National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name  Lincoln City Park

Other names/site number  KHRI # 105-146

Name of related Multiple Property Listing  New Deal Era Resources in Kansas

2. Location

Street & number  500-700 blocks of E. Lincoln Avenue

City or town  Lincoln

State  Kansas  Code  KS  County  Lincoln  Code  105  Zip code  67455

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _X_ local  
Applicable National Register Criteria: _X_ A ___ B _X_ C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title  Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO  
Date

Kansas State Historical Society  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official  
Date

Title  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register  
_____ determined eligible for the National Register

_____ determined not eligible for the National Register  
_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action
5. Classification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply.)</td>
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<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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6. Function or Use

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<td>SOCIAL: Clubhouse</td>
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7. Description

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<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER: Vernacular and Rustic</td>
<td>foundation: Stone, Concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival (Scout Cabin)</td>
<td>walls: Stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof: Asbestos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other:</td>
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</table>
Lincoln City Park

Narrative Description

Summary
The Lincoln City Park is located at the east edge of town on E. Lincoln Avenue just west of its intersection with KS Highway 18 and approximately three-quarters of a mile east of the heart of downtown. The park was constructed during the Depression with assistance from the federal works program National Youth Association (NYA). Development began in 1937 immediately east of the Municipal Water and Electric Plant that had been built in 1906. Trees were planted on the site that would become the park after the water plant was established.

The public green space is characterized by its natural setting with mature trees and a creek running diagonally through the site. A cluster of New Deal-era buildings and features distinguish the park. Designed by NYA Architect Frank Seitz of Ellsworth, the park facilities were constructed by local boys \(^1\) of sandstone and limestone donated by area farmers and ranchers. Primary contributing resources include a bandstand, scout cabin, shelter house, and restroom building. Secondary contributing features include stone picnic tables and benches, Dutch ovens/fireplaces, a pergola, and a fish pond now used as a sandbox. Some original playground equipment is extant, including a teeter-totter, merry-go-rounds, spring animals, a slide and swing set contributing to the significance of the site.

One contributing resource pre-dates the formation of the park. A small round brick well house with conical roof remains as the sole representative of Lincoln’s 1906 Municipal Water and Electric Plant (the stone building was demolished in 2019). The boundary for park district encompasses the concentration of New Deal-era stone resources, a 4.5 acre site of the west portion of the park, and water plant parcels (Figure 1). The historic and architectural integrity of the New Deal Era-resources in Lincoln’s City Park are high, with little to no modification of individual structures. Although the park itself has evolved and expanded with the addition of a new playground, swimming pool and ball diamond, this collection of recreational resources clearly conveys its historic associations with the New Deal works programs as well as the original design of the primary resources that were built by local youth through the NYA.

Elaboration
Lincoln City Park was developed in 1937 on a site immediately east of the city limits on K-18 (E. Lincoln Avenue) that ran through the central business district. \(^2\) Located on the north side of East Lincoln Avenue, the park is a 19-acre green space with Yauger creek running diagonally through the site and a hanging pedestrian bridge. Bridges across the creek were built when the park was established and have been replaced on multiple occasions. The existing foundation may be original, but the bridge itself post-dates the period of significance. Mature deciduous trees shade a grass lawn and there are numerous buildings, features and facilities in the park. The diagram in Figure 1 identifies the nominated boundary and primary and secondary park resources.

Aside from its general character as an organic green space with mature trees and the irregular layout of buildings, the predominant character-defining feature of the park is the native stone resources that combined local sandstone with limestone to create rustic style park facilities. The early stone features were constructed 1937-1940 through the National Youth Association (NYA), a New Deal-era works program that provided training and work for local youth. Primary features include three buildings: the restroom building, scout cabin, and a small picnic shelter building and three structures: a well house, bandstand and pergola. Secondary stone features include fireplaces/Dutch ovens, picnic tables and benches, and a sandbox that was originally the fish pond. Raised flower beds and the flagpole base are later stone features that complement the original NYA resources.

The park historic district spans portions of two parcels on the north side of E. Lincoln Avenue. Accessed at the west end of East Lincoln Avenue, an outer ring road creates a loop around the park with no vehicular access inside the loop (east parcel) except parking at the pool house in the southeast corner. Located west of the drive (west parcel) is the old Municipal Water Plant site where an unpaved drive runs along the south boundary and then angles northeast to connect with the main park drive northeast of the bandstand. Three primary contributing structures are in place west of the park entrance, including the bandstand (NYA 1940), a small restroom building (NYA 1938), and a brick well house, the only remnant of the 1906 Municipal Water and Electric Plant (the stone building was demolished in 2019). A metal shop building (non-contributing) is located west of the drive, used for park maintenance.

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\(^1\) Supervised by Harry Bergman, NYA appointed construction foreman and master craftsman to train the youth in masonry construction.

\(^2\) Kansas Highway 18 (formerly the Blue Line/north branch off the Golden Belt Highway) was designated in 1927 entered town on the east and ran along Lincoln Avenue through the business district then turned north exiting town on the northwest. The highway was rerouted in the late 1950s bypassing downtown to the northeast (Figure 3).
The park district boundary includes about one-third of the park (4.5 acres) where the original stone features are clustered (Figure 2). Primary contributing buildings on the east parcel include the scout cabin (NYA 1939) and a stone picnic shelter (NYA ca.1938). There are numerous stone tables with bench seats in varying sizes, a stone pergola, and Dutch ovens/fireplaces. Also dating to the original park development, early playground equipment including a merry-go-round, animals on springs, a teeter-totter, slide and swing set, remain in the park and contribute to its historic context.

A modern playground was added in ca. 1990. The park also contains Frisbee golf stations, tennis courts, and open recreational space. At the east end of the park, there is a ca. 1958 swimming pool and concrete block pool house as well as a 1962 ball diamond on a separate parcel northeast of the park. The contemporary playground, swimming pool, pool house, and ball field are located east of the nominated boundary.

Figure 1 – Diagram of the Park Historic District Boundary with primary resources numbered

Park Resources

1) Park Site – with secondary stone features and early playground equipment. – 1937-1940 – Contributing Site

The overall park site is described above. It is a natural setting with a grass lawn, mature trees and a creek running diagonally through the park from northwest to southeast. The park is accessed by a drive off E. Lincoln Avenue with an outer loop road around the east section and a triangular loop through the west portion with limited vehicular access. The organic site and irregular layout of park facilities are a defining feature of the site. The secondary stone features including picnic tables and Dutch ovens as well as the original playground equipment are contributing features to the site.

3 In 1939 the City leased five acres northeast of the park for putting in a baseball field (Lincoln Sentinel-Republican, 4 May 1939, 1).
2) Well House – remaining resource of Municipal Water Plant, ca.1906 – Contributing Structure
Located at the southwest corner of the old Municipal Water Plant, one of three well houses remains as the only representative of the city's water and electric plant constructed in 1906. The main plant building was demolished in 2019. The remaining structure is a small round brick well house with a segmented hexagonal roof that has composition shingles. The well house has a single door on the north and three window openings around the perimeter.

3) Restroom Building – NYA 1938 – Contributing Building
This public restroom is among the first NYA resources built at the new park. A plaque on the building is dated 1937, but the building was completed in late 1938. The building housing public restrooms was constructed of random coursed fieldstone in triangular and irregular shapes with a projecting rope mortar joint. The small rectangular building is uniquely configured with a flat roof with stone corners raised above the facade. A band of red sandstone is located near the top of the wall defining a short parapet that hides the flat roof. The men's and women's restrooms are entered through single doors on the north and south respectively. There are two windows on the west side that have been boarded for security.

4) Bandstand – NYA 1940 – Contributing Structure
Like other primary resources in the city park, the bandstand was built by the National Youth Association and completed in May 1940. The local Municipal Band used the bandstand for summer concerts and invited area bands to perform. Built of native sandstone by NYA, the bandstand is a concave curved form with a solid wall on the rear/west. The north and south end walls have a stone coping that steps down from west to east. There are two tiers of bench seats constructed of stone with a continuous concrete cap. The front/east side of the bandstand is well articulated with a central stair and curved wall that comes out to a squared seating area at each end. The front steps and wall have a stone coping like the rest of the structure.

5) Scout Cabin – NYA 1939 – Contributing Building
A sketch of the cabin, designed by NYA Architect John Seitz, was revealed in August 1938 and construction began by the end of the year. Centrally located at the north side of the park, the cabin was built by NYA workers of sandstone and limestone donated by area farmers and features Tudor Revival detailing. It is an L-shaped footprint with an intersecting gable roof. Native limestone quoining contrasts with the red sandstone at each corner of the building. The interior is open air with a fireplace on the east end. A square stone chimney rises above the roofline. A single door in the gabled bay on the east half of the south facade has an arched limestone surround. Paired 1/1 double hung wood windows with aluminum storms are located east of the front entrance and on the west half of the front facade. A pair of windows are centrally located on the west facade and single windows are located on each side of a projecting rear bay on the north/rear facade. A smaller double hung window is located on each side of the central chimney on the east facade. The cabin was completed and dedicated in May 1939.

6) Shelter House – NYA ca. 1938 – Contributing Building
The shelter house is located southeast of the scout cabin, constructed of sandstone with limestone accents. It is a small rectangular structure with front-facing gable roof that features wide eaves with exposed rafter tails. The structure is open air with a concrete slab floor and exposed ceiling joists. Stone columns at each corner frame the shelter house with a short knee-wall spanning the east and west sides and framing a center opening on the front/south side. The north wall is solid stone with a project square stone chimney rising above the gable peak.

7) Pergola – ca.1938 – Contributing Structure
The pergola is one of the earliest mentioned park structures, sponsored by the Lions Club to provide shade over a drinking fountain. It is located east of the main park entrance and constructed of the sandstone that characterizes the original park facilities. The open-air pergola has massive tapered columns of red sandstone with short knee-walls on the east and west sides and a flat wood canopy overhead. The fountain was removed at an unknown date.

8) Maintenance Shed – ca.1990 – Non-Contributing Building
As noted above and seen in the photos, the old Municipal Water Plant is in the process of demolition at the writing of this nomination (2019). In recent years, the roof on the stone building collapsed, destroying one wall. At the northeast corner of the old plant building is a contemporary metal building used as the park maintenance shed. The one-story building has a gabled roof with metal siding and a metal roof. An overhead garage door is in place on the east/front facade and two man doors are located on the north facade.

9) Contemporary Picnic Shelter – 1998 – Non-Contributing Structure
Located south of the scout cabin and west of the stone shelter house is a contemporary picnic shelter with a concrete pad. It is an open steel-frame canopy with a shallow gable roof built in 1998.
Lincoln City Park
Lincoln Co., Kansas

Name of Property
County and State

10) Telephone/Utility Building – ca.1980 – Non-Contributing Building
Centrally located on the south side of the park is a small utility building. The rectangular structure has a concrete foundation and brick facade with a flat roof with metal fascia extending beyond the walls of the building. Two metal skylights project above the roofline and a ventilator are located on the east facade. The only opening is a single metal slab door located on the south side of the building.

Summary list of Primary Park Resources

<table>
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<th>#</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Type of Resource</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dutch Ovens/fireplaces</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stone picnic tables with stone benches</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Original fish pond, now a sandbox</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Early playground equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contemporary equipment: picnic tables, grills, frisbee golf, etc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Contemporary stone features: flagpole base, flower beds, etc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Well House</td>
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<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Restroom Building</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Bandstand</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>1940</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Scout Cabin</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>1939</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Small Shelter House</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Pergola</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>1938</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Telephone/Utility Building</td>
<td>Building</td>
<td>ca.1980</td>
<td>Non-Contributing</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Maintenance Shed</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Steel Canopy Picnic Shelter</td>
<td>Structure</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Non-Contributing</td>
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</table>

Some of the non-contributing structures are located in the district among the concentration of original park features in the west part of the park. Non-contributing park resources include the maintenance shop, a steel picnic shelter, the small brick utility/telephone building, and later resources, including the swimming pool and pool house (1958), ball diamond (1962), replacement tennis court, and new playground (1990s). The east portion of the park is primarily comprised of contemporary construction that is clearly distinct from the earlier stone resources and, therefore, not included in the nominated district.
8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

Politics/Government

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1937-1940

Significant Dates

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

John Seitz, Architect (cabin and bandstand)

National Youth Association, builders

Harry Bergman, NYA Construction Supervisor

Period of Significance (justification)
The period of significance for the Lincoln City Park is 1937 – 1940, the period in which the park was developed and the character-defining stone resources were built by the National Youth Association.

Criteria Considerations (justification)
None
Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary
The Lincoln City Park Historic District, Lincoln County, Kansas is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF) New Deal-era Resources in Kansas. The park was developed 1937-1940 in Lincoln with the cooperation of the National Youth Administration (NYA), a depression-era federal assistance program designed to aid the nation’s youth. Over thirty local youth participated in construction of the park through Lincoln County’s NYA program that offered part-time work and valuable construction training.

The park is significant under National Register Criteria A in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation and Politics/Government for its association with the New Deal program - the National Youth Administration. Construction of the park provided a much-desired recreation area for Lincoln County citizens. The resources in Lincoln’s City Park are excellent representatives of the Social and Recreational Facilities Property Type made possible by New Deal-era programs. The park meets the general registration requirement identified in the MPDF that eligible resources must have been constructed with New Deal funds and/or labor and reflects the general characteristics of the property type.

Lincoln City Park Historic District is also significant under Criteria C – Architecture as an excellent representative of rustic park facilities characterized by its construction from native limestone and sandstone. The resources in the park retain the physical characteristics that convey the New Deal legacy and clearly portray their original design and construction. Primary resources including the scout cabin, restrooms, shelter house, and bandstand, as well as secondary features like the stone picnic tables, Dutch ovens and pergola all retain a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The period of significance is the span of original construction: 1937-1940.

Elaboration
History of Lincoln
The City of Lincoln was platted in early 1871 on one hundred and sixty acres lying on the north bank of the Saline River. One year later, Lincoln became the county seat. On September 23, 1879, elections were held and the city of Lincoln was formed as a city of the third class. By 1880 the county’s population had risen to 8,582. At the center of growth, Lincoln matured from a town of 250 residents in 1878 to a city just shy of 2,000 in 1886. When the Union Pacific Railroad reached Lincoln two years later, the town’s population doubled.

As the new century dawned, Lincoln was a bustling small city with good schools, a college, and seven churches. In the fall of 1905, Lincoln citizens passed a bond to fund a water plant and an electric light plant; in less than a year, Lincoln’s streets had electric lights. Originally housed together in one building, the electrical plant was moved by the late 1930s. In 1911, three round wells on the site east of the city were filtering Lincoln’s water.

In January 1906, a Topeka State Journal article called Lincoln “one of the pleasantest towns located anywhere with as many businesses as Salina and could more than match them in quality.” The story detailed the “rows of well-constructed stone buildings and thriving businesses gave the town a feeling of permanence.” A 1911 Lincoln Sentinel editorial argued that the city still had certain needs in order to prosper. In addition to better roads and a commercial club, the newspaper argued, the city needed a park. In order to begin the process, the article explained, young trees should be planted to give sufficient shade for future generations. This may have been done by progressive planners who continued to encourage

11 The Lincoln Sentinel. 5 Oct 1911, 1.
development of park. For several years newspaper editors would rally for a park, citing other small Kansas cities such as Wamego and Marion that had built lovely municipal parks for their citizens. Lincoln residents had to wait twenty-six years for their dream to materialize. By the mid-1930s thoughts turned to action.

National Youth Administration and New Deal-era Resources in Kansas
The crash of 1929 and the ensuing Depression hit Lincoln County hard. As prices for agricultural commodities fell, the economic calamity was compounded with the worst drought on record in 1934, dust storms beginning in 1935 followed by floods and grasshopper invasions in 1936 and 1937. By the end of the 1930s, one in six families in the county was receiving government aid. The New Deal Works Progress Administration (WPA) would put many people to work on projects in their hometown, including the construction of the city and county jails, and cement walks in residential and business neighborhoods. Each week it was noted in the paper how many local residents were working for WPA.

In February 1937, the Lincoln Sentinel-Republican reported that the City had hired an architect to draw up plans for the new park. A nineteen-acre plot east of the water plant had been selected. Lions Club members sponsored a petition to show local support. To fund the project, Lincoln turned to the federal government. Although the City explored WPA funding in 1937, they secured assistance through the National Youth Administration (NYA) in January 1938 and work began at the park.

The National Youth Association program required that the community pay part of the costs while the federal dollars would provide materials and pay local workers to build the park. City and county budgets were stretched, and mill levies had been lowered. In Lincoln, funding for the park was raised by civic groups including the Lions Club, the Business and Professional Women’s Association (BPWA), the American Legion, and the Girl and Boy Scout organizations.

The National Register MPDF New Deal-era Resources in Kansas provides a summary of the New Deal programs and their workings in Kansas. Established by Executive Order #7086 in 1935, the National Youth Administration (NYA) operated as part of the WPA until 1939, under the Federal Security Agency until 1942, officially ending in 1943. Eleanor Roosevelt championed the program by visiting NYA centers across the U.S., including a stop in Kansas in November 1936. The NYA was one of the many New Deal programs designed to address the dearth of education and job opportunities for youth; specifically engaging young people in the gap between leaving school and finding a job who were too young for other government programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps.

In 1937 youth between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four made up one-sixth of the American population; providing this group with skills training and work opportunities was the primary goal of the NYA. Students were tasked with the construction of buildings, roads, recreation and conservation facilities, as well as in projects including research, secretarial, sewing, and youth activities. Those who qualified --only about 155,000 nationwide, were paid $10-$25 per month.

Like other New Deal programs, the NYA impacted the built environment of America and Kansas. As noted in New Deal-era Resources in Kansas MPDF facilities constructed through the relief programs were generally constructed in a manner that was more labor-intensive than might otherwise be typical. The MPDF also noted that it was common during this era for recreational and park buildings in particular, to express elements of rustic architecture appropriate to their natural context. The style is vernacular, using local materials and labor, but the built-resources in Lincoln’s park share a common rustic character due in large part to the native stone construction and the informal, organic layout of the built

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12 The Lincoln Sentinel. 2 Jul 1925, 2.
13 Homan, 216.
15 The architect has not been identified or the original plans located.
16 Lincoln Sentinel Republican. 3 March 1937.
17 Lincoln Sentinel Republican. 20 Jan 1938.
19 Elizabeth Rosin, New Deal-era Resources in Kansas Multiple Property Nomination, 2002.
22 Ibid, 6.
24 Rosin, 22-23.
25 Rosin, 31-33.
resources. The style of the park and its built resources may have been influenced by National Park Service bulletins entitled Park and Recreational Structures published in three volumes 1935-1938. The publications illustrate the rustic park architecture that was popularized through New Deal programs.

In addition to some men in town, at least thirty local boys were paid to work constructing the park by the NYA. The NYA, unlike other programs, included girls. Despite this inclusive policy, there is no indication that girls were involved in the Lincoln park projects except as users of the Scout Cabin that was built by NYA in 1939 and to be shared between the Girl and Boy Scouts.

The Lincoln City Park Historic District is eligible for listing as a representative of the Social and Recreational Facilities Property Type under the New Deal-era Resources of Kansas Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF). In addition to reflecting the rustic design common to New Deal-era recreational resources, the park conveys how the local government, with the help of federal programs, developed a long-sought-after public park while providing work for local residents during a time of scarcity and sacrifice.

Lincoln Gets a Park
Created in the late 1930s, the City Park offered free recreational opportunities to residents after years of financial strain. The park provided a setting for picnicking and outdoor recreation, including musical and theatrical productions, as well as tennis and croquet. The Chamber of Commerce along with the Lions Club and BPWA hosted a picnic in August 1938, the first such event in the new park. Buildings were not yet constructed. The park is not shown on the 1937 Sanborn Map; the site was located just outside the city limits (Figures 3 and 4).

The two-year city park project began construction in 1937, picking up steam in 1938. The workers used county grading machines to straighten and deepen the Yauger Creek bed to prevent future flooding and fifteen large Chinese Elm trees were planted to secure the new landscape. Two foot bridges were built and a ford for automobiles was made at the north end of the park. The BPWA had donated a table and bench for the park the previous year and the Lions Club announced plans to construct a pergola and drinking fountain near the park entrance; the pergola remains today. The City had been installing concrete sidewalks through WPA and the fieldstones from the former sidewalks were salvaged and used for walks in the park. The Quartzite Company provided chat and other rock materials for construction.

Initial plans for the park called for four fireplaces and Dutch ovens made of native stone, as well as stone picnic tables and benches. Playground equipment including swings, a teeter-totter and slides were among the first installed. Croquet grounds were established as well as tennis courts with concrete flooring. Initially, the city desired a swimming pool, but not enough funding or sufficient water supply was available so the idea was shelved. The NYA youth built restrooms, a scout cabin, shelter house, and a bandstand. Stone for the park facilities was donated by local farmers and ranchers including Emil Oppliger, Henry Meili, D.B. Marshall, and Joe Healy.

The Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, and BPA held the first community picnic at the park in August 1938 drawing over 150 local residents. The stone picnic tables and benches and the fish pond had been completed by that time. A program featured NYA District Supervisor, Horace Santry of Salina who shared plans for the park development. Although a frame cabin had been moved to the park for use by the local scout troops, park plans were expanded to include the construction of a new stone cabin through the NYA program. Work began on the cabin in December 1938. The cabin was to be built by NYA labor at a total cost of $2500, of which $250-300 was raised by local organizations including the American Legion and Lions Club. Plans were drawn by NYA Architect, John Seitz of Ellsworth. Harry Bergman was employed by NYA as construction foreman and the master workman to instruct the boys in masonry construction.

26 “Secure NYA Help for Lincoln Park.” Lincoln Sentinel-Republican. 6 Jan 1938, 1.
27 The plaque on the restroom building is dated 1937 but the program at the August 1938 picnic listed restrooms as one of the items planned. The restroom building was completed in December 1938 according a local newspaper article.
28 The existing hanging bridge is not one of the original footbridges although the existing bridge may have been built on the foundation of one of the original foot bridges. Accounts of flooding of Yauger Creek included damage to bridges suggesting they have been replaced on multiple occasions. The existing hanging bridge is not a primary historic feature; it post dates the period of significance for the district.
29 “Secure NYA Help for Lincoln Park.” Lincoln Sentinel-Republican. 6 Jan 1938, 1.
30 “Secure NYA Help for Lincoln Park.” Lincoln Sentinel-Republican. 6 Jan 1938, 1.
32 Wallace, 293 and “Merchants Picnic was Huge Success.” Lincoln Sentinel-Republican. 4 Aug 1938, 1.
By the end of 1938, NYA had completed the restroom building, fireplaces, and tables with benches in addition to the widening of the creek bed. The scout cabin was completed and dedicated on May 21, 1939 with local Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops participating (Figure 5).

The final NYA-built structure was the bandstand, completed in May 1940. The Municipal Band formerly played in the high school auditorium and occasionally on the street downtown. In the summer of 1939, they held their first of nine Tuesday evening summer concerts in the new park with the band set up on the concrete cover of the city water tank. In December 1939, the City announced the new project – construction of a bandstand through NYA. NYA Architect John Seitz designed the bandstand, like the scout cabin with construction by NYA boys supervised by Harry Bergman.34

The park was an immediate and sustained civic success, offering entertainment for all. During the early years, concerts were held on the bandstand each Tuesday evening through the summer months. The Lincoln municipal band invited anyone interested to enroll, join in rehearsals, and play in the concerts in the park.

City officials and residents alike joined in the jubilation at the long-awaited arrival of a park that offered free recreational opportunities to residents after years of financial strain. A place would now exist for all to enjoy picnicking and outdoor recreation, including musical and theatrical productions, tennis and croquet. In later years other recreational structures were added including a swimming pool and concrete block pool house (1958), a ball diamond (1962), a steel-framed picnic shelter (1998), updated playground equipment (1990s), BBQ grills and Frisbee-golf stations. Since 2014, the park accommodates recreational vehicles to encourage traveling visitors.

A 1989 Lincoln County Comprehensive Plan noted a lasting atmosphere of civic obligation felt by the citizens of Lincoln. The creation and sustainment of Lincoln’s city park is a living monument to that civic pride. The park is maintained by the City and continues to serve local residents and visitors alike.

34 “OK Put on Design for Bandstand, Boys go to Work.” Lincoln County News. 14 December 1939, 1.
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography


Lincoln Carnegie Library. *Clipping Files.*

Lincoln County Historical Museum. Clipping files and photographs.

*Lincoln County News,* multiple dates.

Lincoln Sentinel (Sentinel Republican), multiple dates.


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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Name of repository:** Lincoln County Historical Museum

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  4.5

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:__________

1  39.041216  -98.140377  3  39.040289  -98.138351
Latitude:  Longitude:  Latitude:  Longitude:

2  39.040323  -98.140475  4  39.041223  -98.138252
Latitude:  Longitude:  Latitude:  Longitude:

See Figure 2 of map with Lat/Long points

Verbal Boundary Description
A 4.5 acre tract of land illustrated on the map in Figure 2 spanning portions of the following legal parcels:
1) 2.0 ACRES, LOTS 1 TO 4 BLOCK 1, GREEN ADDITION, CITY OF LINCOLN, LINCOLN COUNTY, KS; and
2) 16.5 ACRES, COMMENCING AT A POINT 1145’ S NE COR NE4 THEN W 1770'(S) THEN S 465’ THEN E 1770'(S)
THEN N 480’ (S) TO POB LESS ROAD R/W IN THE CITY PARK ADDITION, CITY OF LINCOLN, LINCOLN COUNTY,
KANSAS

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
The nominated boundary is a 4.5 acre section that spans two parcels of land owned by the City of Lincoln including the old
municipal water plant and city park. The district boundary includes the concentration of original New Deal-era resources
that were constructed at the time the park was established. Later features including a new playground, the swimming
pool, pool house, tennis courts and ball diamond are not included in the nominated boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Brenda and Michelle Spencer
organization  Spencer Preservation  date  7 October 2019
street & number  10150 Onaga Road  telephone  785-456-9857
city or town  Wamego  state  KS  zip code  66547
e-mail  brenda@spencerpreservation.com

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name  City of Lincoln, Attn: City Clerk
street & number  153 W. Lincoln Ave., PO Box 126  telephone  785-524-4280
city or town  Lincoln  state  KS  zip code  67455-0126

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate
properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a
benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing
instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of
this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
### Additional Documentation

**Photographs**

**Photograph Log**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Direction</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 of #19</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Looking east from SW corner of district with well house in foreground and old Municipal Water Plant building in process of demolition (Kelly Larson, photographer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 of #19</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Well House from NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 of #19</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Looking NE from SW corner of district with well house on right and restroom building and bandstand in distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 of #19</td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Maintenance Shed located at NE corner of former water plant building (Kelly Larson, photographer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 of #19</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Restroom Building</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 of #19</td>
<td>NW</td>
<td>Bandstand from main park drive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 of #19</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Bandstand looking down on seats and center steps (taken standing on bandstand)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 of #19</td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Bandstand, from north end</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 of #19</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Cluster of secondary features including sandbox (original fish pond), original teeter-totter, and non-original raised flower bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 of #19</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Looking E near central portion of district with original stone table and bench in foreground with hanging bridge over Yauger Creek in background</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 of #19</td>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Looking SE on north loop road with north and west facades of scout cabin (L) and non-historic picnic canopy (R)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 of #19</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>West and south/front facades of scout cabin, from SW corner of cabin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 of #19</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>West and south/front facade of shelter house looking NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 of #19</td>
<td>SW</td>
<td>Looking SW on north loop road near NE corner of district with shelter house, picnic canopy, and scout cabin in distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 of #19</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>Looking north from center of park district with picnic canopy, scout cabin and shelter house in distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 of #19</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Looking W along south/front edge of park with Utility/Telephone Building in distance and original merry-go-round slightly visible in foreground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 of #19</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Looking E along south/front edge of park with pergola and other secondary stone structures and Telephone/Utility Building in distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 of #19</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Pergola, Dutch oven/fireplace, and stone picnic table with benches east of main entrance at south edge of park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 of #19</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>National Youth Association plaque on restroom building</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lincoln City Park
Lincoln Co, Kansas

Name of Property
County and State

PHOTO KEY

LINCOLN CITY PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
SITE PLAN  524-702 E. LINCOLN AVE
Map at ORRA online—Open Records Kansas Appraisers
2013 911 Aerial Image
Lincoln City Park
Name of Property

Lincoln Co, Kansas
County and State

Figure 2 – Lincoln Downtown Historic District, Lincoln County, KS
Above: Context Map downloaded at Google Maps 2019
Below: District Map with Lat/Long Coordinates (Base Map from ORKA, downloaded 2018)
Lincoln City Park
Name of Property

Lincoln Co, Kansas
County and State

Figure 3 – 1932 Map of Kansas State Highway System (Kansas Department of Transportation website www.ksdot.org/burtransplan/maps/historicstate/maps.asp)

Figure 4 - Sanborn Fire Insurance Map - 1937 Map (final map for Lincoln)
Excerpt Sheet 3 showing Water Plant and adjacent site that would become City Park

Historic Views

Figure 5 – Girl Scouts in front on new Scout Cabin. Newspaper Photo, Lincoln County News 1 June 1939