

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Central Park

AND/OR COMMON Central Park

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

New York City VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

17th and 18th

STATE New York

CODE  
36

COUNTY  
New York

CODE  
061

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME New York City adm. by Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs

STREET & NUMBER

Arsenal Building, 830 Fifth Avenue

CITY, TOWN

New York City VICINITY OF

STATE

New York

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

New York County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

31 Chambers Street

CITY, TOWN

New York

STATE

New York

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of the important things which sets Central Park apart from so many other parks, which simply grew on their sites, is the fact that, despite the great size, it was the result of a carefully laid-out plan. Not merely content to have their plan win in competition, Olmsted and Vaux literally lived with it. During construction they moved their families into a building at the northern end of the park. In this way they were able to build creatively, always ready to modify it to achieve the best results as new conditions arose on the site. Their imaginations were constantly challenged to take advantage of the functional and aesthetic possibilities as they arose.

It has been said that Central Park literally brought the open country into the heart of the City. Confronted with a squatters' town of some three hundred hovels set in an open plain interspersed with out-croppings of rock, swamps and meandering waterways, Olmsted and Vaux created their masterful and influential landscape design. They not only introduced such features as mounds and lakes; they also embellished natural features already present such as rock to further enhance the scene. The end result was romantic and picturesque in the extreme and needed only such naturalistic touches as sheep grazing in a meadow, swans gliding on a pond, rustic trellised arbors and stone arches. All structures, they felt, should blend harmoniously with this natural setting and for this reason bridges and buildings whether of stone, wood, or iron were made intentionally picturesque in the best Victorian tradition.

The creation of the park as an artistic masterpiece had to be laid on a firm functional foundation. It was first necessary to construct a drainage system, 95 miles in length, which channelled the underground streams, carried off excess surface water, and allowed fresh water from the reservoir to flow into the lakes. Confronted with the problem of reconciling five different types of circulation which cross and recross each other at different levels, Olmsted and Vaux met the challenge with great originality and imagination. These five elements of circulation include: footpaths, bridle paths, carriage drives, waterways and the functionally effective sunken transverse roads. Extending a park up the heart of the City for some 50 blocks (approximately 2-1/2 miles) would of necessity require that transverse roads be permitted to cross it at stated intervals. This problem was solved by depressing these roads considerably beneath the general surface of the park so that no one walking in the park was aware of the east-west traffic rumbling along below it. This was not a completely original idea as such, there having been other precedents for it.

Considering that these transverse roads were built for carriages, carts and drays, people today are amazed at the foresight of those who conceived this feature which serves the heavy flow of motor traffic so well. Picturesque serpentine carriage drives, which discouraged the racing of trotters, ran primarily north and south. They crossed unobtrusively over the transverse roads on bridges which were scarcely noticed by the carriages drawn by horses which were a conspicuous feature of the afternoon drive when New Yorkers turned out in force to see and be seen.

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Some of the many footpaths which laced the park in all directions followed the drives at certain points so that the pedestrian could also have a good view of the passing parade. A series of handsome arches of brick, stone and iron permitted the pedestrian to pass under the drives without crossing them and likewise to pass over the independent but interlacing system of bridle paths which they crossed at various points.

The waterways, whether lakes or streams, are traversed at various points by bridges for the pedestrian permitting the rowboat on the lake to pass unimpeded over the water. Today the functional plan of the park remains so effective that one barely thinks of it--an unconscious tribute to the mastery of the overall design of Olmsted and Vaux.

Among the structures which blend most harmoniously with the site are the bridges which carry the east and west drives over the transverse roads, the footpaths over lakes, and the smaller bridges or arches which generally carry the footpaths over the bridle paths or the drives over footpaths. These are constructed of a wide range of materials including wood, rough-faced stonework, dressed stonework, brick, and even cast iron. Of those bridges which exemplify the materials mentioned above are some which are more or less typical of the approximately 50 bridges and arches in the park today: the wood footbridges at the Ramble, the bold faced, picturesque stone archway known as the Glen Span at the entrance to the Ravine, the rather formal Trefoil Arch of dressed stonework at the eastern end of the Lake, which passes under the East Drive, and the Willowdell Arch of brick trimmed with stone, east of The Mall, which also passes under the East Drive. Several extremely handsome cast-iron bridges also adorn the park, most notable of which is the recently restored Bow Bridge with its wide low span which crosses the Lake at mid-point. These arches and bridges are an important part of that planning which makes circulation in the park so safe and so attractive.

The twenty gates in the wall around Central Park were dedicated to the people of New York City. The gates were named in 1862 by the Park Commissioners honoring: Artists, Merchants, Scholars, Cultivators (changed to Farmers), Warriors, Mariners, Engineers, Hunters, Fishermen, Woodmen, Miners, Explorers (changed to Pioneers), Inventors, Foreigners (changed to Strangers), Boys, Girls, Women, Children, and All Saints. Basically simple openings in the wall, the gates do not emphasize architecture at the expense of landscape.

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The Mall and the Terrace, also called the Esplanade, were an integral part of the original Greensward Plan. Stretching across the lower section of the park from 65th Street to 73rd Street, it is the one formal element in an otherwise picturesque plan. The Mall, which was planted with four rows of elm trees, was planned so that its vista would terminate with a view of the Belvedere. The physical termination point of the Mall as one walks northward is the Esplanade or Terrace, constructed in two levels, at the lower edge of the Lake. The pedestrian can choose one of two ways to descend to the lower Terrace: either by crossing the roadway and using one of two wide flights of stairs lined with impressive carved railings; or by descending through the gallery and arcade beneath the roadway. At both levels the Terrace is outlined by piers and balustrades of carved Albert freestone. The imaginative detailing of stylized foliage and birds was designed by Jacob Wrey Mould in keeping with Victorian prototype. The ceiling of the gallery is lined with colored Minton tiles.

The dominant feature of the lower Terrace is the Bethesda Fountain, designed by Emma Stebbins. A large bronze figure of the Angel of the Waters rises above a basin supported on a pedestal carved with four youthful figures representing Health, Purity, Temperance and Peace.

Olmsted and Vaux felt strongly that any buildings in the park should serve a secondary function--the landscape and the preservation of the natural setting being their foremost considerations. At the same time, they designed a number of structures which enhanced the appearance of the park. In the text for "Greensward," their winning plan for the park, they said: "... we conceive that all such architectural structures should be confessedly subservient to the main idea, and that nothing artificial should be obtruded in view as an ultimatum of interest. The idea of the park itself should always be uppermost in the mind of the beholder."

Calvert Vaux was trained as an architect in England and came to this country to work for Andrew Downing, the landscape architect whose writings popularized the Italian villa style and the planned environment. Vaux's interest in landscaping grew out of this association. To him was entrusted the design of many of the park's structures after he and Olmsted were appointed park architects. Jacob Wrey Mould, who had also been born and trained as an architect in England, began assisting Vaux in the design of park structures about 1858. Vaux is generally credited with the overall designs for the buildings and for many of the bridges, while Mould has been credited with the elegant details of the cast-iron bridges and with the refinements of the Terrace.

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The park buildings were generally designed in the Victorian Gothic style, built of red brick trimmed with stone and surmounted by steeply pitched roofs. Those structures built of cast iron made excellent use of that material, being light and graceful in form and enhanced by delicate detail. Although many schemes for buildings in the park have been proposed over the years, most of them have fortunately not been realized. The actual number of buildings in the park remains relatively small, and a number of the original Vaux and Mould structures of the 1860's and 1870's remain standing, although many were willfully destroyed through conscious neglect.

Sculpture has also found its way into the park. The 19th-century residents of the City, who loved monuments, felt that the park was an appropriate place for them. Works by such noted sculptors as Augustus St. Gaudens, John Quincy Adams Ward, Olin Levi Warner, Daniel Chester French and Paul Manship, as well as many others, can be found in the Park.

Many modern additions of playgrounds and fields have altered the original plan. Neglect has caused the disappearance of species of trees, landscape elements and park buildings. The staff of gardeners and assistants, always inadequate, gradually dwindled to nothing and it is only recently that any maintenance staff has been permanently assigned to the park. From 1934 the Park Department no longer had a landscape architect. The most serious invasion of the park took the form of gifts, several were personal memorials. The most intrusive of these is the Wollman Skating Rink and the Loula D. Lasker Pool-Rink.

Plans are now underway to reconstruct the Woolman Rink into a more naturalistic form. The process of restoring the landscape features is hampered by a chronic lack of funding. The southeastern area is at least being studied for restoration and a landscape architect is currently employed by the Parks Department. Despite changes, Central Park remains a notable example of Olmsted and Vaux's landscape design, contributing as much to the City and its people today as it did in its earliest years.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

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SPECIFIC DATES	1857-1866	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Frederick Law Olmsted Calvert Vaux
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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Central Park occupies a prominent position in the history of the park movement in the United States because it dramatized the need for, and gave an impetus to, the Nation's urban park movement.

In the 1840's farsighted citizens of New York began a movement to develop a large park in the heart of the rapidly expanding city. Two of the leaders of this movement were Andrew Jackson Downing, America's first great professional landscape gardener, and William Cullen Bryant, the poet and editor.

From 1851, when the city was authorized to buy land for the park, until 1857, the park was under City control. In 1857, because of mismanagement an independent park commission was established.

Appointment of Frederick Law Olmsted as superintendent of Central Park in the fall of 1857 marked a turning point in the park's development. Olmsted and his business partner, Calvert Vaux, the English born landscape architect, entered a plan in the competition for a park design in 1858. Their design won first prize, and, shortly after, Olmsted became the park's chief architect and Vaux consulting architect for the park.

This prize-winning design reflected the influence of the close contact which these men had with Downing. It decreed that the park should have a natural or forest atmosphere and that all architectural features should be subordinated to that premise. The idea of a natural area immediately appealed to the people, and in 1859 the park was extended to 110th Street. By 1866, most of the park had been completed.

#### History

Central Park was the first large-scale public park in the nation that was designed and constructed according to a plan. It was to be a place where all people could find physical relief from the pressures of an urban society.

As New York City was transformed under the impact of the Industrial Revolution and massive immigration from Europe during the first half of the 19th century, the shortcomings of the grid plan became evident. Little provision for new squares, or parks was made and the green spaces that were created were either for private use, such as Gramercy Park and St. John's Park, or were cemeteries and converted graveyards like Washington Square.

(continued)

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 "Central Park Report," New York City Landmarks Commission, New York City.  
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# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 840

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	5 8 8 6 2 0	4 5 1 6 5 3 0	B	1 8	5 8 6 6 6 0	4 5 1 2 9 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 8	5 8 5 9 1 0	4 5 1 3 3 0 0	D	1 8	5 8 7 8 7 0	4 5 1 6 9 4 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of 59th Street and Fifth Avenue, the boundary of Central Park runs north along the west curb of Fifth Avenue to 110th Street, west along the south curb of 110th Street to Central Park West, south along the east curb of Central Park West to 59th Street and east along 59th Street to the point of beginning. All structures and landscape features within the park which were designed, either as part of the original plan or were added as important elements in

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (continued)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY
STATE	CODE	COUNTY

Landmark Designated: May 23, 1963  
 CODE .....

Boundary Certified: Jan 6, 1978  
 CODE .....

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 8/14/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW

TELEPHONE

523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1.23.78

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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In the 1840's, after the cholera and malaria epidemics of the 1830's, a serious campaign was begun to create a park to benefit all the people of New York. One of the earliest and most influential leaders in this campaign was William Cullen Bryant, the powerful journalist who began to write editorials in favor of a park in his newspaper, the New York Evening Post, on July 3, 1844.

Another important voice that called for the establishment of a park was Andrew Jackson Downing, the Hudson River landscape architect and author who was internationally recognized for his books and for his creative landscaping. Downing's proposal which appeared in The Horticulturist in August 1851 was more ambitious than Bryant's suggestion of using Jones' Woods along the East River between 68th and 77th Streets. Downing advocated the creation of a central park of at least 500 acres surrounding the receiving reservoir of the Croton Water Works near 80th Street. Today, the Great Lawn occupies the site of that old reservoir.

The creation of a park had been an issue in Ambrose C. Kingsland's winning mayoralty campaign of 1850. On April 5, 1851, he sent a letter to the Common Council urging that land be set aside for a park. Three months later a bill was introduced in the State Legislature which allowed the City to acquire the land at Jones' Wood as a park. Opposition arose from real estate developers and the Board of Aldermen chose a more central tract of land extending from 59th to 106th Streets between Fifth and Eighth Avenues. Even though the statute which made Jones' Woods the site of the park was still valid, the State government authorized the City to begin acquisition of the Central Park area. An addition extending Central Park north to 110th Street was made in 1859 when it was discovered that the rocky terrain was too rough to develop profitably according to the inflexible grid plan.

It was not until the financial panic of 1857 that major work was begun. Thousands of men were unemployed at this time when the state of affairs within the City was unsettled. During the year, a number of civil disturbances had erupted. Mayor Fernando Wood used the construction of the park as the safety valve that would release the pressure on his administration, providing Wood with a source for thousands of jobs.

In 1857, Egbert L. Viele was appointed Chief Engineer and charged with laying out the park. His topographical study of Manhattan Island became a classic of its type, serving as a primary source for locating hidden and forgotten features of the island. It was to Viele that Frederick Law Olmsted reported after he had been elected Superintendent of the Park on September 11, 1857. Olmsted, at that time under the authority of Viele, was in charge of policing the park, seeing that its regulations were enforced, and that the work of clearing the area was carried out. He had a background in engineering, which he had studied for two-and-a-half years with

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Frederick A. Barton. His involvement in scientific farming in Owego, New York, and while living on Staten Island, his classic studies of the southern states for the New York Times, and his travels through Europe had stimulated his interest in landscape architecture and its role in urban development.

The Park Commission announced a public competition for a design for the park in October. It was then that Calvert Vaux, an architect who had worked with A. J. Downing, approached Olmsted and suggested that they submit a plan together. Olmsted had first met Vaux through Downing and was undoubtedly familiar with the work he had done with Downing on the Smithsonian Institution and the Capitol at Washington, D.C. Olmsted was initially hesitant wishing to speak first with Viele to find out whether he had any objections. When Viele indicated that it did not matter to him if Olmsted entered the competition, Vaux and Olmsted began their collaboration. They anonymously submitted their design, entitled, "Greensward," and were awarded first prize in April 1858. Olmsted was appointed Architect-in-Chief of the new park, and Vaux became Assistant to the Architect-in-Chief.

The concept of Central Park as envisioned by these two men is the result of certain ideas and attitudes about man's relationship to Nature and the City and the effects that they have upon him. The park not only incorporates certain landscape traditions, but it also reflects the intellectual climate in which it was conceived. The rise of Transcendentalism as a force in American intellectual life under the philosophy of Ralph Waldo Emerson had contributed greatly to a native literature and painting which had its roots in the 1820's. Olmsted and Vaux were not members of any particular sect or philosophical school, but they did share with their contemporaries a belief in the salutary effect of Nature upon man; that is, that the future health of society and of our cities depended on the spiritual health of the people which could be insured by re-establishing their link with Nature that had been broken by the rapid growth and industrialization of urban centers.

Olmsted's design decreed that the park should have a rural nature and that all architectural and engineering features should be subordinated to that premise. That fresh concept governed the development of Central Park, and the idea subsequently became basic in the growth of the urban park movement in the United States.

By October 1858, under Olmsted's supervision, 2,500 men labored in the park. Paths, roads, bridges, lakes and planting were all well underway before winter slowed the work. During 1859, Olmsted greatly advanced the development of the park, so much so that the public became quickly enraptured with its new possession. Thousands of people began to enjoy the park's benefits--not only the rural atmosphere, but also the paths, bridle trails, band concerts, and in winter, ice skating. And in 1859 the park was extended to 110th Street, although the city did not acquire the land until 1863. By 1866, most of the park had been completed and it was estimated that an average of 20,000 people visited the park every day. The city had spent

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\$9,750,000 on the park but as an investment it had proved itself. The assessed property values of the land surrounding the park had increased by \$34,600,000 to \$61,000,000, and the city had received an increased \$1,000,000 in tax revenues.

Olmsted, who had already resigned from and then rejoined the park several times, remained associated with Central Park until 1878, when politicians brought an end to his long and beneficial influence upon the rural retreat. Vaux remained in New York, serving as Landscape Architect to the Park Department from 1881 to 1883 and again from 1888 until he drowned in Gravesend Bay in 1895.

By 1873 it was estimated that four to five million trees, shrubs and vines had been planted. Only 42 species of trees were found growing on the park site prior to the clearing, by 1873 there were 402 species of deciduous trees and shrubs, 149 non-coniferous evergreens and American plants in open ground, 81 conifers, and 815 hardy perennials and alpines.

Central Park, as events proved, did more than just provide a country-like area for New York's masses. Even before fully finished, the park stimulated in tremendous fashion outdoor recreation. Again, the park greatly increased land values in the area surrounding it. More importantly, the art of landscape architecture found its birth in Central Park. Finally, the park influenced many cities to create similar open and landscaped areas, and the great parks in Brooklyn, Boston, Chicago, and countless other urban centers, are descended from Central Park.

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the gradual growth and development of the park are considered part of the landmark. These include the Arsenal, the Zoo, Bethesda Fountain, Belvedere Castle, the Lake, the Sheep Meadow, The Mall, Harlem Meer, the Dairy, Friedsam Memorial Carousel, The Obelisk, Kerbs Memorial Model Boat House, Swedish School House, Delacorte Theatre, Metropolitan Museum of Art and all of the arches and bridges created as part of the circulation system through the park. Modern tennis courts skating rinks, cemented playgrounds, sports fields and parking areas which disrupt the landscape design, and maintenance sheds and structures of no architectural merit or part of the total design do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

302

Property *Central Park*

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

State *New York*

Working Number *NHL*

*4.12.76*

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos \_\_\_\_\_

Maps \_\_\_\_\_

*OK 2.14.77*

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*OK MJ Lutz  
2-11-77*

NEED COMPLETE, NOT PARTIAL LIST OF SIGNIFICANT BUILDINGS IN PARK. IS METROPOLITAN MUSEUM CONSIDERED PART OF THE PARK? Shouldn't the boundary of the southwest corner

either include Columbus Circle entirely? or exclude all but that part of circle that is part of square (as done in small map)

ARCHEOLOGIST

*2/12/77*

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*1/23/78*

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Central Park

AND/OR COMMON

Central Park

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

New York City

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY New York

STATE New York

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO

May 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

Central Park--Belvedere Castle





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO.

View of the Lake and Bank Rock Bridge--Central Park.



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Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO

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NEGATIVE FILED AT

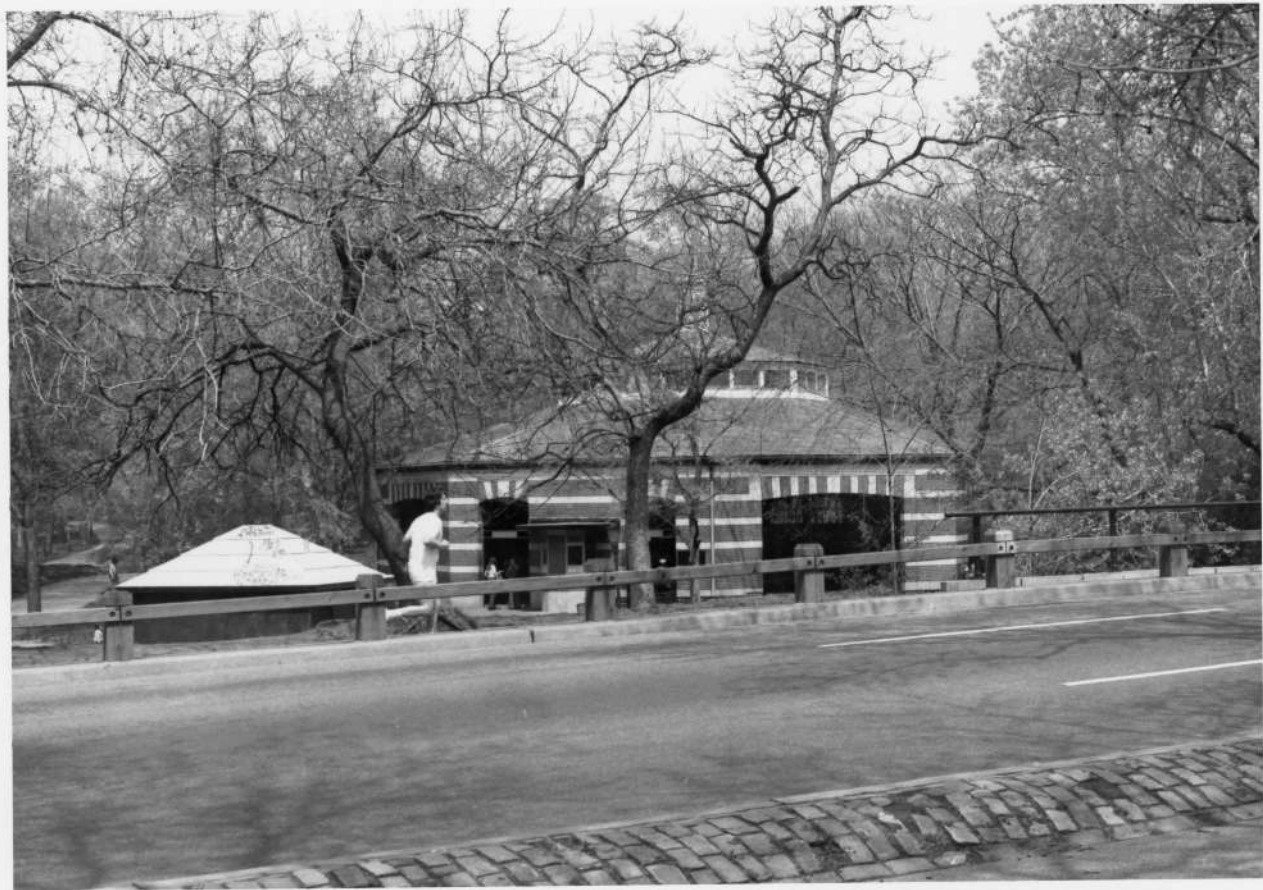
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240

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PHOTO NO

The Arsenal Building -- Central Park



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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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PHOTO NO

Friedsam Memorial Carousel--Central Park.



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PHOTO NO.

The Sheep Meadow--Central Park.





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PHOTO CREDIT

Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO

May 1975

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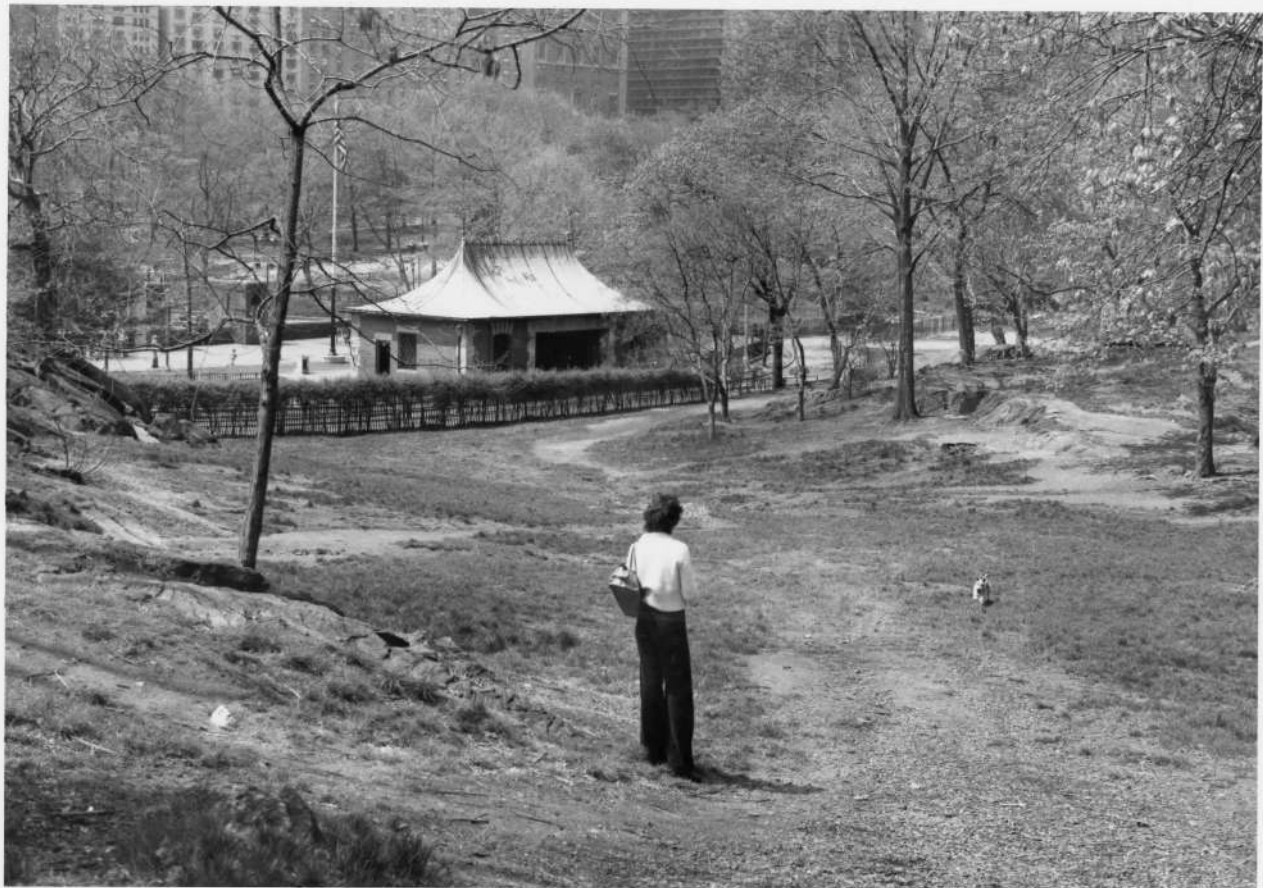
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240

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Central Park Zoo.

PHOTO NO



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO.

Wollman Memorial Rink in background--Central Park.



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PHOTO NO

Dairy--Central Park



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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Historic Sites Survey

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PHOTO NO

The Mall -- Central Park





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Greywacke Arch--Central Park.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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PHOTO CREDIT

Patricia Heintzelman

DATE OF PHOTO

May 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

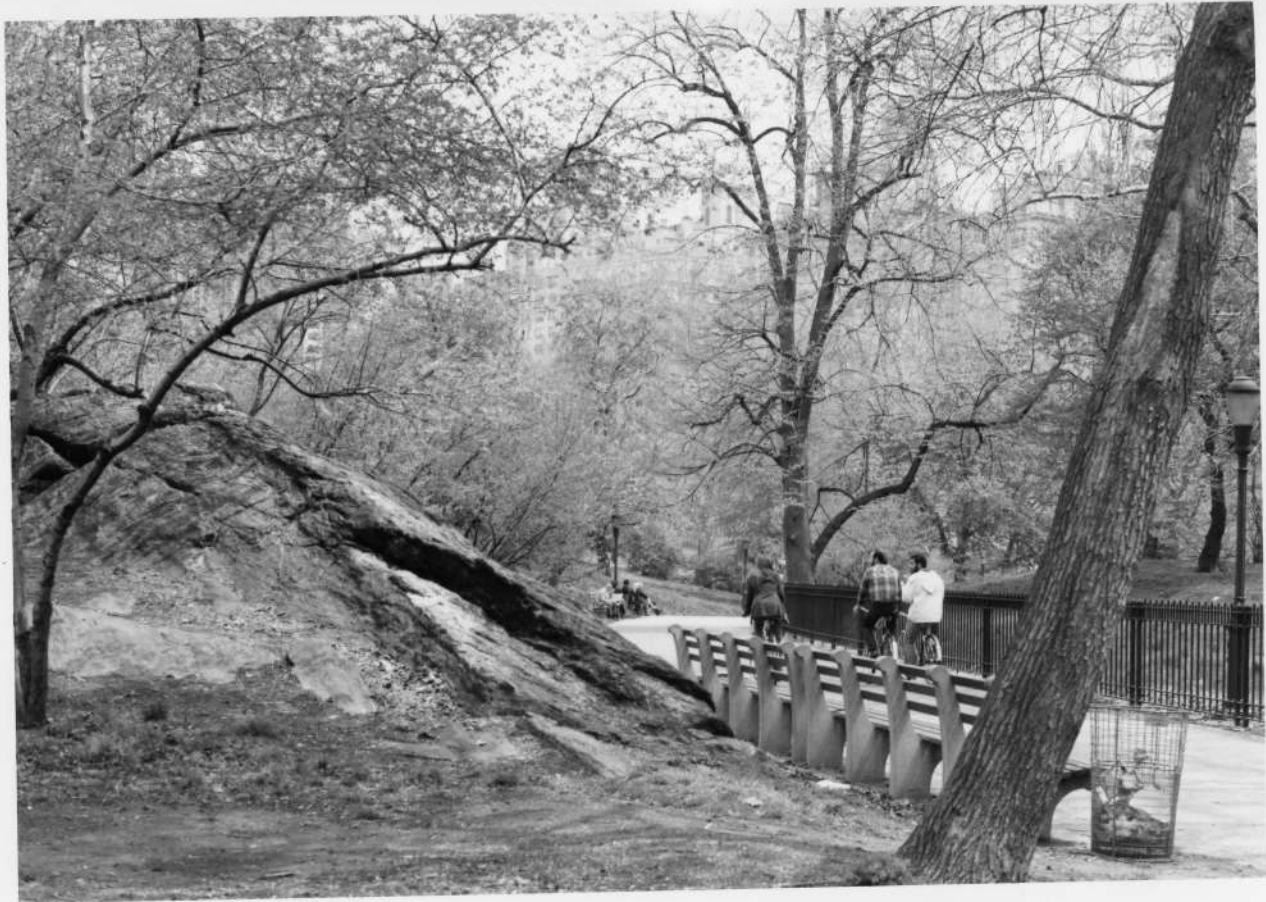
Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. 20240

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PHOTO NO.

Bethesda Fountain and Terrace Bridge--Central Park.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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PHOTO NO.

Path at Pilgrim Hill--Central Park.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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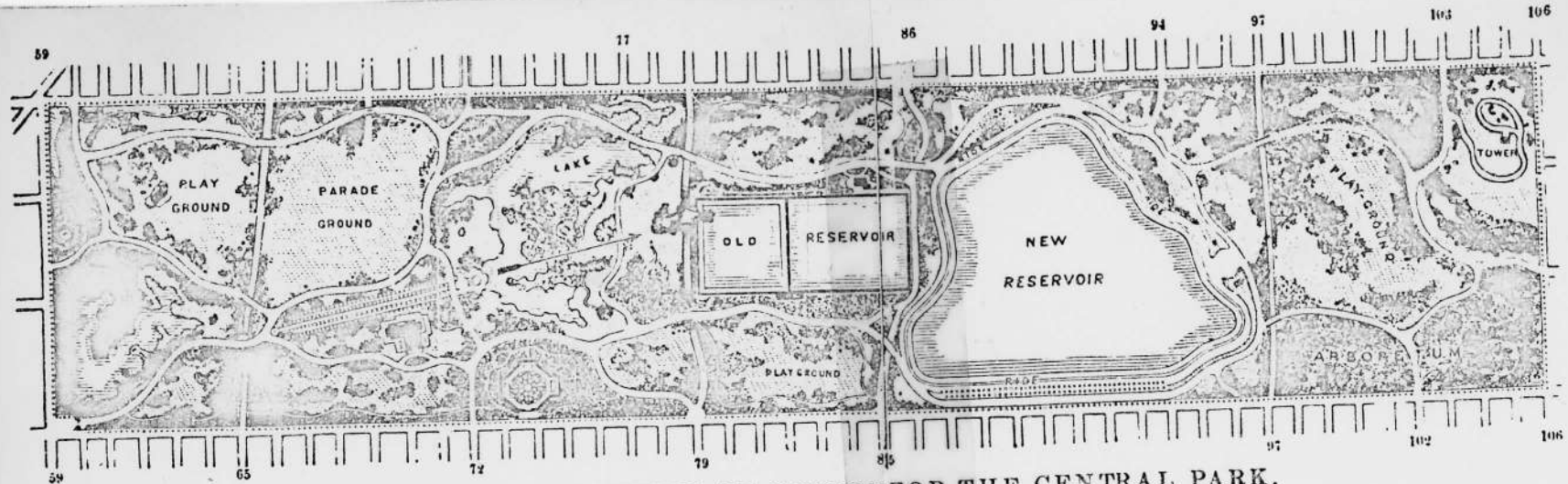
SOURCE Central Park, A History and Guide, p. 24-25.

SCALE no scale DATE 1868

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



FIRST STUDY OF DESIGN FOR THE CENTRAL PARK.

The top map is the Greensward plan that won the competition in 1858. It stopped at 106th Street. The lower map, dating from 1868, shows the extension north to 110th Street. Among the changes that Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux made in carrying out the work was the substitution of Conservatory Water for a formal garden.

*New-York Historical Society.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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New York City

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

New York

STATE

New York

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

Central Park, A History and Guide, page 24-25.

SCALE

no scale

DATE

1858

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

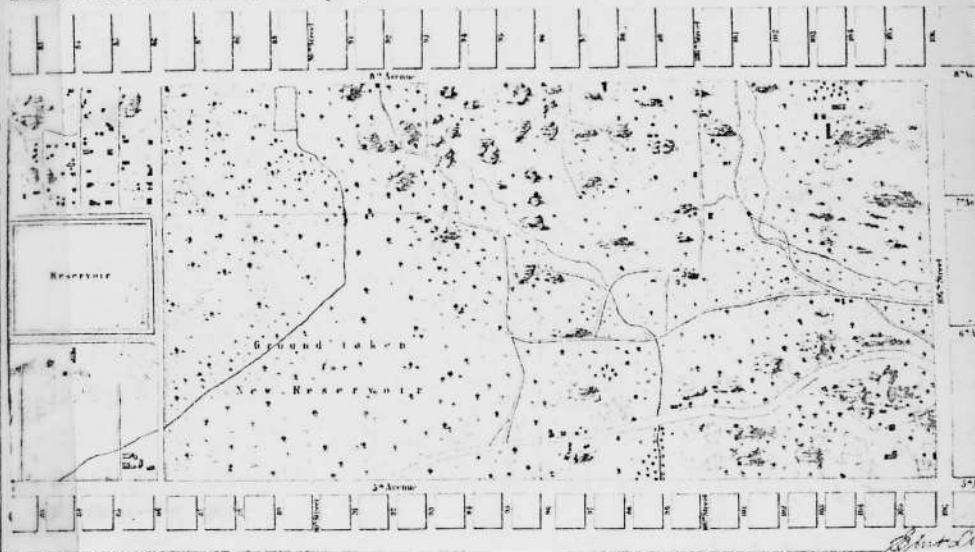
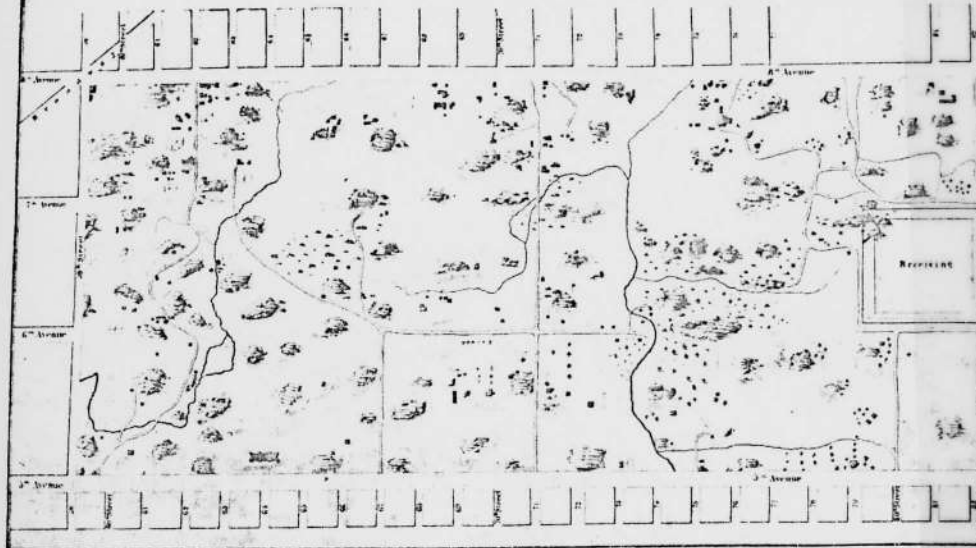
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
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MAP  
of the lands included in **THE CENTRAL PARK**

from a Topographical Survey, June 17<sup>th</sup> 1856.



The topographical survey of the Central Park lands made by the engineer, Egbert L. Vielé in 1856. It shows the desolation of the site. "Seneca Village," a squatters' hamlet, is just west of the Old Receiving Reservoir.  
*New York Public Library.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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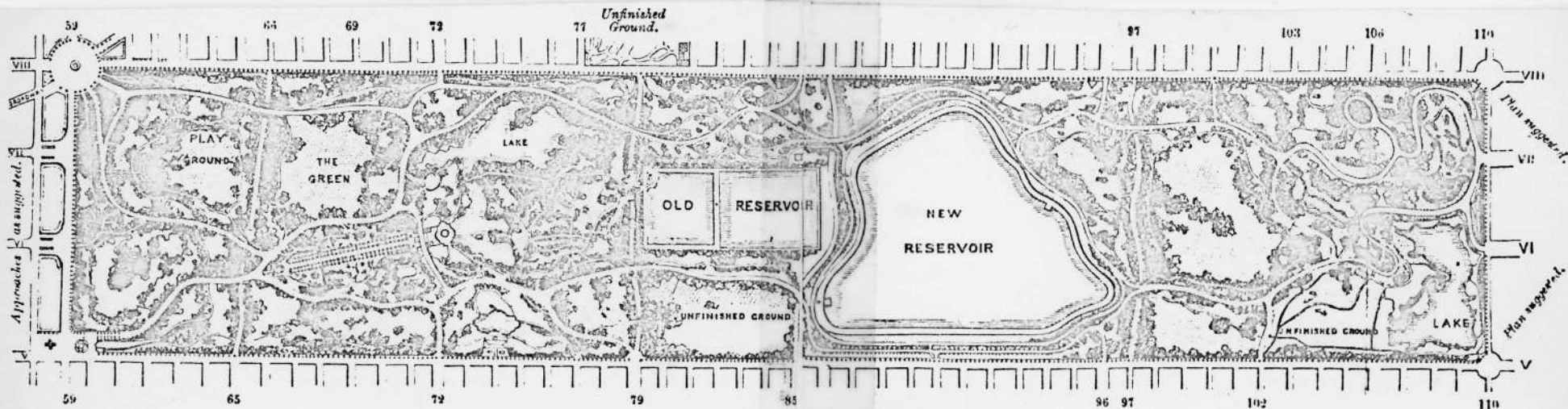
SOURCE Central Park, A History & Guide, page 18-19.

SCALE no scale DATE 1856

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

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2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



MAP OF THE CENTRAL PARK, 1868.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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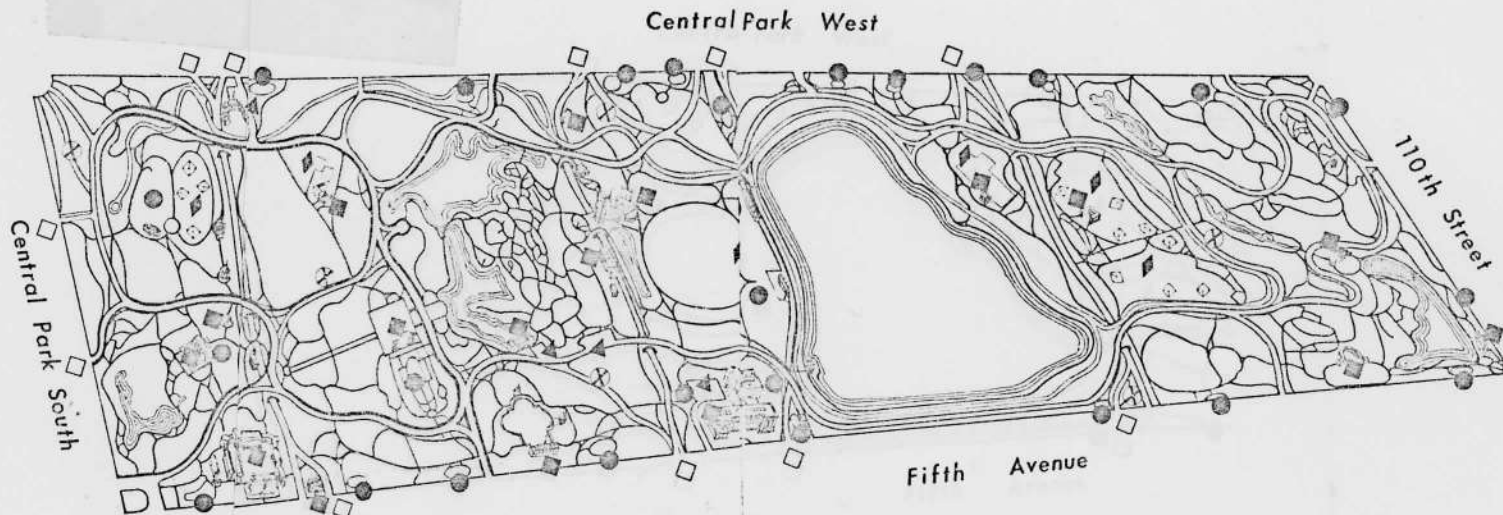
SOURCE Central Park, A History and Guide, page 44-45.

SCALE No scale      DATE undated

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Improvements since 1900. Map by Ken Fitzgerald.

*Greensward Foundation.*

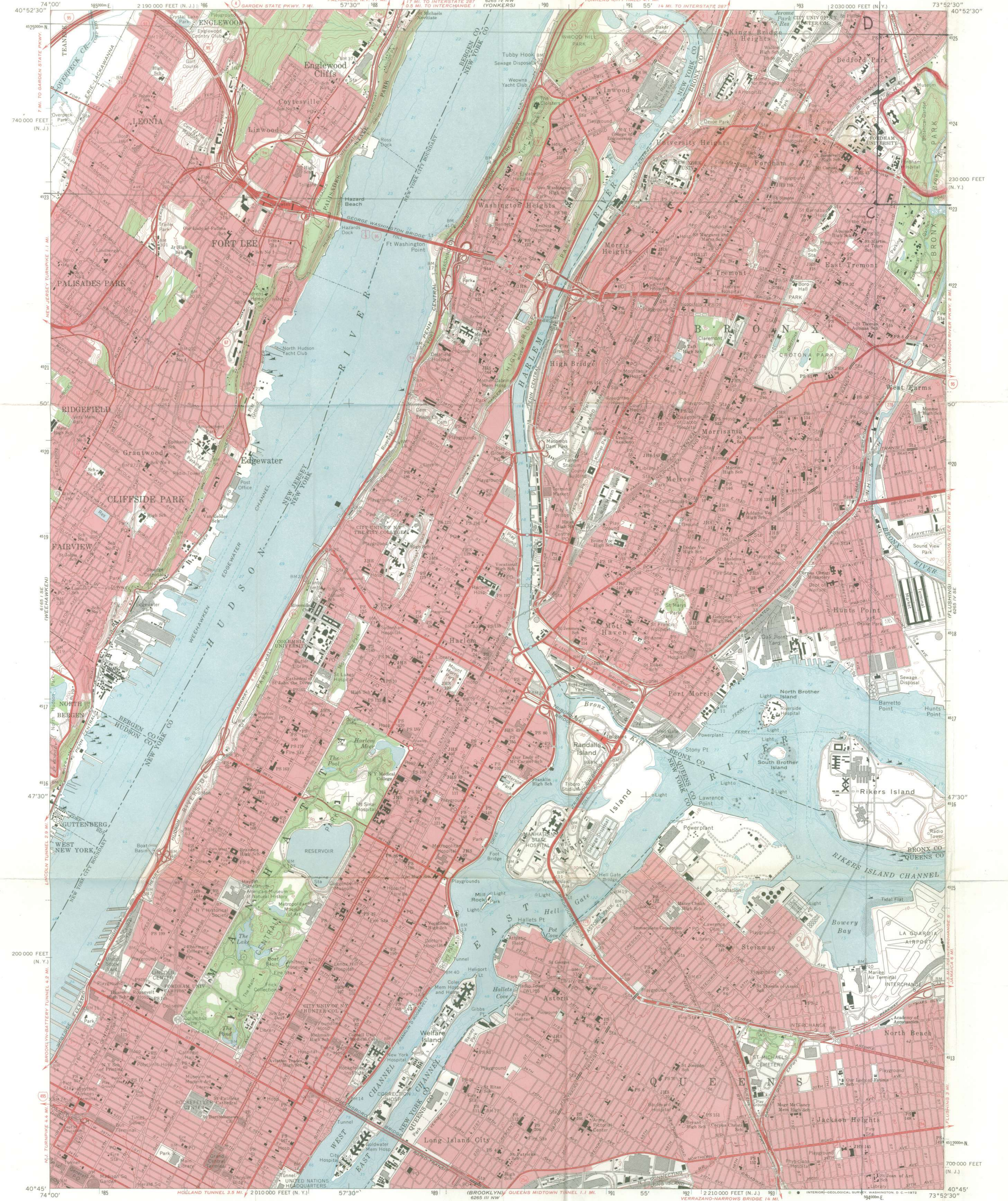
## MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS IN CENTRAL PARK SINCE 1900

Sketch by Ken Fitzgerald

Key:

- Building
- Playground
- ◆ Sports field, fenced and unfenced
- Access to drive and transverse roads
- ⊗ Discontinued drive
- ▲ New or enlarged parking space

Note: Map does not include new foot or bicycle paths, gardens, memorials, flagpoles, statuary or razed buildings, filling in of bodies of water, stone and concrete embankments, concrete benches, galvanized-iron lampposts and extensive asphaltting.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Revised in cooperation with New York  
Department of Transportation

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and New Jersey Geodetic Survey

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods and from USC&GS Charts T-4567,  
T-5089, T-5264, T-5278, T-5448, T-5449, T-5451, T-5452, T-5453, T-5458,  
and T-5778. Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1954 and planetable surveys 1956

Revised from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1966

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 226, 274, 745,  
746, and 747 (1966). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on New York coordinate system, Long Island zone,  
and New Jersey coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID and 1966 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

118° 5' 12" W  
204 MILES

0° 42' 12" N  
12 MILES

SCALE 1:24000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY  
4 FEET IN THE HUDSON RIVER AND 5.7 FEET IN THE EAST RIVER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

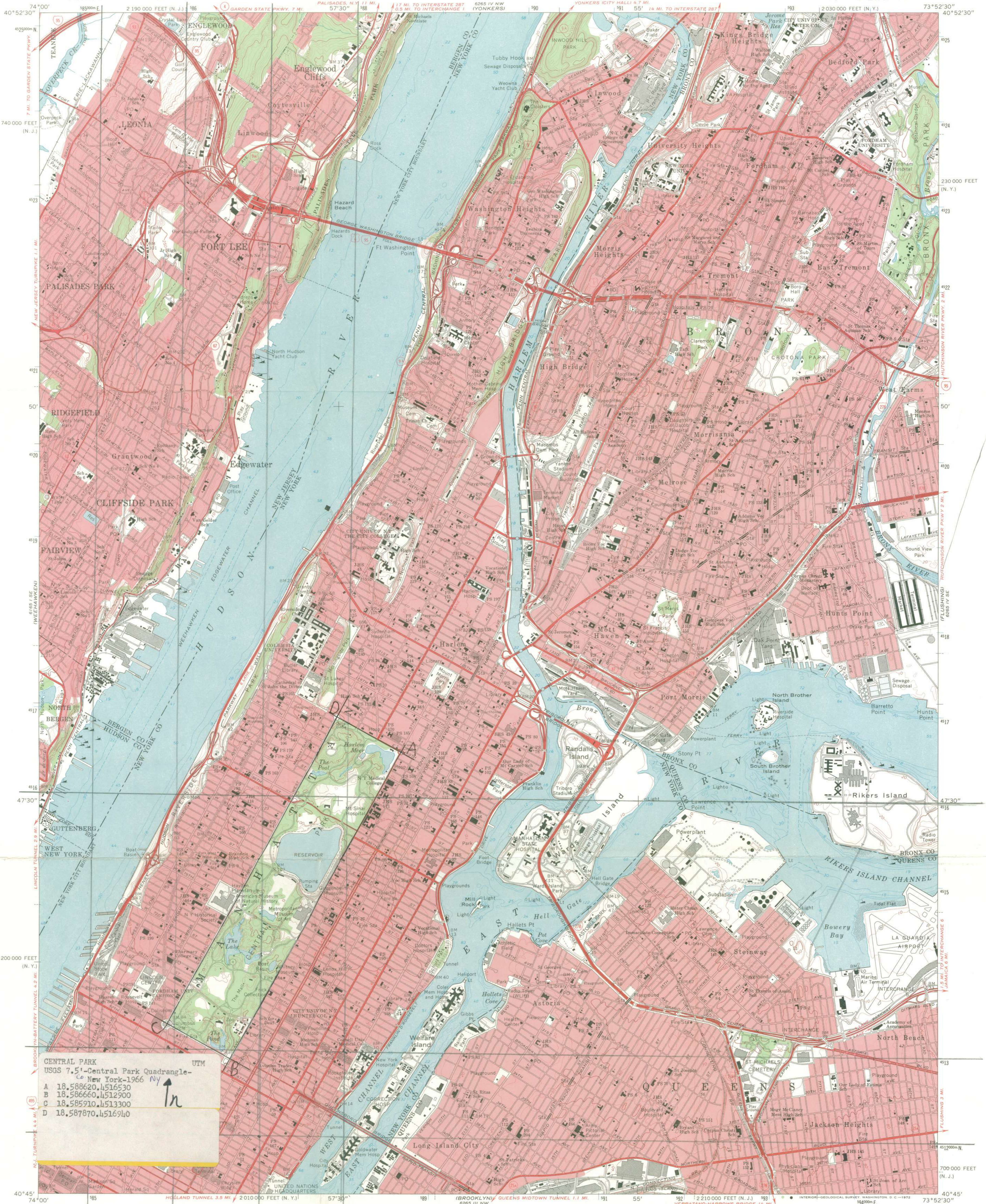
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty — Light-duty  
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
NEW YORK

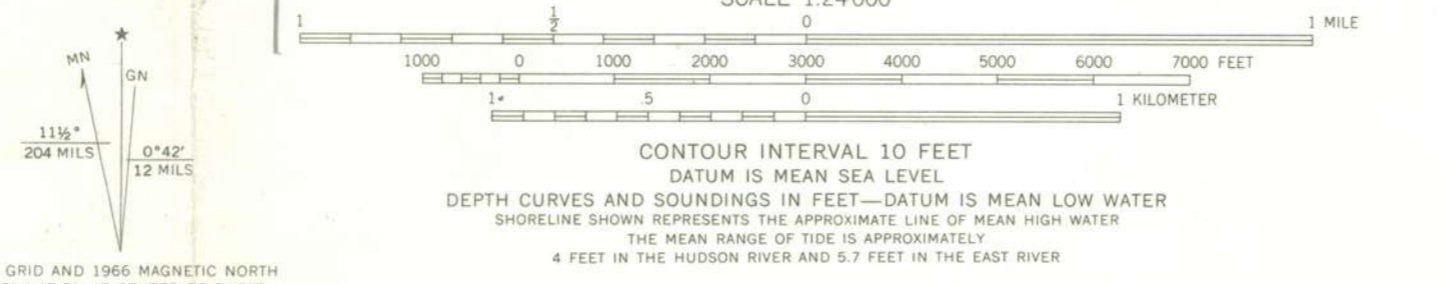
CENTRAL PARK, N. Y.—N. J.  
SW/4 HARLEM 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4045—W7352.5/7.5

1966  
AMS 6265 IV SW—SERIES V821



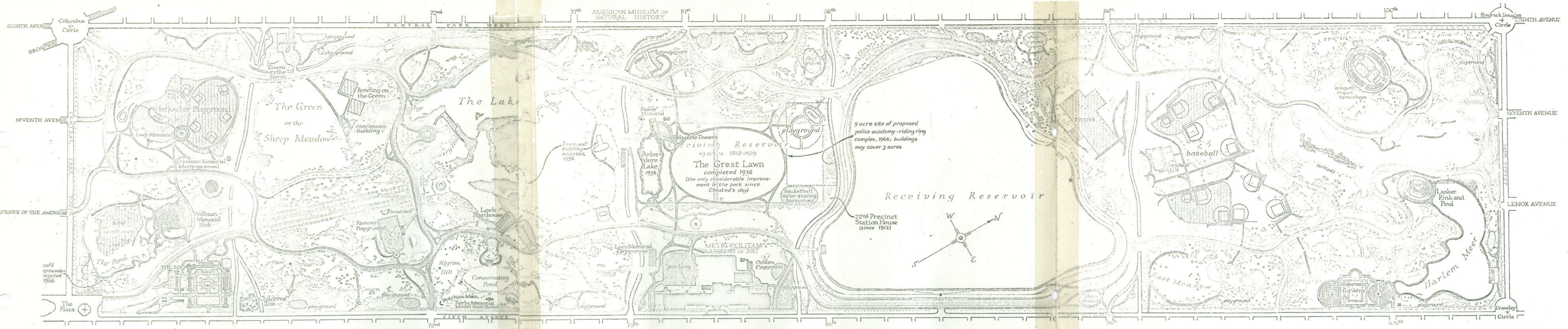
CENTRAL PARK  
USGS 7.5'-Central Park Quadrangle-  
New York-1966 NY  
A 18,588620.4516530  
B 18,586660.4512900  
C 18,585910.4513300  
D 18,587870.4516940

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
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T-8089, T-5264, T-5278, T-5448, T-5449, T-5451, T-5452, T-5453, T-5458,  
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Red dots indicate areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CENTRAL PARK, N.Y. - N.J.  
SW/4 HARLEM 15' QUADRANGLE  
N4045-W7352.5/7.5  
1966  
AMS 6265 IV SW—SERIES V821

Central Park  
Co. New York, N.Y.



THE ORIGINAL DESIGN—by  
Fredrick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux

ADDITIONS SINCE 1900  
 ■ new buildings ■ replacement b'ld'gs  
 ■ paved surfaces ■ enclosed for special activities  
 ■ buildings replaced after 1900  
 ■ demolished buildings  
 ..... fences --- bicycle paths • memorials

SOME PARK ACREAGES	1900	1933	1966
buildings, service, parking, etc.	5	20	32
paved walks and drives	39	77	101
enclosed for special activities	0	4	30
fair meadow (no trees or ledges)	55	51	16

# CENTRAL PARK

## GRAND DESIGN—or CATCH-ALL?

SCALE 0 500 1000 FEET

prepared by Richard Edes Harrison—  
research by Henry Hope Reed, Curator  
of Central Park—lettering by George  
Colbert. The green base is an old official  
map revised to 1900 conditions.

published by the Greensward Foundation  
of New York City, with the help of the  
Park Association, Municipal Art Society,  
J.M.Kaplan Fund and others. Additional  
copies may be obtained by writing to

Friends of Central Park, Planetarium  
Station, P.O.Box 12, New York, N.Y. 10024  
price: ten cents each—lots of one hundred  
or more, five cents each.  
©1967 Greensward Foundation, Inc.

Second printing, courtesy of The Junior League of the City of New York, Inc., and others. 1968



# Copy

Central Park

MAY 21 1963

Dear Senator Javits:

It is a pleasure to inform you that in your State the historic sites listed on the enclosures have been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

These sites have been evaluated in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, and by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, and approved by me pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosure, these historic properties are eligible to receive, from the Department of the Interior, certificates and bronze markers designating them as Registered National Historic Landmarks. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owners and provide them with the proper application forms.

In recognizing the historical importance of these sites, we wish to commend the owners for the care and preservation of these properties.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Jacob K. Javits  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:  
Regional Director, Northeast  
Mr. Littleton ✓

JWalker:mg 4-26-63

4-ly  
Central Park

MAY 21 1963

Dear Senator Keating:

It is a pleasure to inform you that in your State the historic sites listed on the enclosures have been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

These sites have been evaluated in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, and Monuments, and approved by me pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

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Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall  
Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Kenneth B. Keating  
United States Senate  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:  
Regional Director, Northeast  
Mr. Littleton

JWWalker:mg 4-26-63

Central Park

MAY 21 1963

Dear Mr. Lindsay:

It is a pleasure to inform you that in your State the historic sites listed on the enclosure have been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

These sites have been evaluated in the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, and by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments, and approved by me pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

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Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. John V. Lindsay  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Enclosure

cc:  
Regional Director, Northeast  
Mr. Littleton ✓

JWWalker:mg 4-26-63



The first study, The Santa Fe Trail, provides the following Landmarks, among others: Rabbit Ears--no landmark on the trail was more important than Rabbit Ears, the symbol of the Cimarron Cutoff. This double-peaked mountain in New Mexico was the focal point for a series of camps and landmarks that are conveniently grouped as the Clayton Complex. Arrow Rock--the rendezvous for the traders who opened the Santa Fe Trail, the outstanding site in the State of Missouri to commemorate the beginning of the trade. Trail remains near Dodge City, Kansas--the best remains of the trunkline of the trail before it split into the Cimarron and Mountain Branches at the crossings of the Arkansas River.

The second study, Conservation of Natural Resources, produced the following recognized Landmarks, among others: Hohokam-Pima Irrigation Sites, along the Gila River, Arizona, built by the Hohokam Indians as early as the 8th century A. D. The Pima Indians later used the same basic systems, though on a smaller scale. Lake Merritt Wild Duck Refuge, California, the oldest legally established, public wildlife sanctuary in the United States. The Biltmore Estate, North Carolina, often called the "Home of Conservation" in the United States. And the homes of Frederick Law Olmsted, Gifford Pinchot, and Francis Newlands.

New York State residents should be proud of their "first": Adirondack Forest Preserve, the first State forest preserve in the Nation; Central Park, the country's first important urban park; and Niagara Reservation, where today's visitor can enjoy the beauty and might of Niagara Falls as a result of the far-sighted action of the State of New York in 1885 in establishing the Niagara Reservation by using the power of eminent domain to acquire land for esthetic purposes. A startling precedent in its day, New York's action here has been followed in principle by many States since 1885. There was also Dr. Franklin B. Hough, who impressed upon the public and the Federal Government, in the decade of the 1870's, the tragedy of the rapid destruction of the Nation's forests. His home is located at Lowville.

Florida's Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was the first sanctuary provided by the Federal Government for the protection of wildlife. The area, essentially a mass of mangrove, is one large rookery, intended specifically to protect Brown Pelicans.

A landmark of interest to historians and engineers is the Old Mission Dam, or Padre Dam, located 13 miles northeast of Old Town, San Diego, in Mission Gorge, San Diego County. The dam was constructed with Indian labor under the supervision of the Franciscan Fathers of the San Diego Mission, probably between 1800 and 1817. It was part of one of the first irrigation projects built in Spanish California and is one of the most notable examples of the white man's early efforts at irrigation in the West.

Landmarks of interest to all Americans are the Kit Carson House, Taos, New Mexico, where lived the most renowned of all the mountain men, and the U. S. Frigate Constellation, launched at Baltimore on September 7, 1797, and one of the two surviving vessels of the original United States Navy. Like the Constitution, the other survivor of the Republic's first naval force, the Constellation saw long and gallant service in the Age of Fighting Sail.

Brief descriptions are attached of the 23 sites from the studies of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings that have been recommended by the Advisory Board and approved by Secretary Udall.

### Conservation of Natural Resources

In the study of "Conservation of Natural Resources," fourteen sites were listed by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments as possessing exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. These sites are eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status. They are as follows:

1. Hohokam-Pima Irrigation Sites, near Phoenix, Arizona. Indians of the Hohokam culture began to reclaim land in the Phoenix area over 1,000 years ago. Portions of their complex irrigation canal system were used by the Pimas, and some of the canals are still in use today. This provides a striking and significant continuum, illustrating that ancient and modern man responded in the same way to the environmental demands of the arid Southwest.
2. Roosevelt Dam, Salt River Project, Arizona. Roosevelt Dam, one of the original five Federal projects authorized on March 13, 1903, under the Reclamation Act of 1902, was the first major project to be completed under the new Federal reclamation program. The dam, the world's highest masonry dam, was begun in 1906 and completed in 1911. Its major purpose was to provide adequate water storage for the Salt River irrigation complex, but it also had the secondary purpose of supplying electric power to assist in distribution of the water. This marked the beginning of Federal production of electric power.
3. Lake Merritt Wild Duck Refuge, Oakland, California. Created on March 18, 1870, Lake Merritt Wild Duck Refuge is the oldest legally established public wildlife sanctuary in the United States. Although located in the heart of downtown Oakland, the lake attracts large numbers of migrating ducks. It is probably the most noted of the small wildlife sanctuaries maintained by local governments.
4. Old Mission Dam (Padre Dam), San Diego, California. The Old Mission Dam was the first major irrigation-engineering project on the Pacific Coast of the United States. It was built between 1800 and 1817, along with a long aqueduct and flume which delivered water to San Diego Mission, the "Birthplace of California," which had been founded in 1769. The dam, of which enough remains still to impound some water, was about 220 feet long, 13 feet thick at the bottom and 12 feet or more high at its maximum. It is on privately owned land in Mission Gorge, on the San Diego River, about 13 miles northeast of Old Town, San Diego.
5. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, Sebastian, Florida. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge, located in Indian River off Sebastian, Florida, was the first federally established sanctuary for protection of wildlife. It was established by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903 for Brown Pelicans. Although subject to daily inundation, between 1,500 and 3,500 pelicans are hatched there annually. The site is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior.

6. Frederick Law Olmsted House, 99 Warren Street, Brookline, Massachusetts. Frederick Law Olmsted, the landscape architect, not only played a major role in encouraging the development of urban and State parks but was also responsible, with his associates, for planning over 80 urban parks. He occupied the house on Warren Street in Brookline from 1883 until his death in 1903. Today the house is owned and occupied by the Olmsted Associates, the landscape firm which he founded. It is in excellent condition.
7. Senator Francis G. Newlands Home, 7 Elm Court, Reno, Nevada. This large, two-story frame house, still in excellent condition and little altered, was the home of Francis G. Newlands, who lived in Nevada from 1889 until his death in 1919. He served in the House from 1892 to 1903, and then in the Senate until his death at the age of 71. He is considered to be the "father" of the Reclamation (or Newlands) Act of 1902, which placed the Federal Government in the field of irrigation. From 1907 to 1919 he labored unsuccessfully to win Congress to support a multiple-purpose river development program for the entire Nation. The Newlands home is privately owned, and used as a residence.
8. Adirondack Forest Preserve, New York. Established by the State of New York in 1885, the Adirondack Forest Preserve was the first State forest preserve in the United States. Nine years later a new State constitution provided that the preserve was to be kept forever as a wilderness. Today the Adirondack Forest Preserve includes some 2,115,381 acres of State-owned land. In addition to providing for the continued protection of the forests, the preserve also serves as a vast recreational area.
9. Central Park, New York City. Central Park occupies a prominent position in the history of the park movement in the United States. The concept of a natural area within the city, introduced in 1858, seven years after the establishment of the park, by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, greatly attracted the people of New York City. Its popularity convinced many other cities of the need for urban parks. The idea of a natural area is still followed by the Department of Parks, which administers the site.
10. Franklin B. Hough House, Collins Street, Lowville, New York. Franklin B. Hough, the father of American forestry, so impressed upon the public and the Federal Government the danger of rapid destruction of the Nation's forests that in 1876 he was appointed as Forestry Agent in the Department of Agriculture, and thus became the first Federal forestry official. Hough quickly organized a small unit, which became the Division of Forestry in 1881 and the Forest Service in 1905. Hough's home on Collins Street in Lowville is in excellent condition. It is privately owned.
11. Niagara Reservation, Niagara Falls, New York. In creating the Niagara Reservation in 1885, and in subsequently eliminating the numerous eyesores that had sprung up along the river near the falls, New York used for the first time a State's power of eminent domain to acquire land for esthetic purposes. The 430-acre Reservation enables the visitor to obtain an unobstructed view of Niagara Falls. It is administered by the Niagara Frontier State Park Commission.

12. Biltmore Estate, Asheville, North Carolina. At Biltmore, the George W. Vanderbilt estate near Asheville, Gifford Pinchot demonstrated for the first time in the United States that scientific forest management could be profitable and was, thus, good business practice. Another "first" in forestry occurred here in 1898 when the first forestry school in the United States was opened, the Biltmore Forest School, headed by Dr. Carl A. Schenck. Nearly 87,000 acres of the estate's forest land is now included in Pisgah National Forest. The building in which the school was conducted is owned by the city of Asheville and used today for offices.

13. Gifford Pinchot Home, "Grey Towers," Milford, Pennsylvania. Gifford Pinchot, the first American professionally trained forester, was a pre-eminent crusader in the cause of Federal forestry and conservation from 1901 to 1909. Under his leadership the Forestry Division was expanded, first into the Bureau of Forestry and then into the present day Forest Service. Pinchot's home in Milford, "Grey Towers," is much the same as when he lived there. It is in private ownership.

14. Wapati Ranger Station, Shoshone National Forest, Wyoming. Located within the area of the first Federal forest reserve, Yellowstone Timberland Reserve, which was set aside by President Benjamin Harrison in 1891, Wapati Ranger Station is the first ranger station built by the United States Government. It was erected in 1903 as a supervisory ranger station for the Shoshone division of the Yellowstone Reserve. The original building still stands but has been incorporated into the present ranger station.

#### The Santa Fe Trail

In the study of "The Santa Fe Trail" seven sites were listed by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments as possessing exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States. These sites are eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. They are as follows:

1. Council Grove, Kansas. Council Grove, on the Neosho River, was the most important stopping-place on the Santa Fe Trail, with abundant grass and timber. It was about 150 miles west of Independence, where the rolling prairies gave way to the Great Plains, and was named on the occasion of a treaty negotiation with Osage Indians in 1825. Later, other grand councils were held here as caravans organized themselves to cross the area ranged over by hostile Indians. By 1857 a town took shape here, the last outpost on the westerly trek, which still retains a number of important sites associated with the trail.

2. Trail Remains West of Dodge City, Kansas. These trail remains possess unique qualities of physical extent and strategic location. The remains form a two-mile arc whose chord is U.S. 50, nine miles west of Dodge City, where an irrigation ditch interferes only slightly, leaving many clear viewpoints and stretches of trail. Their strategic location derives from the fact that the trunkline of the trail divided, 10 to 20 miles upstream at the Cimarron Crossings. While some traffic followed on up the Arkansas River many travelers took the shorter Cimarron Cutoff route. The area is in private ownership.



3. Arrow Rock, Saline County, Missouri. The name Arrow Rock was given to a rocky bluff on the Missouri River where a ferry crossed as early as 1817, which became part of a great thoroughfare of early traders. Traders to Santa Fe rendezvoused here in the 1820's, organizing their caravans in the valley watered by Santa Fe Spring. The area is in natural vegetation, encompassed in Arrow Rock State Park. The nearby town of Arrow Rock has many associations with later trail days as well as with writers and artists, including George Caleb Bingham. The area is owned by the State of Missouri and various private individuals.

4. La Junta (Watrous), New Mexico. This place, junction (junta) of the Mora and Sapello Rivers, is comparable to Council Grove, on the eastern part of the trail. It was on the frontier of New Mexican settlement, after 1843, where caravans made their final preparations before journeying across the plains to Missouri. It was the place where the Mountain and Cimarron Branches of the trail separated. Trail remains can be seen here as well as several ruined and existing buildings associated with early trail days. The properties are privately owned.

5. Rabbit Ears (Clayton Complex), New Mexico. The double-peaked mountain, Rabbit Ears, was a guide and landmark for four days of travel on the Cimarron Cutoff, of which it may be called a symbol. A series of camps and landmarks are grouped nearby, including: McNees Crossing on present Corrumpa Creek, Turkey Creek Camp, Rabbit Ears Creek Camp, Mt. Dora, and Round Mound. Much of the area is in pristine condition, and trail remains are found frequently. Ownership is mixed, public and private.

6. Wagon Mound (Santa Clara Spring), New Mexico. Wagon Mound was the last great guidepoint for caravans crossing the plains of northeastern New Mexico on the Cimarron Cutoff enroute to Santa Fe. The trail came in on the northern side and skirted down to the west, where the modern railroad and U. S. 85 are also found. Traders often camped at Santa Clara Spring, two miles northwest of the town of Wagon Mound, in a sheltered natural bowl. The spring is protected by a modern shelter, and supplies water for the town, but otherwise the scene here is little impaired.

7. Camp Nichols, Oklahoma. This post was founded in May 1865 by Colonel Kit Carson and abandoned in September of that year, having served successfully during a period when Indian hostilities were at their height. Officers' quarters and a quartermaster's building were built of stone, and the soldiers had tents with stone walls, whose ruins can be seen, 2 to 3 feet high. One-half mile south are excellent trail remains. The remoteness of the site, and the environment free from modern intrusions, create an atmosphere in which one can recapture easily a feeling of walking into the past. The site is privately owned.

#### Special Studies

The two sites which follow were the objects of special studies by National Park Service historians and the Advisory Board, which determined that they are eligible for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks:

1. The Kit Carson House, Taos, New Mexico. The Kit Carson House, on Kit Carson Avenue, symbolizes the fur trade and the mountain man-free trapper of the Southwest. In it lived perhaps the most noted of the mountain men, Kit Carson, who was also renowned as guide and explorer, Indian agent and army officer. Carson bought this house in 1843, and it was his and his family's permanent home until the death of Carson and his wife in 1868, although there were periods when they lived elsewhere. Bent Lodge #42, of the Masonic Order, bought the house in 1910 and restored it to its historic appearance. The Kit Carson House is administered as an historic house museum by the Kit Carson Memorial Foundation, Inc.

2. The U.S.S. Constellation, Pier 4, Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The U.S. Frigate Constellation was built in Baltimore, launched in 1797, and was the first commissioned ship of the U.S. Navy, the first to put to sea, the first to engage, defeat and capture an enemy vessel. Her periods of service extended from 1798 down to World War II. She served against French, British, Barbary pirates, slave traders and Confederate raiders, as well as engaging in less belligerent pursuits such as transporting relief supplies, training midshipmen and sailing on goodwill missions. The Constellation is open to the public and is now being restored under the auspices of the Constellation Restoration Committee.

x x x

JOHN V. LINDSAY  
17TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

MARIAN G. CLOW  
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

ROBERT E. KIMBALL  
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
JOAN HAMLIN, SECRETARY  
30 W. 44TH STREET  
NEW YORK 36, NEW YORK  
MURRAY HILL 2-1130

MAY 27 1963

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
REVISION OF LAWS  
STATE TAXATION OF  
INTERSTATE COMMERCE  
SUBMERGED LANDS

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

24 May 1963

U.S. DELEGATE, NATO  
PARLIAMENTARIANS  
CONFERENCE

L58

CNA

Mr. Littleton

over  
5/24

INTERIOR DEPT.

MAY 27 1963

Assistant Secretary

The Honorable Stewart Udall  
Secretary of the Interior  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Stu:

Thank you for your letter. I want to congratulate you and the Department of the Interior on selecting Central Park in New York City as an historical site possessing exceptional value and designating it as a registered national historic landmark. This is good news indeed for all New Yorkers and especially for the residents of the 17th Congressional District in which Central Park is located.

In your letter to me you indicate the importance of preserving and conserving Central Park. How right you are! This injunction should be implanted in the minds of all public officials in New York.

Central Park, like all other parks and open space in New York City, must be protected from any further incursions of steel, mortar and concrete, lest we lose what little space we have left for quiet enjoyment.

Conservation is vital not only in the great plains of the west and the shores on the edges of our country, but also in the middle of the crowded cities. We New Yorkers thank you for giving recognition to this fact.

Sincerely,

*John V. Lindsay*  
John V. Lindsay, M. C.

IMMEDIATE OFFICE  
OF THE SECRETARY

MAY 27 10 35 AM '63  
JVL:ref

U.S. DEPT. OF INTERIOR  
RECEIVED

Letter May 31, 1963 to owner of Central Park, New York, notifying him of eligibility for Landmark status, signed by Acting Director Price.

Owner: Hon. Robert F. Wagner; Mayor of the City of New York; New York, New York.

Letters also sent to: Sen. Jacob K. Javits, May 21, 1963  
Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, May 21, 1963  
Cong. John V. Lindsay, May 21, 1963

MAY 31 1963

CENTRAL PARK

Honorable Robert F. Wagner  
Mayor the City of New York  
New York, New York

Dear Mayor Wagner:

It is a pleasure to inform you that the property described in the enclosure has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

It has been studied by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings; evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments; and approved by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosed folder, this site is eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status. A certificate and bronze marker attesting to this status may be obtained upon your application and your agreement to adhere to simple preservation practices. Should you wish to apply for the certificate and marker, copies of the application form are enclosed. These should be completed in triplicate for each site to be certified. Two copies for each site should be returned to the National Park Service. You may retain the third copy of each application as part of your own records.

At the present time, the work of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings is incomplete. From time to time, announcements will be made of additional sites eligible for Landmark certification.

The Registry of National Historic Landmarks is designed to encourage the preservation of the Nation's historical and archeological heritage. We will be happy to have you participate in the Program.

Sincerely yours,

J. EDWARD JACKSON E. PRICE

Director

Acting

Enclosures

cc: Regional Director, Northeast  
Mr. Littleton

JWWalker:mg 5-29-63



EO A. LARKIN  
CORPORATION COUNSEL

THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
LAW DEPARTMENT  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

Northeast Region		Initial and Date
DEC 23	1964	
Reg. Director		
Asst. Dir. (PA)		
Asst. Dir. (Dev. L)		
Asst. Dir. Studies Adv.		
Asst. Dir. Fin. Adm.		
Asst. Dir. Finance & Prop.		
Asst. Dir. Personnel		
Asst. Dir. Programs		
Asst. Dir. Reg. Oper.		
Asst. Dir. Intern. V.		
Asst. Dir. Land Use		
Asst. Dir. Maint.		
Asst. Dir. Public Aff.		
Asst. Dir. Res. Mgmt. & AP		
Asst. Dir. Dir. Co-Act		
Fed'l Agency Assn.		
PS Studies		

DEC 21 1964

Dr. Murray Nelligan  
Advisor to the Regional Director  
National Park Service  
143 South 3rd Street  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Re: Proposed designation of  
certain New York City properties  
as National Historic Landmarks.

Sir :

It has been proposed that certain New York City properties, including Central Park and City Hall, be designated as Registered National Historic Landmarks, pursuant to the provisions of the Historic Sites Act of 1935. This office has been asked to render its opinion with respect to the legality of applications for such designation by the City.

A proposed form of application for designation of certain sites has been transmitted to this office. Apparently, such application, if approved, would constitute an agreement by The City of New York to meet the conditions set forth therein, and specifically, to preserve the historical integrity of such sites, and to continue to use such sites only for purposes consistent with their historical character.

The New York City Charter contains certain restrictions on the alienation of City property and additional restrictions with respect to the alienation of City Park property.

In accordance with your conversation of December 14th, with Mr. LaTorella of this office, it is proposed that paragraph "4" of the proposed form of application be amended to read as follows:

- "4. If, for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the only

-2-

consequence of such failure  
to meet such conditions shall  
be that the Registered Nation-  
al Historic Landmark status  
shall cease and until such  
status is restored by the  
Secretary of the Interior,  
neither the Registered National  
Historic Landmark certificate  
nor the marker will be display-  
ed." (Underlined words added.)

I would appreciate it if you would advise me whether the proposed amendment of the application meets with the approval of the National Park Service.

Yours truly,

  
Acting Corporation Counsel.

THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

CROSS REFERENCE

Name or subject: Wording for plaques

See memorandum (or letter) dated: January 14, 1965 with incoming

To: Acting Corporation Counsel, The City of New York, Law Department

From: George A. Palmer, Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Wording for: City Hall and  
Central Park

File:  Central Park

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



Northeast Region  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19106

*Sent in  
blue envelope  
5/24/05*

H34-RHAN

JAN 14 1965

*Nelly  
1/7*

Acting Corporation Counsel  
The City of New York  
Law Department  
Municipal Building  
New York, New York 10007

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter of December 21, 1964, this is to advise that the wording you wish to add to Section 4 of the application for designation of City Hall and Central Park as Registered National Historic Landmarks is agreeable to the National Park Service.

Perhaps the simplest procedure would be for your office to revise the agreement accordingly and forward it, signed, directly to Director George B. Hartzog, Jr., National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C. 20240.

Sincerely yours,

George A. Palmer

George A. Palmer  
Acting Regional Director


cc:  
Director w/copy of incoming  
~~SSBxadfaxdxfk~~  
MHNelligan: ftc  
General  
Daily  
Landmarks  
Area

May 20, 1965

NOTE FOR FILES:

Central Park, New York

Dr. Bradford called today, May 20, 1965, to ask that a certificate be prepared for possible presentation, June 4. The Region has corresponded with the New York officials, but have not sent us any copies. A memorandum explaining all will come to us shortly.

  
John O. Littleton

H34-RHAN

MAY 24 1965

Memorandum

To: Director  
Attn: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

From: <sup>Acting</sup> Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Registered National Historic Landmark: Certificate for  
Central Park, New York

We would like to request that a Registered National Historic Landmark certificate be prepared for Central Park, New York. The name that should be used follows:

CENTRAL PARK

Because it appears that the presentation of the plaque and certificate for Central Park will occur on June 7, we would like to request that the certificate be in this office by June 4. Your cooperation in expediting the preparation of the certificate will be greatly appreciated.

George A. Palmer

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : John Littleton

DATE: May 24, 1965

FROM : Jack Walker

SUBJECT: Landmark status for Central Park, New York City

Regional Director Lee called late Friday afternoon (May 21) <sup>5:10 PM</sup> asking if the City of New York had formally applied for the Landmark certificate and plaque. When I told him that it had not, he said he would contact City officials regarding the matter today (May 24). *I told him the certificate was being prepared at the request of his office.*

*Jack*

H34-RHAH

May 25, 1965

Memorandum

To: Director

From: Acting Regional Director, Northeast Region

Subject: Registered National Historic Landmarks: Presentation of  
Certificates and Plaques

The following presentations of a Landmark plaque and certificate will occur shortly.

Central Park

1. Time: June 7, Central Park, New York, New York
2. Presenter: Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior
3. Recipient: Mayor Robert Wagner, with Senators Jacob Javits and Robert F. Kennedy attending
4. Location of plaque and certificate: Both are being prepared

The arrangements for Central Park are tentative and we will inform you as more definite plans are made.

John Bartram House

1. Time: June 8, 10:30 a.m., John Bartram House, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
2. Presenter: George B. Hartzog, Director, National Park Service
3. Recipient: Will be furnished as soon as possible
4. Location of plaque and certificate: Both are in the Northeast Regional Office

JUN 3 1965

H34-RH

Hon. Robert F. Kennedy  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Kennedy:

This will confirm our telephone conversation with your Office on June 3 in regard to the Landmark ceremony for Central Park, New York City. The Registered National Historic Landmark Certificate and Bronze Plaque will be presented June 7 at 12:30 p.m.

Secretary UHall will present the certificate and plaque to Mayor Wagner during a luncheon meeting at the Tavern on the Green.

As you are aware, Central Park was selected for Landmark status in July 1964. The Park is a Landmark in the history of the park movement in the United States.

We have also notified Senator Javits and Congressman Lindsay. Central Park is in Mr. Lindsay's Congressional District.

Kindly let us know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,

**HOWARD R. STAGNER**

ACTING ASSISTANT Director

Enclosures

cc: Your New York Office

Richard Rodgers, Room 5119  
Mr. Burnett, Room 5156  
Regional Director, Northeast

Similar letter to Senator Javits  
and Congressman Lindsay

Mr. Everhart  
Mr. Harrison  
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:mg 6-3-65

#### Wadsworth-Longfellow House

1. Time: June 9, between 2:45-3:00 p.m., Wadsworth-Longfellow House, 387 Congress Street, Portland, Maine
2. Presenter: Project Coordinator Edwin W. Small, Boston National Park Service Group
3. Recipient: Dr. R. G. Albion, President, Maine Historical Society
4. Location of plaque and certificate: The plaque was shipped to the Maine Historical Society on October 15, 1963; the certificate will be mailed to Mr. Small shortly

#### Elkanah Watson House

1. Time: June 11, Elkanah Watson House, Port Kent, New York
2. Presenter: Supt. Dixon Freeland, Saratoga National Historical Park, Stillwater, New York
3. Recipient: Mr. Horace K. Dunham, owner
4. Location of plaque and certificate: The plaque was shipped to Mr. Dunham on May 13; the certificate mailed to Mr. Freeland on May 11

#### Walden Pond

1. Time: July 10, 3:00 p.m., Walden Pond, one and a half miles from Concord, Massachusetts
2. Presenter: Project Coordinator Edwin W. Small, Boston National Park Service Group
3. Recipient: Governor John A. Volpe or his representative
4. Location of plaque and certificate: The plaque was shipped to Minute Man Park Headquarters on May 24 and the certificate mailed to Mr. Small on March 31.

George A. Palmer

C O P Y

June 3, 1965

NOTE FOR FILES

Central Park, New York

I called Senator Kennedy's Office. Miss Weiss asked me to get in touch with Mr. Ryan at Senator Kennedy's New York Office (telephone 661-1600). This I did. Ryan said send a copy of the letter to the Attention of Thomas Johnston at the New York Office, 110 East 45th Street, New York, New York, 10017.

This was done.

John O. Littleton



136 E. 55th Street  
New York City 22

6-21-65

Secretary of the Interior Udall  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Secy. Udall:

You recently declared Central Park, NYC, a National Historic Landmark. In view of this, does Huntington Hartford still have the legal right to construct his pavilion within the environs of the park at Columbus Circle?

You've done such wonderful work in the field of conservation-- especially with the creation of Canyonlands National Park (which might be compared to the preserving of the priceless contents of the Louvre just before the Germans entered Paris during the war)-- surely you can do something about Central Park, if anything should and can be done.

I wish you could help New York City in other similar cases.

Very sincerely,

Miss) SHIRLEY PARIS (signed)

(COPY)

File: Central Park

July 19, 1965

H34-RH

Miss Shirley Paris  
136 East 55th Street  
New York 22, New York

Dear Miss Paris:

Secretary Udall has asked us to acknowledge and thank you for your letter in regard to Central Park in New York City. Recognition of Central Park as a Registered National Historic Landmark does not change the administration and maintenance of this property which, of course, is vested in the City of New York. Therefore we cannot answer your question about the legal rights of Mr. Huntington Hartford's proposed construction of a pavillon at Columbus Circle. We would suggest that you take the matter up with the proper city officials.

The enclosed folder will explain the purpose of the Registered National Historic Landmarks program. We hope this will be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours,

**SIGNED**

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Division of  
History Studies

Enclosure

cc:  
Mr. Littleton

JOLittleton:gb

From Mrs. Allen G. Brumitt  
2121 1/2 NINTH AVENUE  
HUNTINGTON 3, WEST VIRGINIA  
August 20 '65  
LMP  
No letter

To  
The Honorable Secretary of the Interior Udall

**Central Park Is  
A U.S. Landmark**

NEW YORK (AP) - Central Park has been named a national landmark and Secretary of the Interior Udall warned that the New York metropolitan area is losing its battle to conserve open space.

Central Park, 840 acres of open space in the heart of Manhattan which was set aside more than 100 years ago, will be marked with a bronze plaque which reads: "The site possesses exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States."

Mayor Wagner accepted the plaque from Udall and said he would let Parks Commissioner Newbold Morris decide where it will be placed.

Reference: Enclosed newspaper clipping.

I am citizenship chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of The Woman's Club of Huntington West Virginia (1,000 members)

Would you be interested in giving us a letter for our newspaper explaining about the historical markings in the park and anything else that will awaken our citizens to study more about Americanism and Freedom.

We have written about Freedom's statue and Freedom's Foundation at Valley Forge.

We would be most grateful to get your help and any other suggestion for publicity.  
Thank you.  
Mrs. Allen G. Brumitt  
4773 Address above-

Mr. Utley

August 26, 1965

Mr. Littleton

Letter from Mrs. Brumitt regarding Central Park etc.

I was given this letter for the Secretary's signature today. The reply is due September 1.

I will have no time Monday or Tuesday to answer it.

The letter concerns other items besides the Landmark in Central Park. I have provided information in draft here on Central Park.

Will you kindly see that information or interpretation through Mrs. Sheridan completes the rest of the reply about Americanism etc. Also whether the Secretary wants to tell Mrs. Brumitt that she may publish his letter in the local paper.

As you know, I have not the time to do the necessary research for these other items in the letter.

John O. Littleton

Enclosure

SEP 3 - 1965

Dear Mrs. Brumitt:

Thank you for writing to us about Central Park in New York City being designated as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

It has been said that historic monuments truly bind one generation to another. Spiritually, we need these reminders of our past. Without them we tend to lose the sense of being part of what was old America. By setting aside and preserving historic sites and buildings, we insure the fact that future generations will gain strength and stability from them.

The Landmarks program is conducted by the National Park Service of this Department. Its purpose is to recognize Landmarks of outstanding importance in our national history and to encourage the owners to preserve them. Central Park was recognized as a Landmark in the history of conservation. Owners of Landmark sites are presented with a certificate and bronze plaque, if they wish to participate in the program. In this case of Central Park, the certificate and plaque were presented to the Mayor.

The enclosed folder will explain how the selection of sites is accomplished, and the mimeographed sheet, also enclosed, gives the wording used on the certificate and bronze plaque. As we do not have a list of other plaques in Central Park, we suggest that you write to the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau, Inc., Pershing Square, 90 East 42nd Street, New York for additional information.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Mrs. Allen G. Brumitt  
2121½ Ninth Avenue  
Huntington 3, West Virginia

Enclosures

cc:  
Secretary's Reading File  
DCCO  
FW  
Regional Director, Northeast w/c inc.  
Mr. Littleton w/c inc.  
Mr. Cullen (det.) w/c inc.

NPS Comeback Copy

REWRITTEN 9/2/65

Litt/8/31/65  
JPCullen:dmc 8/31/65

J-4773

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Dr. Ernest A. Connally *EAC*  
*4-9*

*Dr. Connally*  
*HHS 4/12 HRS*  
*HHS HJS*  
*Mr. Levy Nat. Reg.*  
DATE: March 10, 1971

FROM : Ronnie Lee

SUBJECT: Central Park, New York City

The attached copy of an article in the Wall Street Journal for February 25, 1971 cites four immediate threats to the integrity of Central Park in New York City-- the extension of the Metropolitan Museum, a new structure for the Police Department, another for the Fire Department, and an excavation for a new subway. Since Central Park is a Registered National Historic Landmark (I was present at the dedication), I will appreciate learning whether the Service is involved in this situation. I believe it should be.

*Best regards,*

*Ronnie*

Attachment

CC: Mr. Schmidt, NERO

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



W. J. Sheely 4/22/71

APR 23 1971

H34-HH

Mr. Ronald F. Lee  
Independence National Historical  
Park  
313 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Ronnie:

Thank you for bringing the several threats to Central Park to our attention. It seems that our strongest defense is not operable in this case. The National Register reports that there is as yet no indication of Federal involvement. They have not been asked by any Federal agency to comment; consequently, there is as yet no action that the Register can take.

The Regional Offices conduct the biennial visits and thus serve to alert us to threats of impairment that could result in the loss of Landmark status. By a copy of this letter we will ask Director Schmidt to have someone in the New York City area investigate. Perhaps before decisions are irrevocably made, they can provide us with a sufficient basis for us to urge the city to consider these proposals with the greatest care.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Robert M. Utley

Robert M. Utley  
Chief Historian

cc:  
Director, Northeast Region w/c inc.  
T-Mr. Butterfield w/c inc.  
HHS-Mr. Sheely w/c inc.

FNP:HjSheely:kp 4/22/71

HP - New York - Central Park

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HH

Telegram

LIG086 NND063

(AT 231NN618063)PD IPM136K NYK

0509P EDT08/19/71

ZCZC 174 NL PDB 96 EXTRA SI NEW YORK NY 19

HON ROGERS MORTON  
SEC OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHDC 191R & C NW

77P

BT

WE URGENTLY ASK YOU TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER IMMINENT CONSTRUCTION  
OF A NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY EXTENSION, PART OF WHICH WILL CUT  
THROUGH CENTRAL PARK, CALLS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADVISORY  
COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION OR BY THE HEAD OF ANY

01 (R5-69)

S-41844





ZCZC174 SHEET 2

01 25 19 04 7 14

FEDERAL AGENCY, UNDER SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT. BECAUSE OF THE HIGH COST OF SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE METROPOLITAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY MAY REQUEST FEDERAL FUNDS TO SUPPLEMENT STATE AND CITY ALLOCATIONS FOR THE PROJECT. IF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS IS MADE, WE BELIEVE THE PROJECT WILL FALL WITHIN SECTION 106, SINCE CENTRAL PARK IS NOW INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER. SECTION 106 REQUIRES THE HEAD OF THE FEDERAL AGENCY IN A FEDEALLY ASSISTED PROJECT, BEFORE APPROVING THE EXVENDITURE, TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT OF THE PROJECT ON THE SITE. RESPONSIBLE PERSONS HAVE QUESTIONED THE EXTENT OF THE DAMAGE TO CENTRAL PARK WHICH PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION WILL CAUSE AND HAVE SUGGESTED THE FEASIBILITY OF ALTERNATE ROUTES. IF AN APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL FUNDS IS CONTEMPLATED, WE BELIEVE THE APPROPRIATE



Telegram

ZCZC174 SHEET 3

19 14 7 14

FEDERAL AGENCY MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE MATTER BEFORE CONSTRUCTION  
PROCEEDS INTO CENTRAL PARK.

CAROL GREITZER, COUNCILWOMAN, MANHATTAN

LOUISE EASTMAN, CONCERNED MOTHER

ESTELLE WOLF, SEC. EAST SIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

WILLIAM DAMOND, CHAIRMAN PLANNING BOARD #8

DICK FRANK, CONCERNED CITIZEN

WILLIAM HARRIS, MEMBER SAVE CENTRAL PARK

Telegram

CZC174 SHEET 4

11 05 19 PM 7 14

RICHARD E. HARRISON, CHAIRMAN CONSERVATION COMMITTEE,  
LINNAEAN SOCIETY, N.Y.

EUGENE NETZER, CHAIRMAN WEST 70TH ST. ASSOCIATION  
H. POST CLARE BEEKHARDT, H. POST, THE PARKS COUNCIL  
GEORGE SPITZ

CHARLES TAUS CO-CHAIRMAN, MUSEUM

ANTONIO OLIVIERI, NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN 66TH ASSEMBLY  
DISTRICT 209 EAST 76TH ST NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021  
TEL: 212 472-0611

NNNN(0517P EDT)

H34-HR

B. Levy 9/2  
W. MURTAGH 9/2  
J. Wood 9/9  
Connelly  
for H & AP 9-9  
J. Stewart 9/10  
Whitbeck 9/13  
Dunn

9/21/71

Hon. Antonio Oliveri  
New York State Assembly  
209 East 76th Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Mr. Oliveri:

Thank you and the other interested citizens for the telegram of August 19 concerning preservation of Central Park.

If construction of a New York City subway extension will have an effect upon Central Park, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the project involves Federal funds or a Federal license, that undertaking must be referred to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for comment. The Federal Agency involved may not participate in the undertaking until it has afforded the Advisory Council an opportunity to comment under terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915).

The procedures for compliance with Section 106 are published in the Federal Register, Volume 36, Number 35, Part II. A copy is enclosed together with a folder explaining the National Register. Perhaps this information will be of assistance to you. Your concern for the preservation of our national heritage is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

W. E. D  
1st Deputy  
Deputy Asst. Secretary of the Interior  
to FW  
FW  
9/16  
4:45 P

Enclosures

cc:

Dr. Louis C. Jones, Chairman, New York State Historic Trust  
Parks and Recreation, Building 2 - State Campus,  
Albany, New York 12226) w/c of inc.

FW

Director, Northeast Region (2)) w/c of inc.

HR)

LS)

FNP:BLEvy:rmt:9/3/71

✓ (BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR)

Similar letter to:

Hon. Liveri S-41844  
Mrs. Montrose S-41877  
Mrs. Josephine Montrose  
314 Eighth Ave., Park Slope  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

me  
9/9  
B-9

H34-HR

SEP 21 1971

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New York State Assembly  
209 East 76th Street  
New York, New York 10021

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Sincerely yours,

/s/ Curtis Bohlen

DEPUTY ASSISTANT

Secretary of the Interior

Enclosures

cc:

Dr. Louis C. Jones, Chairman, New York State Historic Trust  
Parks and Recreation, Building 2 - State Campus,  
Albany, New York 12226) w/c of inc.

FW

Director, Northeast Region (2)) w/c of inc.

(HR)  
(LS)

FNP:BLVY:rmt:9/3/71

Similar letter to:

Hon. Oliveri 6-41844

Mrs. Montrose S-41877

Mrs. Josephine Montrose  
314 Eighth Ave., Park Slope  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

(BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR)

# Telegram

LLG086 NND063

(AT 231NN618063)PD IPM136K NYK

0509P EDT08/19/71

ZCZC 174 NL PDB 96 EXTRA SI NEW YORK NY 19

HON ROGERS MORTON

SEC OF THE INTERIOR

U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

WASHDC 191R & C NW

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WE URGENTLY ASK YOU TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER IMMINENT CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY EXTENSION, PART OF WHICH WILL CUT THROUGH CENTRAL PARK, CALLS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION OR BY THE HEAD OF ANY

21 (RS-69)

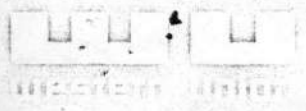
S-41844



ZCZC174 SHEET 2

04 05 19 00 7 14

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ZCZC174 SHEET 3

01 09 19 14 7 14

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CAROL GREITZER, COUNCILWOMAN, MANHATTAN

LOUISE EASTMAN, CONCERNED MOTHER

ESTELLE WOLF, SEC. EAST SIDE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

WILLIAM DAMOND, CHAIRMAN PLANNING BOARD #8

DICK FRANK, CONCERNED CITIZEN

WILLIAM HARRIS, MEMBER SAVE CENTRAL PARK



Telegram

CZC174 SHEET 4

11-05 10 14 7 14

RICHARD E. HARRISON, CHAIRMAN CONSERVATION COMMITTEE,  
LINNAEAN SOCIETY, N.Y.

EUGENE NETZER, CHAIRMAN WEST 70TH ST. ASSOCIATION  
H. POST CLARE BEEKHARDT, H. POST, THE PARKS COUNCIL  
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CHARLES TAUS CO-CHAIRMAN, MUSEUM

ANTONIO OLIVIERI, NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN 66TH ASSEMBLY  
DISTRICT 209 EAST 76TH ST NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021  
TEL: 212 472-0611

NNNN(0517P EDT)

01 (R5-69)

1134-HR

SEP 21 1971

Mrs. Josephine Montrose  
114 Eighth Avenue  
Park Slope  
Brooklyn, New York 11215

Dear Mrs. Montrose:

Secretary of the Interior Horton has asked us to thank you for your letter of August 21 concerning Central Park, New York.

If construction of a New York City subway extension will have an effect upon Central Park, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the project involves Federal funds or a Federal license, that undertaking must be referred to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for comment. The Federal Agency involved may not participate in the undertaking until it has afforded the Advisory Council an opportunity to comment under terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915).

The procedures for compliance with Section 106 are published in the Federal Register, Volume 36, Number 33, Part II. A copy is enclosed together with a folder explaining the National Register. Perhaps this information will be of assistance to you. Your concern for the preservation of our national heritage is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Curtis Bohlen

DEPUTY ASSISTANT Secretary of the Interior

Enclosures

cc:

Dr. Louis C. Jones, Chairman, New York State Historic Trust  
Parks and Recreation, Building 2 - State Campus,  
Albany, New York 12226) w/c of inc.

FW

Director, Northeast Region (2)) w/c of inc.

(HR)  
(LS)

FHP:BLVY:DKK:rmt:9/3/71

Similar letter to:  
Hon. Antonio Oliveri S-41844  
New York State Assembly  
209 East 76th Street  
New York, New York 10021  
Mrs. Montrose S-41877

(BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR)

21 August, 1971

Honorable Rogers C.B. Morton  
United States Secretary of Interior  
Department of Interior  
Washington, D.C.

Re: Central Park and the  
M T A usurpation of land

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Almost everyone in the various parts of New York City is painfully aware of the growing neglect in our rapid transit system, and the seeming contempt for our feelings and opinions by the New York State, Metropolitan Transit Authority. Some of us intend to be heard since our daily lives, and the quality and safety of our lives, depend on public concern.

It is an outrage for any parts of Central Park in New York City, which I understand is under the protection of your U.S. Department, to be dug up, disturbed, despoiled - at this time for subway construction. First, we need the lines we already have, to be serviced and maintained and operated, to riders pleasure, comfort and safety - before new lines are constructed. Second, the cost of vast new plans - planned and being forced on a populace without public hearings - for which we will all have to pay, one way or another - is oppressive. Third, great damage can be done to a great park, and the mess take years to even partly clean up. I took a good look just last week, of an area of Bryant Park off 42nd Street, between 6th and 5th Avenues in New York City, which has been all boarded up and unsightly for months, due to subway construction linking two lines, (finished, I believe, but the park is still not back to normal, nobody seems to be working on it, no signs indicate what is happening).

I urge you to use your influence to stop this mutilating planning - at least in Central Park where you do have influence. Any New York City Congressman who is in touch with his area, can inform you of the MTA crisis.

cc Cong. Hugh Carey

Cong. Bella Abzug  
Robert Abrams, Bronx Borough President

Respectfully,

*Josephine Montrose*  
(Mrs.) Josephine Montrose

FRANK HORTON  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE  
36TH DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

407 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
(202) 225-4916

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
107 FEDERAL BUILDING  
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14614  
(716) 546-4900, EXT. 1380

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEES:  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIO  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
MILITARY OPERATIONS  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON SMALL  
BUSINESS

COMMISSIONER:  
GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT  
COMMISSION

March 6  
1 9 7 3

Mr. Ronald Walker  
Director  
National Park Service  
Interior Building  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Walker:

On behalf of my constituent named in the  
attached letter copy, I would like to  
request that you send me the proper information.

I would appreciate your sending me this  
material as soon as possible.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely,

  
Frank Horton

FH:nn  
attachments

839 Belvedere Heights  
Penfield, N. Y. 14526

February 16, 1973 FFR 17 1973

Mr. Frank B. Horton  
Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Horton:

You make it easy for your constituents to impose upon your time. I would hesitate to do so so soon again were it not for the urgency of what I am about to request, which at first glance might appear to be the dream of a hopeless visionary.

My suggestion is, simply, that steps be taken to halt the utter despoilment of Central Park in New York city, by whatever means; and the only means at this late date appears to me to make it a national park or shrine. The city of New York has neither the means nor the will to do what is necessary to preserve and safeguard for all future generations its most priceless possession.

Two and a half miles long and a half mile wide, Central Park in its original design and execution at the hands of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux has been called the greatest single work of art produced in America, a national treasure. Requiring forty years to achieve the perfection of form envisioned by the unique genius of its creators, and intended to remain forever in that form to serve as a healing balm for millions of unborn who would live their lives in city pent, it has proved to be just that for generation after generation.

Its disintegration as a work of art is appalling. The covetous designs of commercial developers have scarred it, the naive sponsors of recreational uses not inherent in conceptual design foresight disfigure it, and the misled philanthropy of millionaires have bastardized it with "gifts" that perpetuate a family name but do nothing to insure the sanctity of its heritage.

Olmsted led the fight to preserve Yosemite in its unspoiled state. He advanced plans for a national park system. He designed parks in cities throughout the country, following the initial success of Central Park. His overall plans for New York City, based on his remarkable concepts of proper urban living, if followed, would have prevented it from becoming the festering eyesore it now is. The emerging sciences of ecology, pollution control, and environmental influence on human well-being are now belatedly recognized as having originated in his fertile and far-seeing mind.

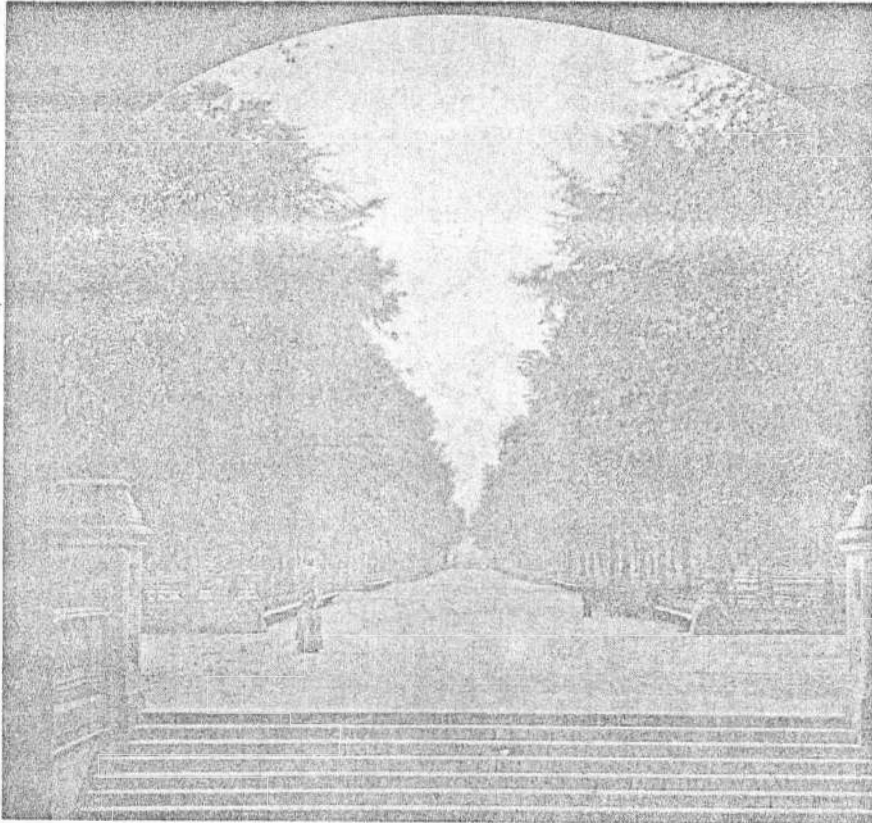
The art treasures of Europe are carefully guarded and preserved for all posterity. Can America do less for its own greatest work of art?

Respectfully

*Bill Toporcer*  
Bill Toporcer

The MALL, looking south from the Terrace, seen in a stereopticon view from Wheeler's Gems of American Scenery, published by S. S. Wheeler, Otego, N.Y. Note original Bandstand and absence of clutter of benches and decorative ground tiles at the crossing of the Mall which Bloomingdale's demands,

The stereopticon is from the collection of Wm. Toporcer. It will be included in the March 26th show "Yesterday and Today in Our Historic Parks" to be narrated by Henry Hope Reed in Federal Hall, 26 Wall Street, at 7:30 p.m.



THIS IS HOW the Mall in Central Park used to look. This is how it ought to look.

If the Park Department seriously wants to improve the Mall it can do no better than to use this picture as a model for restoration. If Bloomingdale's really wants to help Central Park (not just promote itself on Park land, largely at taxpayer expense) it can repair the famed Belvedere Castle, now in ruins, in the Ramble, or the Bethesda Fountain, battle scarred from years of abuse, or bring back the Terrace to its former glory.

IT IS TIME we demand that the park be preserved for all the people, instead of being redeveloped for special interest groups. Central Park is not a department store billboard.

Beaton 3/19  
Mackintosh  
PFAWZ  
Martensen  
Utley  
J. Wood  
3/19  
Whitlock 3/20

MAR 21 1973

H30-PHH

Honorable Frank Horton  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Horton:

We are pleased to reply to your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Bill Toporcer concerning Central Park in New York City.

As a national historic landmark, Central Park has been determined by the Secretary of the Interior to possess national significance--the primary criterion for units of the National Park System. As a great park, Central Park would undoubtedly meet the additional criterion of suitability applied in studying proposed additions to the System. The major question, we suspect, would be one of feasibility which is the third of our criteria as listed on pages 13-15 of the enclosed brochure. With the exception of the Nation's Capital, the National Park Service does not administer "city parks." Granting that Central Park is a unique area of which its significance transcends its particular locality, we believe that New York is the most appropriate governmental unit for its administration.

Legislation would be required to authorize the addition of Central Park to the System and to appropriate funds for its administration and maintenance. Should bills be introduced for this purpose, Congress would determine the ultimate fate of the proposal.

We appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert M. Utley

Director Office of Archeology  
and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

cc:  
Director-NERegion ) w/c of inc.  
LI  
PHHS-Mr. Sheely }  
PHH-Mackintosh }  
PHH-State File }  
LOS }  
FNP:EMackintosh: crb: 3-19-73

(HP-New York-Central Park)

March 9, 1973

Honorable Frank Horton  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Horton:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Bill Toporcer concerning preservation of Central Park in New York as a national park or shrine.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

Ronald H. Walker

Ronald H. Walker  
Director

LOS (2) w/incoming  
FNP:CRBraxton:crb:3-9-73



*Sheen*

14 of Sheely 51



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H34-HH

JUN 4 1973

Memorandum

To: Director, Northeast Region  
From: Chief Historian  
Subject: Receipt of National Historic Landmark Biennial  
Inspection Report[s]

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of [a] biennial inspection report[s] for the following national historic landmark[s]:

- Chester A. Arthur Home, New York
- Brooklyn Bridge, New York
- Central Park, New York
- Cooper Union, New York
- Palisades Interstate Park, New York - New Jersey
- Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
- Stony Point Battlefield, New York
- Old Economy, Pennsylvania

Your continued cooperation in keeping us informed of further developments regarding landmarks in your Region, including changes of ownership and any potential threats to their integrity or existence, will be greatly appreciated.

(Sgd.) A. R. Mortensen

A. R. Mortensen

PHH:HJ Sheely:kr 5/30/73  
bcc: LI  
PHHS-Mr. Sheely



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

*Sheen*

*Amundson*  
*11/1/79*

November 2, 1979

Mr. John Stokes  
Chief, Grants Division  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation  
Service-Northeast Region  
600 Arch Street--Room 9310  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Dear Mr. Stokes:

On October 24, 1979, the Council received your determination that the Central Park Renovation Proposal would not adversely affect Central Park, New York, New York, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with Section 800.6(a) of the Council's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Executive Director does not object to your determination provided that the work is done in accordance with the specifications you submitted to the Council on October 3, 1979,

As provided in Section 800.9 of the Council's regulations, a copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

SIGNED  
Jordan E. Tannenbaum  
Chief, Eastern Division  
of Project Review

cc:Chairman  
SHPO NY  
FLO HCRS  
DPR:Elmendorf/Schlagel:kbs 10-26-79  
File:NY/Central Park/HCERS/Renovation  
NEW&CLOSED

H34(418)

**MAY 31 1985**

Mr. Ashton Hawkins, Esq.  
Vice President, Secretary and Counsel  
The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Fifth Avenue and 82nd Street  
New York, New York 10028

Dear Mr. Hawkins:

Thank you for your courtesy and kindness to our Architectural Historian, Carolyn Pitts on her recent visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. She informs me that you had several questions concerning the National Register nomination of the Museum. The museum is part of the Central Park National Historic Landmark. That Landmark designation was made in May, 1963. The Fort Tryon Historic District that includes the Cloisters was placed on the National Register in December, 1978.

The other similar New York buildings that are National Historic Landmarks are New York Public Library (1965), Pierpont Morgan Library (1966), and Carnegie Hall (1966).

We are also enclosing a descriptive leaflet describing the National Historic Landmarks Program.

If you have any further question, please let us know.

Sincerely

/s/ Edwin C. Bearss

Edwin C. Bearss  
Chief Historian

Enclosure

cc: 418 Pitts  
(418 NHL Central Park

CPitts:wa:5/31/85  
Disk No.1, Item 25

AP  
5/31/85  
Blair 5/31/85

Hand

5/31

New York  
5/23/63  
PR  
file

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Central Park, New York City

Central Park occupies a prominent position in the history of the park movement in the United States, because it dramatized the need for, and gave an impetus to, the Nation's urban park movement.

In the 1840's farsighted citizens of New York began a movement to develop a large park in the heart of the rapidly expanding city. Two of the leaders of this movement were Andrew Jackson Downing, America's first great professional landscape gardener, and William Cullen Bryant, the poet and editor. The Evening Post, Bryant's newspaper, repeatedly stressed the need for a park. By 1850, the park movement had such widespread backing that both candidates for the mayoralty supported the idea.

The winner of the election, Ambrose C. Kingsland, sent a message proposing the establishment of a park to the Common Council on April 5, 1851. In July of that year the state legislature authorized the city to purchase property for park purposes.

The northern boundary of New York was 34th Street when the city began to acquire the land between 59th and 106th Streets for Central Park. By 1856, some 7500 lots in the area had been bought at a cost of \$5,069,693, and a park commission had been created. But in 1857, the state took away city control of the park and created an independent park commission. The new commission found park matters in great confusion, and the projected park swampy, littered with rubbish, and swarming with goats.

Appointment of Frederick Law Olmsted as superintendent of Central Park in the fall of 1857 marked a turning point in the park's development. Olmsted and his business partner, Calvert Vaux, the English-born landscape architect, entered a plan in the competition for a park design in 1858. Their design won first prize, and, shortly after, Olmsted became the park's chief architect and Vaux consulting architect for the park.

This prize-winning design reflected the influence of the close contact which these men had with Downing. It decreed that the park should have a natural or forest atmosphere and that all architectural features should be subordinated to that premise. The idea of a

natural area immediately appealed to the people, and in 1859 the park was extended to 110th Street. By 1866, most of the park had been completed.

The Department of Parks, which administers the park, still follows the concept of a natural area in the city, and the vastly increased population of New York continues to enjoy the trees, paths, and lakes within the park.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>New York</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XIX, Conservation of Natural Resources</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Central Park</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Bounded by Central Park South, Fifth Avenue, 110th Street, and Central Park West, Manhattan</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Mayor Robert Wagner, New York City</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

Central Park occupies a unique position in the history of the park movement in America because it was the country's first urban park. Almost at the last possible moment, far-sighted individuals on Manhattan inspired the creation of a rural retreat for all the citizens, rich and poor, of the fast growing metropolis. And the park's subsequent overwhelming popularity impelled city after city to follow New York's lead.

As late as 1850, New York's 515,000 citizens possessed little opportunity to gain relief from the streets and buildings of their city. Gotham's most spacious open area, all of 20 acres, lay at the Battery. But some perceptive individuals, such as William Cullen Bryant in 1844 and Andrew Jackson Downing in 1848, had already proposed that New York develop a large park before the expanding city gobbled up all Manhattan. Bryant's paper, the Evening Post, repeatedly stressed the need for a park throughout the 1840's. Other voices also strengthened the call for a park, and during the mayoralty campaign of 1850 both candidates supported the idea. The winner of the election, Ambrose C. Kingsland, remembered his campaign promise and on April 5, 1851, sent a message to the Common Council proposing the establishment of a park. By July, the state legislature had authorized the city to acquire a plot of ground known as Jones' Wood for park purposes, but by mid-summer strong opposition confronted that plan. Opponents of the Jones' Wood scheme involved numerous business men who scorned the need for a park, plus many others who desired a park but felt that a larger area would better serve the growing city. The latter group also sought what would become a central park as the metropolis grew; and it realized victory when the legislature authorized New York to purchase the land that now forms most of Central Park.

The northern boundary of New York rested on what is now 34th Street when the city began to acquire the land between present-day 59th and 106th Streets for Central Park. By 1856, some 7,500 lots in the area had been bought for \$5,069,693, which sum included awards to owners of land bordering the park area, and a park commission had (cont'd.)

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) <b>Charles E. Doell and Gerald B. Fitzgerald, <u>A Brief History of Parks and Recreation in the United States</u> (Chicago, 1954), 27-28; Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Theodora Kimball, <u>Frederick Law Olmsted, Landscape Architect, 1822-1903</u> (2 vols., New York, 1928), II, 21-28, 30-33, 37, 42, 44, 48-49, 51-53, 55 65, 68, 74, 80-82, 86 <u>et passim</u>, 173-180; Allan Nevins, <u>The Evening Post</u> (New York, 1922), 193-194, 196, 198.</b>
9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, IIABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS * ATTACHED: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Good</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Park</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>November, 1962</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>S. Sydney Bradford</i> <b>S. Sydney Bradford</b>	15. TITLE <b>Historic Sites Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>February 5, 1963</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE New York	NAME(S) OF SITE Central Park
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7. Importance and Description (cont'd.)

been created. But in the following year, the state took away city control of the park and created an independent park commission of eleven people. This new commission found park matters in great confusion, with the projected park swampy, littered with rubbish and swarming with goats.

The appointment of Frederick Law Olmsted as superintendent of Central Park in the fall of 1857 marked a turning point in the park's development. A dynamic and resourceful person, Olmsted, when he discovered his superior would not object, entered a plan called "Greensward," in conjunction with Gilbert Vaux, in the competition for a park design. In April, 1858, the commission declared Olmsted's plan, one of thirty-five, the winner, and shortly after being awarded the \$2,000 prize, Olmsted became the park's Architect-in-Chief.

Olmsted's design decreed that the park should have a rural nature and that all architectural and engineering features should be subordinated to that premise. That fresh concept governed the development of Central Park, and the idea subsequently became basic in the growth of the urban park movement in the United States.

Under Olmsted's supervision, 2,500 men labored in the park by October, 1858. Paths, roads, bridges, lakes and planting were all well underway before winter slowed the work. During 1859, Olmsted greatly advanced the development of the park, so much so that the public became quickly enraptured with its new possession. Thousands of people began to enjoy the park's benefits--not only the rural atmosphere, but also the paths, bridle trails, band concerts, and in winter, ice skating. And in 1859 the park was extended to 110th Street, although the city did not acquire the land until 1863. By 1866, most of the park had been completed. Olmsted, who had already resigned from and then rejoined the park several times, remained associated with Central Park until 1878, when politicians brought an end to his long and beneficial influence upon the rural retreat.

Central Park, as events proved, did more than just provide a country-like area for New York's masses. Even before fully finished, the park stimulated in tremendous fashion outdoor recreation. Again, the park greatly increased land values in the area surrounding it. More importantly, the art of landscape architecture found its birth in Central Park. Finally, the park influenced many cities to create similar open and landscaped areas, and the great parks in Brooklyn, Boston, Chicago, and countless other urban centers, are descended from Central Park.

UNITED STATES  
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

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STATE	NAME(S) OF SITE
New York	Central Park

7. Importance and Description (Con'd.)

Present Condition: Central Park continues to reflect Olmsted's vision of a rural area in the city. Some buildings have intruded upon the park, notably the Metropolitan Museum of Art, and automobiles have replaced carriages on the roads, but the trees, paths and lakes still please a vastly increased city population. The pleasure Central Park brings to untold thousands is obvious to anyone who visits it on a pretty Sunday afternoon.



REGISTRY OF NATIONAL  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO

CENTRAL PARK

Date of visit 9/4/68

Visited by Henry C. Schmidt, Superintendent, Fire Island & New York  
(name) (title) (office)  
City NPS Group

Received by Donald E. Simon, Director of Research, Department of Parks  
(name) (title) (office)

Condition\*: The general condition of the park is excellent . Programs of maintenance and rehabilitation which commenced in 1966 is favorably reflected in the quality and substance of the grass and meadowlands. Dead trees and shrubs have been replaced and programs to beautify the general landscape and still maintain the woodland nature of the park have been successfully completed. The Landmark's plaque is in place on the Arsenal Building.

Operation\*\* Operation of the park is the same as last visit. The Department of Parks is responsible for general operation, recreation and other programs and special events. The 22nd Precinct of the New York Police Department is responsible for protection. They have increased patrols by mounted police and small 2 and 4 wheeled vehicles, and considering the high use have a very good record of visitation protection.

\*Grounds, structure/s, furnishings

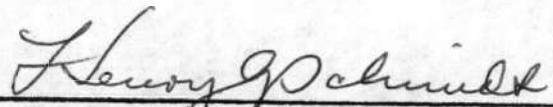
\*\*Note any changes in ownership, sponsoring organizations, operating staff, use, location of plaque and certificate, etc.

Special Problems

Vandalism and disposal of litter in general. Financing rehabilitation on a slim budget.  
Crowds on peak days and at special events.

Suggestions Offered

Suggested the appearance of Central Park has been improved during the period of concentrated effort of maintenance. Recommended their program be extended to complete improvements planned.

  
Henry G. Schmidt  
(signed)

Henry G. Schmidt,  
Superintendent

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL  
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO

~~CENTRAL PARK~~

Date of visit July 28, 1970

Visited by James F. Wolfe, Park Engineer, NYC NPS GROUP  
(name) (title) (office)

Received by Henry Hope Reed, Jr., Museum Curator, Central Park  
(name) (title) (office)

Condition\* Central Park is, as it always has been, heavily used and enjoyed by all. The structures are old, some in dire need of rehabilitation (Loeb Bridge) but in general, adequate.

New facilities are under construction; existing facilities are being restored (boat landings).

Operation\*\* Garbage, garbage, garbage - everywhere. At 10:30 a.m. garbage from Monday evening had not been picked up or the ground cleaned. Crews were out and at it, however, in some areas.

Police protection adequate!

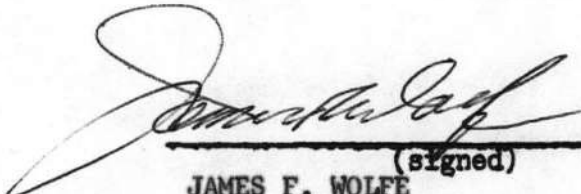
Plenty of school groups of all ages. Several special interest groups were active. Concessioner operations need improvement.

\*Grounds, structure/s, furnishings

\*\*Note any changes in ownership, sponsoring organizations, operating staff, use, location of plaque and certificate, etc.

**Special Problems** Intrusions on the Park are: Open ditch type subway construction and an aqueduct shaft. Also, an outdoor stage is under construction and the Emergency Fire Protection Headquarters proposes a new building in the Park.

**Suggestions Offered** The Park had more visitors in 1900 than it has now. The one difference between then and now, and to a large extent the cause of the "litter" and garbage problem is the "attitude" of the Park user. Then there was considerably more personal discipline in conduct than there is now. We have always done our "thing"; but now we leave so much of our "things" behind us when we exit the Park.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(signed)  
JAMES F. WOLFE

REGISTRY OF NATIONAL HISTORIC  
AND NATURAL LANDMARKS

REPORT OF BIENNIAL VISIT TO:

Central Park  
New York City

SITE and ADDRESS

DATE OF VISIT April 6, 1973

VISITED BY Gene Peluso, Landmarks Specialist New York District  
(NAME) (TITLE) (OFFICE)

RECEIVED BY Dr. Richard Stern, Assistant Administrator Central Park  
(NAME) (TITLE) (OFFICE)

1. CONDITION:

The general condition of the Park is excellent. There are many activities for both, the young and the old. The park is in the act of replacing dead trees and shrubs, and beautifying the gardens. Seeds, and bulbs have been obtained from the N.Y. Gardens and other states.

2. GROUNDS, STRUCTURE/S, FURNISHINGS:

The grounds are well maintained. There are several portions of the park where excavation is taking place and these areas are fenced in and do not disturb the normal activities of the park. In spite of a limited work crew, the park is clean and free from litter and trash. All buildings seem to be in good condition. The zoo is clean and very well maintained.

### 3. Operation

The Department of Parks is responsible for the general operation of the Park. The plaque is placed on the outside wall of the Arsenal Building just adjacent to the main entrance.

### 4. Special Problems

1. Vandalism is still a problem but much improved over the past year.
2. Local school children are using grassy areas for playground purposes.
3. Like everyone else, Central Park could use more money to expedite beautification of all areas.

### 5. Suggestions Offered

None.

Just a compliment for doing such a wonderful job for so many people.

  
4/9/73  
(Signature and Date)

## What Are Parks For, Or, Are Ball Diamonds A Girl's Best Friend?

City Dwellers Protest Moves  
To Divert Land From Parks  
For Buildings, Copter Pads

*Wall Street Journal* 2/25/71

By GEORGE A. NIKOLAIEFF  
Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**NEW YORK**—You wouldn't think it would happen to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Last year the museum held a fund-raising gala to unveil a master expansion plan for its second century. Outside the building were pickets—in black tie—protesting the whole idea.

Why picket a museum? Because its expansion plan involves adding to the existing building, which is in Central Park. That means carving out a chunk of park land. And, given this city's need for open spaces, that can't be allowed, advocates of the park contend.

"Central Park is more important than Yosemite," says Robert Makla, an attorney and leader in the Friends of Central Park movement. "It has the same purpose of giving people, especially poor people who can't get away, a change from their urban environment. Only it has millions more who need it."

A few years ago such concern would have been unusual. But now, in a growing number of cities, residents are becoming increasingly alarmed that, just when it is most needed, park land is being whittled away for other uses. They also fear that what park space is left is in growing danger of being polluted, paved or trampled out of existence.

### Memphis and the High Court

In Memphis, citizens incensed by plans to build a six-lane highway through that city's Overton Park began a legal battle that currently is before the Supreme Court. In San Antonio, residents forced the federal government into a study of alternative routes for a highway that would have cut through Brackenridge Park. In Syracuse, a group is fighting to prevent a high school from being built in Burnet Park. And in Los Angeles, the Citizens Committee to Save Elysian Park continues to battle to keep a police helicopter pad out of that park. Other groups are directing their efforts to help spruce up the beleaguered parks.

The protect-the-parks movement is gaining unprecedented momentum in New York, where four or five years ago there was only minimal organized concern. Last month the heads of the Parks Council and the Municipal Art Society filed the first of what promises to be a series of legal challenges to the museum's expansion in the park. "It's not that we're against the museum," one conservationist says. "We just wish they'd build their damn addition elsewhere."

Besides the museum, four other agencies want Central Park land. The police department wants new quarters for its mounted patrols. The fire department wants a central control building, to be constructed next to the one it already has in the park. The water department is building new subterranean aqueducts. And the Metropolitan Transit Authority plans to build a subway under the park's southern portion.

The conservationists' biggest fight is with the Transit Authority. The Friends of Central Park estimate that digging for the subway tunnel will have much of the affected portion of the park torn up for about 10 years. Even then, they fear, the land may never be restored to its original condition.

### Conservationists' Solution

The whole problem of park damage, the conservationists say, could be avoided if the authority tunneled all the way instead of digging from the top. They concede that their method is more expensive but contend it's worth it. So the conservationists have been instrumental in getting a bill before the state legislature to bar the Transit Authority from disturbing the park's surface. If the bill fails, chances are good that lawsuits will be filed to try to halt construction.

If that dispute doesn't end up in court, others undoubtedly will. Park land is "in public ownership and thus readily available" to municipal agencies, says Charles F. Breuel, deputy commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation. Without buildings or other encumbrances on it, such land can be taken by city agencies "at a very low cost," he says. Considering the city's financial plight, it isn't surprising that there's some rush to grab the land.

But city agencies aren't the only ones guilty, the conservationists say. There are also what the conservationists term "aggressive philanthropists" who want to donate a playground or some other park structure. Huntington Hartford, heir to the A&P fortune, wanted to donate a park cafe. And the Brooklyn-based department-store chain of Abraham & Straus donated \$90,000 toward the construction of a children's farm in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

Many conservationists argue against such projects no matter how worthwhile they may seem. "What people in the city need are open spaces," says Mrs. M. M. Graft, a vocal park advocate. "Whenever you put up any facility in a park for special use, you're depriving other people of that space," declares Richard Edes Harrison, another adamant conservationist. "How often do you see women using a park baseball diamond?"

The National Park and Recreation Association suggests that a city provide an acre of

## What Are Parks For, Or, Are Ball Diamonds A Girl's Best Friend?

*Continued From First Page*

park for every 200 residents. But Manhattan is estimated to have only one acre of such land for every 750 persons.

Even then, there isn't as much space as there first appears. Central Park, for instance, has 840 acres. But the amount of open, unrestricted land totals less than half that, after you deduct space taken up by water reservoirs, buildings and paved roads and walks, as well as the land set aside for particular uses, such as baseball diamonds.

Besides diminishing amounts of land, parks face other threats, including air pollution. Evergreens become so severely coated with grime over the years that they "suffocate." Lilac leaves shrivel because of the noxious fumes. Even a few varieties of trees are beginning to wither because of pollution. But the less apparent result is that the fumes stunt tree growth. Thus, when huge old trees die or are cut down, their replacements will probably never reach the same height.

What to do about the problem is a matter of considerable dispute between conservationists and the city. New York has banned auto traffic in Central and Prospect Parks on weekends—a move that gives the greenery a kind of breather, conservationists say. But they strongly disagree with another city policy of staging special events that lure thousands of people into the two parks.

As the park department sees it, that's just the way it should be. "We feel the parks are for people," a department spokeswoman says, although she adds, all this activity "is going to beat up the grass."

The conservationists don't see it that way. "These parks weren't built as staging areas," says Michael McCloskey, executive director of the Sierra Club, a nationwide conservation group. Adds Mrs. Henry L. Moses, a member of the Friends of Central Park: "I don't call it doing anything for the people if you get so many of them into a park that they destroy all the greenery."



# Milestone for Landscape Architecture

By NELVA M. WEBER

**L**ANDSCAPE architecture, as a profession, has just passed an important milestone. To honor its first 100 years, the American Society of Landscape Architects has designated the year 1964-65 as the Centennial Year of Landscape Architecture.

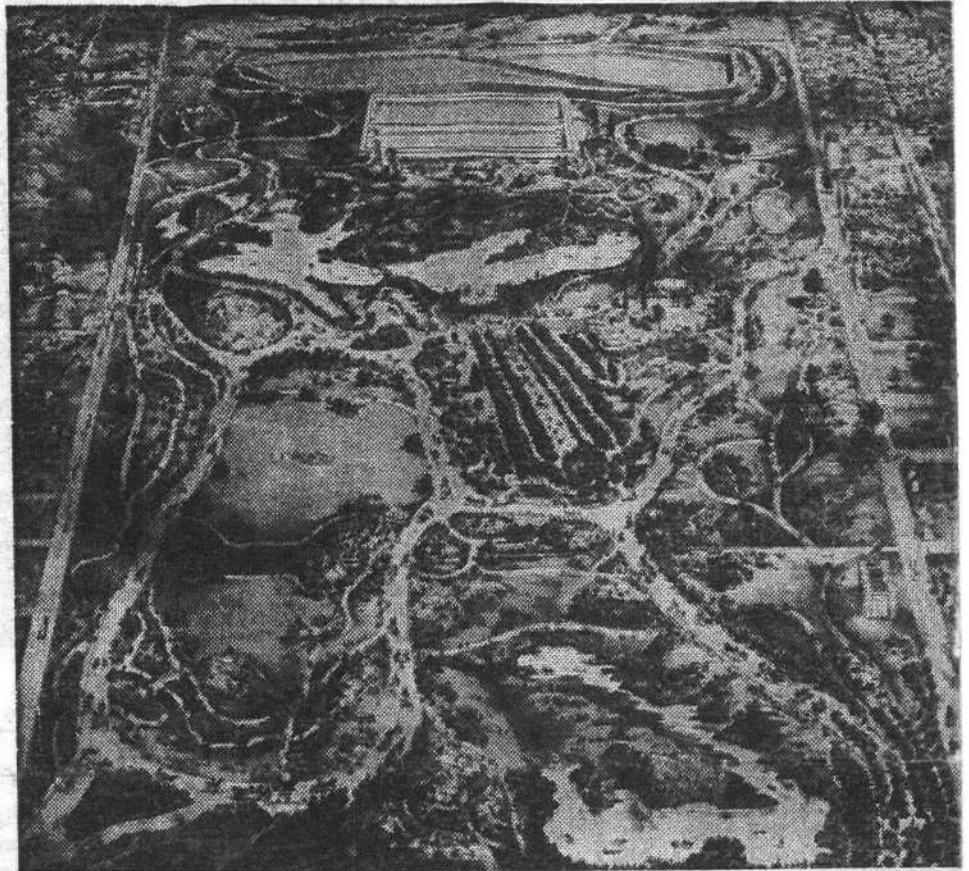
By profession, a landscape architect is a planner trained in the designing of outdoor spaces for human use and enjoyment. He has nothing to sell but his services. His methods of practice are more closely related to those of the building architect than to the interior decorator. The scope of his activities includes the home garden, but it extends far beyond to subdivisions, campuses, shopping centers and industrial complexes.

The golden age of American gardens was the era of the big country estates, made possible by great individual wealth of the early 20th century. Architect Charles A. Platt, filled with enthusiasm for Italian gardens, was a design keynoter. He was followed by a number of landscape architects, many of whom devoted their entire practice to the private estates. This period ended with the Wall Street crash of 1929 and many landscape architects eventually shifted to public landscape work. In the present day development of less pretentious suburban and country places, the landscape architect places special emphasis on design for privacy, simplicity and ease of maintenance.

## The Originators

Parks, even more than private gardens, are a part of the landscape story. The profession's history actually began in 1858 with the planning of a country park for a city, a competition for the design of Central Park in New York. The two prize-winning designers were Frederick Law Olmsted and the English architect, Calvert Vaux. They described their work as landscape architecture and, in doing so, bestowed a new name upon an ancient art. Although Frederick Law Olmsted had called himself a "landscape engineer," he accepted the new term with ease and first signed his name over the title Landscape Architect in 1861.

The first



scape architecture were practically synonymous with Frederick Law Olmsted, a remarkable man who ably demonstrated the values accruing from carefully planned outdoor space. During Chicago's World Columbian Exposition in 1893, the public recognized in the design of the Court of Honor and its lagoon, the delightful fruits of outdoor planning. Mr. Olmsted went on to design major park systems for New York City, Buffalo, Chicago, Philadelphia, Washington and elsewhere during the 1880's and 1890's.

As the century drew to a close, a small group of practicing landscape architects looked to the future. On Jan. 4, 1899, 11 men and one woman joined in organizing the American Society of Landscape Architects in New York City. Two years later, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr., at the request of President Elliot of Harvard University, began the first landscape architecture courses ever offered in the United States. With professionally trained young people, the pace quickened and better work emerged from a wider variety

of fields and over a greater geographic area.

The National Park Service was formed in 1916 and today it is the largest single employer of landscape architects. To save the scenic beauty of the national parks from the hordes of motorized America, the service encouraged the widespread development of state parks for active and intensive recreational use. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work camps, sponsored by National Park Service, advanced the state parks programs by some 50 years.

## Planning Ahead

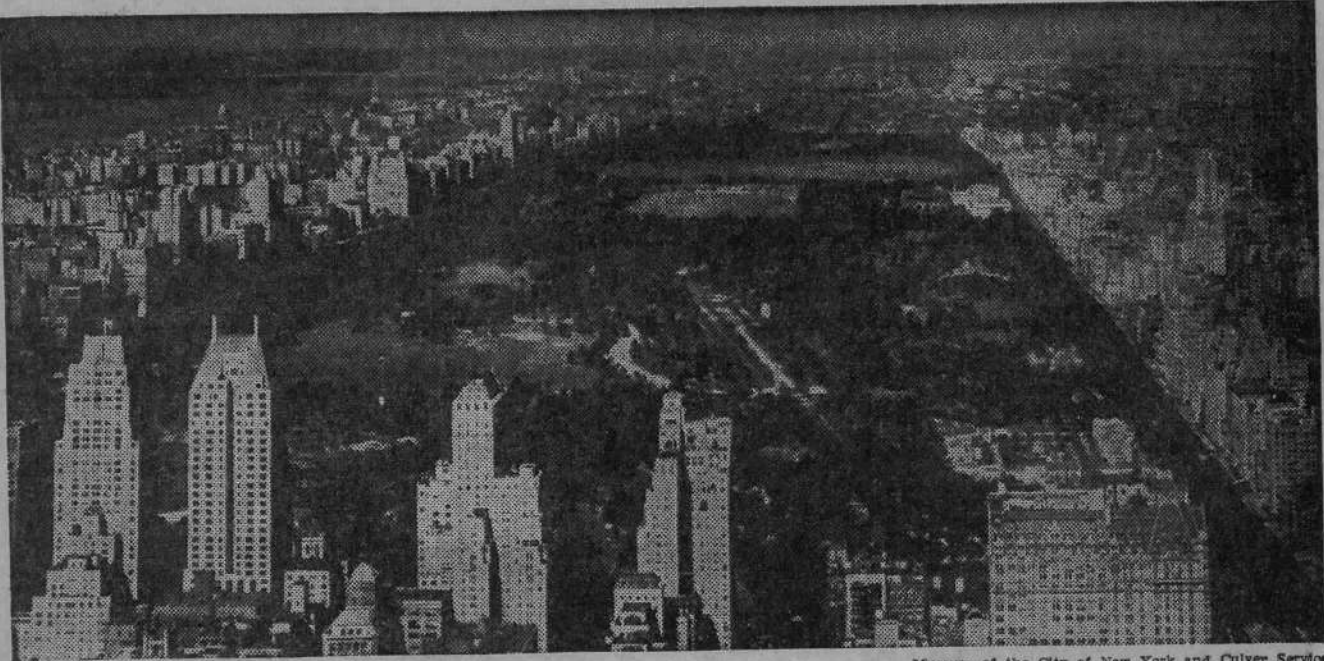
City and regional planning have engaged the services of landscape architects since Olmsted's day. Agencies involved in town planning, land planning and housing include these professionally trained personnel on their staffs.

There is much to be done in improved zoning, updated building codes and in the long range planning of our environment. While some farsighted developers are willing to forego some quantity by employing professionally trained men to use the land more wisely, far too many belong

to the bulldozer school which flattens and denudes land, fills swamps, so that the greatest number of houses may be erected. This is done with little regard for people who, so in need of housing, buy from necessity rather than choice.

Landscape architecture has come a long way in its first century. A movement started by a few self-taught pioneers is now carried on by technically-trained people who are graduates of 17 accredited colleges and universities. The society has grown from its original 11 founders to well over 1,000 members and 1,000 affiliates. What began with a single park has resulted in professional involvement in park systems that reach from coast to coast, highway, freeway and parkway programs, innumerable commercial, industrial, institutional, educational and military projects, both public and private, both here and abroad.

What of the future? Modern-day problems challenge the profession as never before. "America has made the biggest hash of its environment in the history of the



Museum of the City of New York and Culver Service

**CENTRAL PARK**—The original plan for New York City's oasis of greenery was made in 1858 by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. The early sketch and present-day view (above) show the entire park looking north from midtown.



**Frederick Law Olmsted.**

world," said Ian Nairn, editor of Architectural Review of London after his 10,000-mile look at the United States. Our environmental "hash" is a result of an outmoded attitude that land is a commodity to be exploited.

The time is at hand for accepting the ecological concept of land as a community to which man belongs. This community must be guarded and managed so that its growth is amenable and beautiful as well as workable and economic. There is need for more cooperation between the design professions: landscape architects, architects, engineers and planners. The landscape architects must act as the stewards of this larger landscape and the future must produce more and even better designers with even greater vision.

75 112A

File: Central Park  
 PHOTOS BY  
 PHILIP  
 AND  
 JOHN  
 WARD  
 FOR  
 THE  
 TIMES  
 1966

# Playground With a Tradition Gets New Ideas

By RUSSELL EDWARDS

**M**INING prospectors have been known to hit bonanzas. Rarely, however, has a municipality struck a Comstock Lode. But New York has. In 1853 the city began condemnation proceedings to acquire the land from Fifth Avenue to Eighth Avenue from 50th to 106th Streets, later extended to 110th Street. With the acceptance of plans submitted in 1858 by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calver Vaux, the work of transforming an 840-acre rock-strewn, swamp-oozing, squatter-inhabited eyesore to a Bois de Boulogne commenced with pick and shovel, drainage canals and police evictions.

Turtle Creek, which meandered in a southeasterly direction until it emptied into Turtle Bay on the East River, was dammed and formed the pond near Fifth Avenue and 69th Street. The great East and West Drives were completed, the band shell erected, the sunken traverse roads engineered, the bridle paths laid out, the mall graded, paved and lined with trees, and a stone fence built to encircle the area's six-mile perimeter.

The total price of the land and construction and landscaping, which was completed by 1876, cost more than \$9-million. The real estate value of Central Park today has been placed in excess of \$1-billion.

## Skating on the Lake

The public immediately loved the park. It became the playground of the affluent, the middle class and the poor. By the winter of 1859 thousands of New Yorkers were skating on the lake by day and at night under the illumination of calcium lights. Tens of thousands listened to the band concerts in the summer, the musicians subsidized by the horse car lines that funneled the populace

park's northern reaches. They were dubbed by the proprietor the "literary cavalry" for among their members were editors, critics and publishers—Charles A. Dana of *The Sun* and Henry J. Raymond, co-founder of *The Times*.

It has been said that before the Civil War there were no more than a dozen saddle horses ridden by civilians in New York. In less than two decades the "literary cavalry," the original pace setters, were joined by hundreds, including Samuel J. Tilden and another defeated Presidential candidate, Horace Greeley, publisher of *The Tribune*.

A writer for Harper's in the eighteen-eighties said that Greeley "rode in sad sincerity, and because he thought it good for him—he looked, at all events, considerably less irregular on horseback than he did on foot."

An added impetus to riding was given by the founding in the early eighties of the Riding Club, whose original stables on 58th Street near Fifth Avenue housed 250 saddle horses. The club, with its 500 members and their families, contributed a social cachet. Now women on horseback, sidesaddle of course, were no longer considered



Winter sleighing was popular in Central Park for more than a half century. The building, upper left, is the Dakota, built in the 1880's.



...the city.  
 Today the park, with an annual attendance of more than 21-million visitors, offers all, Shakespeare's plays, philharmonic concerts to audiences of 70,000 on the sheep meadow, as well as the old landbys—the zoo, skating, chess, boating, riding, walking, bird watching and roancing.

Every park commissioner as ideas about how to better the park's use for the public, Thomas P. F. Hoving, the new Commissioner, son of Valtor Hoving, chairman of Uffany's, has several suggestions to make the park's terling qualities more available to the average citizen. Proposed for this summer are rock 'n' roll concerts on the fall for teen-agers.

"We're going to have a title bit of—how shall we call it," says Mr. Hoving—Central Park à Go-Go."

Commissioner Hoving also plans an "elegant" but "popular-priced" outdoor cafe to be held by summer, near the bathhouse at 72d Street, and of far from the old Casino, which was both elegant and expensive.

A park commissioner's official life is not a happy one. When one of the park's lakes in the early eighteen-sixties as to be fitted out with boats, a suggestion was made to the Board of Aldermen that 10 or 12 gondolas be purchased. However oneerman nose to speak against this, saying:

"Why don't we get two and nature take its course." This procedure can have astounding results with appropriate subjects. In 1863 English sparrows—14 of them were released in the park. These were the first in the western Hemisphere. Within a century their proliferation anketed a continent.

In its early years, even here the drives and bridle paths were completed, a coup of equestrian pioneers over unfinished roads, leading for a hostelry in the

...the most famous daughters of club members to forfeit their club privileges if they married nonmembers. The club's last home, at 66th Street, between Columbus Avenue and Central Park West, was closed in the nineteen-twenties. On its site is the American Broadcasting Company building.

In the park's earliest days, the public flocked by the thousands to the East Drive on sunny afternoons to watch Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt, Robert Bonner, publisher of The Ledger, and such social pillars as August Belmont, Lewis Morris and William R. Travers, all drivers, speed their trotters to the Harlem Lane—later St. Nicholas Avenue—where their racing contests became the talk of the town and the nation.

**The Carriage Parade**

No less thrilling to the public and no less satisfying to the participants were the fashionable carriage parades on the East Drive between 4 and 5 in the afternoon.

The parades fell into these categories:

1. The dowagers from the conservative families—the Jays, Livingstons, Joneses and Stuyvesants—had equipages of black, generally broughams, as they did not wish to be stared at by the populace. Their footmen were elderly and soberly liveried.

2. The fashionable set, used their victorias to display their feminine elegance. The endless parade of carriages for this group also included barouches and occasionally a daring young woman would be seen driving her own phaeton.

3. The equipages of the third group were always ultra-conservative, scarcely distinguishable from those of the most august dowagers. Their occupants included Josephine Wood, the Polly Adler of her day; Madame Restell, the notorious abortionist, whose magnificent mansion on the



Miss Mary Schons riding a horse last week on the bridle path.

northeast corner of 52d Street and Fifth Avenue was passed by genteel ladies with averted eyes, and the celebrated demi-mondaines of the era.

Today the park by 9 A.M. is thronged by dog walkers and their charges. Nannies and their perambulators arrive a bit later. John F. Kennedy Jr., got his daily fresh air and sunshine there while in the baby-buggy stage.

The zoo still attracts thousands of children and also adults. In the past it had some notable visitors—President Ulysses S. Grant and Mayor William R. Grace who were fascinated by the antics of a chimpanzee named Mr. Crowley, who would not shake a gloved hand, even of a notable, until Mr. Crowley himself had removed the glove.

The Carousel, a fixture since 1873, still spins. The pony ring, where Douglas Fairbanks Jr. and Mrs. Wyatt (Gloria Vanderbilt) Cooper both learned to ride, still taxes the patience of mothers.

People still ride the bridle paths, but in far less numbers. There were 20 riding academies west of the park in 1940, stabling more than a thousand mounts. Today only one is left, the Claremont at 175 West 89th Street. It has 65 horses for hire and 35 that are privately owned.

The coming of the automobile, the movement of horse lovers to the city and the endeavor of the city to make the park facilities available



the land for Central Park, more than 1,000 squatters lived there in ramshackle, crowded shanties.

Left: The Casino, Park landmark for many years, used to cater to the smart and fashionable. It was torn down in 1935.

to people of limited means, have seen the virtual disappearance of some old and exciting and gracious customs.

The trotters and the carriage parades are gone.

In the winter, gay parties in sleighs no longer race up the East Drive to be the first to arrive at old McGown's Pass Tavern, near 105th Street, and win a magnum of champagne.

One does not dismount after a morning canter and breakfast at the Casino, where luncheon and dinner and dancing to the orchestras of Leo Reisman and later Eddy Duchin was the "in" thing. Robert Moses won his court battle to have the Casino torn down in 1935 and watched its dismantling plank by plank. A children's playground now occupies the site, which is just west of the East Drive, directly behind the music stand on the Mall.

On occasion, a function which might be termed social in a fashionable sense is held at the Tavern-on-the-Green, at 66th Street and Central Park West. A popular-priced restaurant since its opening in 1934, it once was the home of the park shepherd and 200 sheep that kept the grass cropped in the adjoining meadows. One can buy a complete luncheon at the Tavern-on-the-Green for \$3, the price of a portion of pâté de foie gras at the old Casino.



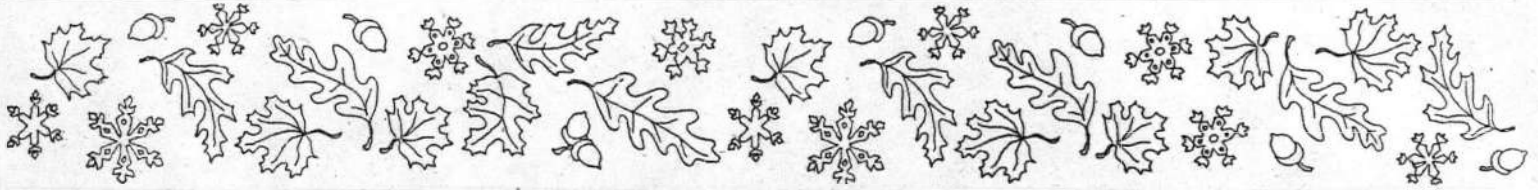
Carriage parades were held on the East Drive in the Park every afternoon between four and five o'clock. Some drove in open carriages to be seen. Others rode in closed ones to view the parade and retain privacy.

Photos by The New York Times; prints by Currier & Ives, New York Historical Society and Harper's Weekly

NHL

# Central Park Then and Now:

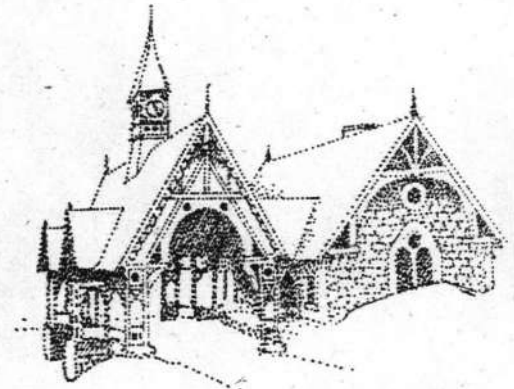
## A three-part seminar on the history and landscape of Central Park



### Free

**DATE:** Thursday, November 9  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
**TOPIC:** The 19th Century Parks Movement and Central Park: A slide lecture  
**\*LOCATION:** Arsenal Gallery  
**WELCOME:** Henry J. Stern, Commissioner, Parks & Recreation  
**LECTURER:** Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Administrator, Central Park

**DATE:** Saturday, November 11  
**TIME:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
**TOPIC:** Central Park Landscapes: A field trip  
**LOCATION:** Meet at 60th Street and Fifth Avenue  
**TOUR GUIDE:** Marianne Cramer  
 Chief, Design & Planning, Central Park



**DATE:** Thursday, November 16  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM  
**TOPIC:** Current Issues Facing Central Park: A panel discussion  
**\*LOCATION:** Arsenal Gallery  
**PANELISTS:** Henry J. Stern, Commissioner, Parks & Recreation  
 Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, Administrator, Central Park  
 Patricia Harris, Executive Director, Art Commission of New York City  
 Madeline Lacovara, Executive Director, Central Park Security Task Force  
**MODERATOR:** Adrian Benepe, Director, Art & Antiquities

Call (212) 860-1330 for information and required registration.

\* 64th Street and Fifth Avenue, inside the park, 3rd floor.



City of New York  
 Parks & Recreation  
 Edward I. Koch, Mayor  
 Henry J. Stern, Commissioner

Central Park Conservancy  
 Elizabeth Barlow Rogers  
 Administrator, Central Park



# CENTRAL PARK

**THE LIVING CENTER OF THE CITY**

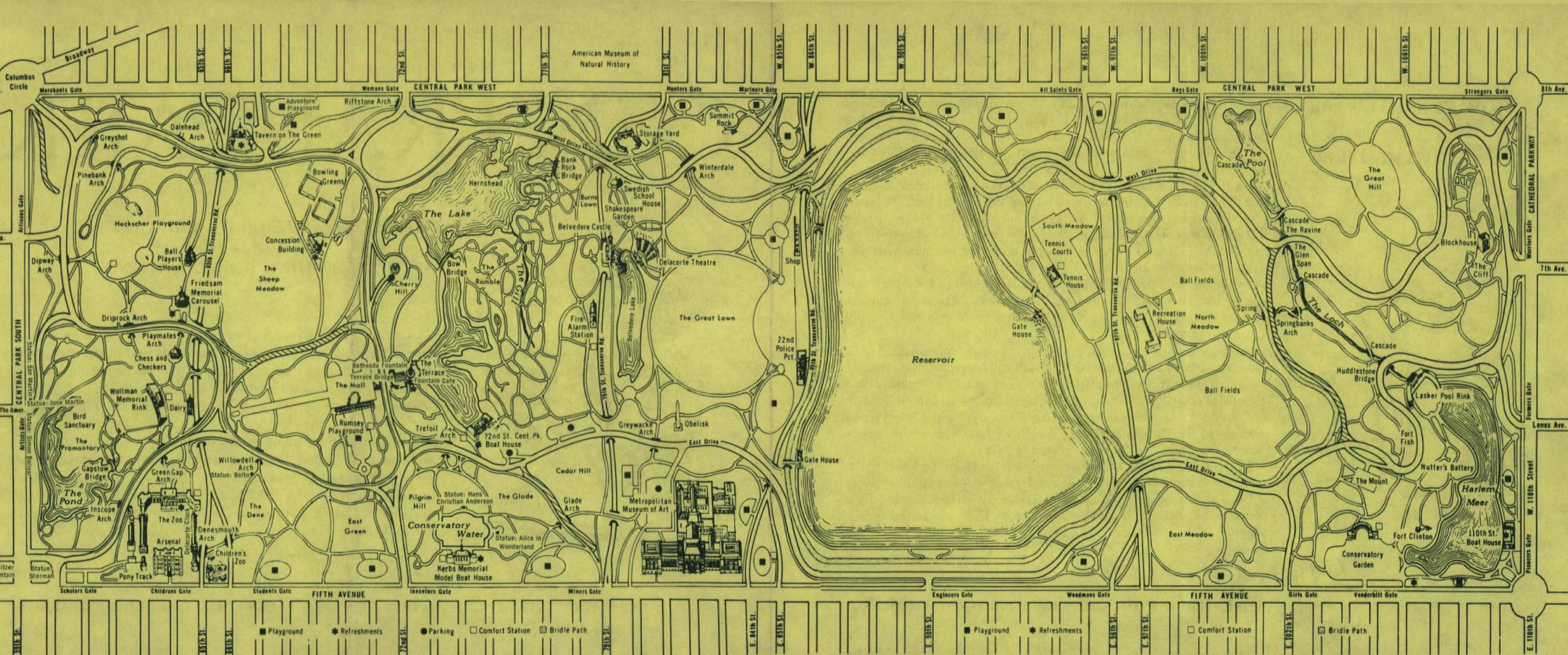
**WITH SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**



Central Park is 840 acres of trees, grass, lakes, ponds, ice skating rinks, hills, hollows, meadows, walks, roads and trails. It is one of the happiest things that ever happened to a city. Here's where the walker, the wader, the stroller, the skater, the ball-player, the boater, the bicyclist, the jazz-lover and the jogger all find a place to do their thing. Where the Shakespearean actor finds his audience; where the makers of all of today's music—from pop to rock to soul find a place to perform—where paraders and protesters can gather—where city children can see a cow, a chicken or a llama; where they can ride a pony or play “King of the Mountain” on great, jutting hills of granite. Look on the inside for where to find what you like to do most—in Central Park, New York City.

*August Heckscher, Administrator*

**NEW YORK CITY ADMINISTRATION OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**



- Playground
- ★ Refreshments
- Parking
- Comfort Station
- ▣ Bridle Path

From *Central Park: A History and a Guide* by Henry Hope Reed and Sophia Duckworth. © 1967, by Henry Hope Reed and Sophia Duckworth. Used by permission of Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. Map drawn by Ken Fitzgerald.

## HOW CENTRAL PARK

## CAME TO BE



Central Park began as an idea of some inspired citizens of New York in 1850. Within a year, on July 11, 1851, a law was passed authorizing the establishment of the park. It took another 5 years—until February 5th, 1856, for the tract bound by 59th and 110th Streets and Fifth and Eighth Avenues to be officially designated “Central Park.”

For the first year the Mayor and Street Commissioner controlled the park. Then, in 1857, “The Commissioners of the Central Park,” a board of eleven citizens, took control. Two years later the office of Comptroller of the Park was created and Andrew H. Green was elected to the position. Much of the park’s construction was accomplished during his ten-and-a-half-year tenure.

A competition held for designs for the landscaping of the park was won by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux. The crude work of clearing the land began in 1856, was systemized in 1858 and virtually completed by 1876.

The basic design of Central Park remains almost the same today as when it was originally completed. The Mall still punctuates the center of lower half of the Park as Olmsted and Vaux planned. The Obelisk, called “Cleopatra’s Needle,” a gift from Egypt to the American Consul in 1869, was placed on its present site near the 90th Street and Fifth Avenue entrance to the Park in 1881. The building which houses the famous “Tavern-On-The-Green” was completed in 1872.

To appreciate Central Park, consider the City of New York without it. Without the island of trees and green and water breaking up the expanse of brick and stone and asphalt. New York City without Central Park would be like a home without a living room. Everyone in the family is invited to come on in.

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However, N.Y. 2) ~~official~~ legal grounds  
opposing of development <sup>justified</sup> definite interest  
& preservation of atmosphere of Park historic  
landmark. We therefore hope to withdraw  
project, & (able ~~to~~ City of New  
York ~~to~~ develop proposal  
& detract <sup>from</sup> Park's historical qualities

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