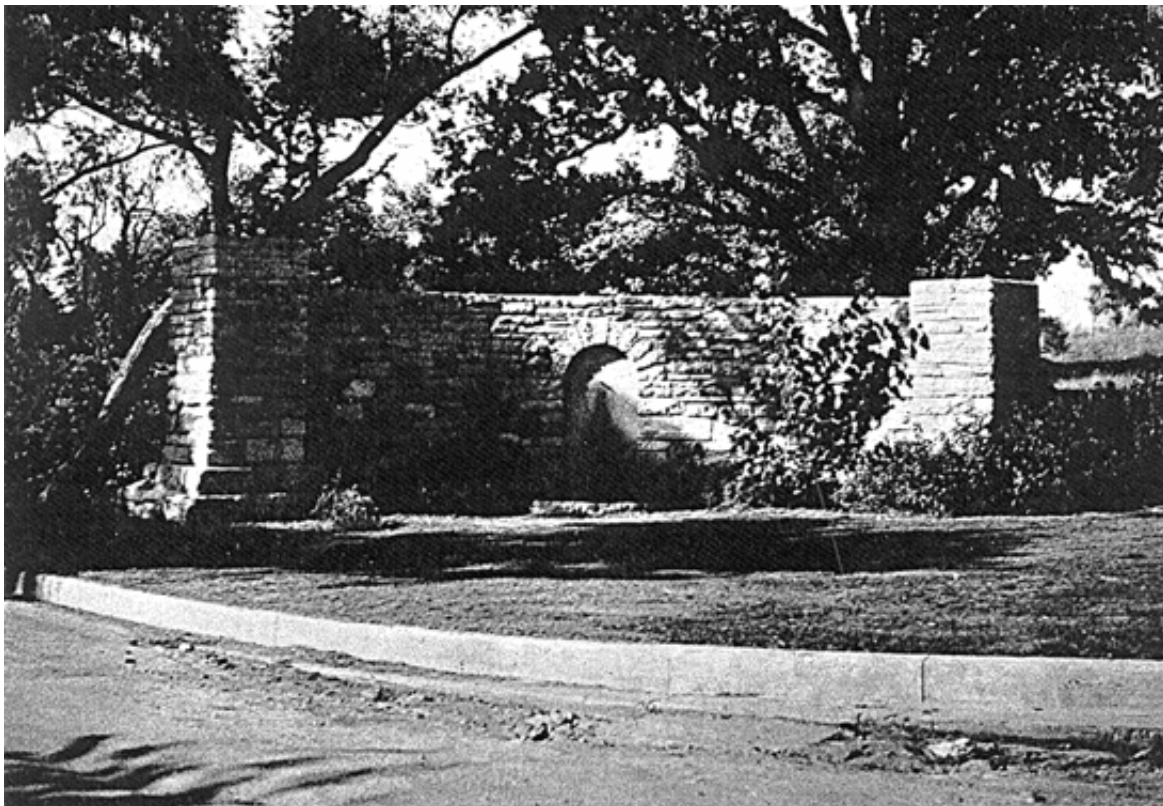

National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007



Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

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The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

The Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs component landscape is located in the north-central, western half of the Platt Historic District (parent landscape) in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Murray County, Oklahoma. It is located just west of State Highway 177, which forms the area's eastern boundary. Broadway Avenue (Highway 7) bounds the area's northern limits. To the west, the area is bounded by the former Vendome Well property, which is now also owned by CNRA. Just south of Vendome Well, the western edge of the component landscape is located along the property boundary between CNRA and the town of Sulphur. The southern boundary of the component landscape is Travertine Creek to the east and, to the west, Rock Creek, beginning at the junction of the two streams. The waterway of Rock Creek also serves to divide the component landscape into two parts: Flower Park to the east and Black Sulphur Springs to the west.

Primary vehicular access to the Flower Park area is from Broadway Avenue, at the parking lot across from West 5th Street. This parking lot was constructed in the 1930s to serve both Flower Park and the Vendome Plunge Pool. The area can also be accessed from downtown Sulphur via footpaths at the district's main entrance at Broadway and West First Street. Pedestrian access also exists to the south at Lincoln Bridge, which is adjacent to the district's perimeter road. A small parking area is located just off the road to access Lincoln Bridge and Flower Park. The Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion is similarly accessed from the park's perimeter loop road. The parking area for Black Sulphur Springs is located between Walnut Grove on the west and Lincoln Bridge on the east.

Flower Park is a pedestrian park. With its meandering streams, curving walkways, and pastoral quality it is reminiscent of Romantic landscapes. The Black Sulphur Springs area, with its crescent-shaped, lake-like beach (once known as Beach Springs), has maintained its historic primary use as a place for sunbathing, wading, swimming and picnicking. The focal point of this area is a pre-CCC-era, Neo-classically styled pavilion with a basin once, but no longer, used for dispensing mineral water.

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs and the Rock Creek waterway cover approximately 35 acres of wooded stream bank, upland slopes and floodplain habitat (actual areas are: Flower Park—19.81 acres, Black Sulphur Springs—8.03 acres, and Rock Creek—7.84 acres). Within this gently rolling wooded terrace and floodplain visitors experience a range of leisure activities—from strolling to afternoon picnics outings to playful water and beach activities.

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Platt Historic District of Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA) is the parent landscape for Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs. The Platt Historic District is a historic designed landscape containing ten component landscapes, each with unique and individual landscape features. A study of these numerous component landscapes contributes to our understanding and appreciation of the district's entire cultural landscape.

The Platt Historic District is an irregularly shaped area extending for about three miles along both sides of two small streams, which flow through it in a generally east to west direction. The width of the district varies from 4,800 feet near the center to about 6,400 feet near the western edge and 2,300 feet along its eastern edge. Connecting the district's component landscapes is a six-mile (once eight-mile) perimeter road. This road provides both access to and opportunities for viewing the district's features.

The ten component landscapes are:

- Rock Creek Campground (not part of Historic District)
- Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs
- Antelope Springs and Buffalo Springs/ Nature Center
- Bromide Springs/ Bromide Hill
- Central Campground
- Cold Springs Campground
- Pavilion Springs / Hillside Springs/ Headquarters and Maintenance Area
- Walnut Grove
- Travertine Island and Little Niagara Falls
- Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI was written and completed by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University. Previous cultural landscape documentation for the Platt District, which includes the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area, was carried out in 1997 by Kay Sallee et al., of UT Arlington. CLI database entry was completed by Michele Curran, CLI Coordinator.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/21/2007
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	07/06/2007

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Oklahoma SHPO concurred with the findings of the CLI on 7/6/2007.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 2401 North Laird Ave. • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

July 6, 2007

Mr. Bruce Noble, Superintendent
Chickasaw National Recreation Area
1008 West 2nd Street
Sulphur, OK 73086

Dear Mr. Noble:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Platt District at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The Platt District is a significant landscape to both Oklahoma and to the National Park Service.

We concur with the opinion that the Platt District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance. We concur with the findings of the CLR as well, specifically that the period of national significance for the Platt District is 1933-1940, and with the CLR's definition of the boundary for the district.

Additionally, we believe that the treatments outlined in the CLR for the overall landscape are generally consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. We look forward to reviewing projects on a case-by-case basis, using the treatments outlined in the CLR as a baseline plan. Should you wish to discuss the creation of a Programmatic Agreement based on the findings of the CLR, we will be happy to work with you.

Please feel free to contact me at (405)522-4484 (or e-mail at mheisch@okhistory.org). Thank you for your interest in Oklahoma's historic and architectural heritage.

Sincerely,

Melvina Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

✓ cc: Jill Cowley, IMR Santa Fe

OK SHPO concurrence on the Platt Historic District CLR, which includes the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs Area component landscape, 7/6/2007.

MEMORANDUM

To: Deputy Associate Regional Director
Cultural Resources
12795 W. Alameda Pkwy.
Lakewood, CO 80228

From: Superintendent
Chickasaw National Recreation Area, 1008
W. 2nd
Sulphur, OK 73086-4814

Subject: Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs Landscape Inventory (CLI)

I concur with the content and the assessment of the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs cultural landscape for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

The CLI has identified the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs component landscape as a "Historic Designed Landscape."

- 1. The CLI rates the condition as "GOOD" (pg. 75) and the Management Category is listed as "Must be Preserved and Maintained" (pg. 9).*
- 2. The period of significance for the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs component landscape is 1933-1940 (pg. 10).*
- 3. The Statement of Significance is located on pgs. 11-12.*
- 4. The contributing features are discussed and listed in the "Analysis and Evaluation" section (pg. 38-74).*

Bruce Noble

Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

9/21/07

Date

Cc: Michele Curran, IMR, Landscape Historian, CLI Coordinator

CHIC Superintendent concurrence on the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs CLI, 9/21/2007.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Other

Revision Narrative:

Uploaded CLR to Landscape Documents section, updated NHL information, and edited text to correct typos, May 2012.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The boundary includes Broadway Avenue (Highway 7) to the north and Highway 177 to the east, from Broadway, over Travertine Bridge, to the southern intersection of the park perimeter road. The perimeter road forms the southern boundary of the component landscape, from this intersection to the low water crossing over Rock Creek, at which point the southern boundary becomes Rock Creek. The western boundary of the component landscape extends north from Rock Creek to the park fence which runs past Tishomingo Avenue, until the fences turns west. From here, the component landscape boundary extends northeast to the corner of the Flower Park parking lot. The eastern boundary then extends north along the edge of the parking lot boundary to Broadway Avenue. Because the Vendome Well area was purchased in 1980, and is slated to become the site of a new Visitor Center, the Vendome Well area is not part of the component landscape, despite its close proximity. The boundary of the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs component landscape is shown on the Site Plan.

State and County:

State: OK

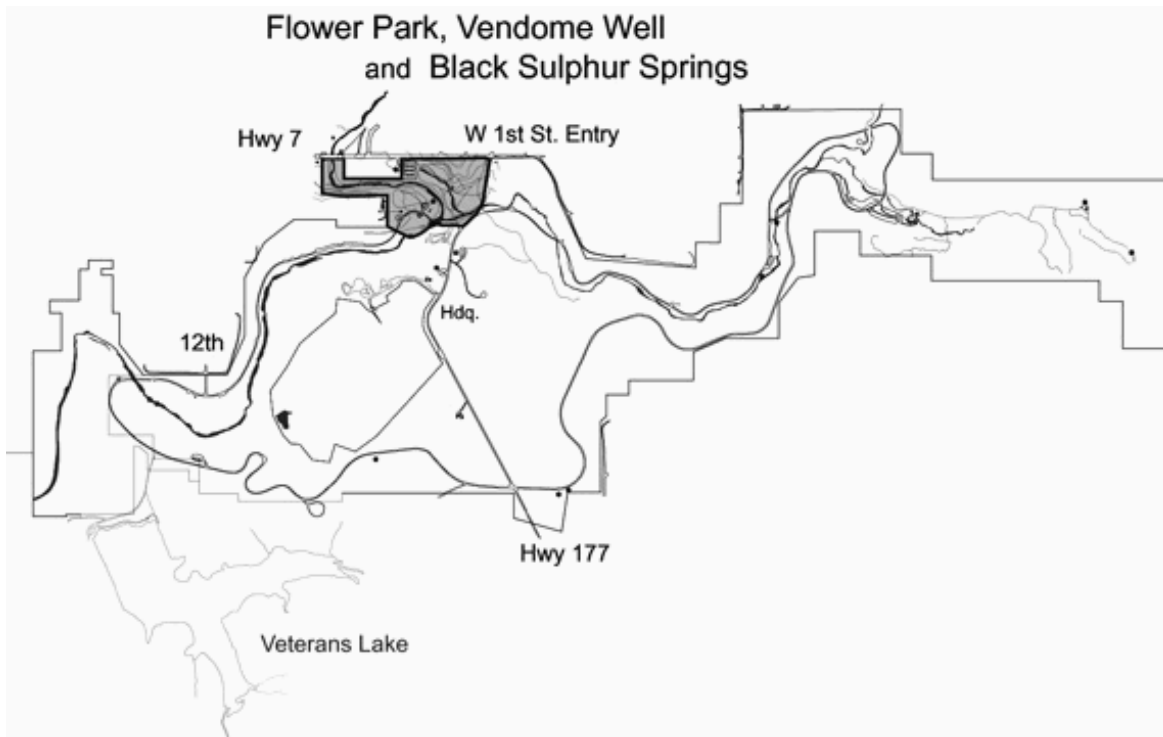
County: Murray County

Size (Acres): 35.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	14
UTM Easting:	686,355
UTM Northing:	3,819,782
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	14
UTM Easting:	686,370
UTM Northing:	3,819,782
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 27
UTM Zone:	14
UTM Easting:	686,245
UTM Northing:	3,819,690

Location Map:



Location of Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs within the Platt District of CNRA. Source: GIS base map data obtained from Department of Geology, Oklahoma State University (1999), augmented by Iowa State University.

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Flower Park and Black Springs area is located just south of the downtown Sulphur area, which is currently experiencing some renovations. The downtown historic district was placed on the National Register in 2001. The downtown area is a small shopping district, with a number of restaurants and other businesses as well. Due to its close proximity to downtown and its adjacent residential areas, Flower Park, has in the past served, and continues to serve, some of the same day-to-day functions as a city or town park. The activities associated with this function include strolling, jogging, and dog walking, as well as wading and bathing, usually by local residents. This function is in addition to the area's historic and current function as a national park for out-of-state visitors. In general, walking and jogging activities are located on the high terraces of Flower Park, while bathing is concentrated in the sandy "beach" area just below the Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion, at the intersection of Rock Creek and Travertine Creek. In addition, bathing and wading occur in the pools in Flower Park, and along Travertine Creek, where the outflow from Vendome Well joins the Creek.

Another cultural aspect of Flower Park includes the collection and use of sulfur water for medicinal purposes. These cultural uses traditionally were focused on the Pavilion at Black Sulphur Springs, where medicinal waters were once dispensed, and in the use of the Flower Park wading pool's mud for mud bathing. In addition, the Flower Park parking lot along Broadway Avenue was also used for parking by patrons of the Vendome Plunge Pool, making that area a hub of activity for the bathing and entertainment provided by that cultural establishment.

Today, use of the area has turned more toward recreational bathing and uses. However, mineral water may still be collected from a well near the Black Sulphur Pavilion, and while the plunge pool is gone, visitors may still park in the parking lot and collect sulfur water from Vendome Well, which is immediately adjacent to the component landscape area.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The study area, located in the north-central portion of the Platt District, is located on a high, moderately flat wooded terrace to the north and east. The valley streams and foot slopes located where Rock Creek and Travertine Creek join are the natural topographic physiographic features to the south. These slopes are generally warm, southern facing slopes. A diverse vegetation characterizes the area. Species are primarily Lowland Forest species of the Eastern Deciduous Forest, including elm species (*Ulmus* spp.), oak species (*Quercus* spp.), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and Hackberry (*Celtis* spp.).

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Since 1902, when lands for Sulphur Springs Reservation were taken by the government, the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area has been under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Since 1916, the park has been under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, first as Platt National Park and since as Chickasaw NRA. The near-by Vendome Well tract (5 acres) was purchased by the NPS in 1980. Lands adjacent to the component landscape boundary consist of federally owned park lands and privately owned holdings within the town of Sulphur.

Management Unit: Chickasaw NRA

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/19/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Platt Historic District, which includes the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area, was listed as a National Historic Landmark on 7/7/2011. As a result, the landscape must be preserved and maintained. Park Superintendent concurrence was received on 9/21/2007, prior to the formal NHL listing.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Explanatory Narrative:

The Flower Park area, adjacent to the city of Sulphur, is accessed from Broadway (Hwy 17, also known as the historic Davis Highway) and offers short day-use outings. Black Sulphur Springs is accessed from the Park's Perimeter Road, either from the Walnut Grove area (west) or from Lincoln Bridge/Hwy 177 (east).

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs

Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

The larger landscape of the Platt Historic District contributes to the integrity of the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs component landscape.

All lands adjoining the park district are of low hills with a rolling nature. The city of Sulphur has two entrance points—one major and one minor entrance—into the Platt District. The park's most visible and prominent point of entry is at Broadway Avenue (Hwy 7, also known as the historic Davis Highway) and West 1st Street (Hwy 177). Hwy 177 bisects the park from north to south thus, giving it two points of access. The third entrance, a historic commercial area along West 12th Street, provides the visitor with a formal park entry featuring symmetrical flagstone walks, stone curbs along the road, and a circular limestone plaza with a water fountain feature terminating the entrance. A less prominent, Flower Park entrance at West 5th Street also showcases a water feature and provides visitors an entry into the park for short time/day leisure stays.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

SHPO Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Based on the findings of the Platt Historic District CLR, the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs component landscape has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Oklahoma SHPO. Additionally, the Platt Historic District was listed as a National Historic Landmark on 7/7/2011.

Existing NRIS Information:

Other Names:	Platt Historic District DOE
Primary Certification Date:	12/03/2001
Other Certifications and Date:	Platt Historic District DOE - 7/6/2007
Other Names:	Platt Historic District DOE
Primary Certification Date:	12/03/2001
	Platt Historic District NHL Nomination - 7/7/2011

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1940
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Rustic Architecture
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1940
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

The Platt Historic District has been determined eligible under Criteria A (association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of history) and C (design), as an excellent example of National Park recreational design. Under Criterion A, the district is significant for its association with the development of National Park landscapes completed during the depression and funded as part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs such as the PWA (Public Works Administration), WPA (Works Progress Administration), and CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). Under Criterion C, the district is significant as embodying the characteristics of the type, period, and methods of construction typical of the "rustic style" of park design developed by the National Park Service in the years between World War I and World War II (1916-1942) under the leadership of Thomas Vint. In general terms, "rustic" park design limited development to preserve natural scenery and developed park architecture and landscape designs in keeping and in harmony with the natural landscape. In specific terms of constructing buildings, roads, and campgrounds, this meant using hand

craftsmanship, local architectural styles and natural materials such as stone, wood and native plants in the park designs.

The Platt Historic District exemplifies all of these aspects of National Park Service development, planning and design. Most of the district's extant features were designed and constructed between circa 1930 and 1940 (the tentative period of significance for the district, pending further research) during the depression years under the New Deal. Most of the park's construction was undertaken by Company 808 of the CCC, one of the largest CCC camps in Oklahoma. The park's architecture and landscape design also exhibit classic "rustic" style design characteristics. Park development in the 900-odd acres of the park is limited and preserves natural scenery and key features, such as the mineral springs and creeks. The buildings and landscape features constructed in the park by Company 808 of the CCC are made of local stone and wood, emphasize the horizontal lines of the landscape, and merge with their surroundings in color, scale, and appearance. It should be noted that a number of the NPS-designed and CCC-constructed buildings in the district appeared as examples in the NPS's summary of design techniques, the "handbook" of rustic park design, *Park and Recreation Structures*, compiled by Albert H. Good in 1938.

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs comprise one component of the larger significant historic district landscape, and as such, reflect and contribute to the significance of the entire district. Although the area contains features dating to before 1930, the large majority of this component landscape was constructed in the 1930s by CCC crews. In its site planning, architectural style, landscape architectural design and small-scale features, the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area explicitly reflects the NPS principles of rustic design and construction. The design of the meandering creek from the overflow of Vendome Well, the area's footpaths and stone steps, its comfort station and its not-so-evident creek stabilization work (a stone revetment wall along Rock Creek) are all excellent examples of the CCC-era landscape engineering projects undertaken in Platt National Park and throughout the country. Because of these elements, this individual landscape contributes to the significance of the overall district and enables the district to convey its significance. In addition, because this component landscape exists in a predominantly intact state, it contributes to the integrity of the overall district.

It should be noted that there may be other areas of significance for the district and for the Flower Park and Black Sulfur Springs Area as yet undeveloped. For example, Mission 66-era development in the park has not yet been evaluated. Black Sulphur Springs contains a Mission 66-era comfort station, which could be evaluated for significance after completion of the Mission 66 theme study.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Recreation/Culture-Other

Primary Current Use: Recreation/Culture-Other

Current and Historic Names:

Name

Flower Park and Black Sulphur

Type of Name

Both Current And Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1902	Built	A wooden wagon bridge was built on piles over Sulphur (Travertine) Creek at approximate site of today's Lincoln Bridge by townspeople (Boeger, 80). It was moved slightly to sit on stone piers when the government took control of reservation circa 1903.
AD 1904	Platted	Map entitled "Sulphur Springs Reservation showing Land Claimed for Appraisalment under Act Approved April 21, 1904" shows area called "Central Park" at 'Y' where Travertine Creek (then apparently named "Sulphur Creek") joined Rock Creek. Platting of town shown around Central Park (check northern boundary). Lincoln Bridge, or any bridge does not appear on this map. Island called "Coney Island appears just below 'Y'.
AD 1907	Maintained	Repairs made to wagon bridge and again in 1908 (Boeger, 80).
AD 1908	Established	Construction contract on Lincoln Bridge signed; contractor was Lieberantz and Robinson of Oklahoma City.
AD 1909	Built	Construction on Lincoln Bridge began in February, and the bridge was dedicated in July (Boeger, 80). Concrete walkway constructed in Flower Park (Boeger, 86).
	Established	Flower Park ("Ridge in Central Park") used for site of mock Civil War battle (Boeger, 85).
AD 1913		Site Plan (NP-PLA-1040-2).

AD 1915		According to Boeger, it was during Sneed's early tenure as Superintendent that the Flower was put into Flower Park. Seems to have been community driven. "The Department of Agriculture and the Botanical Gardens furnished some stock, but people in the community actually donated most of the bulbs and plants and gave their time to care for the flower beds" (Boeger, 93). In 1915 or 1916, under Sneed, cistern was also built at Beach Springs, accompanied by "small, squarish wooden pavilion." (Boeger, 94).
AD 1909	Built	In June, low water causeway across Rock Creek at Black Sulphur Springs completed, creating a continuous drive from Buffalo Antelope Springs to Bromide (Boeger, 93).
AD 1916	Damaged	Northern approach to Lincoln Bridge washed out by flood.
AD 1917	Built	New concrete comfort stations installed in 'West Central Park' (Boeger, 97).
AD 1922	Established	Park acquired bald eagle from Oren Phillips. "For several years this giant bird occupied a cage that hung in a tree in Central Park" (Boeger, 111).
	Built	Vendome well drilled; had outflow of 2,500 gpm (Christensen).
AD 1928 - 1929	Built	"Neoclassical" pavilion constructed at Black Sulphur Spring.
AD 1933	Built	Parking lot built at Black Sulphur Springs (Boeger, 126). Two separate comfort stations for men and women constructed in Flower Park (shown on NP-PLA-4948) (Boeger, 129). Construction began on extant comfort station: rock for building quarried from Dougherty. Causeway over Rock Creek rebuilt. The PWA cut three chutes through the old structure, put reinforced concrete deck on top of old foundation (Boeger, 128-9).
AD 1934	Built	Construction on extant comfort station completed. Construction of entry piers also completed, except for grading (CCC Report July 26-August 26, 1934). Design Plan NP-PLA-4948 drafted.

	Planted	North boundary of Flower Park planted with eastern red cedar to create buffer along town and park boundary; 300 cedars plus 1,000 shrubs planted; 400-500 cedar and oak seedlings set out. Black Sulphur Springs described: "no other area in the park has been so thoroughly revised and now shows greater improvement. . . the dense growth of willows behind the pavilion structure was cleared, giving a new opened channel." Contours of area appear to have been changed at this time (CCC Report December 1934-January 1935). Stone revetment wall to control erosion along outer (east) bank of Rock Creek to protect Flower Park also constructed (CCC report, October 1, 1934 to March 31, 1935). Also used car bodies from junkyards to hold fill; one of most man-hour intensive projects in the park (Boeger, 131).
	Designed	Stream and wading pool from Vendome begun.
	Removed	Flower beds removed from park, disgruntling citizens. CCC boys collected wildflower seeds to keep flower tradition alive in more informal manner (Boeger, 138).
AD 1935	Removed	Flagpoles and light standards removed from Lincoln Bridge.
	Built	Vendome Parking lot built to accommodate 130-150 automobiles.
	Built	Wading pools and meandering stream from Vendome completed (CCC report April 1 to September 30, 1935).
AD 1945	Damaged	High water blocks causeway 7 different times.
	Removed	Accumulated scum removed from wading pools (Boeger, 160).
AD 1950	Abandoned	Camping prohibited in Flower Park (Boeger, 167); had previously been site of overflow camping.
AD 1953	Damaged	Two rains in April left 19 loads of sand on Causeway (Boeger, 170).

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

AD 1965	Removed	Half of entry piers at main entrance removed.
AD 1980	Purchased/Sold	Vendome Well property purchased.
AD 1997	Developed	A draft CLI is written for the Platt District by Katherine (Kay) Saltee of the University of Texas at Arlington.
AD 2002	Developed	Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs CLI completed by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University.
AD 2003 - 2004	Developed	Platt Historic District CLR completed by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University.
AD 2006 - 2011	Developed	Platt Historic District NHL nomination prepared by Heidi Hohmann of Iowa State University. NHL nomination is approved and listed on 7/7/2011.

Physical History:

Flower Park Overview

For additional information, refer to the 2004 Platt Historic District CLR written by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University.

Flower Park was one of the areas first addressed by the CCC, with design changes mostly complete by 1937. In the first enrollment period, work included some topographic surveying of the area and “ornamental planting,” though it is not known how extensive these activities were. The first major project in Flower Park was the construction of a new comfort station. Authorized in August 1933, the new building was meant to replace the two “unsightly,” “inadequate,” and inconveniently located comfort stations built more than 15 years earlier.

The new station was one of the first structures in the park built in (what would later be called) the NPS Rustic Style. It was designed by the Branch of Plans and Design as a small, almost squat building, with a low roof and horizontal lines to tie it into the surrounding landscape. It was sited “in a side hill excavation where its architecture would blend with the natural features of its location.” It was also constructed of local materials, including a yellow-tan limestone (then called sandstone) quarried from nearby Dougherty, just twelve miles away.

Excavation for the building began December 21, 1933 and construction began on February 1, 1934. The process was not easy for the CCC crews, most of whom had never done this type of work before. Unlike the other rustic structures in the park, each stone in the comfort station was smoothly faced (or “dressed”) by hand, giving the building a refined, almost elegant, appearance. Above the stone walls, rough-sawn beams and rafters supported a hip-end gable roof covered in wood shingles. The building was approximately thirty-two by twenty-two feet and was completed on June 15, 1934. The finished building nestled into the hillside and vegetation behind it. Interestingly, this view shows a few small trees planted in the front of the building. Also prominent are the roof’s exposed rafters and the building’s hipped gable end.

As the comfort station was completed, other changes were occurring. The park landscape architects noted that Flower Park was “congested” and “the most used area in the park” and had “suffered a great deal of abuse in the past.” They designed a plan for the whole area sometime in late 1933 or early 1934. The park was intended to serve as a mediating space between the “citified” qualities of Sulphur and the more naturalized landscape of the park:

"Notwithstanding the fact that Flower Park has sometimes been regarded as a sort of spacious front yard to Sulphur, the area is none the less a part of a National Park, controlled by National Park policies. However, in recognition of the contiguity and intimacy existing between Flower Park and Sulphur, the National Park Service is endeavoring to develop the area in conformity to National Park standards, while hoping that it will specially please the people of Sulphur. To accomplish this objective the present design for the area is somewhat citified though harmonizing with the more normal development elsewhere in Platt."

In other words, Flower Park presented if not a challenge, then a change, for the designers,

since it required fitting the NPS Rustic Style ideas to a more urban site, rather than a wilderness site. In some ways, the very existence of Flower Park highlighted the fact that Platt was something of an anomaly in the overall system of National Parks. Yet the rustic style still held sway, as evidenced by the fact that the flagpoles were removed from Lincoln Bridge. Tradition has it this was done to reduce vandalism and to match the Rustic design of park.”

The overall plan for Flower Park was broken down into a series of smaller projects. One of the earliest developed, in April 1934, was the plan for the Main Entrance to the park along Highway 18. The final design for the entry, located on the south side of Davis Avenue, was a not-quite-symmetrical composition of piers and curved walls, framing Highway 18. A special feature in the center of both curved walls was a small fountain in a recessed arch bubbling into a semicircular basin located at grade. Water to these fountains was piped in from a sulphur water well nearby. Iron lettering of the park’s name was affixed to the main pier on the right and the composition was finished with extensive plantings. Low shrubs and small trees were placed in the walls’ foregrounds; behind them, larger trees and red cedars provided a leafy backdrop. The area, described as a “garden wall entrance treatment” was complete by September 1934. The project also included installing curb and gutter around the four corners of the intersection and roadway drainage. Catch basins were installed in the gutters and storm water was directed in an open ditch 600 feet down both sides of the road to Travertine Bridge.

Flower Park’s old circulation system was also redesigned. Work included demolishing old roads and the “rigid and inappropriate” concrete walks running through the park. Constructed in their place was “a network of trails, nearly a mile long, five feet wide, curbed with rough stone, and covered with gravel... conveniently connecting all the parts with its three entrances.” Besides the Main Entrance, there were entries at Vendome, at Lincoln Bridge, and at Central Campground. The paths, ran on graceful, curvilinear alignments, and utilized broad, curving, dry-laid limestone steps to navigate the slopes on the ridge between Travertine Creek and the town to the north. No specific construction documentation of the trails has been found. The paths were more or less completed in the fall of 1934, though some work apparently continued until September 1935.

Another project was the construction of a large parking lot in the northwest corner of the park adjacent to the Vendome Plunge Pool. The parking area was intended to “service Flower Park” and Vendome and was designed to accommodate 130 cars.¹⁰⁷ The design was a standard rectangular parking lot, 160 feet by 248 feet, with three interior parking bays, with three islands with grass and trees. A six-inch tall limestone curb was installed around the islands and parking lot and the whole was paved in gravel. This rather pedestrian parking lot design had one unusual feature: Running beneath the parking lot, on the line of the middle island, was a “siphon” or pipe for the Vendome stream, which then bubbled up on the opposite side of the parking area.

The Vendome stream, previously a ditch, was redesigned to create “the most distinctive attraction of the area,” the “artificial creek” with two wading pools located along its length.¹⁰⁸ The stream was given a new, more meandering course through the park and emptied into Travertine Creek where it created a waterfall. A park newsletter provided a compelling

description of the proposed design:

"The pools are irregular in outline—one, more or less bean-shaped, and each with an average length approximating 110 feet, and an average width approximating 45 feet. One pool is located about 250 feet east of the Vendome area, while the other is about 150 feet north of Lincoln Bridge."

A typical cross section through the pools will show that their maximum depth of water will be about 2 feet, with a gradual decrease in this depth as the bank is approached. The first inch of the foundation's depth is fine gravel; the next two inches, rough gravel; and below this, impervious clay. The arrangement of shrubs with the existing trees at certain places around the pools, sloping banks will give a naturalist effect, while the placement of rocks here and there will further contribute to the same desired effect. These rocks will also afford seats for those who wish to dangle their feet in the sulphurous water either for its cooling, exhilarating or therapeutic value.

While the pools will primarily be for children, it is expected that people of all ages will enjoy them, with the winding creek supplying an abundance of everchanging and sparkling water from the Vendome will [sic] before it finally plunges five feet into Travertine creek just north of Lincoln bridge forming a fascinating water-fall.

Work began on the streams and pools during the fourth CCC enrollment period (October 1, 1934–March 31, 1935) and they were completed during the fifth period (April 1, 1935–September 30, 1935). The lower pool near Lincoln Bridge was situated to reflect the Flower Park comfort station in its serene, glassy surface. Yet the design of the stream evoked other moods as well. A series of five small waterfalls were constructed down the length of the stream, and although no record has been located to confirm it, their varied forms seem to have been engineered to present different effects of sound and movement, thereby enticing visitor interaction with the water. The largest of the dams was a low waterfall bubbling into the lower pool, the large stones on its sides placed to provide seats next to the rushing water. Playful footbridges were also designed to cross the stream, and included a low water crossing and a log bridge just above Vendome Falls. A more elaborate stone arch bridge was located along one of the foot trails in the park, over a swale, which drained run-off from heavy storms into the Vendome stream.

Finish work in the park included fine grading, sodding with Bermuda grass, and planting trees and shrubs. By September 1935, the recreational features in Flower Park were all complete, and the landscape architects noted that the "area...should require no further work except planting at a future date." It appears that planting did continue off and on in the area at least until 1937. This made sense, given that it was considered essential to the park's design: "In fact, without having a proper distribution of suitable plants within its area," the designers felt "the most essential park characteristic would be missing." Some of this was provided by the large oaks, ash, and elm which dotted the park and which had been "rejuvenated by surgical attention;" but other plantings were required to screen out the adjacent city and provide color and enclosure throughout the park. The following paragraphs summarize the approach to

planting in Flower Park:

"All shrubs and flower beds cluttering the center of Flower Park have been removed to create an open center, which with the border planting will effect a pleasing unity for the entire area. At least a thousand shrubs have been planted and several thousand more will be planted along the borders to make an interesting enframing of color, form, and texture. Also more than 50 red cedars have been planted to add further interest to the enframing.

In addition to woody plants, herbaceous [sic] ones will be planted in large quantities. Indeed, as a beginning, ten quarts of wild flower seeds, all collected in Platt National Park, will be sown in the Flower Park Area. However, these seeds will be sown where you would expect to find them—around the borders and among the rock and other nooks where the pedestrian will be delighted to see them. Hence the name "Flower Park" will retain its propriety, because of its association with a multitude of native flowers happily situated in a popular area."

Unfortunately, no planting plans or records of these plantings have been located to confirm the specific locations and types of plantings. Photographs do show some of these plantings which included a large number of shrub beds along the upper trail in Flower Park.

Although most of the development of Flower Park improved the recreational aspects of the park, the largest and lengthiest project (and probably in the park, with the exception of the construction of the perimeter road) was one more typical of 1930s "conservation" work. A stone revetment wall was constructed along the southwestern boundary of the park, along the curving length of Rock Creek. The wall was built to prevent "the extraordinary erosion" that often occurred at the junction of Rock and Travertine Creeks in high water. Floodwater erosion had taken out "some of the park's finest trees" in 1933, and it was hoped the wall would reclaim several acres of land in Flower Park. The project began in the summer of 1933, and over the first eighteen months brush, logs, trees, and 75,000 cubic yards of sediment were cleared from the channel between Davis Avenue and Black Sulphur Springs. This work was followed by the construction of a 900-foot-long wall of conglomerate boulders, some weighing five to ten tons. The stones were initially mined from within the park, but when supplies ran out, they were collected along Highway 22 near the Oklahoma School for the Deaf. According to Boeger, in some places, car bodies were used in place of stones. Approximately 120 tons of rock and fill were placed each day.

Though much of the work was mechanized, it was still labor intensive, requiring more than 2200 person days. A tractor and derrick were used to load the rock and trucks hauled it, but the individual stones were wrestled into place with the use of two gin poles equipped with heavy winches. Smaller rocks, gravel and clay were used as backfill around the large stones, and heavy hog wire was placed between each horizontal layer of stones. "Waterproof clay" was used between the joints. The wall was typically "about ten feet thick at the base; five feet thick at the top; twelve feet high, with one to one and one-half feet slope toward the creek." Stone placement was finished by January 1935, but the topsoil for plantings had yet to be spread. When completed, the whole was planted, presumably with the planned "dense willow and low shrub" planting, though this has not yet been confirmed. The whole project was complete in

March 1935, by which time “several high waters . . . passed over the wall with no ill effect.” The resulting wall created a sinuous shape in the landscape.

The other major engineering project near Flower Park was the construction of the Travertine Bridge, described above (see Road System). With the exception of ongoing planting and tree maintenance, little more work was done in Flower Park during the CCC years as other areas received more attention. It is possible that the design was simply, in the minds of the designers, essentially complete and capable of meeting its goals of being a mediating space between town and park. The only indication of possible future change was the development of a topographical survey of the area in 1936; this was probably done in preparation for the upcoming 1937 Master Plan.

The topographic survey provides a relatively detailed record of the appearance of the park following the CCC changes of 1933-35, though details of the area, such as the nature, composition, and extent of shrub and wildflower plantings remain obscure. Yet together with contemporary historic photos, the survey provides a sense of the park as a relatively open, yet shady, space with meandering paths and dotted with trees. The bank of Rock Creek is a smooth curve with a regular slope. Most surprising to modern eyes, perhaps, is the open quality of the ridge behind the comfort station, without the blanket of shrub undergrowth that covers it today. In sum, the area presents itself as a perfectly nice urban park.

As a result, perhaps, the changes for Flower Park proposed in the 1937 Master Plan might simply be described as refinements of this park environment. This plan, and the subsequent 1940 and 1942 Master Plans, essentially depict realigned paths and a re-configured stream. The stream is shown as longer and more irregular. In contrast, the intent of the proposed new paths seems to be to smooth out their geometries, replacing the broken-backed curves and odd little wiggles shown on the 1936 survey with sweeping and circular arcs that elegantly intersect. The relationship of Lincoln Bridge to the comfort station is shown as a definite, denied axis in plan, made more perceptible by the enlargement of the lower wading pool, which allows the building to be viewed over the center of the pool. The curious aspect of these proposals is that, from an implementation standpoint, they would require significant demolition, effort, and funding yet there would be little perceptible change to the experience of the park. This may be why, in the coming decades, none of these changes were implemented.



Flower Park comfort station under construction, 1934. (CNRA archives, photograph. CMST-FP2)



Completed Flower Park comfort station, 1935. (CNRA archives, photograph CMST-FP)



Completed wall and pier composition at the Main Entry, circa 1934. Note the ornamental plantings around the masonry structure. (Photograph from Park and Recreation Structures by Albert Good)



Curving alignment of stone paths in Flower Park, circa 1935. Note stone edging and young plantings to the right of the pathway. (CNRA archives, photograph fac21)



Stone steps east of comfort station in Flower Park, circa 1935. (CNRA archives, photograph fac20)



Vendome parking area, circa 1935. Note stone curbs and trees in islands. (CNRA archives, photograph ven-pkg)



Postcard view of Vendome Stream Falls, circa 1935. (CLR 2004, 90)



Lower wading pool in Flower Park, 1937. (CRNA archives, photograph fwpk 966)



Stepping stone crossing, near comfort station, circa 1935. (CNRA archives, photograph fac 03)



Log Bridge at end of Vendome stream, circa 1935. (CNRA archives, photograph fac04)



Stone arch bridge in western half of Flower Park (now abandoned), circa 1935. (CNRA archives, photograph fac22)



Placement of rip-rap using winches at the Flower Park revetment wall, 1934. (CLR 2004, 92)



Detail of revetment wall construction, 1935. Note comfort station in left hand side of photograph. (CLR 2004, 92)

Black Sulfur Springs Overview

With a functional and relatively new pavilion, the early CCC work in Black Sulphur Springs focused on access and parking issues. Circulation patterns in the park had developed in a rather haphazard manner, and Black Sulphur Springs was likely no exception, and work focused on correcting road problems.

The first project to be undertaken in the area was the reconstruction of the Black Sulphur Springs causeway. Then, to better accommodate parking, a new turnaround and parking area were implemented. The plan for this area was drawn by Charles Richey. It reorganized the area with an oval parking area for ten cars and a new flagstone walk to the pavilion. The drawing also shows a gravel walk leading to the causeway, as well as a guard-rail-lined parking area across the street. A picnic area is proposed just south of this parking area. Extensive tree and shrub plantings complementing existing large oaks and walnuts complete the plan, creating a shady setting for the little temple-like structure. In particular, three large American elms were proposed to form a triangle around the pavilion and dwarf sumac and wild rose were proposed to enclose, frame and screen the parking area and turnaround.

Work began in the fall of 1933. The area was graded, the driveway, turnaround, and curb were laid in, and flagstone paths were constructed from the parking lot to the pavilion and bridge. Planting was also undertaken, but it is difficult to say how many of the trees low shrubs depicted on the plan were implemented, since few appear in subsequent photographs. The parking area waited for construction until September 1935. The parking area across the street was apparently not fully or formally implemented, though it appears in a dashed line on a later topographic survey. It is also not clear if the area to the south was fully developed as a picnic area at this time.

Rock Creek flowing behind and around the pavilion was also “cleaned-up,” which involved clearing trees from the creek bed to prevent congestion during high water. Willows were also removed from the creek bed behind the pavilion and “a new channel [was] opened.” It is not clear exactly how much, if any earth moving this “opening” entailed or how much it affected the hydrology of the creek, but it seems likely that the topography of the area was altered. Richey and Popham approved the results, noting that “no other area in the park has been so thoroughly revised and now shows greater improvement.” At the same time, a 2,000-foot-long trail connecting the area to the Davis Avenue bridge in West Sulphur was constructed. It is assumed that this trail, like others in the park, was four and one-half feet wide and constructed of compacted gravel.

It appears little more thought or effort went into developing Black Sulphur Springs for the next two years. The 1936 topographical survey of the Flower Park area shows the implemented driveway, parking area and flagstone walks, but no significant changes. The only new features shown on the plan are two fireplaces located northwest of the pavilion and a hydraulic ram. It is not known when the fireplaces were constructed or removed, but they were likely part of a picnic area to the northwest. On the 1940 aerial photograph, this appears as a large, grassy area with limited tree canopy.

The hydraulic ram was installed sometime between 1933 and 1935, and may have been installed to either improve water supply at the fountain or possibly, to facilitate the reorganization of the area. Near the end of 1937, construction of a new pavilion was proposed. Jerome Miller described the proposed changes to Black Sulphur Springs in a monthly report to Chief Architect Thomas Vint:

"It is proposed that the Black Sulphur Pavilion be moved to the south of the Park drive opposite the present location. The old structure will be torn down and the parking area and walks obliterated. Relocation is possible because the spring flow is now equipped with a hydraulic ram and the water can be forced to any nearby location. This change seems desirable due to the non-conformity of the present structure will [sic] all other developed park architecture. The present structure is conspicuous and the site is necessarily restricted. It is planned that the new structure be set into the hillside south of the park road with ample space around it for proper use, and with adequate planting and screening for proper subordination of the structure."

These proposed changes were more completely fleshed out in November 1938 in a set of plans. Set into a low hill, the proposed pavilion was something more like the Hillside Springs pavilion, though less refined and with stonework reminiscent of the buttressed walls of the Bromide Springs and Pavilion Springs structures. The new design, with its strong horizontality, would have clearly brought Black Sulphur Springs up to the NPS rustic design standards illustrated in the rest of the park. Although approved in early 1939, the design was not immediately built, and oddly did not appear in the park's master plan drawings until 1942.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area has not changed appreciably over the years in either function or appearance. All major designed elements and structures are extant, including the Flower Park Comfort Station, Vendome Parking Area, and the Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion and Parking Area. Major landscape features such as the open lawns, natural water courses of Travertine and Rock Creeks, and topography are also much like their historic conditions, based on historic photographs. Minor changes over time have included the widening of pathways, likely due to use and maintenance changes; the loss of designed plantings and trees; the widening of the Causeway; the partial filling in of the wading pools on the Vendome Stream; and the abandonment of some paths and associated features. Major changes have been the addition of the Mission 66 comfort station and parking area and the widening of the causeway over Rock Creek. Below is a list of contributing and non-contributing elements. In addition, there is a listing of LCS structures to clarify which LCS listings are located within this component landscape.

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

- Natural System Features (Travertine and Rock Creeks)
- Spatial Organization (two “clusters” of organization: Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs areas)
- Cultural Traditions (use of mineral water for health, use of park for recreation by residents and visitors)
- Land Use (use of area as park)
- Topography (existing natural topography and regraded area near Black Sulphur Springs)
- Vegetation (Native Eastern Deciduous Forest and designed plantings)
- Circulation (Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs parking areas (vehicular circulation) and pedestrian pathways and steps)
- Buildings and Structures (Comfort Station, Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion, Lincoln Bridge)
- Water Features (Vendome Stream with falls and wading pools)
- Small Scale Features (small stone arch bridge, stepping stones)
- Views and Vistas (Internal views within the landscape: views of pavilion, Flower Park Comfort Station most important)

NONCONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

- Circulation (Mission 66 Comfort Station Parking Area)
- Buildings and Structures (Mission 66 Comfort Station (#69), Black Sulphur Springs Causeway)

Analysis of Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historical significance. Integrity is based on the presence of physical features dating to the historic period, and is further defined by seven aspects,

which are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property, to convey its significance, must have integrity in several if not all of the aspects. Below is a preliminary analysis of the integrity of the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area.

Location

Integrity of location would appear to be high, as the component landscape exists in its original location. In addition, buildings, structures, trails and steps, watercourses and parking areas are located in their positions during the period of significance.

Design

Integrity of overall layout and design is preliminarily considered high, due to little change. As noted above, buildings, structures, trails and steps, watercourses and parking areas are still laid out in their original locations. Some minor changes have occurred to some of these elements, e.g., widening of paths, but most original designed elements appear to be retained. There appear to be few losses in designed elements, as well, primarily in the form of individual trees due to age and storm damage. Otherwise, vegetation remains deployed in its CCC-designed “natural manner.” There may also be losses or changes in the location and design of benches or tables and perhaps flower beds. More research will determine the extent of these losses. Similarly, additions to the overall design seem to be few and associated with infrastructure such as water and sewer lines.

Setting

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs remain as one of the district’s most highly used and most charming area. The integrity of setting would appear to be relatively high at both Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs. The topographical features of the area and its surrounds are the same as during the period of significance. The urban edge of Sulphur still sits in close proximity. Similarly, views in all directions remain largely unchanged since the period of significance, with the exception of the area around Vendome Well, which has changed greatly since the period of significance. However, the addition of the approximately 5 acres of the Vendome Well area to Flower Park, adjacent to this component landscape, has a low, if not positive impact on the setting, in terms of the NPS’s being able to control the appearance of that area.

Materials

The integrity of materials used to construct the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs seems relatively high, as original materials of the area’s construction—grass, stone dust paths, trees, parking area stones, paving—are still extant. Some minor changes in tree composition in the park-like areas and in understory areas have likely occurred and will need to be assessed. Stone paths have lost edging and have been widened. Some small-scale feature materials, such as stone and wood used to construct bridges and dams have also changed over time. Materials used in the buildings and structures, however, appear to be primarily intact.

Workmanship

The masonry and craftsmanship of the parking lots, Lincoln Bridge walkway curbing and the comfort station all reflect a high level of skill and design philosophies typical of the 1930s and are in relatively

good condition, pending, of course, closer condition analysis. Thus, integrity of workmanship for the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area is likely high.

Feeling

The original feeling of the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area—its sense of enclosure and relaxation as well as its sense of being the center of the district—seems to be well retained. This would appear to be a result of the extant nature of the area's features, as well as a result of few changes in the surrounding setting and context. The city and roads are still nearby, providing a sense of bustle; while the sound of flowing water and children playing within the area, also serve to mask some local noise. If anything, a sense of peace and quietude have increased since the loss of the Vendome Plunge Pool, which likely creates a minor change in historic feeling. Pending further assessment, the integrity of feeling would appear to be high.

Association

The integrity of association is high. Because evidence of the area's original design and development are retained as are its use as a passive recreation park, integrity of association of the area with NPS recreational park development is judged, from a preliminary standpoint, to be high.

Overall Rating

Based on the above assessment of the seven aspects of integrity, overall integrity for the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area would appear to be high. Essential features are retained and visible, and most, if not all of the aspects of integrity are judged to be high.

Landscape Characteristic:

Archeological Sites

N/A

Buildings and Structures

The buildings at Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs represent several architectural styles from different development period, ranging from the early Neoclassical Black Sulphur Pavilion to the rustic style comfort station. The park's current List of Classified Structures (LCS) lists five structures. These include the comfort station (Park Structure #25), the Black Sulphur Springs pavilion (#17), Lincoln Bridge (#106), the park's main entrance piers (#201), and the Rock Creek Causeway (RB6).

Flower Park Comfort Station: The comfort station was the first CCC-era building constructed in Flower Park. Construction started August 17, 1933. Rock for the building was quarried from Dougherty, some 12 miles distant, starting the same date. Work was completed in July 1934. This building replaced two "unsightly" buildings (older comfort stations) in an attempt to improve the sanitation in Flower Park.

The building is approximately 32 feet long and 22 feet wide, and the first of the rustically designed park buildings. The construction varies slightly from the precepts of Rustic work, in that its ochre blocks (a yellow/ brown sandstone) are of even width and shape and are faced or

dressed —presenting a smooth elegant look. Topping the faced stone blocks are massive, rough-sawn exposed beams and rafter tails and a gable roofline that was originally wood-shingles. Early construction photos show a roofline of hip-on-gable, though the present-day roof is now a simple gable. The work on the comfort station by CCC workers was of such high quality that they received a special commendation for their skills. Today, the extant structure still fits in its wooded setting, slightly tucked into a hillside and having a south-facing exposure.

Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion: As park visitors cross the low-water causeway on the park's perimeter road heading west they are presented with a structure dating to early park development. This structure dates to 1929. The pavilion's Neoclassical design evokes relaxation and calm. It is 11 feet wide by 20 feet long. The structure's four walls have wide openings, with the east and west openings framed by Doric columns. The structure is made of stuccoed concrete. It has an Italianate, constructed of metal, formed to look like tile, roof and a smooth concrete floor and benches. Within the pavilion is a centrally-located fountain once used to dispense the spring water. Its basin has been filled with cement and the fountain and water system is no longer connected. Water is dispersed at a hydrant between the building and the walk.

Because of the structure's wide openings, the central fountain becomes the focal point of interest when the pavilion is viewed from any angle. From the pavilion, on the axis defined by the walkway from the parking area to the pavilion, visitors are rewarded with a vista leading down to the beach area of Rock Creek.

Lincoln Bridge: The Gothic-Revival style Lincoln Bridge was constructed in 1908 and is the connecting structure between Flower Park and the rest of the Platt District. The bridge dates to the parks early era of construction, pre-dating the CCC era. The firm of Lieberantz and Robinson of Oklahoma City constructed the bridge for \$3,665 dollars. It was constructed of a white limestone, though portions of it today have darkened through aging to darker colors ranging from grey to almost black. The bridge was completed on February 12, 1909 and it was dedicated in a ceremony on July 15, 1909.

The bridge is roughly 100 feet long and 20 feet wide. It is said that its deck span was constructed to be wide enough for four horses to pass abreast. Each corner of the bridge has a crenelated turret with steps. The bridge's original design included flagpoles and light standards atop the bridge. However, they were removed by the CCC to prevent vandalism and to fit in better with the newly restyled 'rustic' park.

Main Entrance, Piers, and Walks: As noted earlier, the main entry to the park and connecting the park to the town is located at the intersection of Highways 7 and 177. This entrance was originally marked by four entry piers, two on each side of Highway 177. The two piers on each side were connected by a semi-circular wall; and the second pier was connected to a more linear wall which extended east-west into the landscape. Pedestrian paths paralleling Highway

177 broke the more linear walls, and pedestrians entered the park through this gap in the wall. On the west side of the highway, the pedestrian path led to Flower Park; on the east, it led to Central Campground. with semicircular walls that flanked both sides of Highway 177.

The piers and walls are constructed of Ashlar masonry. The 4 square piers and semi-circular walls were approximately 7.5 feet high, while the linear wall extending off the second pier was lower, at 3 feet. These features were completed in August 1934 (CCC Report July 26 to August 26, 1934). Over time, the piers and semicircular walls close to the highway were damaged repeatedly by vehicles. After one vehicular crash in the 1970s, these elements were removed and the entryway modified. Thus, today, on either side of the highway there is only one pier and a linear wall on each side extending into the landscape.

Rock Creek Causeway/Black Sulphur Springs Causeway: A low water crossing has existed at Rock Creek since June 1915, when a low water causeway across Rock Creek at Black Sulphur Springs was completed, creating a continuous drive from Buffalo Antelope Springs to the Bromide Springs area (Boeger, 93). This crossing stood until November 1933, when it was substantially rebuilt. CCC crews cut three chutes through the old structure, allowing water to pass underneath it. They also added a reinforced concrete deck on top of old foundation (Boeger, 128-9). Floods in the 1950s and since have repeatedly left sand and debris on the causeway. Since then the causeway was reconstructed again. This second time it was widened and a pedestrian walkway was constructed on the deck's north side. As a result, it is listed as a non-contributing structure on the LCS.

Mission 66 Comfort Station: In the 1960s, a Mission-66-style comfort station was added to the Black Sulphur Springs area, in an area just east of the end of Tishomingo Road. This is a non-contributing structure.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Highway 177 Flower Park Entrance Piers

Feature Identification Number: 120068

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62801

LCS Structure Name: Highway 177 Flower Park Entrance Piers North

LCS Structure Number: HWY177.201

Feature: Lincoln Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 120070

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62804

LCS Structure Name: Lincoln Bridge

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

LCS Structure Number: FP.B

Feature: Flower Park Comfort Station

Feature Identification Number: 120072

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62805

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Comfort Station

LCS Structure Number: B-025

Feature: Flower Park Sulphur Creek

Feature Identification Number: 120074

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62806

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Sulphur Creek with Associated Features

LCS Structure Number: FP.A

Feature: Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion

Feature Identification Number: 120076

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62902

LCS Structure Name: Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion

LCS Structure Number: B-017

Feature: Black Sulphur Springs Causeway

Feature Identification Number: 120078

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62903

LCS Structure Name: Black Sulphur Springs Causeway

LCS Structure Number: BSS.D

Feature: Flower Park Stone Dams

Feature Identification Number: 120080

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64285

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Stone Dams

LCS Structure Number: F.P.E

Feature: Black Sulphur Springs with Pump House

Feature Identification Number: 120082

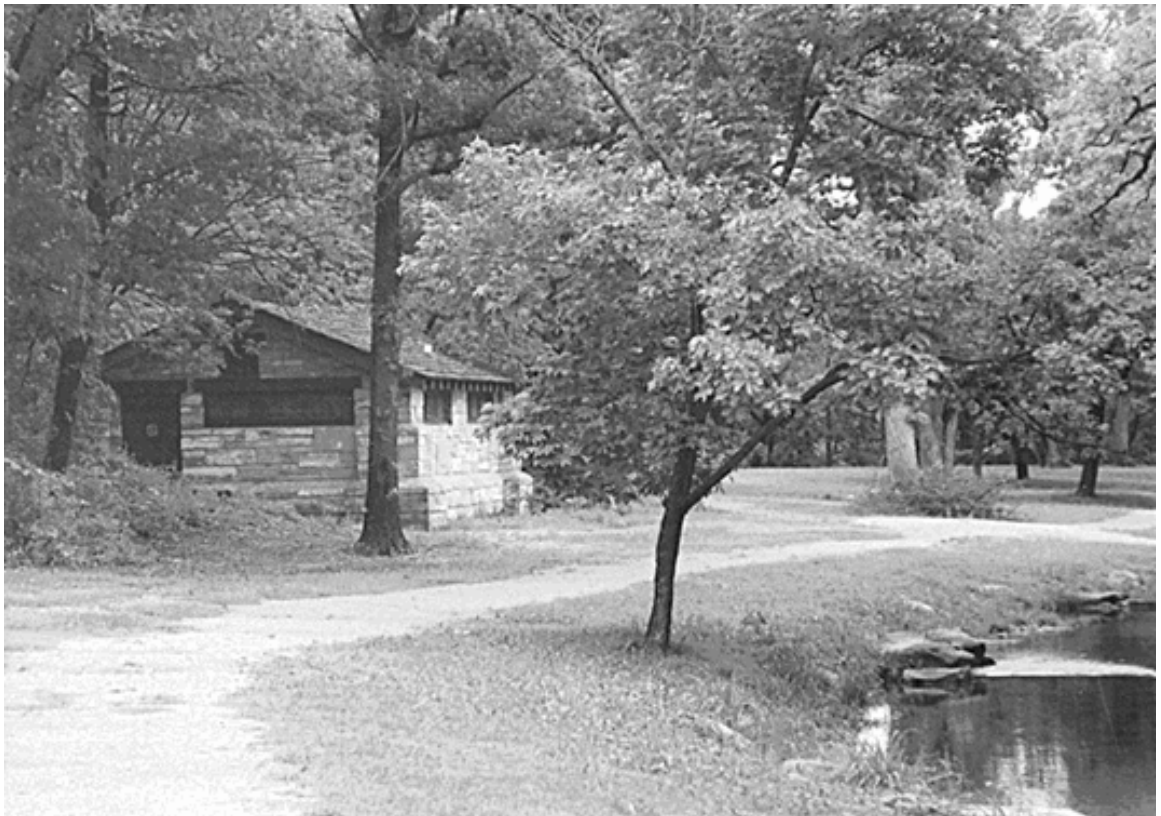
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

IDLCS Number: 400685

LCS Structure Name: Black Sulphur Springs with Pump House

LCS Structure Number: B-054

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Comfort Station in Flower Park, circa 1999.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Early construction of the comfort station in Flower Park, 1933.
(CNRA archives, photograph. CMST-FP2)*



*Comfort station in Flower Park, after construction, 1934.
(CNRA archives, photograph CMST-FP)*



*Pavilion at Black Sulphur Springs, circa 1995.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



Pavilion at Black Sulphur Springs, circa 1995
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)



*Lincoln Bridge, circa 1995.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Lincoln Bridge from a post card view, circa 1909.
(CNRA archives, photograph 976)*



*Remaining pier and linear wall at the park's main entrance, circa 2000.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Original appearance of entry piers and semicircular wall at main entrance, circa 1935.
(Photograph from Park and Recreation Structures by Albert Good)*



Causeway along perimeter road between Lincoln Bridge and Black Sulphur Springs, circa 1995.

(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)

Circulation

Vehicular circulation patterns in the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area have changed from its early development years. Many of the circulation changes were to accommodate vehicle type and to control traffic flow and to limit access from residential and commercial areas.

Few documents/ maps of the early development are available from the 1908 to the early 1930s. On the 1913 Site Plan (PLA-1040-2) there are multiple points of entry from the north and west. Flower Park had two areas that were closed during 1934. Park plan NPS-PLA-4948 shows these areas still remaining.

The Vendome Parking Area (parking lot serving both Vendome and Flower Park) features one-way circulation. The parking area has Ochre stone curbing and was surfaced with gravel during CCC construction. The circulation pattern at Black Sulphur Springs consists of a smaller parking area. It also has stone curbing and gravel surface. It is also one-way system, and vehicles keep to the right when entering. Vehicular access is also provided on looped, gravel roads into the areas west and south (across the perimeter road) of Black Sulphur Springs pavilion and parking area, and from the perimeter road to a parking area to the Mission 66

comfort station located just east of Black Sulphur Springs.

The patterns of pedestrian circulation have also changed within the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs landscape. During the time period of 1909-1912 concrete walks were constructed in Flower Park. No plans or drawings show the location or pattern of the concrete walks. During the 3rd Enrollment period of the CCC, all concrete walks were removed and replaced with an informal, gravel path system. These paths, approximately four feet in width, were edged with Ochre stone like the parking areas and were designed to direct users to the many landscape features within Flower Park. They paths moved sinuously through the park, crossing the Vendome Well stream over stepping stones and a small bridge, and accessing the higher elevations of the park along Broadway Avenue via steps up the hillside. From the lower path, just north of the comfort station are steps that lead one to the higher area and upper path overlooking Flower Park. Here, the steps are stair-like and curved. The upper trail leads eastward and descends the terrain with steps that are more terrace-like with long flat runs.

In total, pedestrians may access the park from three points along Flower Park's western, eastern and south boundary: Vendome Parking Area at Broadway and West 5th Street., the park's main entrance at Broadway and Highway 177 (West 1st Street.), and Lincoln Bridge at Flower Park's southern edge. Historically, but no more, visitors could also enter from the east from Central Campground.

The layout of walkways, in both Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area, has not changed significantly. However, they have grown wider (up to eight feet in some areas; noticeably wider is the south walk along Rock Creek from Vendome parking area to Lincoln Bridge). In many areas the paths' stone edging is either buried or lost. In addition, one spur (leading north of the comfort station) has been abandoned due to visitor use of an alternate route along the wading pool stream. Pedestrian circulation in Black Sulphur Springs primarily exists as a flagstone walkway leading from the pavilion to the Rock Creek Causeway.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Vendome Parking Area and Stone Curbing

Feature Identification Number: 120084

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62807

LCS Structure Name: Vendome Parking Area and Stone Curbing

LCS Structure Number: V.B

Feature: Black Sulphur Springs Parking Area

Feature Identification Number: 120086

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62904

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

LCS Structure Name: Black Sulphur Springs Parking Area & Stone Curbs

LCS Structure Number: BSS.A

Feature: Flower Park Trail and Stone Edging

Feature Identification Number: 120088

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62995

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Trail and Stone Edging

LCS Structure Number: TR-007

Feature: Black Sulphur Springs Path & Stone Curbs

Feature Identification Number: 120090

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64288

LCS Structure Name: Black Sulphur Springs Path & Stone Curbs

LCS Structure Number: BSS.B

Feature: Vendome Parking Area Swales

Feature Identification Number: 120092

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 401348

LCS Structure Name: Vendome Parking Area Swales

LCS Structure Number: V.C

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Vendome Parking Area, circa 1995.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Stone stairs west of comfort station, circa 1935.
(CNRA archives, photograph fac19)*



*Stone stairs east of comfort station, circa 1935.
(CNRA archives, photograph fac20)*



*Walkway from Vendome parking
lot to west stairs, circa 1935.
(CNRA archives, photograph fac21)*



*Steps in Flower Park, east of comfort station, circa 2000.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Steps in Flower Park, west of comfort station, circa 2000.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Inclined walkway from Vendome parking lot to west stairs, circa 2000.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*

Cluster Arrangement

N/A

Constructed Water Features

Flower Park Pools, Stream and Falls: The central feature of Flower Park is the stream and wading pools fed by the artesian well at Vendome Well. The stream from Vendome Well flows through a conduit under the parking lot and emerges just east of the parking area and then meanders through Flower Park. It terminates at Travertine Creek, where it cascades down a rocky designed falls into the creek just east of Lincoln Bridge. This falls has been called many things, including “Travertine Falls,” “Shelf Falls,” “Sulphur Falls,” and “Lincoln Falls.”

The water course was completed in 1935 (CCC Report, April 1 to September 30, 1935). Two wading pools were constructed along the waterway, as apparent widening in the stream. Originally, the first pool was called the upper wading pool and the second pool downstream was called the lower wading pool. Today, both are significantly reduced in area and filled in comparison to the historic conditions. This was done to make algae removal easier. The pools were originally used for mud bathing, which was practiced to relieve skin ailments. This activity continued into the 1950s, when mud bathers earned the nickname “mud puppies” (CNRA Staff).

Today, the two pools at Flower Park are calm and surrounded by grassy banks with attractively placed boulders along the banks. A small falls enters the lower pools. Stepping-stone stream crossings complete this simple, yet elegant design. The watercourse and wading pools were completed in 1935.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Flower Park pools

Feature Identification Number: 120056

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Vendome Stream and falls

Feature Identification Number: 120058

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Lower wading pool in Flower Park from color postcard, date unknown.
(CNRA archives)*



Filled-in lower wading pool, looking up stream (northwest) toward comfort station, circa 1995.

(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)

Cultural Traditions

The major cultural traditions within this component landscape are first, its use as a traditional park for passive recreation including walking and bathing and second, the use of the water in the park for health purposes. These include drinking the mineral waters from Black Sulphur Spring and bathing in the sulfur water and sulfur-laden mud in the stream created from the outflow of Vendome Well that runs through Flower Park. The layout, architectural styles, building materials, and small-scale features express these cultural values and traditions of these landscapes.

Land Use

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs has, over the past 100 years, continuously served as a place for short (one-day) passive recreation such as walking and picnicking. No camping has been allowed within these areas.

It was, historically, heavily used: In a letter to Thomas Vint, Chief Architect, J. Miller, Park Landscape Architect, stated "...Flower Park is the most used area in the park and has suffered a great deal of abuse in the past" (CCC Report, 1934). During the parks' early years, the areas were also used as a setting for drinking and bathing in the waters of Black Sulphur Springs and the Vendome well water near Flower Park, respectively. Until the 1910s, park usage was also oriented toward the neighboring town, with Flower Park providing a more formal transition into the more natural areas of the park. It was also used as a meeting place for all public gatherings. In its early years, Flower Park—as its name implies—displayed many annually planted flower-beds.

Today, the areas are primarily used for picnicking, strolling and bathing. In particular, Black Sulphur Springs is also a popular destination for families and field trips by school-aged children.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Wading Pool in Flower Park, date unknown.
(CRNA archives, photograph fwpk 966)*



*Stone water crossing in Flower Park, circa 1935.
(CNRA archives, photograph fac 03)*

Natural Systems and Features

The major natural system in this component landscape is the local hydrology. Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs are set along the stream valley of Rock Creek. The terrain through which the water systems flow include both a floodplain and an elevated, moderately flat terrace. The backdrop to the elevated terrace is a south-facing wooded hill.

Although historic development of Flower Park has been based upon its quaint, meadow urban-park setting, the water courseway of Rock Creek is also significant. High waters of Rock Creek would go out of its banks and erode large portions of Flower Park. Thus one CCC project, early in the park's development phase, was to control Rock Creek and to re-establish many acres back to Flower Park. This project consisted of establishing a long, curved revetment wall (900 feet long) along the outer bank (east) of Rock Creek. Rip-rapping was accomplished by using huge boulders weighing as much as eight tons. The height of the rip-rap wall varied in height, in some places being 10 to 15 feet high. All stonework on this revetment wall was completed in the spring of 1935 and a dense willow and low shrub planting on the wall was implemented (CCC Report, October 1 1934 to March 31, 1935). Once finished, Flower Park gained a number of acres in the process of stabilizing the banks of Rock Creek during the

many high water times. Though only photographs of the revetment wall exist today, the structure exists as an archaeological feature.

While the fast moving, high waters would cause great destruction on the east bank of Rock , it would leave large deposits of sand along its leeward side bank edge. At the confluence of Rock Creek and Travertine Creek is an area resembling a beach-like lakeshore. This area of Black Sulphur Springs was known as Beach Springs.

The Vendome well, located adjacent to the Vendome parking area within Flower Park, drains into Rock Creek via a designed waterway. When first drilled in 1922, the Vendome well originally had an outflow of 2,500 gallons per minute (gpm) which then dropped to 600 gpm (Christensen, hydrologist). A new well drilled by the NPS in August 1997 produced a water outflow at about 1,000 gpm, with a similar but perhaps weaker, according to locals, smell and taste as the first well.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Two views of the completed bank stabilization along Rock Creek, with Flower Park in background, circa 1935

(CNRA archives, photographs veg. 03 (left), veg. 03 (right))



*Revetment wall construction, 1934.
(CNRA archives, photograph fac 16)*

Small Scale Features

Footbridges: As noted above, the design of Flower Park was established by the layout of the winding walkways. A number of bridges and water crossings are located along these paths. These include a small, stone arched bridge located along the middle, abandoned trail. This small bridge is almost overgrown by vegetation. The structure has an arched opening and is about 12 feet long and 5 feet in width.

Another footbridge is located along the wading pool stream near Lincoln Bridge and Travertine Falls. It is a modern masonry bridge constructed by Lawrence Howell and replaced a bridge constructed of large wood logs. There is also a set of stepping stones just north of the southern wading pool, near the comfort station.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Flower Park Steps and Stepping Stones

Feature Identification Number: 120094

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62808

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Steps and Stepping Stones

LCS Structure Number: FP.C

Feature: Flower Park Trail Stone Arch Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 120096

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62809

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Trail Stone Arch Bridge

LCS Structure Number: FP.D

Feature: Flower Park Trail East Steps

Feature Identification Number: 120098

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62811

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Trail East Steps

LCS Structure Number: TR-007.B

Feature: Flower Park Trail West Steps

Feature Identification Number: 120100

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62812

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Trail West Steps

LCS Structure Number: TR-007.A

Feature: Flower Park Revertment Wall

Feature Identification Number: 120102

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 321343

LCS Structure Name: Flower Park Revetment Wall

LCS Structure Number: FP.F

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Abandoned small bridge in Flower Park, circa 2000.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Small bridge in Flower Park, now abandoned, circa 1935.
(CNRA archives, photograph fac22)*



*Small bridge in Flower Park, now replaced by masonry bridge, date unknown.
(CNRA archives, photograph fac04)*

Spatial Organization

The Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area is divided into two functional clusters that are independent but connected by the stream bank of Rock Creek as it connects with Travertine Creek at Black Sulphur Springs.

The Flower Park area is further divided into pedestrian and vehicular space. The vehicular space is the Vendome Parking area, which was designed and built in 1935 to accommodate 130-150 vehicles (CCC Report 1935). The original surface material was gravel, while the curb edging was of ochre stone. Though the surface area is now asphalt, the stone edging is still evident. Today, the Vendome Parking Area accommodates about 110 autos. From here, pedestrians may enter into Flower Park proper. In total, pedestrians may access the park from three points along Flower Park's western, eastern and south boundary: Vendome Parking Area at Broadway and West 5th St., the park's main entrance at Broadway and Highway 177 (West 1st St.), and Lincoln Bridge at Flowers Parks' southern edge. Between Lincoln Bridge and the perimeter road is a small, informal parking area, defined by boulders, for about 6 cars.

Flower Park itself is further divided into two halves: an upper hillside wooded environment and a lower flat, meadow-like environment of an urban park-like setting. The upper hillside contains

dense vegetation and walking paths, while the lower part is level, with a good tree canopy providing shade for strolling and picnicking.

Black Sulphur Springs is subdivided, but rather into three defining areas. The first and most prominent element is the pavilion area. It is accessed from the park's perimeter road. The Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion sits high on a small promontory overlooking a sandy, crescent-shaped beach for leisure outdoor outings and picnics. This beach zone is a popular bathing area. To the rear of the pavilion there is a small parking area. This parking area accommodates 25 autos and was built in 1934. It too, has stone curbing, along with a flagstone walkway that leads to the pavilion and then down to the causeway water crossing, along the perimeter road.

Across the perimeter road from the pavilion is the second area within the Black Sulphur Springs spatial organization. Used primarily for picnicking, the area also has a vehicle turnaround and a former information station. It is one of the two areas within the entire component landscape that has picnic tables. The third area is to the north and west of the pavilion and perimeter road. This area is in a more natural environment, relatively flat to level and heavily wooded, providing shade for picnicking, on picnic tables in the area. There is also a vehicular loop in this area, accessed from the Black Sulphur Springs picnic area.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Overall park organization
Feature Identification Number:	120052
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	BSS three zone area
Feature Identification Number:	120060
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Vendome parking area, looking southwest, date unknown.
(CNRA archives, photograph ven-pkg)*



*Parking area for Black Sulphur Springs, looking north, circa 1999.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph).*



*Ochre stone edging and curb and walkway with flagstone surface
at Black Sulphur Springs, looking north, circa 1999.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Parking area near Black Sulphur Springs, circa 1999.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Post-flood sand removal at beach below Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion (prior to causeway reconstruction), date unknown.
(CNRA archives, photograph 514)*

Topography

The wooded terrain and topography (valley stream banks and upper hilltops) within Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs provides much of the site's visual and natural interest with topographic features that vary from floodplain to open meadow. Elevations range from Rock Creek and Beach Springs at 928 feet to the elevation of the sulfur stream through Flower Park at 950 feet to the hilltop area adjacent to Broadway Avenue at 992 feet.

While much of the topography appears to be natural, the slopes of Black Sulphur Springs were altered significantly to create smooth, gently flowing contours leading down to Rock Creek, to provide a more pleasing appearance. According to early park designers "no other area in the park has been so thoroughly revised and now shows greater improvement ...the dense growth of willows behind the pavilion structure was cleared, giving a new opened channel" (CCC report, December 1934).

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Rolling topography of park area

Feature Identification Number: 120050
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
Feature: BSS Generally level slopes to the beach
Feature Identification Number: 120062
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Vegetation

Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs (not identified on the study map by Dale, 1965) is predominantly a xeric community of floodplain and lower hillsides. Overstory species consist of *Ulmus americana*, *Platanus occidentalis*, *Juglans nigra* and *Celtis laevigata*. Understory species are *Quercus muhlenbergi*, *Q. texana*, and *Cornus drummondi*. Shrub layers are a mixture of *Celastrus scandens*, *Smilax bona-nova* and *Rhus toxicodendron*.

The early topographical map surveyed for Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs (NPS-PLA-4998, 1934), shows major trees according to tree “type” and size (e.g., Syc-16”, Oak-14”). Along Rock Creek and adjacent slopes species are shown to be sycamore, elm, willow, hackberry, walnut and persimmon. All trees within the open area are generically specified as oaks. While many of the trees in this plan still exist today, many have also been lost. Another graphic depiction of the vegetation of this era was done with the 1937 vegetation survey.

Throughout its early development years, the Platt District landscape —its original landscape— was altered by the planting of trees, shrubs, and turf grasses by many park projects. The vegetation at Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs was not excepted.

As early as 1903 some 108 shade tree plantings were planted in East Central Park (now Central Campground), West Central Park (now Flower Park), and along Buckhorn Road (now Highway 177). During the CCC-era the north boundary of Flower Park was planted with Eastern Red Cedar to create a dense buffer between town and park. In the CCC report of December 1934 to January 1935 it is mentioned that 300 cedars and 1,000 shrubs were planted. The largest tree moved was a 30-foot-tall cedar. Another document reported that near Black Sulphur Springs, “...eroded scarred banks have been re-graded uneven surfaces have been smoothed out in many cases sodded with Bermuda grass” (CCC quarterly report, 1934). Today, much of the vegetation is native, undisturbed or rehabilitated and is generally in keeping with the appearance during for the historic period.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: FP Canopy trees and lawn
Feature Identification Number: 120054
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BSS Trees at pavilion

Feature Identification Number: 120064

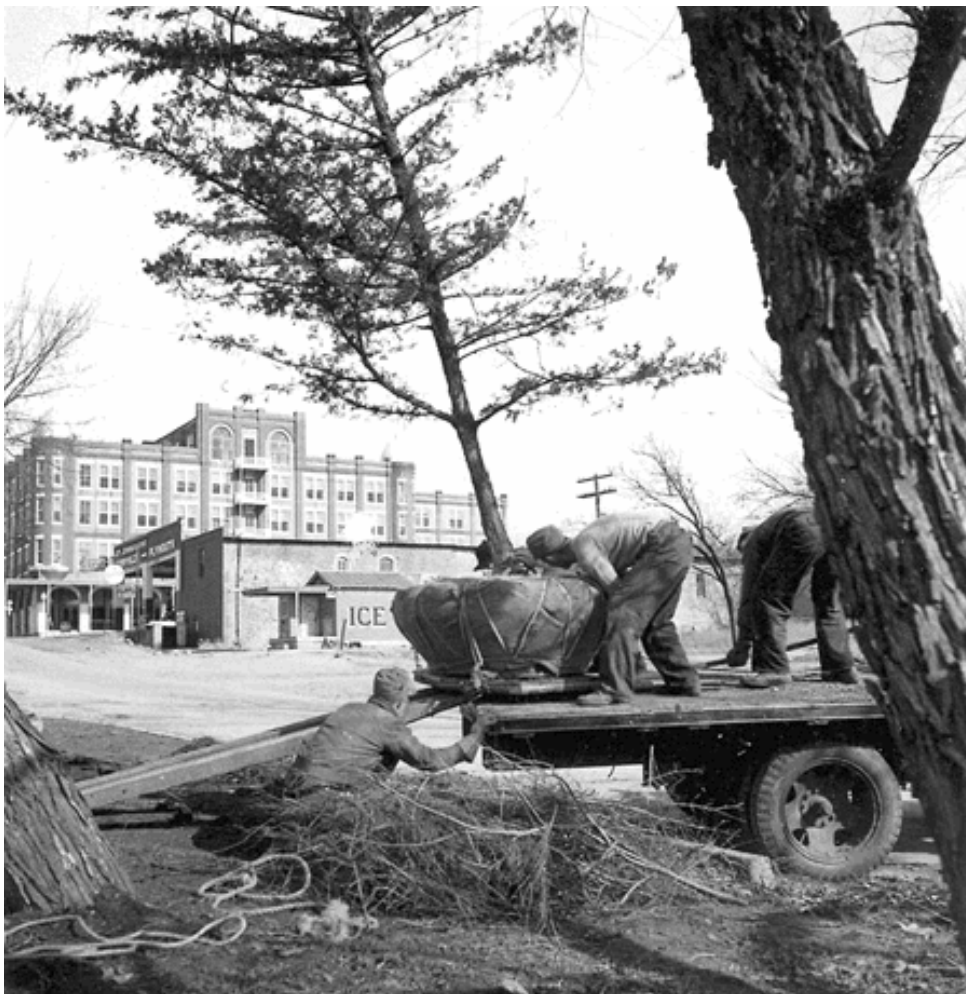
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: BSS Canopy at picnic area

Feature Identification Number: 120066

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Tree planting at the Main Entrance of Flower Park, circa 1935.
(CNRA archives, photograph veg 05)*

Views and Vistas

Views are generally oriented toward the interior of the Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs area. This is due to topographic and vegetative enclosure along many of the component

landscape boundaries. In addition, key views of features such as the watercourse and the comfort station are also located within the park, not outside of it; views are not appropriated from other landscape elements. Within the component landscape, visitors are able to see in all directions (360°) from within.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/19/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape was assessed in good condition in 2007. The park superintendent concurred on 9/21/2007.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Footpaths are showing deterioration (over-growth and visitor paths/ usage) from lack of maintenance

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Non-native shrub species invade understory areas when on-checked or cleared

Type of Impact: Visitation

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: High usage from visitations/ picnic areas

Type of Impact: Flooding

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Deterioration of small-scale features, sand beach/ swimming area and blockage of motor causeway.

Type of Impact: Structural Deterioration

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: High deterioration of building materials construction type/ methods when on-checked.

Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	High deterioration of building materials and construction type/ methods when on-checked.
Type of Impact:	Erosion
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	High deterioration of small-scale features exhibit deterioration caused by water runoff.
Type of Impact:	Neglect
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Small-scale features show increasing deterioration when not maintained.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment:	Preservation
Approved Treatment Document:	Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date:	01/01/2004

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The approved treatment recommendations are outlined within the Cultural Landscape Report for the Platt Historic District, written by Iowa State University.

Approved Treatment Completed:	No
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Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date:	01/01/2004
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Year of Publication:	1935
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Topographic-Black Sulphur Springs Comfort Station-sheet 1 of 1 Drawing No.NP-PLA 3107
Year of Publication:	1963
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Main Entrance/Drainage Plan-Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 4970
Year of Publication:	1934
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Black Sulphur Springs Creek Crossing Drawing No.NP-PLA 3103
Year of Publication:	1963
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Utilities Layout-part of General Plan for Platt National Park Drawing No.
Year of Publication:	1931
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Proposed Improvements Black Sulphur Springs Causeway-Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 4947
Year of Publication:	1933
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion-sheet 1 and 2 Drawing No.NP-PLA 2025
Year of Publication:	1938
Source Name:	Other

Citation Title:	Architectural drawings for Comfort Station Drawing No.NP-PLA 3116
Year of Publication:	1965
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Black Sulphur Springs Development Drawing No.NP-PLA
Year of Publication:	1935
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Flower Park/Part of Master Plan Drawing No.NP-PLA 5304-B, Sheet 7
Year of Publication:	1950
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Development of Black Sulphur Springs Drawing No.NP-PLAxx01
Year of Publication:	1933
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Comfort Station-Existing Conditions-Black Sulphur Springs Sheet 2 of 3 Drawing No.NP-PLA 107/80019-A
Year of Publication:	1983
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion Drawing No.NP-PLA
Year of Publication:	1929
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Main Entrance-stone work to be similar to that already in place at Buffalo Springs Drawing No. NP-PLA 3018
Year of Publication:	1934
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	Road Trail and Developed Area Plan-part of Master Plan for Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 3007-A
Year of Publication:	1940
Source Name:	Other

Supplemental Information

Title: Cultural Landscapes Inventory of Platt District (Katherine Sallee), 1997 (NPS).

Description: Document located within IMR Cultural Landscapes Program files.