
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007



Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

Table of Contents

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

Inventory Summary

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

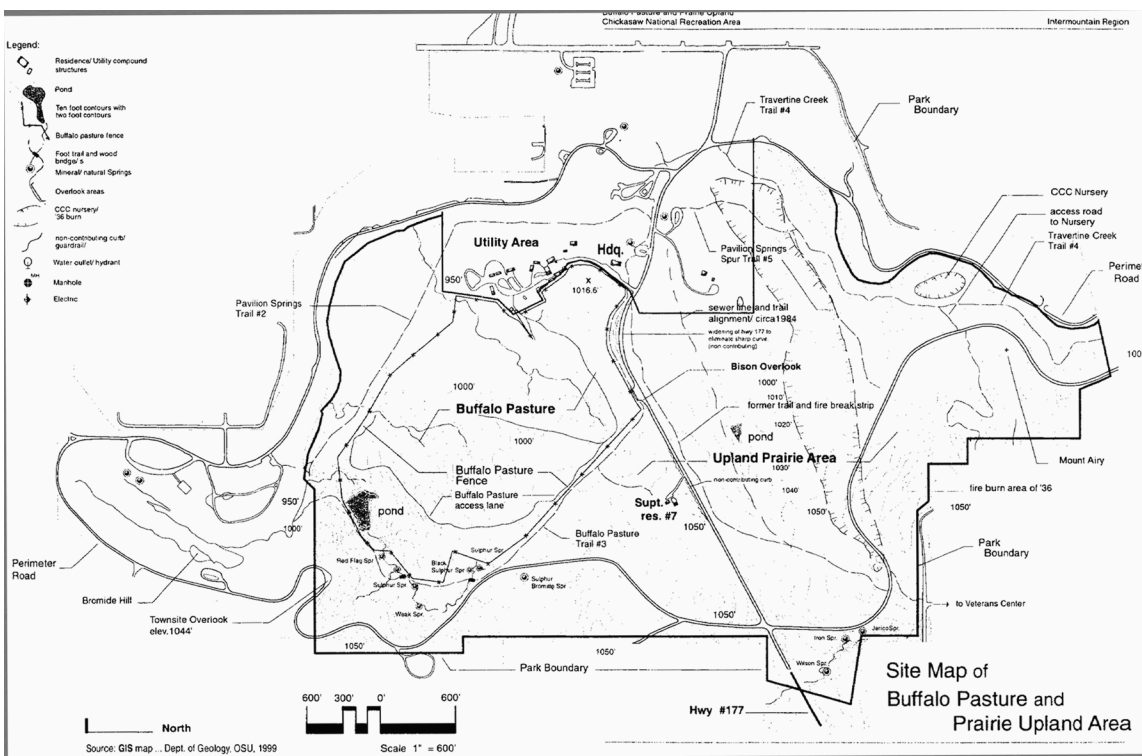
treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

Inventory Unit Description:

The 392-acre Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands landscape is located in the central portion of the Platt Historic District, in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Murray County Oklahoma. Though not a high visitor use area, the landscape exudes a special character and provides different experiences for park users. The component landscape consists of upland prairie habitat dominated by short-lobed oak and prairie plants. The Buffalo Pasture comprises about 90 acres in the northwestern part of the area and the Prairie Uplands comprise the rest. In general, the area is primarily a natural landscape, with few visitor facilities. The Superintendent's House is one of the few structures located in the landscape. The Buffalo Pasture is used as pasture for the District's herd of 6 bison, and is fenced. Visitors may view the Buffalo from a parking area and overlook or from the trail which runs along the pasture fence.

Within the component landscape trail access occurs at three major locations, which are at the Bison Overlook area (Trail #3); at Pavilion Springs (Trail #5). A fourth access —outside the area to the west— is at Robber's Roost. Here, users connect to Trail #3 via the Bromide Hill (Cliffside) Trail #2. Vehicular access to the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area is from State Highway #177 (formerly known as Buckhorn Road). This road bisects the component landscape from north to south. All of Buffalo Pasture is located on the west side of the road. The park's perimeter road winds through the lower portion of the component landscape too, providing additional vehicular access to Bromide Hill to the west and Buffalo and Antelope Springs to the east.

Site Plan



Site Plan for Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands, CNRA. Source: GIS base map data obtained from Department of Geology, Oklahoma State University (1999), augmented by Iowa State University.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	850465
Parent Landscape:	850137

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District -CHIC
Park Organization Code:	7516
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District - CHIC
Park Administrative Unit:	Chickasaw National Recreation Area

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Platt Historic District of Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA) is the parent landscape for Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands. 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 Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands 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, includes the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands 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: Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

I concur with the content and the assessment of the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands cultural landscape for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

The CLI has identified the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands component landscape as a "Historic Designed Landscape."

- 1. The CLI rates the condition as "GOOD" (pg. 40) and the Management Category is listed as "Must be Preserved and Maintained" (pg. 8).*
- 2. The period of significance for the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands component landscape is 1933-1940 (pg. 10).*
- 3. The Statement of Significance is located on pgs. 10-11.*
- 4. The contributing features are discussed and listed in the "Analysis and Evaluation" section (pg. 21-39).*

Bruce Noble
Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

9/21/07
Date

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

CHIC Superintendent concurrence on the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands 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 north boundary of the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands area is formed by the park's Maintenance, Headquarters, and Pavilion Springs area; to the west by Rock Creek and Bromide Springs; to the northeast by the perimeter road at Central and Cold Springs Campgrounds. Just east of Cold Springs Campground, the boundary dips south from Rock Creek to a point where the southern portion of the perimeter road runs along the perimeter fence. From here, the boundary runs along the original southern boundary of the park. Near the hairpin curve in the perimeter road the western edge of the component landscape boundary heads due north back to Rock Creek. Private land holdings and the state Veterans Hospital abut the eastern boundary. The southern edge is abuts other park lands (western edge of Veterans Lake) and by private land holdings to the east. The boundaries and features of the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area are shown on the site plan.

State and County:

State: OK

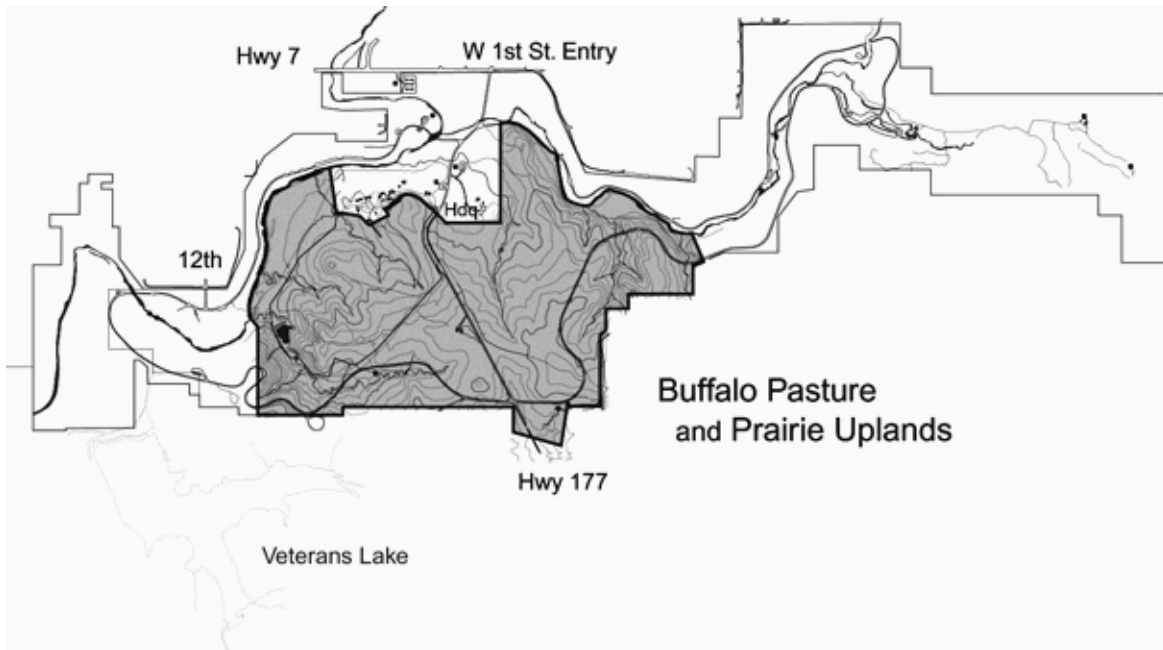
County: Murray County

Size (Acres): 392.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	14
UTM Easting:	686,680
UTM Northing:	3,819,060
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	14
UTM Easting:	685,440
UTM Northing:	3,818,780
Source:	USGS Map 1:24,000
Type of Point:	Point
Datum:	NAD 83
UTM Zone:	14
UTM Easting:	866,600
UTM Northing:	3,818,780

Location Map:



Location of Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands within the Platt Historic District of CNRA, Murray County, Oklahoma. 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:

There is not a significant cultural context for this area beyond the cultural context of the district. The area has been used for a variety of purposes since the 1900s, including use as animal pasture and golf course. The bison in the Buffalo Pasture are a much-loved element of the park, particularly for local residents.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The study area is located in the central portion of the Platt District and is characterized by gently rolling terrain, ranging from a wooded ravine in the southwestern portion of the area to open upland terrace to the northeast. The area to the northwest, along the waterway of Rock Creek, is a moderately flat floodplain. To the east and south is level upland terrain. Mount Airy (elevation 1047 feet) is the high point on the eastern edge of the area. The Superintendent's Residence (center south) sits on a high knoll at elevation 1050 feet. Rock Creek causeway, west of the Buffalo Pasture Dam is elevation 920 feet. The vegetation of this area is characteristic of the Eastern deciduous forest, including *Ulmus* (elm), *Quercus* (oak), *Juglans* (walnut), and *Celtis* (hackberry) species of the lowland forest association.

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. Lands adjacent to the component landscape boundary consist of federally owned park lands and privately owned holdings.

Management Unit: Chickasaw NRA

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/12/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Platt Historic District, which includes the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands 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

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The landscape of the broader Platt Historic District contributes to the character and setting of the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands area.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

SHPO Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Based on the findings of the CLR, the Platt Historic District, the parent landscape of the Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands 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 an NHL 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 designed buildings and structures in keeping and in harmony with the natural landscape. In specific terms, this meant using hand craftsmanship, local architectural styles and natural materials such as

stone, wood and native plants in the design of each park structure or element.

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 good 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.

The Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Upland area comprises one component of this larger significant district landscape. The area is a large, natural setting which provided a backdrop for the rest of the rustic style elements designed throughout the park. The area was designed as a space for park facilities not oriented to camping, water enjoyment or high visitor usage. However, the area is still important as a repository of early park history, as exemplified by the buffalo herd, which have been a feature in the park since 1920. The area also contains a number of features present during and constructed during the park's period of significance, including the Superintendent's residence. As a result, the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Upland area should be considered to contribute to the significance of the overall district and enable the district to convey its significance. This component landscape also exists in a predominantly intact state, and should be considered to contribute to the integrity of the overall district.

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	Type of Name
Buffalo Pasture	Both Current And Historic
/Prairie Uplands	Current

Ethnographic Study Conducted: No Survey Conducted
Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1850	Established	General character of the land at this time was open range, no fences. Appeared as “great frontier area with grassy growth running to eight feet tall in places” (Boeger, 38).
AD 1903	Established	Frank Churchill (special agent for Indian Territory) was sent to Sulphur Springs and announcement was made that everyone must leave the reservation. People allowed to stay, but had to pay rent to the government. New town begins to form just south of the Reservation, along ridge where the Superintendent’s house now stands. New hotels, including the Bland (which would never be occupied) were erected (Boeger, 55).
AD 1908	Built	Perimeter fence around park completed (Boeger, 73-74). See page 74 for description of openings in fence.
AD 1914	Ranched/Grazed	Mules pastured in area in present day Buffalo Pasture (Boeger, 94).
AD 1917	Established	Park acquired 3 deer from Oklahoma City Zoo. 2 fawns were born in 1918, bringing population to 5. (Boeger, 97). First request to use southeastern part of park for golf course; on Memorial Day, volunteer golfers began picking up stones and leveling rough spots (Boeger, 101).
AD 1920	Established	Elk (3) arrived in park from Yellowstone. Doe broke leg. Other two were installed in area across from Black Sulphur and below park office (Boeger, 107). Buffalo arrived in park from Wichita Mountains Wildlife Preserve and were installed in penned area behind Pavilion Springs (Boeger, 107). See more about bison and other aspects of the zoo on pages 110-112.
AD 1923	Planned	9-hole golf course was staked out. First hole was located on “a slight rise just south of Pavilion Springs” (Boeger, 112).

Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

AD 1934	Built	CCC crews build south entry piers (Boeger, 138). Stone quarried from within park, approximately 300' from entrance. Buckhorn Road realigned.
	Abandoned	Buffalo herd is moved to "old wagon camp just south of the Park office." Elk pasture across from Black Sulphur is abandoned and elk herd is eliminated in December of 1934 (Boeger, 135).
AD 1935	Graded	Grading of one mile of road south of Bromide Hill, widening of section north of Bromide. By end of July, perimeter road essentially completed (Boeger, 143).
		PWA project for perimeter road between Horner's Bluff and Buffalo Spring. Required dynamite blasting in addition to picks and shovels.
AD 1934	Abandoned	Regional Office ordered golf course closed (Boeger, 133).
AD 1936	Altered	Buckhorn Road (SH 18) between Superintendent's House and South Entrance relocated and surfaced (Boeger, 145).
AD 1937	Built	New, posted perimeter fence begun (Boeger, 149). Completion angers some.
AD 1939	Paved	Entire Perimeter Road paved (Boeger, 151).
AD 1946	Abandoned	Park mules retired (indicating no need for pasture) (Boeger, 159).
AD 1997	Developed	A draft CLI is written for the Platt District by Katherine Sallee of the University of Texas at Arlington.
AD 2002	Developed	Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands 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:

Pre-CCC History

For a complete narrative history of the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area, see the 2004 Cultural Landscape Report for the Platt Historic District, written by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University.

Because it has never been a densely populated or heavily used area, the documentation of the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area is relatively sparse. Early records describe the area as open range, with no fences that appeared as “great frontier area with grassy growth running to eight feet tall in places” (Boeger, 38).

The earliest record of the area exists in early photographs and in the Sulphur Springs Reservation Land Survey dating to 1904, which shows both the early town plat and the area included as part of the Reservation. Interestingly, the entire upland was platted for future settlement.

However, with the creation of the Sulphur Springs Reservation, the town was moved from the park. A later map of the area, dating to 1913 (NP-PLA-1040-2) shows a few lanes for residences. The major road through the park is Buckhorn Road bisecting the park on a curved line between Sulphur and the Veteran’s Hospital. Buckhorn Road was the major thoroughfare between the communities of Scullin and Sulphur. It also accessed a large farming community along Buckhorn and Oil Creeks.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, development throughout the park increased, and the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area was no exception. As shown on a 1933 plan (NP-PLA-4948), a number of elements were located in the area. The most important of these was Buckhorn Road, which led from an area just south of Lincoln Bridge, past Pavilion Springs to the east and then heading southwest past park headquarters, from whence it headed southeast toward Fairlane Avenue and the Veteran’s Hospital. Also shown are Bromide and Sulphur-Bromide Lanes intersecting with Buckhorn Road. These two lanes accessed the southwest part of the park and a spring called Black Sulphur Spring. Other built features in the area included two park residences (labeled #2 and #7).

Also located within the area was a mule pasture, located in today’s Buffalo Pasture area, and a wagon camp, located just west of the present day Maintenance area. The wagon camp was an early camping area which was phased out as campgrounds were developed elsewhere in the park in the 1930s. The mule pasture had existed in some location in the park since 1914, when they were brought in as work animals. Mules were housed in the park until 1946. Bison were brought into the park in 1920, but were housed northeast of Pavilion Springs until they were moved to the present area in about 1934.



*Landscape implemented around the Superintendent's Residence, circa 1935.
Note Buckhorn Road in foreground, and fence, arbor, and screening plantings.
(CNRA archives, photograph date)*



PLATT NATIONAL PARK GOLF COURSE SCEN.

*Magazine photograph of the golf course, view looking north, circa 1935.
(CHIC archive neg. Golf)*



*Buffalo foraging in Buffalo Pasture, circa 1934. Note open aspect of the landscape and Superintendent's Residence in the distance to the southwest.
(CNRA archives, photograph BF-1)*



*View from Perimeter Road looking north near the Veteran's Hospital area, circa 1936.
(CHIC archive neg. rd.09)*



*View of early perimeter road near the Townsite Overlook, circa 1936.
(CHIC archive neg. rd.04)*

Post CCC History

With the arrival of the CCC in 1933, additional development in the park was undertaken. Designs for a new Buffalo Pasture were developed in 1934 and the open areas on both sides of Buckhorn Road were cleaned-up of all and any remaining pre-park elements. Designers and CCC crews built a durable fence for the relocation of the Buffalo Pasture (1934) that consisted of 6" inch diameter steel, oil well casing corner posts, all set in concrete. The fence was of woven wire, 52 inches high with four stands of barbed wire above. The 1930s fence was later replaced with a taller, 7-foot high fence, according to the 1940 Development Plan.

In the south-western portion of the Buffalo Pasture, an artificial dam was built in a ravine in 1933 and 1934. The dam created a pond for watering the buffalo. (CCC Report, May 16, 1933-April 1, 1934). The dam was earth; the water side was faced with stone and the back side was heavily planted. The construction approach was similar to that used in planting steep roadside banks. Small bundles of brush were tied together and staked in horizontal rows three feet apart. Between these "brushed" rows, suckering plants that would spread rapidly were

planted. Plants included buckbrush, honeysuckle, ground rose and catbrier. Other plantings consisted of thorny plants. Overall, 7,000 plants were set out on the dam. By the time the project was completed, the dam was full of water.

In 1934, Buckhorn Road became State Highway 18 and was realigned, widened and surfaced with asphalt for 1.3 miles south from the Davis Avenue entrance of the park. By 1936 the portion between the Superintendent's House and the southern part of the park was also redone (Boeger, 145). This type of work was particularly necessary as more and more park users were coming to the park by automobile. The re-alignment of Buckhorn Road moved the south entrance of the park away from the Veteran's hospital to the small parcel of land which jutted south along the park's south boundary. In June of 1934 CCC crews built the south entry piers as the gateway to the park. Stone for the piers was quarried from within the park, at a site approximately 300 feet from entrance (Boeger, 138).

The other vehicular system constructed within the park is the perimeter road, which at one point was known as the Boulevard Road. By 1934, this road system was three-fourths completed. The park's 1933 Master Plan Drawing (NP-PLA-4948) shows this road system partially completed, connecting Bromide Springs and Buffalo Springs along a route north of Rock and Travertine Creeks. In contrast, however, the southern part of the park had no roadway running across the park from east to west. Early CCC-era planning promoted the need for a loop road allowing park users easy access to other park facilities. In 1935 work began on a section between Bromide Springs and Horner's Bluff. The last section of perimeter road past the old golf course was staked by Regional Office engineers in March 1937 and its construction was begun shortly thereafter (CCC Report, February 20 – March 20, 1937). The construction of the perimeter road reduced the need for any of the other roads within the component landscape (such as Bromide Sulphur Lane) and these roads were abandoned or converted to foot trails. Bromide-Sulphur Lane in particular became Trail #3, past the Buffalo Pasture. By the fall of 1939 the entire perimeter road had been not only completed, but asphalt surfaced, in order to reduce complaints from park users about dust.

Planting was another important aspect of CCC crew work. Under the supervision of the Forestry Foreman (Mr. Stauffer Sr.), CCC planting crews set out 200 cedars (3-12' tall) and 2,000 shrubs along the portion of Cliffside Trail that skirted the south side of the Buffalo Pasture (CCC Report, October-November, 1934). An old alfalfa field (formerly used by Superintendent Branch) along Pavilion Trail was reforested and planted to oak and walnut in accordance as nearly as possible with the natural disturbance of these species elsewhere in the park during the winter season (CCC Report, October – March 1935).

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Upland area has not changed appreciably since the period of significance in either function or appearance. All major designed elements and structures are extant. These include major landscape features such as the Superintendent's Residence and the Buffalo Pasture area. Perhaps the greatest change over time has been the change to vegetation patterns in the area. While once an open area, vegetation cover—particularly evergreen vegetation—has increased, altering the appearance and increasing the sense of enclosure. Regardless of this change, which presents interesting management issues, the area has relatively high integrity, as described below.

Below is a list of the landscape's 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 (hilltop terrain)
- Spatial Organization (three functional clusters/overall layout)
- Cultural Traditions (animal pasturing)
- Land Use (animal pasture)
- Topography (rolling terrain)
- Vegetation (Eastern deciduous forest, prairie, and understory)
- Circulation (perimeter road, Highway 177, Trails #2 (portion) and #3)
- Buildings and Structures (Superintendent's House and Garage)
- Small Scale Features (Trail #3 culverts and walls, buffalo pasture fence, dam and pond)
- Views and Vistas

NONCONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

- None

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 Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area.

Location

The landscape and all of its buildings, footpaths, trails, paddock fence and parking areas are in the same location as during the period of significance. Integrity of location is high.

Design

Most of the original designed (and undersigned) elements of this landscape exist as they did

historically. The area's basic spatial organization, circulation systems, topography and natural features all remain intact as they existed during the period of significance. These include the area's primary access (Highway #177) and the Superintendent's Residence buildings and landscape and the Buffalo Pasture. Topographic elements also retain high integrity. A major change in the overall design of the area, however, has occurred due to the increased propagation and expansion of woody vegetation within the landscape, in part due to plantings and in part due to fire suppression. As a result of this increased growth, once open views and expansive landscape have been closed and enclosed. This has altered the design and appearance of the landscape quite significantly, and has impacted integrity of design, which is preliminarily judged to be moderate.

Setting

The integrity of location and the protection of the area's adjacent landscape due to its location within the CNRA, has ensured that integrity of setting for this landscape is high. Much of the area is surrounded by other district lands, and to the south the area retains its rural character. To the south east, the Veteran's Hospital is also still extant. Integrity of setting is high.

Materials

The integrity of materials is moderate. Though this area has been and remains the largest of Platt's cultural components it has few built structures, vernacular or park-designed. Therefore, though materials used to repair existing buildings and small-scale features within the landscape have been modified somewhat, but this does not greatly impact integrity of materials. More significantly, integrity of plant species is low. There has been a significant change in vegetation disturbance from the period of significance, primarily due to fire suppression. This has led to an increase in woody deciduous and evergreen planting. While some of this was intentional, since tree plantings were added in specific areas to give a sense of enclosure and design and to prevent soil erosion, in other areas vegetation growth has occurred due to lack of disturbance. Vegetation patterns in the more open upland prairie areas have changed significantly since 1933-40, and hence have lowered integrity.

Workmanship

The integrity of workmanship is high. The masonry of the buildings and craftsmanship of foot trails/culverts, curbing/ fencing and retaining walls all reflect a high level of skill and design philosophies typical of the 1930s. This workmanship has, by and large, been retained, with repairs and alterations exhibiting a similar high quality of workmanship.

Feeling

The integrity of feeling is moderately high. The area and its natural setting —open upland prairie and the wooded floodplain terrain along Rock Creek and Travertine Creek—still offers a wilderness experience of both openness and enclosure, as probably existed historically. The grazing bison also still provide visitors with a sense of discovery and delight within the landscape. However, due to vegetative enclosure, the area is not as open as it once was, does not provide as many viewing opportunities, and as a result the area has lost something of its original prairie feeling.

Association

The integrity of association is high. The area retains its associations with the park's early history with the continuing presence of the bison in the park, an important association for local residents in particular. The area also retains its connections with NPS design traditions. As a result, integrity of association is high.

Overall Rating

Overall integrity for the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area's cultural landscape is moderately high. Modifications to the open prairie setting have clearly changed the landscape and may be considered to have had a high impact on various aspects of integrity. However, these changes are potentially reversible (with vegetative clearing) or might be considered to be part of a natural process of succession, depending on management goals for natural versus cultural resources. The landscape has high integrity in several other aspects which mitigates, somewhat lowered integrity of feeling and materials.

Landscape Characteristic:

Archeological Sites

N/A

Buildings and Structures

There are only three major structures within the Buffalo Pasture and the Prairie Uplands. They have undergone some change and alteration over the years, but are historic and contribute to the integrity and significance of the component landscape.

Superintendent's Residence: The Superintendent's Residence was built in the 1930s to serve as the home for the park's Superintendent and family. It is located on one of the high points of the component landscape and at one time had a commanding view. Since the 1940s, however, vegetation has grown up around the residence, both screening it from view somewhat and also restricting its viewsheds. The building was also altered in the 1950s to "modernize" it. Exterior changes included window alterations on the gable ends of the buildings. These areas originally had much taller windows to accommodate cathedral ceilings within the living room and dining room. Other losses include some exterior features such as fencing and a wood pergola seen in historic photographs. A flagstone patio area, however, remains.

Today the building has approximately 1,700 square feet of floor space and is of wood frame construction. It has an exterior red brick chimney in a decorative brick course pattern. The exterior is a cream stucco finish. The exterior was recently (September 2001) repainted this color based on an examination of the earliest layers of paint. The building has multiple gable roof ends of horizontal shiplap siding, painted (also recently) brown. Fascia, soffits, and rafter tails were recently painted white, again based on an examination of old paint. The concrete windowsills are also painted white. Despite changes to the building, it remains extant and used and is considered a contributing structure.

Garage/Washroom: The Garage was designed by NPS and built by the CCC. The building is rectangular in shape and of wood frame construction. The building has gable ends with

horizontal, shiplap siding, painted NPS brown. The exterior, like the residence, is a cream stucco finish with painted concrete windowsills. The roof has wood shingles and has exposed rafter ends. Like the Superintendent's house, the garage has a red brick chimney with a decorative course pattern. The building is intact and used.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Superintendent's Residence

Feature Identification Number: 119148

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62856

LCS Structure Name: Superintendent's Residence

LCS Structure Number: B-007

Feature: Superintendent's Residence, G/L

Feature Identification Number: 119150

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62857

LCS Structure Name: Superintendent's Residence, Garage/Laundry

LCS Structure Number: B-012

Feature: Superintendent's Residence Stone Curb

Feature Identification Number: 119152

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62858

LCS Structure Name: Superintendent's Residence Stone Curb & Driveway

LCS Structure Number: B-007.A

Feature: BP Dam w/Rock Spillway

Feature Identification Number: 119154

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64188

LCS Structure Name: Buffalo Pasture Dam with Rock Spillway

LCS Structure Number: BP.B

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Front façade of Superintendent's Residence, 1992.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Rear elevations, Superintendent's Residence, showing flagstone patio area, 1992.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Garage/ Washroom at Superintendent's Residence, 1993.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Landscape around Superintendent's Residence, view from driveway, 1992.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*

Circulation

Circulation patterns within the Buffalo Pasture and the Upland Prairie area have been maintained much as they existed at the end of the period of significance. At this point, the internal park and local transportation circulation patterns had been well established, and these have continued into the future.

Today, as in 1940, the major vehicular circulation element in the component landscape is Highway 177, which bisects the component landscape as it runs on a northwest-southeast line. There is one access road off this route, which leads to the Superintendent's residence, about midway between Headquarters and the park's south entry. In 2001, portions of Highway 177 were reconstructed, including a new asphalt surface. Although the alignment stayed basically the same, the process raised the pavement level a little bit and necessitated some regrading of shoulders in some areas.

The other circulation route is the park's perimeter road, which traverses the southernmost edge of the component landscape in a circuitous route accommodating the topography. It intersects with Highway 177 just north of the park's south entry. To the west of Highway #177 it leads to the Townsite Overlook and thence to Bromide Hill and Bromide Springs. To the east of Highway #177 the perimeter road passes by the Veterans Hospital and then turns north along the old golf course. From there it winds around Mount Airy across the park from Cold Springs Campground. From there it continues to Sycamore Falls and the eastern section of the park.

The circulation system of this perimeter road within this component landscape is two-way and this stretch of the perimeter road has not changed greatly since its completion during the CCC years.

Parking areas are limited within the component landscape. There is one area of parking for viewing the buffalo herd just off Highway 177, just south of the curve in the road. Another parking area is the pull-off along the park perimeter road at the Townsite Overlook, where visitors can view across the Buffalo Pasture from above.

Much of the pedestrian circulation throughout the Buffalo Pasture and the Prairie Uplands is located along the alignments of roads dating to early settlement. In particular, one half (the southern section) of the Buffalo Pasture Trail #3 is located on the former Sulphur Bromide Lane which was abandoned in the 1930s. The Buffalo Pasture Trail #3 is about 1.5 miles long starting from the Administration area and traversing south along the Buffalo Pasture and parallel to Highway #177. Just south of the Bison Overlook, the trail turns west and connects with the Bromide Hill (Cliffside) Trail #2. Along its way are retaining walls, a stone low-water crossing, and small bridges and culverts. Trail #5 (near Pavilion Springs) ascends the upland ridge to the east by means of stone steps and connects with Trail #4 (formerly occupied by the old buffalo paddock).

Two other trails exist within the component landscape. One of these trails, between Pavilion Springs and Sycamore Falls, (#4) runs through much of this component landscape. This trail runs along the south bank of Travertine Creek. Another trail runs from the Veteran's Hospital to Pavilion Springs. This trail runs along the approximate location of the old (pre-1943) Buckhorn Road alignment, and then along the east side and parallel to Highway 177. This trail was realigned slightly when the sewer line between the hospital and the springs was improved in 1984.

The location and construction of trails within the component landscape have not changed significantly over the years. All trails built by the CCC were built to a specification of 4 1/2 feet wide, somewhat wider than most NPS trails. Where possible old pre-park roads were narrowed and used as trail base. They were designed with a clay gravel base that was topped with a fine aggregate crushed rock. Along the trails park users cross trails and experience designed viewsheds offer pleasing views of the town and southern portions of the park through the area's natural vegetation. Native stone was used along most trails when necessary for retaining walls, drainage curbs, culvert headwalls and small bridges. In some places, trail banks throughout this component landscape were planted with native vegetation to help reduce erosion and provide a park-like, naturalized environment. Small-scale features located along trails are discussed below, under small scale features.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Driveway and turnaround (Supt. Res.)
Feature Identification Number:	119990
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62858
LCS Structure Name: Superintendent's Residence Stone Curb & Driveway
LCS Structure Number: B-007.A

Feature: Bison Overlook Parking Lot

Feature Identification Number: 120006

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 397231

LCS Structure Name: Highway 177 Bison Overlook Parking Lot

LCS Structure Number: HWY177.E

Feature: Buffalo Pasture Trail #3

Feature Identification Number: 119994

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62992

LCS Structure Name: Buffalo Pasture Trail #3

LCS Structure Number: TR-003

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Highway 177 after resurfacing, view south at curve near Buffalo Overlook, 2001.
(Photograph by Iowa State University).*

Cluster Arrangement

N/A

Constructed Water Features

N/A

Cultural Traditions

The major cultural tradition associated with this area is the pasturing and display of animals, particularly bison. Mules used for park maintenance were pastured in the area south of the Maintenance area beginning in 1917. And the display of animals for the public's enjoyment has been an ongoing tradition within the park since 1917, when the park acquired three deer. Since the 1920s, the park has displayed other animals, including elk and bison. Today, bison are the only remaining animals, and the Buffalo Pasture has been in its current location since 1934.

Land Use

The Buffalo Pasture and the Prairie Uplands area has served primarily as a day use for visitors to view and experience the natural environment including plants and animals. Bison have grazed

the western half of the area and visitors have wandered the southwestern portion on foot and by car since 1934. The east half has been left pretty much untouched as a naturalized area since the removal of the 9-hole golf course in 1937. And residential use of the area has occurred at the Superintendent's residence since the early 1930s. Two horses are pastured in the Buffalo Pasture. They have been there since 1996.

Natural Systems and Features

The most important natural feature in the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands area is its centrally located hilltop terrain. In generally, the area is a moderately rolling terrain with predominantly north-facing exposures. Elevations vary, ranging from 920 feet at Rock Creek, near the earthen dam, to 970 feet near the northeast at the entry to Cold Springs Camp, to elevation 1047 feet at Mount Airy, the high point in the eastern section.

Rock Creek flows along much of the northern boundary of the component landscape and is another natural feature. The uplands form a large part of the creek's watershed in this area. A heavily wooded ravine is also located within the area's southwest quadrant. A dam constructed in this area creates a water reservoir within this ravine. Vegetation is primarily prairie with a short-lobed oak canopy. Vegetation also changes from the low floodplain terrace to the higher uplands, which have thinner, stonier soils. Vegetation will be discussed in detail in the section on "Vegetation".

Small Scale Features

Many small-scale features contribute to the character of Buffalo Pasture and the Prairie Uplands.

Superintendent's Residence Landscape: A designed landscape was implemented around the Superintendent's Residence after both it and its associated garage were completed. The landscape, in the 1930s, included extensive screening, large deciduous and evergreen trees, flagstone paving, a pergola and low wood fencing. Some of these features have been lost over the years, including the pergola and wooden fence west of the house. Other features, such as flagstone walks and patio areas remain. Trees and shrubs have, in many cases matured and provide excellent screening, in a contrast with the landscape's open prairie conditions at the end of the period of significance. A closer look at the original planting plan, aerial photographs, and existing conditions will reveal the extent and impact of changes.

Buffalo Pasture Fence: The Buffalo Pasture Fence was originally built in 1934 as a durable fence of 6-inch diameter steel oil- well casing corner posts, all set in concrete. The fence was of woven wire, 52 inches high with four stands of barbed wire above. The fence was replaced with a 7-foot high fence, according to the 1940 Development Plan. This is apparently the fence that exists today. The Bison Management Plan (May 23, 1991) states the length of the Buffalo Pasture fence as 8,623 feet (1.63 miles) and the pasture area as 84.05 acres. The Buffalo Pasture fence appears to be in the same location and condition as it was during the period of significance.

Buffalo Pasture Pond and Dam/ Rock Spillway: This feature, built in 1933-34, is extant and in

good condition today. The structure is 200 feet in length, 70 feet wide at its base and 20 feet in height with a stone and concrete spin way. It creates a pond with a water surface of approximately 0.58 acres. It appears that the structure has not changed much since the period of significance. Along the dam's west side is the Cliffside trail, separated from the pond by a fence next to a low slope.

Small Scale Features along the Pavilion Springs-Sycamore Crossing (Travertine Creek) Trail: There are culverts and associated headwalls along this section of Trail #4.

Small Scale Features along Veteran's Trail: There are culverts and headwalls along this section of trail.

South Entry Piers: When Highway 177 was realigned (straightened) through the south part of the park the old south entry from the Veteran's (Soldier's) Hospital (Soldiers Hospital) was eliminated. A new entry was constructed along Highway 177 a short distance within the park from the boundary. The entry is composed of a pair of large pier structures flanking both sides of the road. The piers are set back approximately 12 feet from the road edge. The piers, constructed of native limestone, have a massive base that steps up to 8 feet at their tallest point. The south side of the pier on the east side of the highway currently has a brown highway sign that says "Chickasaw National Recreation Area." Although the piers exist in their historic location and condition, the new sign is clearly a non-historic alteration.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Buffalo Pasture Fence

Feature Identification Number: 119156

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64187

LCS Structure Name: Buffalo Pasture Fence

LCS Structure Number: BPA

Feature: Northern Dam at Old Golf Course

Feature Identification Number: 119158

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64264

LCS Structure Name: Northern Dam at Old Golf Course

LCS Structure Number: PS.G

Feature: Superintendent's Residence, Stone Patios

Feature Identification Number: 119160

Buffalo Pasture/Prairie Uplands
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 337810
LCS Structure Name: Superintendent's Residence, Stone Patios & Walk
LCS Structure Number: B-007.B

Feature: Middle Dam at Old Golf Course
Feature Identification Number: 119162
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 412887
LCS Structure Name: Middle Dam at Old Golf Course
LCS Structure Number: PS.H

Feature: Southern Dam at Old Golf Course
Feature Identification Number: 119164
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 412890
LCS Structure Name: Southern Dam at Old Golf Course
LCS Structure Number: PS.I

Feature: Veteran's Trail Pre-CCC Stone Box Clvts
Feature Identification Number: 119992
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 478640
LCS Structure Name: Veteran's Trail Pre-CCC Stone Box Culverts
LCS Structure Number: PS.L

Feature: Bison Overlook and Walls
Feature Identification Number: 120004
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 64186
LCS Structure Name: Highway 177 Bison Overlook Retaining Walls
LCS Structure Number: HWY177.D

Feature: BP Trail #3 Pre-CC Culvert

Feature Identification Number: 119998
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 255628
LCS Structure Name: Buffalo Pasture Trail #3 Pre-CCC Culvert
LCS Structure Number: TR-003.K

Feature: BP Trail #3 Retaining Walls/Drainage
Feature Identification Number: 120002
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 255629
LCS Structure Name: Buffalo Pasture Trail #3 Retaining Walls/Drainage
LCS Structure Number: TR-003.J

Feature: BP Trail #3 Culverts with CMPs
Feature Identification Number: 120000
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 322583
LCS Structure Name: Buffalo Pasture Trail #3 Culverts with CMPs
LCS Structure Number: TR-003.E

Feature: BP Trail #3 Culvert w/Dual CMPs
Feature Identification Number: 119996
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 323882
LCS Structure Name: Buffalo Pasture Trail #3 Culvert w/ Dual CMPs
LCS Structure Number: TR-003.D

Feature: South Entrance Piers
Feature Identification Number: 120008
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 62855
LCS Structure Name: Highway 177 Entrance Piers South
LCS Structure Number: HWY177.211

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*View of entry piers at the park's south entrance along Highway #177, 1992.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*

Spatial Organization

The Buffalo Pasture/ Prairie Uplands is organized into three functional clusters, including the Buffalo Pasture, the Superintendent's Residence, and a large open natural area covering many acres. Highway 177 divides the component landscape in two, with the Buffalo Pasture and Superintendent's Residence located on the west side of the highway. The natural open area lies mainly to the east of the highway. This configuration of spaces has existed since the late 1930s.

The Buffalo Pasture is irregular in shape and covers approximately 90 acres. It is bounded by the park Headquarters, Pavilion Springs and Maintenance area to the north, the floodplain terrace of Rock Creek to the west and the Superintendent's house to the south. Although bison were nearly extinct by the mid-1800s, bison have been displayed continuously by the park since the 1920s. The herd has been located in this pasture since 1934.

The Superintendent's residence is located just west of and adjacent to Highway 177, on the crest of a hill. The area is organized as a typical residential setting with house, garage, and

outdoor area. The residence was constructed in 1932, and has retained its overall spatial organization since then.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Open area bounded by fence
Feature Identification Number: 119142
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Superintendent's House Landscaping
Feature Identification Number: 120010
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Topography

Topographic contours shown on the site plan reveal the area to be moderately rolling terrain. Valley streams of Rock Creek and Travertine Creek border the northwest and northeast edge of the Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands landscape. These low lying floodplain terraces are the dividing element from the more heavily used and designed park setting to the less utilized, more naturalized uplands.

Elevations vary from 920 at Rock Creek to 970 feet near the Cold Springs Campground entry at Travertine Creek to the peak of Mount Airy at an elevation of 1047 feet. The park's perimeter road swings around the lower elevations of Mount Airy, which is the second highest point in the eastern section of the Platt District. The hillside knoll where the Superintendent's residence is located is slightly higher, at elevation 1050 feet. Due west of the residence, tucked into a steep hillside draw in the Buffalo Pasture is an earthen dam with an elevation of 944.5 feet.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Rolling; northwest-facing slopes
Feature Identification Number: 119140
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Top of Hill (Supt. Res.)
Feature Identification Number: 120012
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View of Buffalo Pasture from townsite overlook, looking northeast, showing rolling terrain, date unknown.

(CHIC archive neg. Veg.-969)

Vegetation

The Buffalo Pasture and the Prairie Uplands (minimally identified on the study map by Dale by the number 10) is predominantly native and undisturbed along the valley streams and rehabilitated along the Upland Prairie. The area presents a mixture of open mixed grasslands and a xeric oak savanna community. Its historic species composition in 1937 is shown in the 1937 Vegetation Map, which is a digitized version (GIS) of the original map made at this time. The Dale Map is available in the 2002 Iowa State CLI hardcopy, or in CNRA park files.

The native overstory species for the area cited by Dale are those of the post oak-winged elm type and include *Quercus stellata*, *Quercus texana*, *Ulmus alata*, and *Fraxinus texensis*. Understory species include *Ulmus alata*, *Fraxinus texensis* and *Quercus texana*. Shrub layers are a mixture of *Aster drummondii*, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, *Smilax bona-nox*, *Helianthus hirsutus*, and *Cornus drummondii*.

Reforestation efforts also occurred in this area of the Platt District and the effects of these plantings are evident today. In particular, red cedar is prevalent along the portion of Cliffside Trail that skirts the Buffalo Pasture. These trees are likely the trees and the offspring of trees set out by the CCC in this area in 1934. The plantations of some Eastern red cedar in the upland prairie in the 1930s has, in fact, created a management concern for the park. Eastern red cedar is very invasive when unchecked and can contribute to fuel loading in forests during droughty conditions. In addition, the dense, enclosing vegetation of the red cedar changes the appearance of the landscape from the way it was during the period of significance. The dense nature of both evergreen and deciduous woody vegetation has further been encouraged by the

suppression of fire within the entire Platt District and within the Upland Prairie area. In the 1950s in particular, fires were extinguished as quickly as possible, a management technique which encouraged the growth of woody plants. As a result, the Upland Prairie landscape today is much less open and more enclosed than it was during the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Open prairie

Feature Identification Number: 119146

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Foundation & Ornamental Plantings (Supt)

Feature Identification Number: 120014

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



View of Buffalo Pasture from Town Overlook, showing scattered upland trees within open grassland, date unknown.

(CHIC archive neg. Veg.-1004 Trees)



*View within Buffalo Pasture, showing tree-lined edge of wooded ravine, date unknown.
(CHIC archive neg. Veg.-1004 Trees)*



View looking north, with Buffalo Pasture to the left and Administration area at top of ridge to the left, circa 1935.

*Note absolutely open quality of landscape.
(CHIC archive neg. rd.12)*

Views and Vistas

Views and vistas within this landscape were, and in some places, continue to be striking. Particularly important in the original design were views from the landscape's trails and the park's perimeter road.

Some of these views are still maintained today. For example, at the Townsite Overlook, the vistas overlooking the Buffalo Pasture are striking, as the rolling landscape of the Platt District extends for miles nearly in every direction. Other viewing "windows" along the Perimeter Road offer park visitors glimpses of the rolling hills and geologic features of the Upland Prairie. However, cedar trees that have grown up along the edges of both the perimeter road, Highway 177, and along trails now block views through and to the landscape. This condition has been enhanced by fire suppression in the park. Particularly striking is the fact that open views to the east across the former golf course and to the west across the Buffalo Pasture are practically non-existent today, because of woody vegetation, both deciduous and evergreen that has covered large open areas and draws. This woody vegetation condition is a strong contrast to the open prairie conditions that existed at the end of the period of significance.

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/12/2007

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:	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Invasive plant species have the potential to invade open areas. Monitoring and plant removal will remedy the potential impact.
Type of Impact:	Exposure To Elements
External or Internal:	Both Internal and External
Impact Description:	Exposure to weather will cause structural deterioration overtime, if unchecked. Routine maintenance should remedy the potential impact.
Type of Impact:	Impending Development
External or Internal:	External
Impact Description:	Widening of Highway #177.
Type of Impact:	Neglect
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Description:	Small scale features, such as culverts along the footpaths/trails require regular maintenance, which should remedy the potential impact.
Type of Impact:	Release To Succession
External or Internal:	External

Impact Description: Eastern Red Cedar.

Type of Impact: Erosion

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Water runoff along the footpaths results in erosion of the paths.
Routine maintenance should remedy the potential impact.

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

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 01/01/2004

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography

- Citation Author:** Antle, H.R.
Citation Title: 1942 Archaeological Remains in Platt National Park
Year of Publication: 1942
Citation Publisher: Society of American Archaeology
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** Boeger, Palmer H.
Citation Title: Oklahoma Oasis: From Platt National Park to Chickasaw National Recreation Area.
Year of Publication: 1987
Citation Publisher: Western Heritage Books
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** Brown, Opal Hartsell and Richard Garrity
Citation Title: City of Many Facets
Year of Publication: 1981
Citation Publisher: Western Heritage Books
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** Carter, Ray S. and Fred E. Leake
Citation Title: "Roosevelt's Tree Army: A Brief History of the Civilian Corps."
Year of Publication: 1987
Citation Publisher: National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** Debo, Angie
Citation Title: And Still the Waters Run
Year of Publication: 1966
Citation Publisher: Gordian Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author:	Gibson, Arrell Morgan
Citation Title:	Oklahoma A History of Five Centuries.
Year of Publication:	1965
Citation Publisher:	University of Oklahoma Press
Source Name:	Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Author:	Harrison, Laura Soulliere
Citation Title:	The Conservation Corps in Oklahoma
Year of Publication:	1986
Citation Publisher:	Thesis Oklahoma State Universite
Source Name:	Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Author:	Holland, Reid A
Citation Title:	Architecture in the Park: National Historic Landmark Theme Study
Year of Publication:	1986
Citation Publisher:	U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service
Source Name:	Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Author:	Hunt, C.B.
Citation Title:	Natural Regions of the United States
Year of Publication:	1974
Citation Publisher:	W.H. Freeman
Source Name:	Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
Citation Author:	Josephy, Alvin M., Jr., ed
Citation Title:	The American Heritage Book of Indians
Year of Publication:	1961
Citation Publisher:	American Heritage Publishing
Source Name:	Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

- Citation Author:** Joyce, Davis D.,ed
Citation Title: An Oklahoma I Had Never Before Seen
Year of Publication: 1994
Citation Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** Makowski, Ellen Huening
Citation Title: Scenic Parks and Landscape Values
Year of Publication: 1990
Citation Publisher: Garland Publishing, Inc
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** McClelland, Linda Flint
Citation Title: Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service
Year of Publication: 1993
Citation Publisher: National Park Service
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** McNeeley, Jeffrey A. and Kenton R. Miller, ed.
Citation Title: National Parks, Conservation and Development: The Role of Protected Areas in Sustaining Society
Year of Publication: 1982
Citation Publisher: Smithsonian Institution Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal
- Citation Author:** McReynolds, Edwin C.
Citation Title: Oklahoma-The Story of its Past and Present
Year of Publication: 1968
Citation Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Morgan, Anne Hedges and H. Wayne Morgan, eds
Citation Title: Oklahoma: New Views of the Forty-Sixth State
Year of Publication: 1982
Citation Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Morris, John, Charles R. Goins and Edwin C. McReynolds
Citation Title: Historic Atlas of Oklahoma
Year of Publication: 1986
Citation Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Schmeckebier, Laurence F.
Citation Title: Its History, Activities and Organization
Year of Publication: 1927
Citation Publisher: The Johns Hopkins Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Strickland, Rennard
Citation Title: The Indians in Oklahoma
Year of Publication: 1980
Citation Publisher: University of Oklahoma Press
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Trewartha, G. T.
Citation Title: An Introduction to Climate
Year of Publication: 1968
Citation Publisher: McGraw-Hill
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: SCS
Citation Title: Soil Survey of Murry County, OK
Year of Publication: 1984
Citation Publisher: United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Weir, L.H.ed
Citation Title: Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks
Year of Publication: 1928
Citation Publisher: A.S. Barnes and Company
Source Name: Library of Congress/Dewey Decimal

Citation Author: Branch, William E.
Citation Title: Letter to the Director, NPS, May 1930-June 15, 1934
Year of Publication: 1934
Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Greene, A.R.
Citation Title: Letter from A.R. Greene, Superintendent, to the Secretary of the Interior (November 7, 1908)
Year of Publication: 1908
Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Platt National Park Development Outline, 1-1-1940
Year of Publication: 1940
Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Platt National Park Development Outline, 1942
Year of Publication: 1942
Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service

Citation Title: Master Plan

Year of Publication: 1970

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service

Citation Title: Resources Management Plan for Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Year of Publication: 1992

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service

Citation Title: Land Protection Plan, Chickasaw National Recreation

Year of Publication: 1974

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service

Citation Title: General Management Plan/ Development Concept Plan:
Environmental Assessment

Year of Publication: 1994

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Dale, Edward E., Jr.

Citation Title: Checklist of Trees in Platt National Park

Year of Publication: 1965

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service

Citation Title: Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes

Source Name: Other

Citation Author:	Wilson, James E.
Citation Title:	Letter from James E. Wilson, Acting Secretary of the Interior to A.R. Greene, Superintendent of Platt National
Year of Publication:	1988
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	National Park Service
Citation Title:	Cultural Resource Management, NPS-28, Draft 4
Year of Publication:	1993
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	National Park Service
Citation Title:	Management Policies, NPS
Year of Publication:	1998
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	Martin, George C.
Citation Title:	Martin, George C., letter to Supt. William E. Branch (July 20, 1937)
Source Name:	Other
Citation Title:	General Survey Report No.5, Oklahoma River Basin Survey Project
Source Name:	Other
Citation Author:	National Park Service
Citation Title:	Road Trail and Developed Area Plan-Part of the Master plan for Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 3025-J
Year of Publication:	1940
Source Name:	Other
Citation Type:	Graphic
Citation Location:	Park Archives

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Utilities Layout-Part of General Plan for Platt National Park
Drawing No.PLA-
Year of Publication: 1931
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: Park Archives

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Base Map/Boundary Traverse and Triangulation System-Platt
National Park Drawing No.PLA-5051
Year of Publication: 1937
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: Park Archives

Citation Author: National Park Service
Citation Title: Vegetation Type Map-Part of the Master Plan for Platt National
Park Drawing No.PLA
Year of Publication: 1939
Source Name: Other
Citation Type: Graphic
Citation Location: Park Archives

Supplemental Information

Title: Cultural Landscapes Inventory of Platt District (Katherine Sallee), 1997 (NPS).
Description: Document located in IMR Cultural Landscapes Program files.