Chapter 5:

Maintenance and Change, 1940–2003

BACKGROUND

Overall Park Development, 1940-2000

In March 1940, Company 808 of the CCC was reassigned to Rocky Mountain National Park, and the camp was closed by the end of June. The loss of the CCC camp sounded a death knell for the rapid pace of design and change that had occurred during the 1930s. It also severely reduced maintenance, for by the end of their tenure, the CCC crews were conducting what might have been considered park maintenance tasks, such as watering trees and cleaning campgrounds.[1] The last major planning effort of the pre-war era was the 1942 Master Plan, which was drawn up by Jerome Miller. Both Miller and Richey left the service shortly thereafter.[2]

The 1942 Master Plan provides a comprehensive, if general, statement of the existing conditions of the park and a few suggestions for development. These suggestions included a comprehensive signage plan, and minor additions and subtractions of campground or picnic area features. Little of this appears to have been accomplished, with the possible exception of the implementation of a comprehensive signage plan. By 1945, all old metal signs had been removed and replaced with carved wooden signs, including location and road and direction signs (Figure 5-1).[3]

In general, the 1940s and early 1950s were a period of reduced maintenance and funding, because of the federal government's financial and resource commitments to World War II. However, park usage remained relatively high. Throughout the decades, visitors were encouraged to come to the park by such events as the annual "Redbud Pilgrimage" in March during which visitors flocked to see the spring bloom.[4]

Figure 5-1. Typical low, wood directional signs on the northwest side of Buckhorn Road between Hillside Spring and the turn-off to the maintenance area, 1964.

In 1950, the first post-war Master Plan was proposed. Though it proposed changes within individual park areas, it retained the overall appearance, uses, and organization of the park. This was probably a good thing, as the park struggled to recapture maintenance conditions lost during the lean war years. When the park's second major flood occurred on May 12, 1953, Superintendent Perry Brown wrote that the flood occurred "at an unfortunate time, because the entire area from Black Sulphur to Bromide… had extensive maintenance work done on it the past two years, and we had just completed filling up all the badly eroded places and covered it with surplus Bermuda grass from road shoulders."[5] Other problems in the mid- to late 1950s included the wholesale replacement of about 150 picnic tables throughout the park and an elm bark beetle infestation that caused the death of many trees. [6, 7] On the positive side, an interpretation program was begun in 1956, following the transformation of the Bromide Community House into the Museum in the late 1940s. Interpretive goals would be a major force in planning during throughout the 1960s.

Mission 66 planning for the park was begun in the spring of 1955, as part of the service-wide directive to improve the National Park System in a decade-long development program. In July, Superintendent William Supernaugh drafted the park's prospectus for the program. In it, he identified six major problem areas for the park. These included State Highway 18 bisecting the park; a lack of

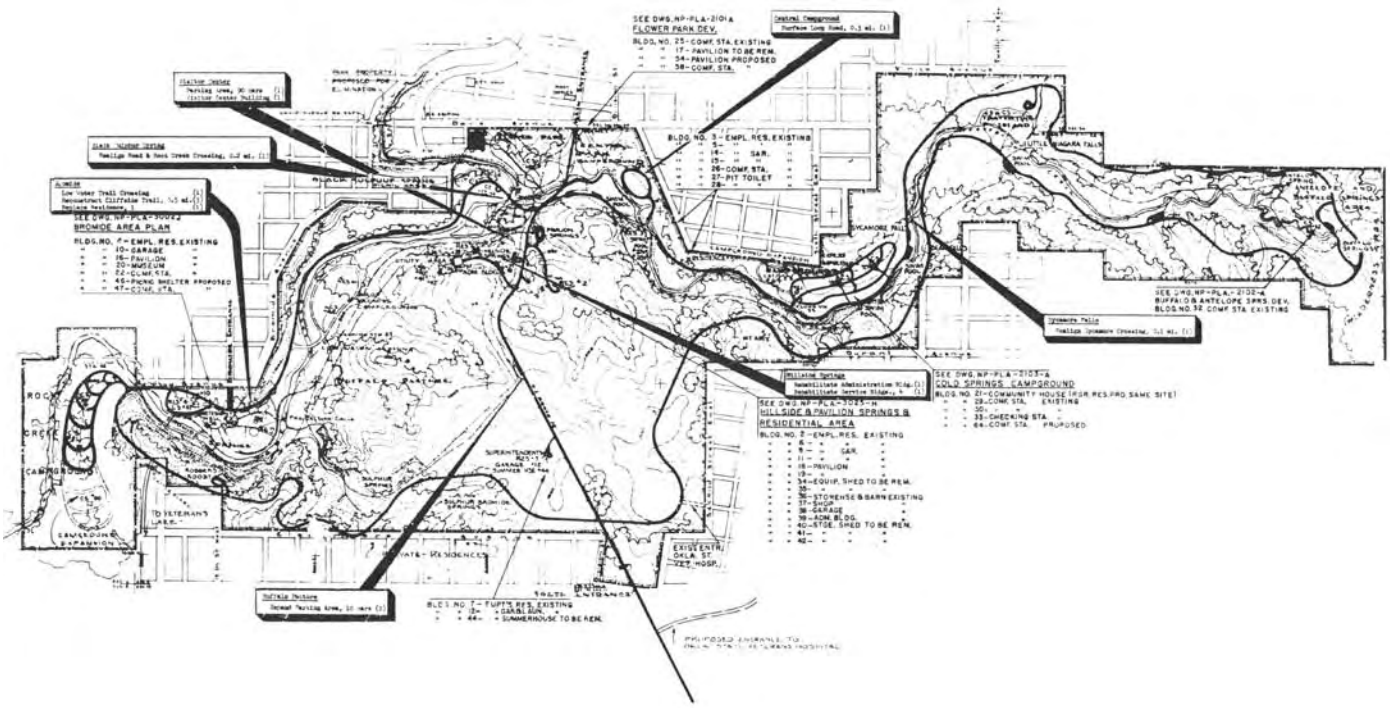

Figure 5-2. "Physical Improvements—Mission 66," 1958 Mission Master Plan, Drawing NP-PLA-3100.

comfort stations and parking for picnic areas; a lack of camping areas; inadequate facilities for interpretation; and the need for a tree preservation and hazard tree removal program. Other inadequacies that he cited were the park's poor water system, lack of a trash disposal area, and small ranger staff. His "wish list" for the park emphasized his desires for a new public use building, centralized in the park; an emphasis on geology in future interpretation; realignment of severely curved portions of the perimeter road; and new comfort stations.[8]

The prospectus was well-received in the regional office,[9] but in February 1956, Washington rejected it, notifying Platt of their decision "to not embark upon an expansion or construction program at Platt as part of the MISSION 66 program."[10] The reasons given were general:

> We must consider that every area is not susceptible of indefinite expansion and development….

They were also specific:

> In the case of Platt, no other area in the National Park System received such a complete "face-lifting" from the emergency work programs of the 1930's….A golf course was eliminated. Decadent spring houses and other public facilities were replaced. Roads were improved, and walls, fences, and gateways of good design and permanent materials were installed….

And they were also, to the citizens of Sulphur and the State of Oklahoma, frankly, heretical:

> [T]urning the area [Platt] over to the State of Oklahoma … should be the ultimate objective.[11]

Superintendent William Branch, who had returned to Platt not three months earlier, was outraged at what this meant for both the prospects of both the park and his own career.[12] He began a letter-writing campaign to senators and the regional office, to get Washington to reverse their decision, on the basis of Platt's high visitation (1,136,586 visitors in 1955) and need for new facilities.[13] By April, Washington relented, and Platt was folded back into the program. Platt's final prospectus included a new visitor center, rehabilitation of the administration building, new employee housing, and minor road realignments.

The first Mission 66 Master Plan, produced in 1958, reflected some of these ideas (Figure 5-2).[14] A new Visitor Center and associated ninety-car parking lot was proposed near the Administration Building. Road

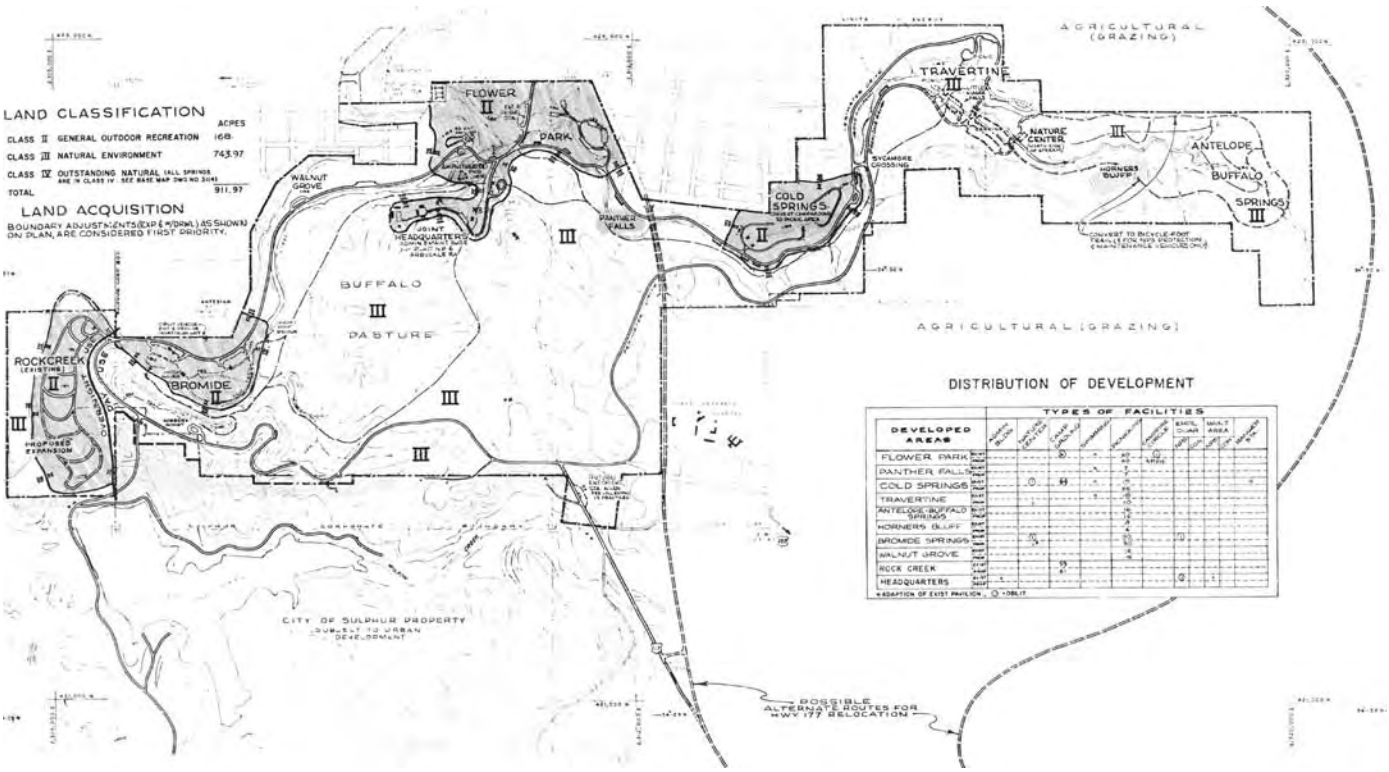

Figure 5-3. "General Development: Land Classification and Acquisition," 1965 Master Plan, Drawing NP-PLA 2100E.

realignments were proposed at the Sycamore Falls and Black Sulphur Springs Crossings, and additional parking was proposed at the Buffalo Pasture and along the roadside. Otherwise, the plan was similar to the earlier Master Plans, a more or less status quo proposal. The only thing unusual about the plan was a proposed new Bromide Campground, to be located along Rock Creek, opposite Walnut Grove. This was an odd idea, given that the Regional Office had told the park that the Mission 66 prospectus should have "no expansion of camping … not even under 'Major Improvements after 1966.'"[15] This campground was never implemented.

Almost no action was taken under the 1958 Mission 66 Master Plan. This may have been heel-dragging on the part of Washington, because of their continuing interest in transferring Platt to Oklahoma. Small things were taken care of. A sign inventory and plan was carried out in 1963. About 130 directional and locational signs existed in the park, and the plan was intended to reduce stylistic variations and to replace those signs that had succumbed to dry rot and vandalism.[16] But by 1965, park management was piqued over a lack of new projects; visitation had continued to rise, yet no new facilities to accommodate visitors had been built. Superintendent Steel begged the regional office to authorize some sort of construction:

> During the MISSION 66 era, Platt National Park has been a park where antiquity has flourished undisturbed . . . . No pox of new development has disturbed the tranquility of the park. The amberine and picturesque details of CCC construction reign in supremacy.
>
> Your office and indeed this office, have been candidly amazed at the ever increasing arrival of millions of visitors ….Visitation for 1966 is expected to be 1,500,000.
>
> Our modest 1966 Fiscal Year Construction Program, we hope, will usher in a dynamic cycle of improvement in construction activities.[17]

His frustration was compounded by the fact that bold new ideas for rearranging the park had been presented in the 1965 and 1966 Master Plans.

In the preface to these plans, which bear a good deal of resemblance to each other, planning team noted that

"prior to this study, virtually no master planning work had been accomplished for this park in the past 20 years."[18] This was true, and the Master Plan of 1965 (Figure 5-3) took a good look at the overall characteristics of the park, charting both resources and use patterns. The planners concluded that

> The type of use has changed over the years from primarily those seeking the health benefits of the cold mineral waters to a family use reflecting the nationwide trend to outdoor recreation.[19]

In addition, the planners noted that the creation of the nearby Arbuckle Recreation also influenced the plan, noting that their directives had to

> Consider the feasibility of making the park an integral part of the Arbuckle Reservoir Recreation Area, if it is added to the system. None of the proposals in this master plan would conflict with such a consolidation and the impact of visitor use on the park might be lessened.[20]

Perhaps as a result of these factors, the plans proposed a large change in the overall conceptualization and use of the park. The landscape was broken down into two types of lands: "General Outdoor Recreation" and "Natural Environment." General Outdoor Recreation land totaled 168 acres, and included the Rock Creek Campground, Bromide Picnic Area, an enlarged Flower Park (which included the former Central Campground), Hillside and Pavilion Springs, the Maintenance and Administration Areas, and Cold Springs Picnic Ground (which was converted to a picnic area). These areas were intended for visitor day use, primarily picnicking. A goal of the plan was to "reduce excessive visitor load" by the "phase out [of] overnight use within the lands originally set aside as the park."[21] Camping, it was believed, could be handled in Rock Creek campground, the Veteran's Lake area, and the Arbuckle Recreation Area. The rest of the Platt's 740-odd acres would then be devoted to the park's "primary activities" of "picnicking, hiking, wading, bicycling, use of the mineral springs and pools, nature study and photography, and pleasure driving." Separating day and long term usage was important because "[i]ncreasing demand for both types of facilities, if allowed to continue…would continually degrade the basic park values to a point where the conflict of visitor activities would deny everyone the opportunity to appreciate the purpose for which the park was established." [22] In other words, between 1965 and 1969, the park landscape was reconceptualized as a gradient, with the west side of the park supporting human activities and the east side of the park sustaining natural processes. While human needs might be accommodated in the western part of the park, the eastern part of the park would be a natural environment, where nature would not be impacted by humans, but rather would only be interpreted by humans.

However, prior to this point, interpretation in the park had been minimal, with the Bromide Museum and one self-guiding nature trail near Buffalo Springs providing the major interpretive opportunities.[23] And, of course, the interpretive story of the park was not immediately obvious. Interpreters noted that while in some large parks, "the visitor's first question is likely to be 'What shall I see first?'. His first question here is usually 'Is there anything to see?'"[24] Park planners determined that a vehicle for interpreting the area would be required, and as a result the proposed visitor center evolved into a nature center. This idea was also generated and strongly supported by the establishment of a comprehensive interpretive program for the park in the mid 1960s, so much so, that it is difficult to tell whether interpretive goals or development goals were the driving force behind the proposal for the building. In 1965, the park's first interpretive prospectus was developed, concurrently with plans for the new nature center. It took a little while to determine the appropriate scope of the project. At first, the 1965 Master Plan proposed that two nature centers would be required, one at the old museum in Bromide, which would be reconfigured, and another, larger center at the opposite end of the park. Two locations were identified for the large nature center. The first site was on Travertine Island and the second site was further east, near the narrowest gap between the north and south perimeter roads.[25] Eventually, the second site was deemed best and the idea for an expanded museum in Bromide was dropped.

The financial incentive for getting the new building constructed by the NPS proved to be the Arbuckle National Recreation Area, which pushed forward the late 1960s building program at Platt. The Lake of the Arbuckles was a half-million dollar reservoir project proposed to improve the economy and recreational opportunities of south central Oklahoma. Originally proposed by the Bureau of Reclamation, it was whole-

heartedly supported by Oklahoma's seasoned senate and congressional delegation, who saw it as a way to revitalize south-central Oklahoma with jobs and recreational opportunities. In 1965, the NPS agreed to manage the Arbuckle Reservoir as a National Recreation Area, utilizing facilities and staff at Platt to support its management, and the bill for the reservoir was authorized.

The effect on Platt was remarkable. The interpretive prospectus noted that

> The Arbuckle Reservoir is being built…and will be administered by the National Park Service….At the same time, the attitude of the Service has changed—there is now agreement that the [Platt National] park is a park, that it has a place in the National Park System, that it has natural values that are significant and interpretable, and that the Service has an obligation to let the area live up to its full potential.[26]

Shortly after the passage of the bill, a contract was awarded for the design of the Nature Center. Other Mission 66 building projects, including the expansion of the Rock Creek Campground and new comfort stations for Platt's picnic areas almost immediately followed (these are detailed below).[27] In 1966, Platt was also the recipient of a Job Corps Camp, clearly as a result of the Arbuckle project.[28] The Job Corps participants, in addition to building the five-arch bridge in Bromide and other structures, dug new sewer lines and planted trees at Platt,[29] in addition to work at the new Arbuckle campgrounds and picnic areas.

In 1968, a master plan was developed for a joint Platt-Arbuckle National Recreation Area, but it was not until 1976 that the two parks were officially joined as Chickasaw National Recreation Area. At this time, Platt National Park was designated as the Travertine District within the larger National Recreation Area.

During the 1970s, the district was integrated into the overall CNRA park management. No major changes were undertaken in the former Platt National Park following the improvements of the Mission 66 campaign. In 1979, the Vendome Well property and in 1983, the Veteran's Lake area, both adjacent to the district, were acquired by the recreation area. Veteran's Lake was acquired through a land swap for a small area of the park which was located north of Highway 7. In 1998, the district was renamed the Platt District, to reflect its former history as a separate national park. Although maintenance records following the 1970s have not been extensively reviewed for this project, it appears that work focused on retaining existing features in good condition.

INDIVIDUAL AREA DEVELOPMENT, 1940-2003

The following narrative addresses landscape design and development in Platt National Park between the years 1940 and 2003, in the manner of the previous chapters. The information provided in this chapter was drawn primarily from research in the park files located at the National Archives in Fort Worth, Texas, as well as from photographs, reports, and other information located at CNRA.

Drawings also accompany this chapter. Drawing 12 is a period plan for Rock Creek Campground, depicting its appearance in 1950, after completion. Drawing 13 is an overall period plan, depicting the park in 1969, after the completion of Mission 66 construction. Drawing 13 is a similar overall district plan summarizing conditions in 2000.

Hydrology: Rock and Travertine Creeks

The years between 1940 and 1960 were characterized by little change in the park's surface water hydrology. This is in great contrast to the 1930s, when Travertine Creek was extensively manipulated. The major project completed in late 1949 and early 1950 was a channelization of a portion of Rock Creek, as part of the road project described below. The early 1950s were droughty, and Travertine Creek dried up numerous times, precluding swimming. In times like these, the swimming pools were drained, perhaps providing opportunities to dredge the pools of sediment and debris.[30]

In 1960, a group of beavers plagued the park, felling trees up to two feet in diameter along Travertine and Rock Creek. The beavers especially preferred willow and cottonwood that had been planted along rip-rap stabilized creek banks.[31]

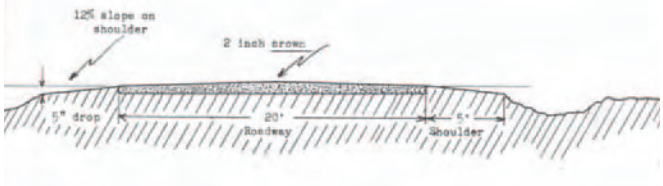

Figure 5-4. Typical perimeter road section, 1963. See note 41 for source information.

Throughout the period from 1960-2000, little mention of the creeks is made in park reports, outside of general references to flooding, clearing trees or debris from the channels, or stabilizing portions of creek banks. The preferred method of bank stabilization was usually constructing rubble stone or rip-rap masonry walls, sometimes interplanted with cottonwood or willow. Individual construction projects along both creeks are described under the individual landscapes, below.

Road System

Throughout the early 1940s the park struggled to protect the road system from "erosion and disintegration" but "due to lack of personnel and funds only most important and urgent work could be done."[32] This included small asphalt patches and shoulder work. In April 1942, a major rock slide along Rock Creek just east of the Bromide area undermined the road bed to within 3 feet of the pavement. Superintendent Branch ordered 100 truck loads of boulders, waste asphalt and clay brought in to fill the hole, but the problem continued for the next few years. [33] In late 1945 and 1946, the creek channel was permanently moved to protect the road. Eight thousand cubic yards of rock and dirt were used to riprap the new creek banks, which were further stabilized with an approximated 25,000 willow plantings.[34] The concrete abutments of the steel arch bridge, demolished in 1943, were "shot down" and used as binding material in the construction of the new bank.[35]

In the fall of 1943, the perimeter road was fully repaved with eight tons of asphalt,[36] and by July of 1945, the road system was still considered to be in good condition. In the late 1940s, new paving and improvements on Buckhorn Road (now U.S. 18) outside the park, served to increase the speeds of vehicles entering the park at the south and main entrances. To improve safety and alleviate congestion, Superintendent Miller recommended that two overpasses be constructed in these locations. However, these were never implemented.[37]

The 1953 flood damaged the road, primarily between Lincoln Bridge and Rock Creek Campground, part of which was cracked and broken and had to be removed.[38] In 1955, a small stretch of road was realigned over Travertine Creek near the Central Campground entrance. A new box culvert was built over the creek, and the entrance to Central Campground was also realigned.

In 1962, Superintendent Johnwill Faris oversaw a "restoration" of sorts of the road shoulders. According to Faris, the road prism had been changed in the late 1940s or early 1950s, when steep roadside slopes and deep ditches had been created. He described the CCC conditions:

> [I]n the latter days of the CCC, our road shoulders gave way into a more or less sodded long or flat "U" and rock barriers were placed rather frequently along the road side of this U to prevent cars from sliding or driving into the borrow pit.

He then went on to describe the change that had occurred over twenty-odd years:

> Later, it seems, one of our Superintendents favored a sharp slope off our pavement into the borrow pit and a blade was used, cutting such slope. Obviously, the dirt was thrown along the bottom and between the rock barriers. This actually formed a sharp trench sloping away from the road shoulder, but allowing, too, a runoff at the end of the slope and slightly below the former sodded bottom. Time has held leaves, etc., along the outside edge of the sharp slope and the former sodded drain and between the rocks until now we have the former drain separate and dry due to the steeper slope bladed drain.[39]

Faris then proposed the road be restored to something closer to its original state (Figure 5-4). The regional office concurred, suggesting only that "on the sections where barrier stones have been placed that if the fills do not exceed four feet, they should not be replaced."[40] If stones were removed, it's likely they were re-used elsewhere in the park, possibly at Cold Spring Campground, where boulders were being used to define camping sites. Additional boulders were also collected from outside the

park, with crews dispatched to local farms to collect and haul boulders away.[41]
Some structural repairs were also undertaken along the road. In 1955, the road was realigned over Travertine Creek near Central Campground and Panther Falls, and a new box culvert was constructed. In 1969, the Black Sulphur Springs Causeway was almost completely reconstructed, and a sidewalk was added to the upstream side of the bridge.[42] In 1969, a new box culvert was constructed just above Little Niagara.

The Little Niagara box culvert was, of course, part of the obliteration and realignment of the perimeter road for the creation of the Travertine Nature Center. The new alignment was a one way loop created by cutting the original road off at the Nature Center, and joining the two cut-off ends with a new, short segment of road that simply wrapped around Travertine Island. The construction of the one-way loop also required the construction of two traffic islands, one where the one-way segment rejoined the two way segment just above Sycamore Falls and one on the south side of the falls to reinforce the one-way flow.

There were doubtless road repaving projects throughout the 1970s and 1980s, but little detailed information on these projects was reviewed. In 2000, the Federal Highways Administration (FHwA) began a comprehensive road resurfacing project for the Platt District, and the work was done over the summers of 2001 and 2002. In addition to milling the old and applying a new surface, the project included new guardrail in some locations to improve safety (such as at Pavilion Springs) and new curbs (such as at Bromide Hill) to correct drainage problems. The surface was raised slightly, and shoulders were regraded and reseeded to return smoothly existing slideslope grades.

Trail System

Reduced maintenance during the war years also affected the trail system. By the summer of 1943, Superintendent Branch reported that

> Most of the six miles of trails constructed by the CCC is practically impassable due to erosion, disintegration, and heavy weed growth. It has not been physically possible for the small park force to protect the trails, except the much used trail to the top of Bromide Hill and even this is in very bad shape."[43]

However, by the following fiscal year, five miles of foot trails had been cleared and drainage repairs had been accomplished on the Bromide Hill trail. Branch felt this was a major achievement, given the reduction in force.[44]

In July 1945 Regional Chief of Planning Harvey Cornell toured the park and suggested that a focal point or lookout point be constructed at the top of the Bromide Hill trail. He suggested that "a typical overlook terrace with an informal stone retaining wall" be built to provide an objective from both the parking area and the trail below.[45] It's doubtful the idea was implemented, since the extant, undersized concrete steps and railing at the overlook lack a sense of design organization. The date of construction of these features has not been determined.

The Bromide Trail was rebuilt in 1952.[46] In May 1953, a half-mile of trails, mostly on the south side of Rock Creek, were damaged by the flood. Three trail bridges were washed out. It's likely that the log designs of the CCC were replaced with simpler "plank crossings" since these were described as "standard type trail bridge[s]" by the mid 1960s. [47]

In 1961, the trails at Buffalo and Antelope Springs were cleared and resurfaced with "troy gravel," a "mixture of disintegrated granite and joint clay, which is a fine surfacing material."[48] Troy gravel rapidly became a preferred surface throughout the park, for both trails and parking lots. In 1962 similar trail rehabilitation occurred at Little Niagara. That same summer, a trial was run on a product called "Gulf Sani-Soil-Set" to see if it would work as a trail binder. It was applied to trails at Buffalo and Antelope Springs, at Bromide Hill, and at the bison overlook, as a way of seeing its efficacy on different surfaces such as troy gravel, limestone, and soil. It was determined that the product was better at dust control than surface binding, and maintenance resolved to use troy gravel for trail surfaces.[49]

In the late 1960s, the three interpretive trails at Buffalo and Antelope Springs were formalized as part of the trail system, even though they'd been used for about ten years, since the early years of the Interpretation division. Their surfaces were intended to be "as natural as possible," in contrast to the troy gravel used elsewhere in the Buffalo-Antelope Springs area.[50]

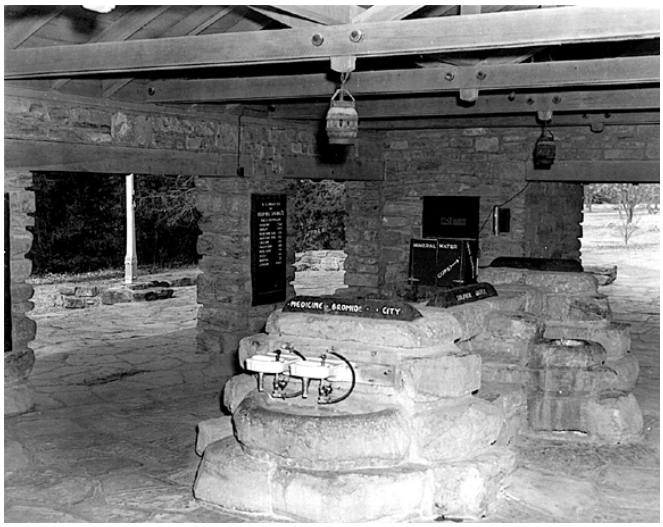

Figure 5-5. Bubblers replacing original spigots in the Bromide Pavilion, circa 1950.

In 1984, a new trail was built between the Veteran's Hospital and Pavilion Springs. An unnamed, and probably informal trail (it was originally a firebreak) between the hospital and Headquarters had existed since the late 1940s. The trail appears on aerial photographs from 1949, 1956, and 1969, running on a line from Fairland Avenue to Highway 177 and then following that road to headquarters. The new Veteran's trail built in 1984 ran along a new alignment, across the prairie uplands and former golf course to Pavilion Springs. The alignment more or less followed the Veteran's Hospital sewer line, which was also reconstructed that year. In 1991, the Bromide Hill Trail was rehabilitated, with work focusing on correcting drainage with stone swales constructed along the trail.

Bromide Area

The 1942 Master Plan proposed a number of changes for the Bromide Area. These included a new picnic pavilion and associated trails, and the removal of camping from the area entirely. Also proposed was a new, low water crossing at the east end of the park, to replace the Iron Bridge and the old, circa 1930 low water crossing, both of which were proposed for removal.

The only one of these actions realized in the 1940s was the removal of the Iron Bridge, which was dismantled by the Ardmore Salvage Company in 1943. The bridge was cut into three-foot lengths and given to the National Salvage Program and yielded twenty-five tons of scrap metal for the war effort. [51] The demise of the bridge was greeted with pleasure by former ECW landscape architect Charles Richey who, as Acting Director of Region Three, wrote Superintendent Branch:

> We were extremely pleased to have your report on the progress of the salvage of the old "Bromide" steel arch bridge. Ever since my first trip to Platt in 1933 I have been looking forward to the time when this blight on the landscape could be put to some useful purpose. Even though it has taken almost nine years to get this bridge removed, it does show that eventually undesirable structures can be removed from our national park and monument areas.
>
> We will all be pleased to receive a picture of the Bromide cliff area with the old structure removed and the abutments obliterated.[52]

A fair amount of work went into repairs on the pavilion's water supply in the 1940s. The pipes from the springs, which were located on the south side of the creek, were not located underground. Rather, they ran across the bottom of Rock Creek and were susceptible to being washed away in high water. This had happened as early as February 1938, and was repeated in 1945, despite repairs to the piping in 1944 that had necessitated the removal and relaying of much of the pavilion terrace flagstone.[53] Finally, in 1947 and 1948, the pipes were relaid underneath the creek bed and anchored to the concrete low-water footbridge between Bromide Spring and Medicine Spring.[54] It appears that a supply line from Bromide Spring #2 was eliminated at this time or shortly thereafter.[55] Another change to the water supply was the installation of bubblers in lieu of faucets inside the pavilion (Figure 5-5). The bubblers were wasteful of the mineral water, but eliminated the need for paper cups. [56] Other features inside the pavilion at this time included signs, lights, and mineral water storage containers. The bubblers were installed in 1941 and were a sign that the demand for mineral water had begun to decline. Also in 1941, city water was piped into the pavilion for the first time. Later, the bubblers were replaced by water fountains with spring-loaded valves.

Other minor changes in keeping with reduced staff and funding included the removal of twelve large trees from Bromide Area in 1941.[57] In early 1943, the remaining wood frame and stucco comfort stations dating to

Figure 5-6. Overflow camping in the Bromide area on July 4, 1965.

Figure 5-7. New entry sign at the 12th Street entry, 1963.

the 1920s and 1930s were removed, "in line with the approved Master Plan to change the Bromide Camp area into a picnic area."[58] However, the area continued to serve as a campground, and a crowded one at that. As late as 1949, Superintendent Miller complained that the tents in Bromide were "pitched so closely together that the tent ropes actually cross!"[59] Congestion was not relieved until the completion of the Rock Creek Campground. Even then, despite the 1950 Master Plan's recommendation that camping be prohibited in Bromide, the area continued to serve as "overflow camping" throughout the 1950s. As late as 1961, the rangers' annual forestry report noted that overflow camping in Bromide was "extremely hard on picnic sites."[60] On July 4, 1965, a peak visitation day, camping in Bromide was again recorded (Figure 5-6). Such use probably continued until the Rock Creek Campground addition was completed in 1967.

The year 1944 saw the repainting of the interior of the pavilion (presumably the caretaker/office room) and the flagpole. [61] A July 1945 inspection of the park led to a comment about the thick growth of small trees and shrubs that had sprung up along the creek bank between the pavilion and the creek.[62] Also in 1945, the park bought the community house from the city. It was renovated in 1947 into a museum that opened to the public in 1948.[63]

By 1950, most of the guard rail in the area had been removed, replaced by large conglomerate boulders, which were set along the roads about five feet apart.[64] In 1954, an NPS emblem was mounted at the 12th Street entrance.[65] The sign seems to have been revised again in 1963 resulting in a curious hanging sign located on the Bromide Piers (Figure 5-7).

The Bromide area was hit badly by the 1953 flood. The Bromide Pavilion was flooded and the lily pond and 12th Street fountain pools were filled with silt. Superintendent Brown described the rest of the damage:

> The underground vault holding the pumps and the motors for supplying the mineral waters to the Bromide Spring Pavilion were flooded out and damaged. A few of the heavy rocks cemented around the Medicine Springs across the creek were washed away. The cement structure located in the center of the creek, which covers one of the Bromide Springs, was further cracked and damaged. Approximately 350 feet of the Perimeter Road near Bromide Springs Pavilion on the south half of the road was broken up and washed loose.[66]

In 1958, the first of the Mission 66 plans for the Bromide Area were proposed and primarily consisted of reorganizing the picnic area. The 1958 Master Plan advocated for the previously proposed picnic shelter and comfort station, as well as a new "Lecture Circle" for interpretive programs to be built in the western part of the area. In contrast, the 1965 and 66 plans scrapped plans for new buildings, proposing instead to realign the perimeter road through the area. Vehicular access from 12th Street would be eliminated and new parking lots were variously proposed on the sites of the former 12th Street axis, Bromide residence, and Bromide museum.

These ambitious plans were not implemented. Instead, minor changes continued. In the spring of 1962, Superintendent Faris realized that the Bromide Fountain was fed by the Jack Diamond Well, outside the park boundary (Figure 5-8). The well was investigated and

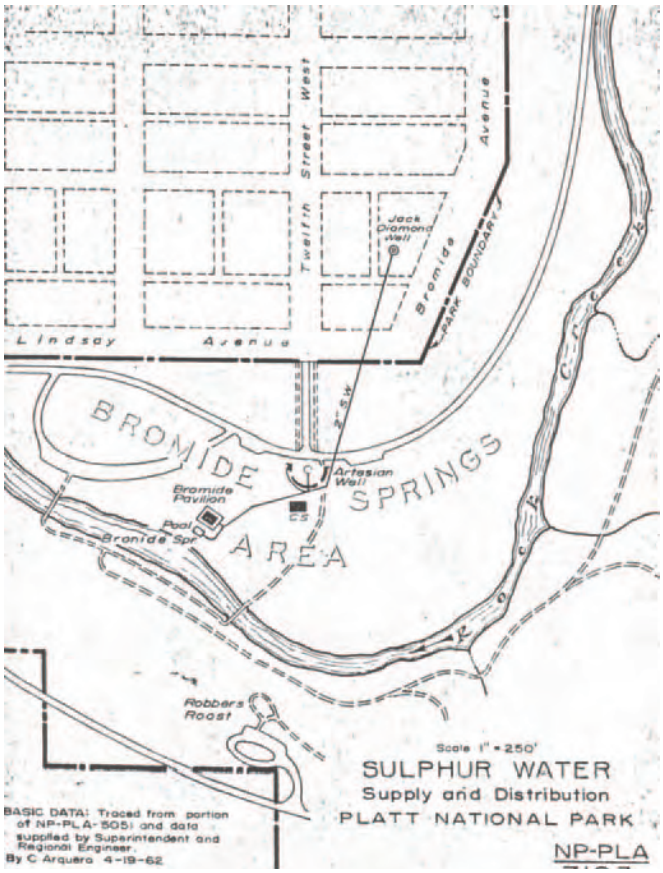

Figure 5-8. "Sulphur water supply and distribution," Drawing NP-PLA-7103, 1962.

the owner of the well offered it for sale for $5,000, but it seems that the park decided not to pursue ownership.[67]

Also in 1962, the Bromide Pavilion water supply was again overhauled. Work included

> extending the catch basins on Medicine and Bromide Springs above ground level with approved overlap lids made of stainless steel, putting new thermoplastic lines from the springs to the pump pit to the storage basins, renovation of the pump pit (repainting, rewiring), renovation of storage basins in Bromide Pavilion (renewing plumbing to the storage reservoirs and the replacement with approved overlapping type stainless steel lid.[68]

Shortly thereafter, the original Bromide Spring catchment in the middle of Rock Creek was demolished with a jackhammer, and replaced with the extant concrete block pump house.[69] The pump house was six by eight feet and was constructed of cinder block with a

Figure 5-9. Wooden footbridge, located east of the Museum, 1963. This bridge was replaced by the Arbuckle Job Corps bridge in 1967.

reinforced concrete floor and a six inch concrete roof, and two storage tanks were also constructed.[70] By 1968, a chlorination system had also been installed for both Bromide and Medicine Springs.[71]

Minor changes continued in the 1960s and 70s. In 1962, standing grills for use by picnickers were installed throughout the area.[72] In 1965, ten picnic tables were added.[73] In 1964, the porch on the museum was enclosed, and a new visitor entrance from the side street was added.[74] In 1967, the Arbuckle Job Corps built an arched stone bridge across Rock Creek in the eastern part of the area.[75] The bridge replaced a jerry-rigged wooden low water crossing, which had existed in that location for some time (Figure 5-9). The bridge's construction was difficult since heavy rainfall washed it out three times over the course of the spring and summer.[76] The bridge was constructed of concrete with a white and grey limestone veneer. Approximately sixty feet long and six feet wide, it had five corrugated galvanized steel openings, each ten feet wide.[77] The bridge also had four twenty-eight-foot-long wing walls, and a concrete approach on each end. It originally had a pipe railing, but this was broken off in its first flood.

In 1971, the existing parking areas at Bromide were paved, and a new sanitary dump station was installed along the western loop, near the old caretaker's house.[78] The steps from the dump station area leading to the causeway were also constructed sometime in the 1970s, by maintenance worker Lawrence Howell.

More work was undertaken on Bromide and Mineral Springs in the early 1970s, when the two springs began going dry at "unpredictable intervals." In 1973,

Figure 5-10. Walnut Grove, with boulder-bounded parking area and picnic tables, 1966.

Figure 5-11. Walnut Grove comfort station, 1966.

Maintenance Supervisor Dick Stansberry determined that water was no longer issuing from the bottom of the two wells, but from the hillside. A planned rehabilitation included lowering the intake pipe at Bromide Spring and drilling exploratory holes at Medicine Spring.[79] However, it appears that by April there was little success, and re-drilling one or both wells was attempted.[80] However, Stansberry noted that "not a trace of water" was seen in seventy feet of drilling. However, Harold Lannom (a former maintenance mechanic) recalls that poor water quality was the problem, not quantity problems, that led to the closing of the well or wells.[81] At any rate, in 1973 mineral water stopped flowing in the Bromide Pavilion.[82]

More recently, additional maintenance work has occurred in the Bromide area. In December 2000, a new wood shake roof duplicating the original was installed on the Bromide Pavilion. Lead abatement was completed on the Bromide Ranger Station and the Travertine Ranger Station in the summer of 2002. The Bromide Ranger Station received a new roof in 1998 and the Travertine Ranger Station was reroofed with wood shingles, matching the original, in 2003.

Walnut Grove

After the CCC camp was cleared in 1941, little formal documentation of Walnut Grove seems to have occurred. The 1950 Master Plan simply shows the old tennis court on the site and the 1958 Master Plan shows only vegetation covering the site. A 1962 road and trail plan shows the graded road for the old CCC camp still extant, as well as four parking areas along the north side of the road and one on the south side.[83] This indicates that the area was likely well-used as a picnic area by this time. In 1964, the area was briefly reconsidered as a location for the Arbuckle Job Corps Camp to begin in 1966, but Regional Director Daniel Beard quashed that idea, noting "I would not like to reoccupy the old CCC site in Platt National Park that is now growing up nicely."[84] By 1966, the area had a nice balance of both open and shaded turf (Figure 5-10)

The 1966 Master Plan further confirms the area's use for picnicking, since it indicates that twelve picnic tables existed on the site at the time of the drawing, and proposes adding three more.[85] Interestingly, it's not clear when the area was formally designated as "Walnut Grove." The name first appears as a label on master plan drawings in 1965 and 1966.

The 1966 Master Plan also proposed a comfort station for Walnut Grove in the western half of the site. This comfort station was built in 1966, along with two others at Little Niagara Falls and Black Sulphur Springs. Constructed of concrete block on a concrete slab, with an asbestos shingle roof, the building was a simple, "form follows function" structure, not unlike the stucco comfort stations built in the 1920s. A small nose-in parking lot, separated from the perimeter road, was proposed in front of the comfort station, but it appears this was not built as planned. Instead, it seems that the comfort station was simply located near an existing parking area in somewhat wooded surroundings (Figure 5-11). Also notable in the photograph are the large travertine boulders lining the parking area in the foreground.

In June of 1967, eighty-three new picnic tables, thirty-nine new fireplaces and thirty-two "refuse" units (either

Figure 5-12. Monkey Tree at Walnut Grove, no date, circa 1960.

Figure 5-13. Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion, 1963.

double or single trash cans) were installed at Walnut Grove,[86] the jump from twelve to eighty-three indicating, perhaps, an expanded use of the area.

Sometime between 1940 and 1960, a large Osage orange in Walnut Grove became known as the Monkey Tree, and became a favored climbing tree for local children. When exactly this occurred is not clear, but photographs documenting its use as such appear in the late 1950s and early 1960s (Figure 5-12).

In 1989, a new sewer line was installed across Walnut Grove, and in 1997, new concrete walks were added to link the parking and comfort station and provide ADA access.

Black Sulphur Springs

Though plans for the new Black Sulphur Springs pavilion and an associated five-car parking area across the road from the extant neoclassical structure were approved in 1939, its construction remained an elusive goal throughout the 1940s.[87] The new pavilion appeared on the 1942 and the 1950 Master Plans, and the old pavilion was replaced by a comfort station on the 1950 plan. By the 1958 Master Plan, however, a new pavilion had been abandoned as a development idea, and the existing pavilion continued its existence in the landscape (Figure 5-13).

Perhaps the flood of 1953 influenced the decision to abandon the new construction. This flood severely damaged the area. Water in Travertine and Rock Creeks rose to a level "just under the lip on the bowl of the

Figure 5-14. Regrading beach below Black Sulphur Springs after the flood of 1953.

drinking fountain," and when the water receded, sand covered a third of the west side of the Black Sulphur Springs causeway and extended in a wide swath for 125 yards south of the structure.[88] Major regrading of the area was undertaken in the summer to restore the sandy beach between Rock Creek and the old pavilion (Figure 5-14).

In 1961, the park entrance at Tishomingo Avenue was closed, despite protests from the neighbors.[89]Trees were planted along the boundary the following year, to provide a greater separation between town and park. [90] By the early 1960s, then, the area west of the pavilion was well-established as a contained and popular picnic area.[91] The 1965 and 1966 Master Plans confirm this use, and further proposed that a comfort station be built somewhere in this area.[92] This Mission 66 comfort station (Figure 5-15) was built in 1966, though it was located in a slightly different site than shown on the original construction plan.[93] It was built of concrete block and matched the others at Walnut Grove and Little Niagara

Figure 5-15. Mission 66 comfort station at Black Sulphur Springs, 1966.

Figure 5-16. Swimmers at beach just below Black Sulphur Springs, 1960.

Falls. The new comfort station may have precipitated installing fifty four new picnic tables, nineteen fireplaces, and eighteen refuse units in the area in 1967, a year when most picnic areas seem to have received new fixtures.[94] As of 1960, the sandy area was established as one of the most popular swimming areas in the park (Figure 5-16). Tradition has it that the area was regularly cleared of excess sand deposited on the beach after heavy rainfalls.

In 1969, the Black Sulphur Springs Causeway was reconstructed, and a path leading from the pavilion down to the causeway was extended and widened, and constructed out of flagstone.[95]

Meanwhile, the area's namesake spring was replumbed a number of times. In 1954, the pump supplying the spring was cleaned out, perhaps because of contamination after the flood.[96] In 1962 the spring's "pit" (presumably the pump) was proposed to be rebuilt.[97] By 1968, an ultra-violet light had been installed in the waterlines

Figure 5-17. Fountain in the Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion, circa 1960.

of the spring to disinfect the water; this may have been later replaced by a chlorinating system.[98] The pavilion's fountain basin was filled with concrete, though it's not clear exactly when this happened. A circa 1960 brochure about Platt featured a child drinking from the basin (Figure 5-17). In 1966, the concrete block pump house for supplying the fountain was constructed and perhaps changes to the basin were made at this time.[99] Or perhaps the basin was filled in 1971, when five person days were spent replacing the chlorinator, installing a new frost-proof hydrant for visitor use, as well as a new cover and manhole over the cistern.[100]

In 1997, an ADA-accessible concrete walk was added from the parking area to the comfort station.

Flower Park

Changes proposed for Flower Park in the 1942 and 1950 Master Plans were trivial, mostly slight path realignments and alterations to the course of Vendome stream. Based on extant conditions, none of these were ever implemented. Instead, the park landscape matured, trees growing larger and cedars on the hill north of the park growing denser. When the park was inspected by the regional chief of planning in 1945, the only major comments he made was that the empty Vendome bathhouse was something of an eyesore. He also commented that "Lincoln Bridge is. . .an interesting landmark but perhaps could be considerably improved in appearance by eliminating all of the superfluous masonry construction."[101] Luckily, this latter advice was never taken. Maintenance continued in the park albeit at a reduced level compared to the CCC years. In the winter

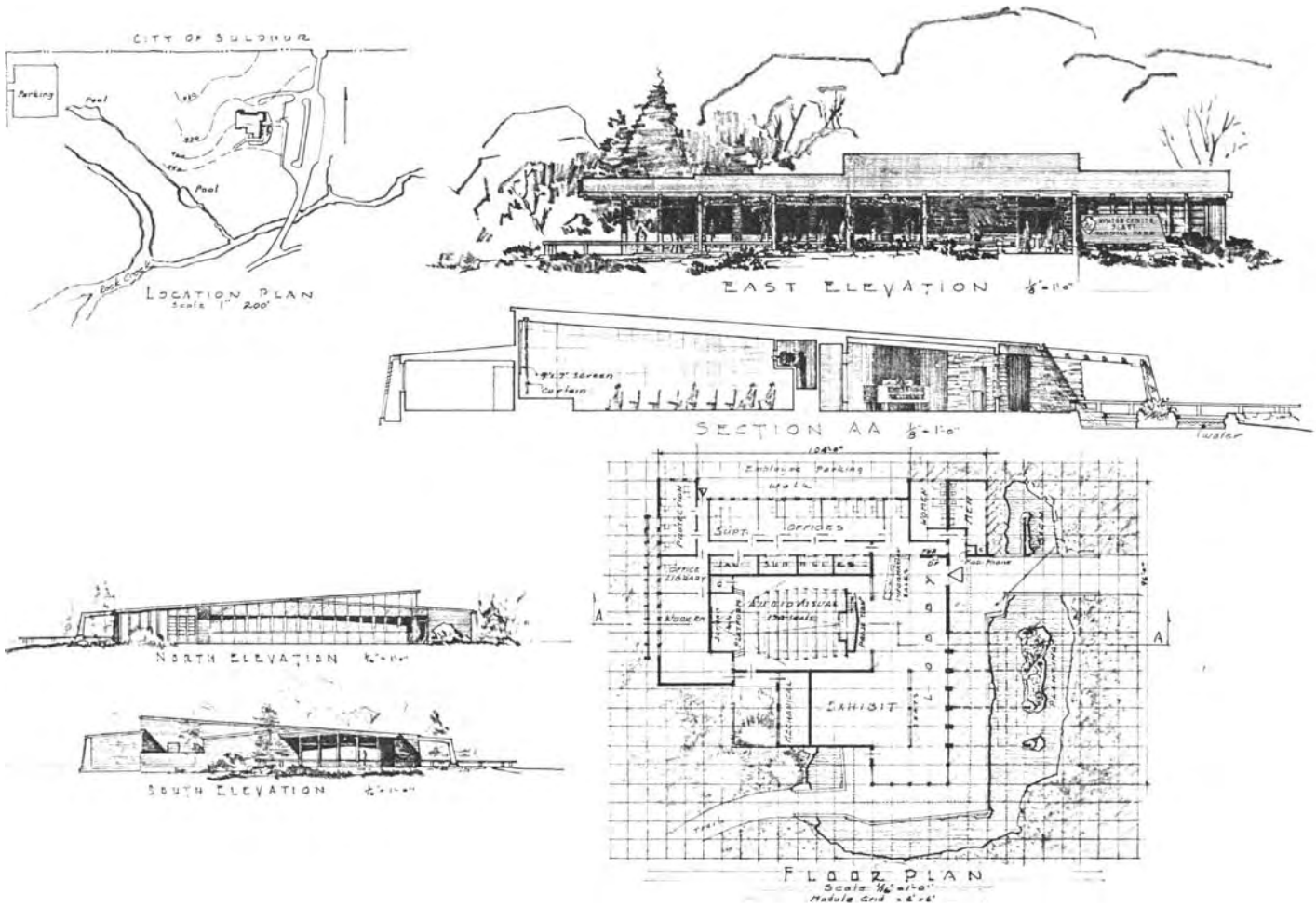

Figure 5-18. Proposed Modern visitor center for Flower Park. Portions of "Visitor Center, Flower Park," Drawing NP-PLA-3115, 1965.

of 1945, the wading pools were cleaned of "accumulated scum."[102] In 1950, Rock Creek Campground opened, and overflow camping was eliminated from Flower Park.[103]

The 1960s saw a raft of new proposals for Flower Park. These included both a picnic shelter combined with an outdoor seating area for evening interpretive programs proposed in 1965 and 1966 and a full-blown visitor center and parking lot located along State Highway 18, proposed in 1965 (Figure 5-18). Either of these plans was to be facilitated by the expansion of picnicking into Central Campground. In fact, the 1966 Master Plan proposed reuniting the whole area under the name Flower Park, an idea strangely recalling the 1900s, when the whole area was known as Central Park. By late 1965, the idea for the visitor was moved to the eastern part of the park and eventually evolved into the Travertine Nature Center. [104]

With the visitor center moved out of the area, changes proved relatively minor. Paths began to shift based on changing drainage patterns and visitor desire lines. By 1969, a volunteer path along the northern edge of the Vendome stream and wading pool between the parking lot and the comfort station was well established, replacing the one across the small stone arch footbridge. In 1962, beavers became a problem in Flower Park, gnawing on trees. [105]

In the 1970s, the main entrance to the park was significantly changed after a series of vehicle collisions with the entry piers. The piers had already been hung with a variety of NPS emblem signs, one in 1954 (Figure 5-19) and one in 1963 (Figure 5-20). In 1971, a large truck crashed into the east entry pier, damaging a hanging wooden arrowhead that had been added as part of the 1963 signage. [106] Two years later, in February 1973, a second truck did even more damage, destroying the entire eastern pier and its attached curved wall. Instead

Figure 5-19. Arrowhead sign added to the Flower Park entry piers, 1964.

Figure 5-20. Wooden sign added to the Flower Park entry piers, 1970.

of rebuilding, the structure, park management chose to remove the curved wall on both sides and reconfigure the entry pier composition to its extant appearance.

In 1974, a small stone and log footbridge near Lincoln Bridge was replaced by the extant stone masonry arch footbridge. This small bridge was constructed by park maintenance worker and mason Lawrence Howell. In 1976 four flagpoles which had been removed from the Lincoln Bridge were replaced, although the new flagpoles were shorter than the original poles (Figure 5-21). Sometime between 1976 and the present, the light posts were also removed from the Lincoln Bridge.

Perhaps the greatest change occurred to the Flower Park pools, which were filled and reduced in size, the upper pool by about a third (5500 square feet to 3850 square feet) and the lower pool by about half (8300 square feet to 3975 square feet). This occurred sometime after 1969, when they are last seen their original size on aerial photographs. A record of this work and the reasons for undertaking it are elusive. Former employee Fuzz Kennedy recalls helping to fill in the lower pool in the late 1980s, to make it easier to clean out. It is also possible the work may have been done as part of the Flower Park sewer reconstruction undertaken sometime around 1984. Recent excavations in Flower Park in the summer of 2003 as part of the rehabilitation of the trail system have revealed loss of stone curbing and significant changes in the vertical and horizontal alignments of the paths along the sewer excavation alignment. In general, over time, many of the Flower Park trails shifted in response to changes in drainage and visitor habits. Similarly, the stone curbing along the trails was either lost or buried under new trail surfacing.

Figure 5-21. Lincoln Bridge with new flagpoles and original light posts.

Another change which occurred at an unknown time was the modification of the Flower Park comfort station roofline, from hip on gable ends to simple gable ends. This possibly occurred in 1954, 1968, or 1981, years when renovations were undertaken on other comfort stations, but it is difficult to know for sure.

In 1984, the Vendome well inflow box at the Flower Park parking lot overflowed twice, and it was believed that the original line, constructed in the 1930s, was now clogged with travertine rock. In January 1986, the old line was dug up and it was found to be plugged with rocks and soft drink bottles. A new PVC line was installed, and the work recorded by the crew on a drawing (Figure 5-22). In 1998, the Vendome well was completely overhauled following the drilling of a new well about twenty feet west of the original well enclosure. The new well had a stainless steel casing to resist corrosion, and the water was

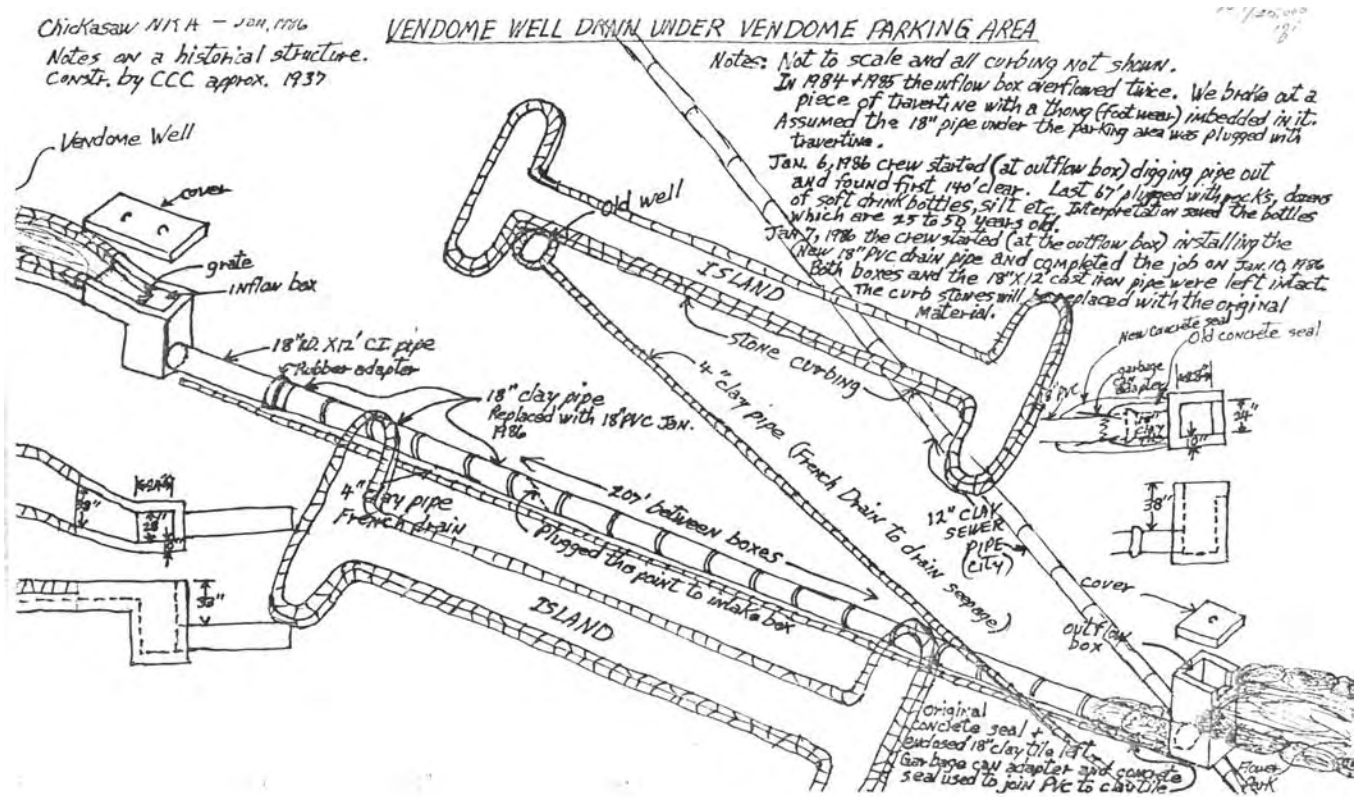

Figure 5-22. Documentation of the excavation of the Vendome line under the Flower Park parking lot, Drawing 107/25000, January 1986.

piped to the center of the historic concrete enclosure. This original enclosure was modified, including the replacement of a portion of the concrete bottom, replastering of the inside walls and replacement of the capstone. Other new plumbing was installed, including a stainless steel drinking fountain and jug filler. Portions of the surrounding walkway were also replaced. Work was completed May 5, 1998.

Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Upland

In 1940, the Buffalo Pasture could only be described as overgrazed, ravaged by a peak herd of twenty-one head. Superintendent Branch described the pasture as "literally skinned in places with even the grass roots being eaten."[107] In June of 1941, the herd had been culled to eight head, and Branch reported that the pasture had "apparently completely recovered with little evidence to indicate it's [sic] former condition."[108] The pasture was reported in good condition in 1946 and in 1952, when it was described as being "covered with a lush growth of native grasses," and no changes were proposed for the pasture and upland in the 1950 Master Plan.[109] By 1955, however, a new problem—woody vegetative growth—was evident:

> The ninety acre pasture has become badly overgrown by brush and during the hotter season particularly, the herd hides in the trees during the day. This also presents a maintenance problem which has not been kept up with, nor can it be kept current without funds for this purpose. Maintenance work should be performed every year on the pasture and in our present appropriation there is no allotment, even for winter feeding the buffalo without robbing from the ranger accounts."[110]

The motivation behind this complaint was less concern about loss of native grasses, and more a concern about enabling visitors to see bison. No action seems to have been taken, and woody plant growth continued in the pasture (Figure 5-23). The bison were clearly popular, however, and in 1956, an interpretive sign was proposed for the overlook and was constructed by 1959.[111] The overlook area deteriorated (Figure 5-24) and the 1958 Master Plan recommended expanding the Buffalo Pasture parking area to accommodate ten cars. The area was expanded in 1963, when the extant stone wall was built along the parking area's western side.[112] In 1959, the

Figure 5-23. Bison grazing in the Buffalo Pasture, circa 1960. Note pond behind animals and growth of woody vegetation.

Figure 5-24. Buffalo Pasture overlook, prior to wall reconstruction, circa 1960.

Buffalo pasture fence was inventoried and revealed to comprise 5910 feet of woven wire fence, five feet high, with four strands of barbed wire on the top, correlating with 1930s descriptions of the fence's construction.[113] Over time, a single lane access road eventually evolved in the buffalo pasture to allow access to the area. The area also became a location for stockpiling excess construction materials such as stone.

In 1961, State Highway 18 (soon to be renamed Highway 177) was striped for the first time. That same year, the park entrance at the Veteran's Hospital, on Fairland Avenue, was closed. The closure, combined with the closure of the Tishomingo Avenue entrance, evoked fruitless protests from local citizens.[114] In 1963, a new wooden sign was erected atop the piers at the park's south entrance (Figure 5-24). This sign matched those at the Bromide and Flower Park created at the same time.

Greater changes to the area were proposed in the 1966 Master Plan. This document proposed obliterating Highway 177 between the south entrance and the Maintenance Area and Headquarters entry road. Highway 177 was to be rerouted, either along the eastern boundary at the Veteran's Hospital and through the park at Panther Falls (on an overpass!) or around the park east of Antelope and Buffalo Springs. Visitors would enter the park at the south entrance, then proceed either east or west upon reaching the perimeter road. Once again, neither of these proposals was implemented; both would have been hugely expensive. Meanwhile, vegetation continued to enclose open grassland in both the Bison Pasture and the Prairie Uplands, as seen in a comparison of aerial photographs of the area dating to 1940 and 1999 (Figures 5-26 and 5-27)

Figure 5-25. South entry gate with new wooden sign, 1963.

More recent plans have also been made for the area, but have not yet been fully implemented. The 1988 "General Management Plan Update" proposed moving the Maintenance Area to the Prairie Uplands. A 1991 draft "Bison Management Plan" made specific proposals for a new loading chute, for dividing the pasture into paddocks and rotating grazing, and other animal management actions. In the fall of 2002, a temporary electric fence was added within the pasture, to exclude buffalo from half of the pasture and to allow grasses in this area to regenerate. This proved relatively successful, and now the entire pasture is available to the bison. In the spring of 2003 horses temporarily located in the pasture were removed.

Superintendent's Residence

Changes at the Superintendent's Residence are somewhat difficult to track. Like the rest of the private, residential landscapes within the park, the area was never well-recorded. The building was significantly remodeled in

Figure 5-26. Aerial photograph of the Buffalo Pasture, 1940.

Figure 5-27. Aerial photograph of the Buffalo Pasture, 1999.

Figure 5-28. Superintendent's Residence, showing driveway, 1950.

Figure 5-29. Rear of Superintendent's Residence, 1950.

Figure 5-30. Front of the garage and laundry building, 1950.

Figure 5-31. Rear of the garage and laundry building, 1950.

1952 and 1953. Over time the foundation plantings grew up, creating a pleasant household scene (Figures 5-28 and 5-29). The garage building (Figure 5-30 and 5-31) was also part of the overall setting. The 1958 Master Plan proposed removing Building 44—the summerhouse—from the Superintendent's Residence (Figure 5-32). This small building had been built at the maintenance area, then remodeled as a children's playhouse and moved the Superintendent's Residence.

The 1965 and 66 Master Plans proposed the complete removal of the Superintendent's Residence and the garage building (by this time known as the laundry/garage). This was presumably part of the process of moving all park administration outside of the park, a goal never realized. Maintenance on the building continued. The summerhouse was eventually removed, and a flagstone patio built between the house and the garage. A concrete picnic table similar to those in Rock Creek was added to the back yard, probably around 1950. In 1976 the exterior was painted and in 1977, central heat and air were installed. In 1981 Andersen windows were installed and the exterior painted again.[115] In 2001, the building was repainted to match its original colors, with cream stucco, white fascia, soffits, and rafter ends, and brown gable end siding.

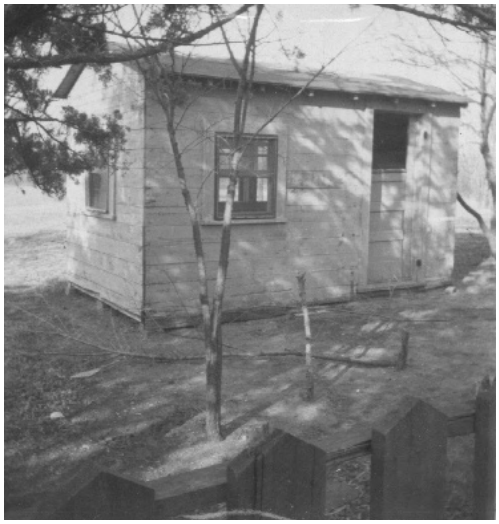

Figure 5-32. Summerhouse at the Superintendent's Residence, 1950.

Over time, the grounds lost many of the original ornamental plantings, particularly deciduous and evergreen foundation plantings around the house. A few large trees have also been retained in the area.

Figure 5-33. Residence #3, near Panther Falls, circa 1950. This building was removed sometime prior to 1969.

Figure 5-34. Portion of Drawing NP-PLA3045J, showing 1940 Master Plan design for the Residence Area, 1940.

Figure 5-35. Residence #5, near Cold Springs, circa 1950. Building was removed prior to 1969.

Figure 5-36. Residence #4, today's Building #2, circa 1950.

Employee Residence Group

In the years following 1940, the number of residences within the park boundary began to decline. On November 11, 1950, Residence #3, the original Superintendent's quarter, burned down, taking its garage with it. Three other residences remained in the park. One of these was located near Panther Falls (Figure 5-33), and after 1950, this residence was renamed Residence #3. A second one was located between Central and Cold Springs Campgrounds (Residence #5) (Figure 5-35). In the 1940 and 1942 Master Plans (Figure 5-34), these two buildings were proposed to be moved south of Pavilion Springs, next to the third residence, Residence #4 (today's Building 2). However, by the 1950 Master Plan, the idea of moving the two houses had been abandoned. Instead, the 1950 Master Plan proposed building four new residences near Residence #4. This reduced to five the number of proposed residences that were to create an "employee group" of housing in the park.

Residence #5 (Figure 5-35) was repaired in 1954,[116] and both it and the "new" Residence #3 (Figure 5-33) can be seen on a 1956 aerial photograph. They disappear from drawings after 1960[117] and most definitely do not appear on a 1969 aerial photograph. Thus, it can be concluded that they were removed from the park sometime between 1956 and 1969. On the 1958 Master Plan, only Residence #4 (today's Building 2) was depicted as an employee residence.

The 1965 and 1966 Master Plans recommended that all residences in the park—by this time only the Superintendent's Residence, Residence #4 (today's Building 2), and the employee residence at Bromide Springs—be removed. As noted earlier, this recommendation was never undertaken.

Since the late 1960s, significant change has not occurred at Residence #4 (or Building 2 as it is known today). Utilities in the building were upgraded in 1978 and 1987. The carport in front of the residence's original

Figure 5-37. Mule barn, circa 1950. Note terrace wall in right corner of photograph.

Figure 5-38. Shop, circa 1950. Note former garage doors center and right.

garage was added in 1984. In 1994, the residence was re-roofed with wood shingles. In 2000, the building's lead was abated, and the stucco was repainted to match its original cream color. The trim was repainted to match its original brown.

Maintenance Area

A functional landscape, the maintenance area has not been recorded to the degree that other parts of the landscape. Hence change since the 1940s is not easy to document. In January 1946, the park's mules were retired, and the mule pasture was abandoned.[118] This may have eventually led to the renovation of the mule barn and warehouse (Figure 5-37) in 1956, when new floors were laid and walls were sealed.[119] At some point, the loading dock was also lengthened. An overhead door was added to this structure in 1978.[120] The maintenance shop (Figure 5-38) had heating and cooling renovations in 1967 and 1987. Little information has been located on changes to the crew room.

In 1965, the Master Plan recommended that the Maintenance Area be relocated outside the park, while the 1966 Master Plan recommended that the Maintenance Area be retained in its location as a joint facility for both Platt National Park and the Arbuckle Recreation Area.

New buildings were added throughout the 1970s and 1980s. In 1977, the Water Testing Laboratory was constructed. It may have been around this time that the perimeter fence and the entry piers were removed. In 1987, a number of buildings were listed for the first time in the property records of CNRA. It is not clear whether they were all constructed in 1987, or simply recorded in that year. These included Building 126 (the carpentry shop, transferred to the NPS from the Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)); Building 127 (a storage building, also transferred from USFWS); Building 128 (a steel storage shed); Building 129 (another steel storage shed); and Building 134 (underground paint storage).

The carport at Building 6 was added in 1984, and Building 6 was reroofed in 1994. The archives building was added to the Maintenance Area in 1996.

Administration Building

Changes at the Administration Building (or Leeper House) are not very well documented. Foundation plantings around the building have come and gone over the years; Figure 5-39 depicts the Administration Building and its surrounds in a more manicured appearance, circa 1960.

Plans for the building over the year have varied. The 1965 Master Plan recommended that administrative functions be relocated outside the park, while the 1966 Master Plan recommended that the Administration Building be retained as a joint headquarters for both Platt and the Arbuckle Recreation Area. In the summer of 2002, park headquarters were moved to downtown Sulphur, and the Leeper House was vacated, in preparation for its future use as a training center.

Figure 5-39. Administration Building (Leeper House), circa 1960.

Figure 5-40. Hillside Springs, circa 1950. Note half-log sign at entrance.

Figure 5-41. Hillside Springs, circa 1963. Note signs above spring enclosure.

Figure 5-42. Backfilled area around repaired Hillside Springs, circa 1963.

Hillside Springs

As far as can be told, little planning or changes to Hillside Springs was recommended in the 1940s and 1950s.[121] Located in a semi-secluded locale, with a distinct function, the fountain probably required little beyond maintenance (Figure 5-40). In 1961, however, bacterial contamination was reported at Hillside Springs. In December, dye was placed in the area's sewers to determine the source of the contamination, though the results of this test have not been located. [122] In 1962, additional tests were made and water samples were sent to Oklahoma State University, which determined the water was still contaminated. As a result, signs indicating the contaminated water and prohibiting its use were mounted above the circular pool (Figure 5-41).[123]

That November, cleaning and renovation of the structure began and continued through February 1963. [124] The area behind the wall was cleared of vegetation, excavated, a new spring tank constructed, and the area was backfilled and eventually replanted with cedar (Figure 5-42).[125] The new tank was a concrete cistern with nine-inch thick walls (Figure 5-43). It appears that a central fountain jet was also introduced in the fountain at this time.[126]

Despite the rehabilitation, contamination continued, and a new casing and a new cover were installed in December 1964. These actions still did not take care of the problem and the "contaminated water" signs were replaced with a single one that said "Water Unsafe for Drinking." In 1967 researchers from the Robert S. Kerr Water Research Center of the Federal Water Pollution Control Administration in Ada, Oklahoma produced a study describing the nature of the contamination. After sampling the spring from the bubbler in the center of the fountain during both a dry period and a wet period (after a rainfall), the researchers determined that there was slight

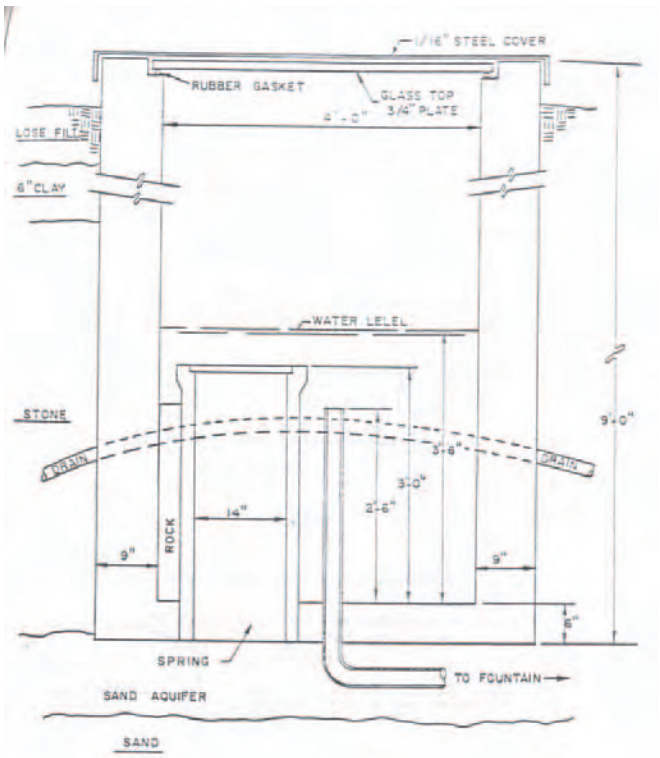

Figure 5-43. Re-design of the tank at Hillside Springs, 1963. See notes 126 and 127 for source information.

bacterial contamination from soil origins. During the dry period, coliform counts were non-fecal bacteria; during wet periods, both fecal coliform and fecal streptococci from bird and mammal species were present.[127] The source of the contamination was sought, but could not be found. The study recommended that the spring was "excellent for a potential potable source" of water, but only with "some treatment" similar to the chlorination systems used at Bromide and Medicine Springs.[128]

It appears that the park did not take the advice of the scientists, since there is no evidence of a chlorination system being installed. Furthermore, Hillside Springs is conspicuously absent on a 1971 summary of total annual time spent on maintaining the mineral springs, perhaps indicating that Hillside was no longer maintained as a potable water source.[129] Little other information on the spring has been located for the years between 1970 and 2000.

Pavilion Springs

The almost complete dearth of information during this period for Pavilion Springs seems to indicate that little

Figure 5-44. Pavilion Springs after the 1953 flood.

change also occurred at Pavilion Springs, especially in the 1950s. The area was badly flooded in 1953 (Figure 5-44). In 1965, the drainage of the seven springs underneath the building was altered a bit. A one-hundred foot ditch eighteen inches wide and twenty-four inches deep was dug along the south end and west side of the pavilion. Two lines of four-inch drain tile was laid side-by-side in the ditch, which was then filled with one-inch paving stone.[130] The new drainage way emptied into the spillway and trail passageway under Highway 177 and thence to Rock Creek. Maintenance on the spring in 1971 consisted of cleaning and replacing drain line and took a total of five person days over the course of the year.[131] In 2000, the roof was replaced with a new shake roof duplicating the original.

Former Elk Pasture

This area south of Flower Park and northwest of Pavilion Springs proved to be a locus of activity in the post-CCC years. Once the idea of relocating the Black Sulphur Springs pavilion to this area was abandoned in the mid-1940s, this area became a picnic area. By 1953, maps show a graded entry and loop road accessing it.[132] In 1956, following the creation of the park's interpretation division, plans were made to locate a "lecture circle" in the far west side of the area. This small amphitheater was built in the summer of 1956. It was a simple affair of eleven rows of wood plank benches constructed atop concrete bases, located on each side of a central walkway (Figure 5-45). It seated approximately 150 people and

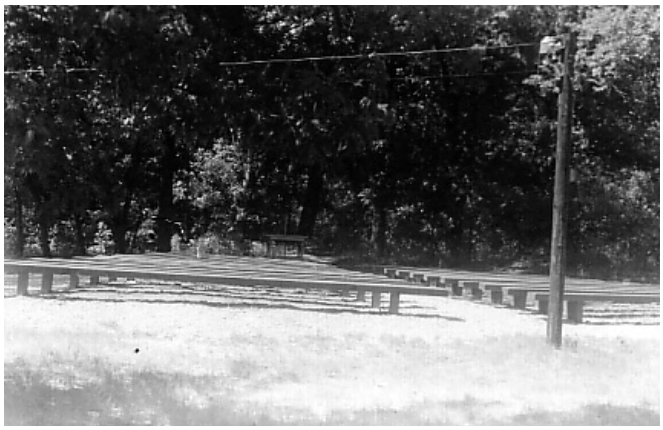

Figure 5-45. Amphitheater in area south of Flower Park, 1956.

Figure 5-46. Car and tent camping in Central Campground, circa 1960.

had an eight by eight foot projection screen of painted wood in front of the benches.[133] The amphitheater opened for use in September.[134]

The 1958 Master Plan, however, showed this structure as to be removed and replaced by a proposed new picnic shelter and audiovisual site in Flower Park. But this new visitor amenity was never built, so the amphitheater lasted until around 1961. After this time, the area south of Flower Park reverted to a simple picnic area. In 1998 a square, ranger information station was added near the perimeter road. This structure, though still present, ceased being used in 2000.

Figure 5-47. Western loop of Central Campground, view from Flower Park, 1963.

Central Campground

As early as 1940, park master plans advocated removing the western loop of the campground and converting this area into a picnic ground, while retaining the eastern loop as a segregated campground. This idea persisted in the 1950 Master Plan, which shows a single western loop labeled "Negro Area" on the plan, despite the fact that in 1946 or 1948, segregation signs had been removed from the campground.[135] It was not until 1957 that the practice of segregating campgrounds was fully eliminated.

In the summers of 1957 and 1958, camping was restricted at Central to overflow camping only. [136] Yet there still seems to have been a significant amount of campers (Figure 5-46). In his annual forestry report in 1957, Superintendent William Branch wrote:

> Bromide and old Central Campground have been closed to every day camping for a number of years and are making progress toward recovery of vegetation, but due to their forced use as overflow areas much too often, even their progress is necessarily slowed.[137]

The 1958 Master Plan continued to propose the area as a single loop campground, though it renamed the whole area "Central Park Campground." The plan also proposed paving the camp's loop road. In 1959, a property inventory listed the campground as having twenty-one sites, twenty-one wooden tables, two rock fireplaces and twenty-one underground garbage cans. Figure 5-47 is a view of the western loop from Central Park in 1963.

The Master Plans of 1965 and 1966 superseded the 1958 plan. These plans proposed converting the entire campground into a picnic area, again retaining only the western loop as vehicular circulation. Despite the proposed changes, existing condition maps and aerial

photographs from 1956 and 1969 reveal that the campground's circulation patterns and use remained unchanged from their 1940s conditions. The only change seen is a realignment of the entry road to accommodate a change in the perimeter road across Travertine Creek. This road project, which occurred in 1955, included construction of a new concrete bridge with large boulder headwalls. The campground's eastern entry road alignment was changed fourteen years later in 1969.

In 1987, the Denver Service Center or the Regional Office completed a new design layout converting the campground into 15 group sites. The plan was implemented with contract labor. The roads bisecting the two loops were obliterated at this time, and pull-in and back-in parking areas were located along loops. New grills, numbered posts for campsites and bollards along road and parking areas were also installed. In 1993, the organization of the group camp was refined slightly by park staff. The density of the campsite was reduced by removing five sites and the numbered posts were moved to new locations to reflect the organizational changes. Further work cleaned up the site. A dead tree and a hollow tree were removed. Topsoil was added to a few sites and they were reseeded. Large boulders were added between the western loop and U.S. Highway 177 to discourage pedestrians from walking along the former pathway to Flower Park. The old grills and concrete pads were removed from sites and twenty new grills (two per site) were added to the campground. Picnic tables were also redistributed.

In 1996, the banks of Travertine Creek in the campground began to badly erode along the perimeter road. A conglomerate rock wall was necessarily constructed to retain and stabilize the bank. The resulting wall was 170 feet long and eight feet high.

In 2000, the sites were renumbered to continue the numbering system from Cold Spring Campground, to facilitate payment through the Cold Spring automatic payment center. Bollards were also removed from the campground in 2000. In 2002, the Central comfort station underwent lead abatement and received a new, wood shake roof duplicating its historic roof.

Figure 5-48. Car camping at Cold Springs Campground, circa 1960.

Cold Springs Campground

Perhaps because it underwent such major reorganization in the 1930s, fewer changes were planned for Cold Springs in the 1942 and 1950 Master Plans. The 1950 Master Plan, for example, shows the community house replaced as a proposed staff residence, in hopes of providing a bit more supervision for the campground.

The only recorded change in the first twenty years was the construction of two "experimental" picnic tables, one twenty foot long and one thirty foot long, in 1954. Each table was designed as "table-bench combination,"[138] and their construction seems to have been a park staff initiative rather than a project from the regional office designers.[139] It's unclear if these were replacements for existing tables. No mention of large tables is found in the known CCC records, though a large, thirty-six-foot long table was built in Cold Springs in 1912.

The major change wrought during the 1950s was to the campground vegetation. The campground was well-used (Figure 5-48). In fact, it was probably overused, and the trees and shrubs suffered. In 1955, just five years after the opening of Rock Creek campground, which should have provided some relief for overused campgrounds, Chief Ranger Dickenson noted:

> Although Cold Springs Campground has been closed during the fall and winter months for the past few years, it is making very little natural recovery due to the intense summer use. Tree mortality is serious in this area, and water erosion is removing annually increasing amounts of topsoil….If another campground could be established,

Figure 5-49. Finished repairs at Cold Springs Campground, 1963.

Figure 5-50. Campsite reorganization at Cold Springs Campground, 1963. Note how boulders are being embedded below grade.

> it would be possible to rotate the usage of campgrounds every two or three years, eliminating much of the damaging overuse now in evidence.[140]

Similar complaints about vegetation damage were reiterated in the next few years. In 1957, Superintendent Branch reported that over 300 trees, some up to 80 feet tall and over 2 feet in diameter, needed major pruning or removal. [141] To relieve the pressure, the 1958 Master proposed adding a third comfort station and expanding the campground slightly to the east, but neither of these proposals were implemented. In 1959, the campground was inventoried to have twenty two underground garbage cans and sixty-four sites, each with a table and a rock fireplace.

A first stab at campground improvement occurred in 1961, when trees were planted in all of the campgrounds and ten signs were placed at planting locations to notify the public.[142] In Cold Springs, Osage orange seeds were collected for planting between the campground and the perimeter road.[143] The loop road in the campground was also resurfaced with Troy Gravel. [144] In March of 1963, a more comprehensive treatment was undertaken in Cold Springs. The sites were overhauled; they were regraded and stones separating the parking areas from the campsites were either installed for the first time or rearranged (Figure 5-49 and Figure 5-50).)[145]

In 1967, a campfire or "lecture" circle was constructed at Cold Springs. [146] It consisted of plank seats on ten by ten-inch timbered pillars, organized around a stone-lined fire pit. Similar to one built at Rock Creek Campground at the same time, it held about fifty people (see Figure 5-71, below).[147] Both circles were built in response to the proposed new Nature Center in the eastern part of the park, and were intended to "serve jointly as areas for informal programs during the winter months, as assembly points for speaking to organized camping groups and others, and as gathering places for campers who wish to join in fellowship about the evening campfire."[148] The location of the circle within the campground is not known, but it seems likely that it might have been built near the entry where the group camp sites are now.

The Master Plans of 1965 and 1966 both proposed converting the campground into a picnic area, but once again, this did not happen. In the summer of 1970, the community house was converted to an Arts and Crafts center, featuring Native American crafts.[149] In 1986, the community house became a resource management office, a use which continued until 2000. In 2003, the building became an exercise and weightlifting room for NPS staff and local police and fire personnel.

In 1998, an automated fee station was added to the campground near the entry, and in 2002, the comfort stations underwent lead abatement and received new wood shingle roofs, constructed to match their historic appearance.

Travertine Island and Little Niagara Falls

There is little documentation of Travertine Island and Little Niagara Falls in the years following 1940. In July of 1945, a team of park planners took a rather dim view of the CCC work on the island, which had been praised

Figure 5-51. Large picnic area at Travertine Island, no date.

Figure 5-52. New comfort station at Little Niagara Falls, 1966.

by NPS designers just a few years early. Harvey Cornell, Regional Chief of Planning wrote that

> "[t]he massive and unattractive stone tables, seats and fireplaces in the group picnic site should be removed, leaving only the bordering masonry wall. Standard tables and fireplaces should be introduced. The existing development does not harmonize with the surroundings.[150]

These ideas seem odd, given that ten years prior, the picnic area (Figure 5-51) was completed to rave reviews. However, Cornell's thoughts did not become a reality, and few changes of any sort were proposed for the area in any of the master plans of the 1940s and 1950s.

But change came rapidly in the 1960s. In 1962, maintenance began taking out part of the Travertine Island stone wall. Exactly why and where this took place is not clear, but the rock was "disposed of."[151] In 1962, the "broken and disintegrated stepping stones" between the Island and the parking area to the north were removed. It was replaced with "a plank crossing similar to the majority of our trail bridges." The reason for the replacement was as follows: "Many lunches, picnic baskets, etc., are carried over this trail and the replacement of these stones with a standard type trail bridge is needed."[152] Work on the demolition and bridge construction began in May 1962.[153]

Use of the pool and picnic areas was high. In 1966 a new comfort station (Figure 5-52) was constructed west of the Little Niagara Falls swimming hole to better accommodate the picnickers and bathers. The comfort station matched those at the other newer picnic areas, Black Sulphur Springs and Walnut Grove. In 1967, Little Niagara was inventoried with almost as many picnic tables as anywhere in the park: forty-four picnic tables, nineteen fireplaces, and fourteen refuse units.

With the planned construction of the Nature Center, even more change was at hand. In 1965 a site near the parking lot on Travertine Island was the proposed site for the new building, but this was shortly thereafter revised to the current site, slightly further east. The whole area was surveyed prior to construction, providing a good record of the area before it was changed (Figure 5-53). As a result of the new building, two new parking lots were constructed along the south bank of Little Niagara Falls and the perimeter road was rerouted as a one-way loop around Travertine Island beginning at Sycamore Falls. The new parking area at Little Niagara branched off from the one-way loop road (Figure 5-54). The parking areas were paved in asphalt and edged with stone that matched the new Nature Center. The stone, a little redder and darker than the native stone specified by the CCC designers, was quarried in Arkansas.[154] It was probably around this time that some of the small table and seating areas around Little Niagara were lost, leaving only the large picnic area and the stone table at Lost Cave Falls.

The 1970s were characterized by maintenance to counteract years of heavy use. Maintenance worker and mason Lawrence Howell recalls installing boulders along edge of Little Niagara in 1970 to stabilize the shoulders.[155] He also recalls creating channels on the top of the lower Niagara dam, to allow the water to run through, not over the dam, preventing slippery, mossy growth on the top of the dam. Howell also remembers

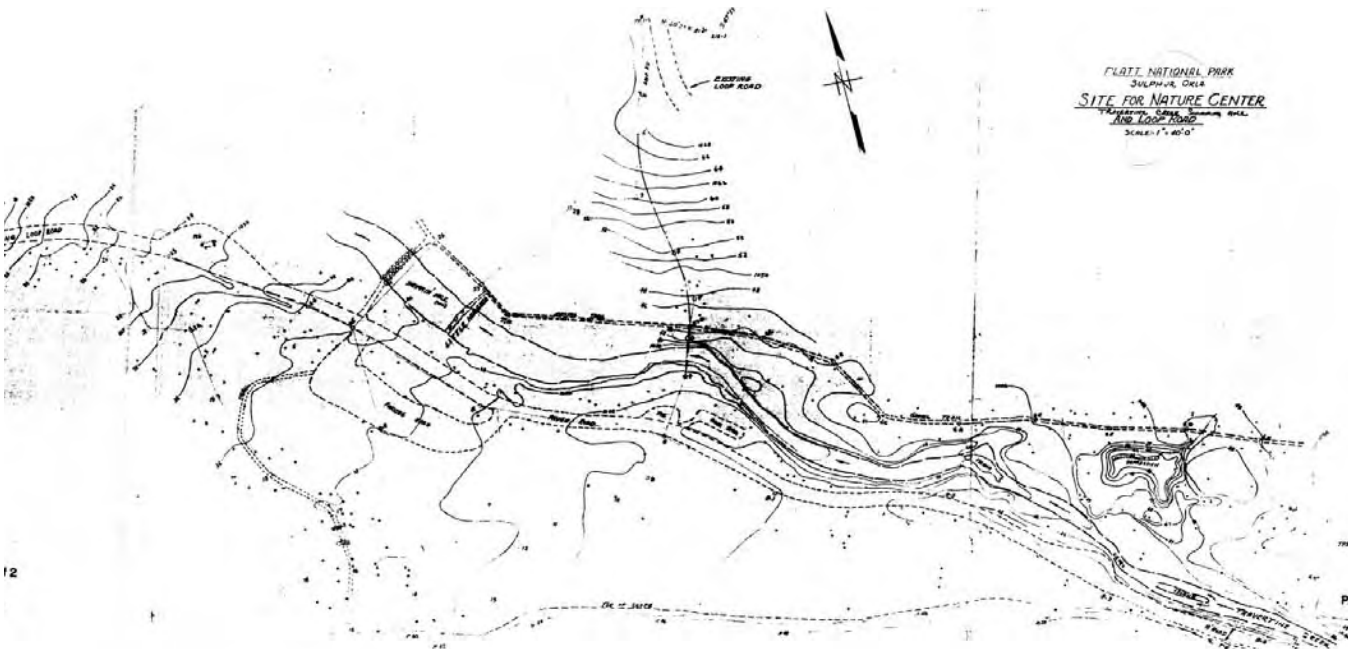

Figure 5-53. "Site for Nature Center and Loop Road," Drawing NP-PLA-3121, 1965. Topographical survey of the Little Niagara Falls area prior to construction of the Nature Center.

Figure 5-54. Little Niagara Falls parking area in winter, shortly after its completion in 1969. Note low, half log directional sign at intersection.

repairing the masonry on the Limestone Creek Bridge, and in 1974 installing a small culvert structure just off the northern corner of the Little Niagara parking area.

In the late 1970s, repairs were made to the stone picnic tables. Concrete was used to parge the smaller picnic table on Travertine Island in 1975 and in 1982 Howell repaired the square picnic table at Lost Cave Falls and its surrounding little patio. He also repaired the narrow staircase leading to the area, replacing travertine stones with more readily available limestone. In 1976, Howell also repaired the bridge between the northern parking area and Travertine Island.

In 1997, a new concrete walkway was installed between the Little Niagara parking area and the Mission 66 comfort station.

Buffalo and Antelope Springs

As at Little Niagara and Travertine Island, little change was proposed for Antelope and Buffalo Springs in the 1940s and 1950s. The 1942 Master Plan only recommended removing the two large fire pits at Buffalo Spring; nothing was suggested for Antelope Springs. Recorded maintenance for the 1940s included removing vegetation from the two pools below Antelope Springs in 1945.[156] According to Boeger, the large barbecue pits at Buffalo Springs were dismantled after World War II.[157]

The 1950s were plagued by drought, and Buffalo and Antelope Springs and Travertine Creek dried up for varied lengths of time in 1953, 1954, 1955, and 1959.[158] In 1955, the town, worried about the impact of the dry creek on park (and town) visitation, drilled a special well adjacent to the park in hopes of pumping water from this well to Travertine Creek. The technique was not particularly successful in creating the park's

Figure 5-55. Catching fish in a pond below Antelope Springs, 1963.

usual flowing waters and deep swimming holes. Water returned in December of 1959, but the springs dried up again in 1963. The water was so low, that fish that had congregated below Antelope Springs were netted (Figure 5-55).

By the mid 1960s, there seems to have been some discontent with the nature of the Buffalo and Antelope Springs area. Interestingly, unlike other areas of the park, few picnic tables were either inventoried or recorded in the far eastern part of the park. Only three picnic tables were recorded for Antelope Springs in 1965.[159] In 1964, Superintendent Paul Steel wrote the Regional Director for some design assistance in altering the Buffalo Springs area:

> For some time we have been toying with the idea of restoring Buffalo Springs to a more natural setting. Discussions during the Master Plan review on February 7, and a chat with Jerry Miller later in the day, leads us to believe your office is in accord.
>
> As a beginning, we would propose to remove two or more courses of native stone, leaving only enough wall to continue water flow over the existing lip to the stream bed. Sod would be stripped and saved to be replaced after proper sloping of the ground to the new wall level. Eventually the entire wall would be removed and a complete revertment to a more natural condition could be accomplished.[160]

The approval from Jerry Miller, one of the NPS designers at Platt during the CCC years, to obliterate his own work aside, the park's desire for a more "natural setting" may be indicative of a burgeoning service-wide interest in conservation of natural resources, a direct contrast to the more development-minded proposals of the decades between the world wars. Or, it may simply have been the park's desire to participate in, and receive funding for, changes under the Mission 66 initiative. At any rate, these desires culminated in the construction of the Travertine Nature Center within the Buffalo Springs area.

Although the Mission 66 prospectus for the park, begun in 1955, had always proposed the construction of a "Visitor Use" building in the park, the idea for a nature center in the park arose at least as early as 1963, when Superintendent Steel sent a query to the National Capital Region about the Rock Creek Nature Center, the only other nature center besides Platt's, in the National Park System. Steel said the park was "considering the possibility of a visitor center at Platt along the lines of your Rock Creek Nature Center" and asked for plans, layouts, and other information.[161]

When, in 1965, the Western Office of Design and Construction produced a drawing for a Visitor Center in Flower Park, Steel had a ready counterproposal to turn the building into a Nature Center.

> While the plan is most interesting and certainly as envisioned, would provide a fine Nature Center for Flower Park, we think that the Travertine Island site offers a great deal of opportunity for architectural ingenuity and feel that a compatible design to the Travertine Island site could afford an excellent opportunity for an architect to utilize some of the more modern approaches to interpretive endeavor.[162]

By the end of 1965, a plan had been made to develop a nature center within the park, and in 1966 the entry to the Buffalo and Antelope Springs was chosen as the best location for it. In February 1967, drawings for the new Travertine Nature Center were completed. The building was designed by the Houston architectural firm of McKee and Kamrath, and was styled after the work of Frank Lloyd Wright. The building was bridge-like. Long and low, with horizontal lines, it was built over Travertine Creek, displaying Steel's hoped-for architectural ingenuity (Figure 5-56).

In 1968, the Buffalo-Antelope Springs loop of perimeter road was closed at the site of the Nature Center in preparation for construction of the new building. The

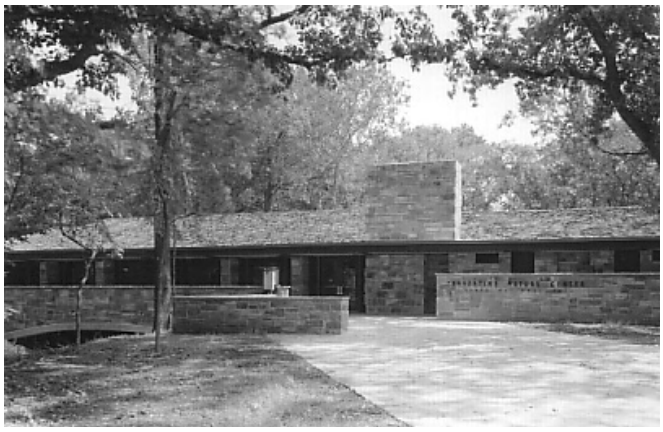

Figure 5-56. Travertine Island Nature Center, shortly after completion, 1969.

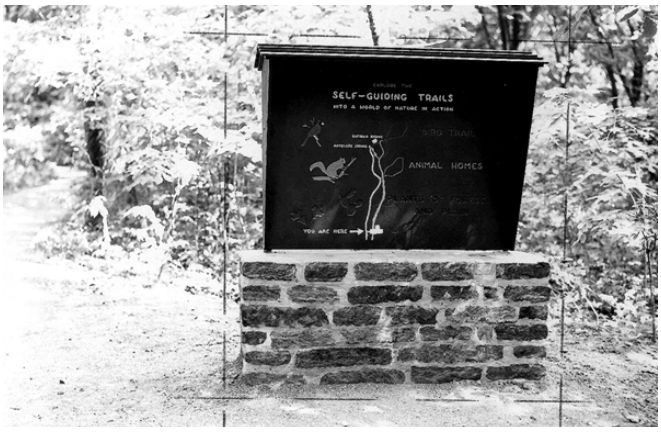

Figure 5-57. One of three kiosk-like interpretive signs along Buffalo Springs Trail, 1971.

rest of the perimeter road (the portion around Antelope and Buffalo Springs) was obliterated, with an intent of retaining it as pedestrian, bicycle, and NPS vehicle access, though this was not realized. A new segment of road was built to connect the two "loose ends," creating a shorter loop that merely wrapped around Travertine Island. The new loop was configured as a one-way route, beginning just beyond Sycamore Falls. The original Buffalo Springs Trail leading up the middle of the area became the major access to Buffalo and Antelope Springs, and was a pedestrian-only route. [163] The trail was surfaced in troy gravel and connected to three loops of nature trail, which were an expansion of nature trails that rangers had begun to develop in the early 1960s.

The park's first "Interpretive Prospectus," written in 1965, described the overall goal of the new construction as "the conversion of the eastern portion of the Park to a natural environment and nature study area."[164] As part of this conversion—part of the creation of an experiential landscape continuum of human impact and recreation in the western and nature interpretation in the eastern part of the park—the picnic areas and parking lots previously associated with Buffalo and Antelope Springs were demolished. Portions of these had already been removed after World War II, and after 1969, only the Buffalo Spring enclosure and comfort station were retained.

The creation of the nature center was aligned with increasing interest throughout the NPS in environmental education, and in the late 1960s, a program to identify "Environmental Study Areas" within the park system was established. An Environmental Study Area (ESA) was defined as "a land, or land and water area, whose natural, historic or man-nature characteristics are effectively combined with an organized study program to provide an understanding of the total environment and the individual's relationship to it."[165] The program's goal was to establish facilities and services for use by organized educational groups. Even before the building was completed, the park applied to have the Buffalo and Antelope Springs area listed as an Environmental Study Area, submitting an inventory form for 138 acres east of the Nature Center in June, 1968. By February, Platt was identified by national program managers as "one of the Service's finest opportunities for the ESA approach with associated adult environmental interpretation," able to educate children during the school year and adults during the summer.[166]

The Travertine Nature Center, with a large new parking lot constructed on its east side, was dedicated on September 20, 1969. Some changes were made even after the dedication. Flooding problems required riprap to be placed on both sides of the creek on the upstream side of the Nature Center. In June 1969, a planting plan for the area was completed, and eleven redbuds were planted around the front of the building. The rest of the plantings were groundcovers for the areas around the building and parking lots, and included 5,850 myrtle (*Vinca minor*), 3,275 Japanese honeysuckle plants, and 2000 scouring rushes (*Equisetum hyemale*).[167] The latter, the only native groundcover, was harvested at Guy Sandy and planted along the creek and under the building. In 1970, three kiosk-like interpretive signs were constructed of stone matching that in the nature center parking area and were erected along the new trail system (Figure 5-57). In 1971, the small retaining wall along Travertine Creek immediately northwest of the Nature Center was built under the direction of Lawrence Howell.

Figure 5-58. Lower pool, sometimes known as the lily pond, below Antelope Springs, circa 1970. Note stone bridge.

Figure 5-59. Antelope Springs rock outcropping, 1963. Note released nature of vegetation in the area.

Maintenance also continued, but to a lesser extent than previously, and primarily on the waterways and extant structures. In 1971, six person days were spent cleaning the channels and ponds at Buffalo and Antelope Springs of debris. In contrast, activities such as mowing and pruning were restricted in the new Environmental Study Area. As a result, the released landscape grew up. This was particularly noticeable at Antelope Springs (Figure 5-58 and Figure 5-59), but also true at Buffalo Springs (Figure 5-60). The park-like qualities of these areas receded into the background of the natural landscape.

Small changes continued, primarily to stream crossings, which, after forty years, were beginning to deteriorate. The stepping stones at the lowest Antelope Springs crossing had already been replaced by a large stone slab, reputedly the table top of a former stone picnic table, sometime before 1971. Lawrence Howell recalls replacing the middle crossing at Antelope Springs in 1976, removing a set of stepping stones. In 1977, he constructed the plank bridge located on the return trail between Buffalo Springs and the lowest Antelope Springs crossing. The bridge was constructed, he says, because the stepping stones, located underneath the bridge, were slippery, and it was deemed easier to build the bridge than constantly clean the stones. In 1979, Howell constructed wing walls and the pipe rail bridge at Buffalo Spring, where there used to be stairs and stepping stones. As part of this work, he repaired the flagstone path to Buffalo Springs, and in 1981 constructed a new flagstone path between Buffalo Springs and the curved arch bridge. He also recalls doing masonry repairs on the stone arch bridge itself, using dirt and soil to age the new mortar so that repairs would not be so noticeable.[168] The mortar he used was three parts creek sand to one part grey cement.

Figure 5-60. Buffalo Springs from east of enclosure, 1971. Again, note released nature of vegetation, especially in comparison to Figure 4-100.

Rock Creek Campground (Drawing 12: Rock Creek Campground Period Plan, 1950)

By 1940, the park realized a need for additional camping areas to serve large numbers of summer visitors and had located what they deemed to be an appropriate site: 63.75 acres of land located just west of the Bromide and Bromide Hill. The property had "a fine growth of deciduous trees consisting of oak, elm, hackberry sycamore, ash" and was removed from "bustle of the town… yet within easy walking distance."[169] In 1941, a

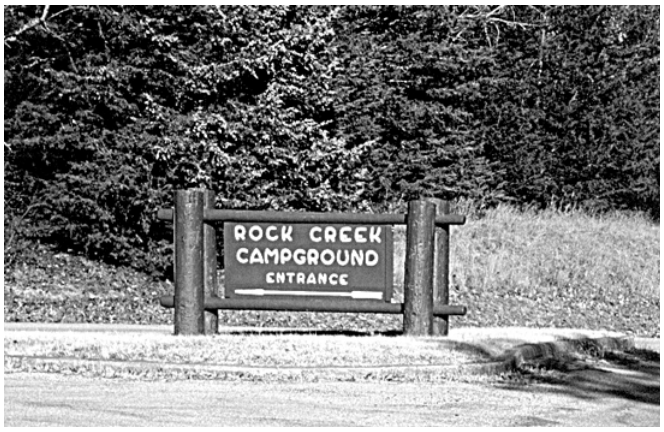

Figure 5-61. Rustic style entrance sign for Rock Creek Campground, no date.

Figure 5-62. Comfort station in Rock Creek campground, circa 1950.

Department of the Interior Appropriations Act included funds to appropriate this land, known as the Giles Estate. That same year, however, the heirs of the original property owners decided not to sell the lands based on prevailing real estate prices. As a result, condemnation proceedings began, and on January 28, 1942 the park took possession of the tract.[170] The acquisition brought the park's total acreage to 911.97 acres. [171] On April 15, 1943, the park acquired full jurisdiction over the property and, because of boundary disputes, it was resurveyed shortly thereafter. [172]

Although a complete plan for the campground was drawn by Jerome Miller in November 1942 and approved in February 1943, the wartime economy diverted funding from the NPS and the design became one of the many "Plans on the Shelf" awaiting the end of the war. In fiscal year 1950, $51,000 was allotted for the campground and the layout plan of the campground was reapproved in September 1949. Construction began in October with sewer and water line staking and work on 1.1 miles of asphalt roads and 62 campsites proceeded into the winter of 1950. [173] The overall layout was designed as a series of six concentric one-way loops located between Rock Creek and the perimeter road. The sites were mostly designed as pull-through sites, and each had a fire pit, picnic table, and underground garbage can. Water and electrical hook-ups were also planned for each site, but these were never implemented.

In February 1950 a dispute between the park and the regional office arose over the details of the campground, including the need for the proposed checking station and the design of campsite markers, water hydrants, and overhead lights. The regional office noted that the design of these latter features required "excessive use of posts and timbers," perhaps demonstrating an NPS-wide shift away from the pre-war "Rustic" style toward the cleaner, Modern style of design shortly to be promulgated by Mission 66 designers.[174] Though the overhead light design was eventually maintained, a new campsite marker design used a simple pipe support and a new hydrant design eliminated the original's wood post support. A small portable checking station was proposed as a substitute for the larger permanent checking station. It's unclear whether or not any of these approved features was ever built; it seems unlikely. Perhaps the only nod to the Rustic construction used elsewhere in the park was the campground's entry sign, which was framed with large logs and hand-carved by the park rangers (Figure 5-61).[175]

Work was delayed slightly due to the outbreak of the Korean War, but by June of 1950, two comfort stations of "tile construction" were underway in the campground. [176] Located on the second and fifth loops in the middle of the campground, the buildings were simply designed buildings (Figure 5-62). A band of more ornamental brick located underneath their wood-framed shingle roofs emphasized the horizontal line of the buildings. Built in a more Modern style, these buildings were something of a departure from the heavy stone construction of the Cold Springs comfort stations, but the overall scale, size, shape and hip-on-gable roofs mimicked the lines of the older structures. A set of narrow pedestrian paths along the curving axis of the loops linked the comfort stations to the road system.

The picnic tables and fire pits at each site also reflected a new design sensibility. Instead of the old wooden picnic tables, Regional Landscape Architect Harvey

Figure 5-63. Picnic table under construction in Rock Creek Campground, 1951.

Figure 5-64. Long, ten-foot picnic table in Rock Creek Campground, shortly after construction, 1951.

Figure 5-65. Six-foot picnic table in Rock Creek Campground, 1951.

Figure 5-66. Concrete grill in Rock Creek Campground, 1951.

Cornell proposed using a concrete picnic table, similar to ones he had seen in state parks in Texas.[177] Cornell felt the design not only met NPS objectives of "cleanliness, safety, and low cost maintenance," but also demonstrated "the importance of stability" since "all unnecessary embellishment in design was eliminated with the dimensions of the structural members held to a minimum to reduce the conspicuousness of the structure as a whole."[178] Though specified to be constructed in lengths of six, eight, and ten feet, it appears that only the six and eight foot tables were constructed (Figure 5-63, Figure 5-64 and Figure 5-65). More than forty were built by June 1950.[179] The fire pits were also built of poured concrete (Figure 5-66), not in rustic limestone masonry as had been the case fifteen years earlier at Cold Springs Campground. Each site was also equipped with an underground garbage can.[180] A small checking station was also constructed near the front of the campground in 1950 (Figure 5-67). A sign was also built at the entrance, but was reworked in 1954 (Figure 5-61). [181]

The campground opened for use in the summer of 1951. The new sites were initially more vegetated than the hard-used, compacted earth sites in Cold Springs (Figure 5-68). Park use continued to rise through the 1950s, and by 1962, summer attendance saw an average of 70,000 visitors per week.[182] The Bromide Springs area was continually called into use as an overflow campground, stressing the facilities and vegetation in the area. As a result of demand, and because of plans to eliminate campgrounds elsewhere in the park, Rock Creek was enlarged in the mid 1960s.

Approval for the project was received in April 1964, and drawings for the work were completed in October 1965. The plans, considered part of the service-wide Mission 66 program, added two more concentric loops to the southern end of the existing loop (Figure 5-69). Another independent loop, attached to the major section of the campground via a short spur, was proposed on a hillier section of the original Giles tract, known as Chigger

Figure 5-67. Checking Station at Rock Creek Campground, 1954.

Figure 5-68. Campsite at Rock Creek Campground, circa 1950.

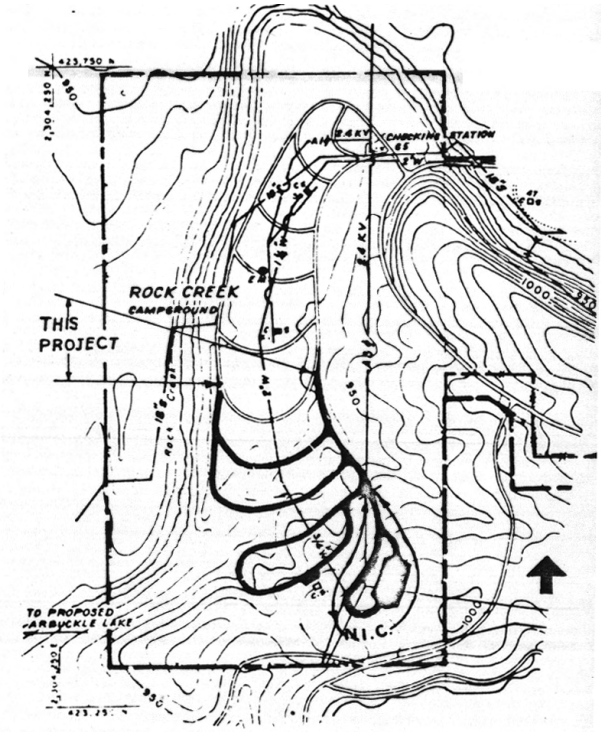

Figure 5-69. Sketch plan showing 1967 addition to Rock Creek Campground.

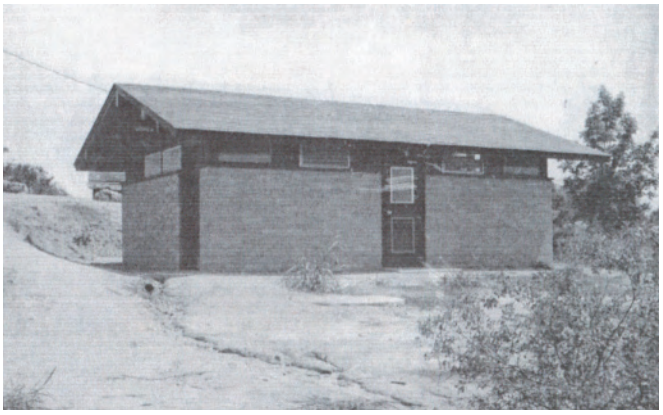

Figure 5-70. Mission 66 comfort station at Chigger Hill in Rock Creek Campground, 1966.

Hill. The two new concentric loops were predominantly pull through sites, but the Chigger Hill loop was a combination of pull through, pull in and back in sites as it accommodated the steeper topography. A total of 47 new sites were added, each with a moveable picnic table and fireplace. Five double trash can holders were installed in the new section, along with sixteen single can holders.[183] A comfort station (Figure 5-70) was constructed at the top of the hill. The campground addition was completed in 1967.

A campfire or "lecture circle" was also constructed at Rock Creek, at the same time as and identical to the one at Cold Springs. It was a half circle of plank seats on ten by ten-inch pillars around a stone-lined fire pit (Figure 5-71).[184] Its location within the overall campground is not known.

Changes in Rock Creek Campground following 1967 appear to have been minimal. New metal directional signs were added. The checking station, surveyed on site in 1981, was later moved to Guy Sandy.

Figure 5-71. Lecture circle at Rock Creek Campground, 1967.

Conclusion

The years between 1940 and 2003 are interesting because during this time the park changed in some fundamental ways, yet surprisingly retained many characteristics in the face of that change. The park's sense of its role as a place, and its position in the park system both changed greatly. Between 1940 and 2000, Platt changed from a park focused on its mineral waters to just one small portion of a regional, active recreational landscape. Within this context, planners began to view Platt as a day use area, with a strong interpretive focus, rather than a longer term destination park. They were certainly successful in providing the park with a strong interpretive mission and message through the nature center, its construction riding on an interest in the environment and ecology that would be sustained culturally through the next center. On the other hand, the efforts to make the park strictly a day-use area seems somewhat misguided, since the strong traditions of visitor use would eventually outweigh the desires of bureaucrats and planners in Washington and Denver and even interpretive staff in the park itself.

Given these shifting ideas about what Platt should be, and what it became, it's surprising that its physical—and now historic—resources built in the 1930s remained intact without greater change than was experienced. While the loss of the Buffalo Springs surroundings and the perimeter road seem, on one hand, a huge change in the park's design, it was motivated by positive forces trying to improve Platt's visitor service, environmental education, growth and status in the NPS system. With this in mind, it's perhaps surprising that not more of the CCC development was eliminated. However, it's likely that the recreational pressure that Platt experienced in the mid 1960s was, in fact, relieved by the creation of the Arbuckle area, so that development focused on creating new landscapes there instead of revising older landscapes at Platt.

Regardless of the reasons, the Platt District today remains in condition very similar to the way it was at the end of the Mission 66 era in 1969. These conditions, and the park's resulting high integrity, are detailed in the following two chapters.

Notes to Chapter 5

[1] Jim Steely, "National Historic Landmark Nomination," (draft nomination, September 2002).
[2] Ann Baugh, telephone conversation with Heidi Hohmann, 13 August 2002. Miller returned to the NPS after the war and even consulted on later Platt projects in the 1950s and 60s (see below). Miller ended his career in the Southwest Regional Office in the 1970s.
[3] William Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1944" (typewritten report), 3; Thomas Miller, "Superintendent's Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1945" (typewritten report), 2. CNRA Archives.
[4] William Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1943" (typewritten report), 6; Brown, "Superintendent's Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1952" (typewritten report), 2. CNRA Archives.
[5] Perry E. Brown to the Regional Director, Region Three, 25 May 1953. CNRA Archives.
[6] Hugh M. Miller, Memorandum to the Director, 14 February 1955. File D-46, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[7] J. F. Coyne, "Reappraisal of Elm Bark Beetle Infestation at Platt National Park, Sulphur, Oklahoma, July-December 1955." File YY2215, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[8] William Supernaugh, Memorandum to the Director, 13 July 1955. File A-98, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[9] Acting Regional Director (William Bowen), Memorandum to Chairman, Mission 66, 20 September 1955. File A-98, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[10] E. T. Scoyen (Acting Director), Memorandum to Regional Director, Region Three (Hugh Miller), 4 April 1956. CNRA Archives.
[11] Ibid.
[12] William Branch (Superintendent), Memorandum to Regional Director, Region Three (Hugh Miller), 13 March 1956. File A-98, National Archives, Fort Worth. Branch said he was "at wits end" with the decision, which he learned about in a 20 February 1956 memorandum from the Mission 66 Chairman. He also felt regretful (and perhaps deceived by the NPS) about his decision to return to Platt, noting "I would not have desired to come here, had I known there would be no program of expansion. This is a fine place to live…but I would much prefer to be at an area with a program of development and expansion than at one with apparently no prospects."
[13] E. T. Scoyen (Acting Director) to Robert Kerr (U.S. Senator) 4 April 1956; E. T. Scoyen (Associate Director) Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region Three (Hugh Miller) 20 April 1956; Harthorn Bill (Acting Regional Director), Memorandum to the Director, 5 April 1956. All in File A-98, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[14] "Physical Improvements—Mission 66," Drawing NP-PLA-3100, (Western Office, Design and Construction [hereafter WODC], March 1958). CNRA Archives.
[15] Regional Director, Memorandum to Superintendent, Platt, 31 May 1956. File A-98, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[16] Superintendent, Platt National Park, Memorandum to the Director, 21 January 1963. File K-1819, National Archives, Fort Worth. The number of 130 comes from the Fixed Property Record card file, CNRA Central Files. Only four large interpretive signs existed in the park—one each at Bromide, the Buffalo Pasture, Antelope Springs, and Travertine Island. It seems the one at the Buffalo Pasture was created after the 1962–1963 sign plan.
[17] Donald M. Spalding, Memorandum to the Regional Director, Southwest Region, 5 August 1965. File D-22, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[18] "Narrative, Master Plan for Platt National Park," Drawing NP-PLA-3110, page 1 (Division of Landscape Architecture, WODC, 1964), 1. CNRA Archives.
[19] Ibid., 8.
[20] Ibid., 4.
[21] Ibid., 8.
[22] Ibid.
[23] George Robinson, "Interpretive Prospectus for Platt National Park and Arbuckle Recreation Area" (typewritten report, approved 6 August 1965), 17. CNRA Archives. Copy provided by park staff.
[24] Ibid., 12.
[25] "General Development: Land Classification and Acquisition, Part of the Master Plan," Drawing NP-PLA-2100-E, page 13 (WODC, approved 27 October 1965). This drawing shows the proposed nature center at its current location. "Visitor Use, Master Plan for Platt National Park," Drawing NP-PLA-3113, page 9 (Division of Landscape Architecture, WODC, 1964), shows it on Travertine Island.
[26] Robinson, "Interpretive Prospectus," 2.
[27] Steely, "National Historic Landmark Nomination," 53.
[28] Daniel Beard (Regional Director), Memorandum to Superintendent, Platt National Park, 2 December 1964. CNRA Archives.
[29] "Priority List, First Year Project Job Corps Camps," no date. File D22, National Archives, Fort Worth. Tree planting projects are indicated on the Fixed Property Record card file in the CNRA Central Files.
[30] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 8 September 1954. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[31] Lonnie Shaffer (Chief Ranger) Memorandum to Regional Director, Region Three, 10 January 1961. CNRA Archives.
[32] William Branch, "Superintendent's Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1942" (typewritten report), 3.
[33] Ibid.
[34] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), card file. CNRA Central Files.
[35] Thomas Miller. "Superintendent's Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1946" (typewritten report), 2. CNRA Archives.
[36] Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1944," 2.

[37] Harvey H. Cornell, Regional Chief of Planning, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 17 July 1945. CNRA Archives.
[38] Perry Brown to the Regional Director, Region Three, 25 May 1953.
[39] Johnwill Faris, Memorandum to the Regional Director, Southwest Region, 11 September 1962. File D-30, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[40] Supervisory Maintenance Engineer, Memorandum to the Superintendent, Platt National Park, 19 September 1962. File D-30, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[41] Leroy Hall to the Superintendent, Platt National Park, 11 February 1963. File D-22, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[42] "Untitled," Drawing107/41002 (Southwest Office, May 1969), 2 pages. Drawing shows proposed reconstruction of the Black Sulphur Springs Causeway. CNRA Archives.
[43] Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1943," 3.
[44] Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1944," 2.
[45] Cornell, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 17 July 1945.
[46] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 169.
[47] Johnwill Faris, Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region Three, 17 April 1962. File D30, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[48] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 7 December 1961. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[49] L. D. Drake to the Superintendent, Platt National Park, 29 May 1962. File D30, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[50] Jack E. Stark (Superintendent), Memorandum to the Regional Director, Southwest Region, 9 April 1968. File D-30, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[51] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 157; Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1943," 4; P. A. Newell, Deputy Procurement Officer, Treasury Department, to William Branch, Superintendent, Platt National Park, 2 November 1942. CNRA Archives.
[52] Charles A. Richey, Memorandum for Superintendent Branch, Platt National Park, 16 January 1943. File 650-04, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[53] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 149, 159.
[54] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 162; Thomas Miller, "Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1947" (typewritten report), 1. CNRA Archives.
[55] "Reconstruction—Water and Sewer Systems: Bromide Area," Drawing NP-PLA-5318 (Branch of Engineering, Regional Office, 1943); "Utility Layout: Bromide Area, Part of the Master Plan" Drawing NP-PLA-5306-B, sheet 5 (Division of Landscape Architecture, Regional Office, March 1950). CNRA Archives. The former drawing shows existing supply lines from all three springs running along the creek bed to the pump house. In contrast, the latter drawing shows only two lines from Bromide and Medicine Springs, running along the low water bridge.
[56] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 155.
[57] William Branch. "Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1941," 3. CNRA Archives.
[58] Branch, "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1943," 5.
[59] Thomas Miller, "Superintendent's Annual Report, Fiscal Year 1949" (typewritten report), 4. CNRA Archives.
[60] Johnwill Faris, Superintendent, Memorandum to the Regional Director, 2 October 1961. CNRA Archives.
[61] Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1943," 2-3.
[62] Cornell, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 17 July 1945.
[63] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, page 164.
[64] "Utility Layout: Bromide Area, Part of the Master Plan," Drawing NP-PLA-5306-B, March 1950. This plan appears to be the first drawing indicating locations of rock guard rail in the Bromide area. Boulder guardrail had, however, been used along the Bromide Hill stretch of the perimeter road as early as 1935. See Richey and Miller, "Report to the Chief Architect," 30 September 1935, 10.
[65] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 27 October 1954. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[66] Perry Brown to the Regional Director, Region Three, 25 May 1953. CNRA Archives.
[67] Johnwill Faris to the Regional Director, 21 April 1962. CNRA Central Files.
[68] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 1 March 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[69] CNRA photograph archive, negatives 237 and 234.
[70] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card. CNRA Central Files.
[71] Harold F. Cumiford, "A Study of the Bacterial Contamination of Hillside Spring at Platt National Park," US Department of the Interior, Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, Robert S. Kerr Water Research Center, unpublished report, January 1968, 29. On file at the Travertine Nature Center.
[72] CNRA photograph archive, negative 268.
[73] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card, CNRA Central Files.
[74] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 184.
[75] CNRA photograph archive, negative 735.
[76] Acting Regional Director, Memorandum to Chief WODC, 6 July 1967. File D-22, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[77] "Rock Creek Foot Bridge," Drawing 107/41,001 (Environmental Planning and Design, Western Service Center, April 1968). CNRA Archives.
[78] CNRA photograph archive, negatives 2361, 935, and 936.
[79] Supervisory Hydraulic Engineer, Southwest Region, Memorandum to Superintendent, Platt National Park, 31 February 1973. CNRA Archives.
[80] Dick Stansberry, handwritten account of 25-27 April 1973. CNRA Central Files.
[81] Ken Ruhnke, comment provided in December 2002 draft review.
[82] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 199.

[83] "Roads and Trails Systems, As Maintained," Drawing NP-PLA-2301-C (Maintenance Division, Regional Office, February 1962). CNRA Archives.
[84] Daniel Beard, Regional Director, Memorandum to Superintendent, Platt National Park, 2 December 1964. File D-22, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[85] "General Development: Land Classification and Acquisition, Drawing NP-PLA-2100-E, page 13.
[86] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card, CNRA Central Files.
[87] Jerome Miller, "Field Report, Plans and Design Division, Platt National Park, July 2-3, 1939" (short, typewritten report, July 1939). CNRA Archives.
[88] Perry E. Brown to the Regional Director, Region Three, 25 May 1953. CNRA Archives.
[89] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 7 December 1961. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[90] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 1 March 1961. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[91] "Roads and Trails Systems," Drawing NP-PLA-2301-C. This drawing shows a road into the picnic area.
[92] General Development: Land Classification and Acquisition," Drawing NP-PLA-2100-E, page 13.
[93] "Comfort Station: Little Niagara Falls, Walnut Grove, Black Sulphur Spgs.," Drawing NP-PLA-3116, (Division of Architecture, WODC, 1965).
[94] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card, CNRA Central Files.
[95] Untitled," Drawing107/41002.
[96] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 27 October 1954. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[97] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 1 March 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[98] Cumiford, "A Study of the Bacterial Contamination of Hillside Spring at Platt National Park," 29.
[99] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negative 536.
[100] Maintenance Supervisor, Memorandum to Superintendent, 15 August 1972. CNRA Archives.
[101] Cornell, Memorandum for Regional Director, 17 July 1945.
[102] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 160.
[103] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 167.
[104] Paul M. Steel (Superintendent), Memorandum to Chief, WODC, Southwest Region, 16 August 1965. File D3415, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[105] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 15 November 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[106] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negative 2361.
[107] Branch, "Annual Report, June 30, 1941," 3.
[108] Ibid.
[109] Miller, " Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1946," 2; Thomas Miller, " Superintendent's Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year 1952" (typewritten report), 10.
[110] Superintendent, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region Three, 22 September 1954. File K1815-N, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[111] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 13 January 1956. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[112] J. Faris to Drury Spencer, 15 February 1963. File D-22, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[113] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card. CNRA Central Files.
[114] Secretary of the Interior to U.S. Senator Mike Monroney, 20 December 1961. File D30, National Archives, Fort Worth. Protests were lodged by the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce and City Council as well.
[115] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card. Individual Building Data Form (Form 10-768). CNRA Central Files.
[116] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 11 August 1954. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[117] "Roads and Trails Systems," Drawing NP-PLA-2301-C.
[118] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 159.
[119] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 13 January 1956. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[120] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card. CNRA Central Files.
[121] Robert Peters (Acting Superintendent) to W. C. Galegar (Director, Robert S. Kerr Water Research Center), 9 November 1966. Appended to Cumiford, "A Study of the Bacterial Contamination of Hillside Spring at Platt National Park." CNRA Archives.
[122] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 28 December 1961. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[123] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 12 April 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[124] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 29 November 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[125] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negatives 293 and 295.
[126] Cumiford, "A Study of the Bacterial Contamination of Hillside Spring at Platt National Park," Photographs on pages 4 and 5 show a central jet in addition to the bubblers on the side.
[127] Ibid., 1.
[128] Ibid., 12-13.
[129] Maintenance Supervisor, Memorandum to the Superintendent, 15 August 1972. CNRA Archives.
[130] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card for "Water System, Mineral Water Springs." CNRA Central Files.
[131] Maintenance Supervisor, Memorandum to the Superintendent, 15 August 1972.
[132] "Roads and Trails Systems, Part of the Master Plan" Drawing NP-PLA-2104-C (May 1953).
[133] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), file card. CNRA Central Files.
[134] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negatives 326, 102.
[135] Wray and Roberts, " Ethnohistory of Associated Park Use," chapter entitled "Colorado People Only," n.p.
[136] William E. Branch, Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region Three, 7 January 1959. File Y-2619, National Archives, Fort Worth.

[137] William E. Branch, Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region Three, 6 January 1958. File Y-2619, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[138] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 11 August 1954. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[139] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negative 64(pla). This circa 1954 photograph shows the long picnic tables being stained, with a caption "new picnic tables."
[140] Russell Dickenson (Chief Ranger), Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region Three, 6 January 1955. File Y-2619, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[141] W. E. Branch, Memorandum to the Regional Director, 6 March 1957. File Y1815, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[142] Lonnie Shaffer (Chief Ranger), Memorandum to the Regional Director, Region Three, 15 January 1963. File Y-2619, National Archives, Fort Worth.8
[143] Lonnie Shaffer (Chief Ranger), Memorandum to Regional Director, Region Three, 6 January 1962. File Y-2619, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[144] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 31 May 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[145] In addition to Figures 5-49 and 5-50, see negative number 2037 and others in the CNRA Archives.
[146] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negative 798.
[147] Fixed Property Record, Form 10-559, card file. CNRA Central Files.
[148] George Robinson, "Interpretive Prospectus," 9.
[149] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negatives 1021 and 1010.
[150] Cornell, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 17 July 1945.
[151] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 3 May 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[152] Johnwill Faris, Memorandum to Regional Director, Region Three, 17 April 1962. File D30, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[153] Minutes of Staff Meeting, Platt National Park, 10 May 1962. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[154] Lawrence Howell, field walk with Ken Ruhnke and Heidi Hohmann, November 2002.
[155] Ibid.
[156] Cornell, Memorandum for the Regional Director, 17 July 1945.
[157] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 160.
[158] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 25 August 1954. File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth. See Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis,* for a summary of droughts.
[159] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), card file for Campground Equipment. CNRA Central Files.
[160] Paul M. Steel, Memorandum to the Regional Director, Southwest Region, 1 April 1964. File D46, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[161] Paul M. Steel, Memorandum to Maurice Sullivan, 11 September 1963. File D34, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[162] Paul M. Steel, Memorandum to Chief WODC, Southwest 16 August 1965. File D3415, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[163] Jack E. Stark (Superintendent), Memorandum to the Regional Director, Southwest Region, 9 April 1968. File D-30, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[164] George Robinson, "Interpretive Prospectus," 8.
[165] Director (National Park Service), "Environmental Conservation Memorandum 3, Re: Survey of Potential Environmental Study Areas," 16 May 1968. CNRA Nature Center Files.
[166] William Brown (Regional Environmental Education Coordinator), Memorandum to the Chief, Office of Environmental Education, 13 February 1965, 5. CNRA Nature Center Files.
[167] "Untitled," Drawing 107/41003 (planting plan for Travertine Nature Center, Southwest Region, June 1969).
[168] Howell, field walk with Ken Ruhnke and Heidi Hohmann, November, 2002.
[169] Branch, "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1942," 3.
[170] William Branch, "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1941" (typewritten report), 3. CNRA Archives.
[171] Branch, "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1942," 3.
[172] Branch. "Superintendent's Annual Report, June 30, 1943," 4.
[173] J. H. Conn, Engineer to the Regional Engineer, 18 October 1949. File 621, Rock Creek General, National Archives, Fort Worth; Thomas Miller. "Superintendent's Annual Report, Platt National Park, Fiscal Year 1950" (typewritten report), 3. Although Miller says sixty-two sites in his report, the drawing for the campground, NP-PLA-2029B, shows fifty-nine. It's believed that sixty-two were built.
[174] Regional Landscape Architect (Harvey H. Cornell) to the Director, 22 March 1950. File 621, Rock Creek General, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[175] Miller. "Superintendent's Annual Report, 1950," 3.
[176] Ibid.
[177] Harvey Cornell to Superintendent (Thomas Miller), 21 October 1949. File 621, Rock Creek General, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[178] Regional Chief of Planning and Construction (Harvey Cornell), Letter to the Director, 16 June 1950. File 621, Rock Creek General, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[179] CNRA Archives, photograph files, negatives 972 and 973.
[180] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), card file on Campgrounds. CNRA Central Files.
[181] Platt National Park Staff Conference Minutes, 24 November 1954, File A4031, National Archives, Fort Worth.
[182] Boeger, *Oklahoma Oasis*, 83.
[183] Fixed Property Record (Form 10-559), card file. CNRA Central Files.
[184] Fixed Property Record, (Form 10-559), card file. CNRA Central Files.