

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Graham Park

other names/site number City Park/Graham Athletic Field/Graham Park

Name of Multiple Property Listing N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

street & number North Grant Road not for publication

city or town Carroll vicinity

state Iowa county Carroll zip code 51401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: **X** **A** **B** **X** **C** **D**

Signature of certifying official/Title: State Historic Preservation Officer Date _____

State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____

Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Graham Park

Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that this property is:	
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain:) _____	
_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	0	buildings
1	0	site
9	5	structure
7	0	object
23	5	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor
recreation/park/sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor
recreation/park/sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Park Rustic/Naturalistic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: limestone
walls: brick, fieldstone, wood, log
roof: asphalt shingles, cedar shake
other:

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Graham Park is a 19.6-acre, multi-purpose municipal park located in the south central quadrant of Carroll, Carroll County, Iowa. The majority of Carroll's population lives within 1.5 miles of the park, making it easily reached by walking, biking, or driving. The park is within a mile of the Central Business District, public school buildings, and several large employers, which allows a wide swath of the public easy access to the outdoor recreation areas.

Resources in the park are organized around the asphalt road winding north to northwest through the park, representing a cohesive plan that incorporates multiple access points and activities to serve a broad public. Beginning from the south entrance, **twenty-two buildings, structures, and objects contribute** to the historic character of the site. The Seventh Street gateway and trees line the barriers, roadways, and parking areas. The 1954 south stone footbridge and the drainage ditch (Storm Creek) are on the east side of the road. Picnic tables, benches, a drinking fountain, metal grills, and park lamps are scattered along both sides of the road. The 1943 restroom, the open shelter house, and the playground apparatus are situated near a west branch of the main asphalt road. The trappers' cabin, the enclosed shelter house, the 1953 north stone footbridge, sidewalks, the schoolhouse, and the band shell lie to the east/northeast of the road. The road exits the park through the Ninth Street gateway. The 1950 restroom and the Tenth Street gateway are to the north of this exit.

North of the road **five non-contributing resources** are the flowerbed, basketball courts, skate park, tennis courts, and tennis shed (structures). The noncontributing sports structures do not compromise the historic integrity of Graham Park to any appreciable degree because they further the park's original purpose as a city public park and playground. New structures are compatible with the older ones in scale, materials, and location. The modern concrete skate park is the most noticeable recent addition.

Of the nine parks in Carroll, Graham Park has the largest acreage and is the only park with historic buildings and structures, which make it the most significant city park in terms of usage, history, sports facilities, and overall community events. Graham Park is the only park in Carroll with historic buildings and structures constructed on site or relocated to the park. It has rustic architectural features in its stone and wood buildings and structures, which allow adequate space for large gatherings.

The park is in very good condition and all seven aspects of historic integrity are present. Still in its original location west of Grant Road, only minor alterations to original design elements, materials, and workmanship have occurred. With a Period of Significance from 1920 to 1965, the historic feeling is retained through the architectural details of a series of buildings and structures that reflect National Park Service (NPS) rustic park architecture style. Association is maintained as the park can still be experienced by visitors much as it was throughout the twentieth century.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: After the main **Narrative Description**, discuss any physical alterations since the period of significance under the subheading **Alterations**, the seven aspects of integrity as it applies to the property in a **Statement of Integrity**, and any future plans for the property under the subheading **Future Plans**.)

Established in 1920, Graham Park is a 19.6-acre, irregularly shaped park located in Carroll, Iowa. Situated in the south central quadrant of the town and generally flowing south to north, the park is abutted on the south by Seventh Street and commercial businesses, on the southwest by one-story apartments, on the west by North East Street and residences, on the north by Eleventh Street and residences, on the east by North Grant Road and the Graham Recreation District facilities. U.S. Highway 30 (Sixth Street) runs east and west one block south of the park.

The park is the foundation and nexus of the Graham Recreation District. Across Grant Road to the northeast are the Family Aquatic Center, Carroll Softball Field, and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC), incorporating the former bathhouse of the American Legion Swimming Pool. Across Grant Road to the southeast are the Carroll Football Stadium, Merchants Park baseball stadium, Carroll Recreation Center, and city slow pitch softball fields.

The main entrance to Graham Park is identified by a fieldstone gateway that flanks Walnut Street (aka Ninth Street/Graham Park Road). This road curves northwest through the park, following a curvilinear path that blends with the park's landscape. An asphalt side road to the west provides vehicle access to a parking area, an octagonal open shelter house, sand volleyball courts, a restroom building, and a drinking fountain (see Figure 54). To the east of the main drive, Storm Creek (Drainage Ditch #77) extends along the entire east side of the park, running parallel to Grant Road. Just before Walnut Street gradually begins to bend to the west, a stone footbridge crosses the creek toward Grant Road to the east, leading to Merchants Park baseball stadium. The tree-lined drive curves northwest past picnic and playground areas on the west and a pioneer trappers' cabin on the east. North of the cabin, a branch of the road leads east to a parking area for the enclosed shelter house on the west bank of the creek.

The main asphalted vehicle road continues west and exits the park to North East Street through the Ninth Street gated stone pillars, which serve as the secondary park entrance. North of the park road along North East Street are the basketball courts, a limestone restroom building, and a concrete skate park. North of the skate park, the Tenth Street pillared gateway leads to a small parking area. A new tennis complex and wooden storage shed fill the rest of the west and the north sides of the park. In the middle of the north half of the park, a web of sidewalks lined with trees radiates out in an axial bilateral design from a circular stone flowerbed. To the northeast the sidewalks lead to the band shell, the red schoolhouse, and the north 1953 stone footbridge over Storm Creek, and back to the enclosed shelter house east of the flowerbed. To the west the sidewalk leads to the restroom and the skate park. To the south the sidewalk leads to the main park road.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

Graham Park retains all seven **aspects of integrity**. All the significant historic buildings, structures, and objects added within the Period of Significance are extant. These include the three stone gateways, the two limestone restrooms, the open and enclosed shelter houses, the brick band shell, the two rock footbridges, the log trappers' cabin, and the pioneer schoolhouse.

The park retains excellent integrity of **location** because it encompasses the original location and boundaries of the properties donated in 1920 and expanded by Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty and Mrs. Emilie Boehme in 1923 between North East Street and Grant Road as well as Seventh Street and Eleventh Street.

Graham Park retains excellent integrity of **design** because it adheres to the original design of Grover Cleveland Beiter, city engineer; and the landscape layouts of Ray F. Wyrick, Des Moines landscape architect; Newell Guernsey, Sioux City park planner; and local park commissioners. The rustic architecture landscape plans of Wyrick and Guernsey remain evident in the layout of the curving driveways and the use of the natural terrain in the park design. Buildings and structures further develop the rustic features. Modern additions of athletic fields and courts are open and low, allowing the natural design elements to take precedence.

Graham Park retains very good integrity of **setting**. Other than the loss and addition of some trees and changes in plantings through the years, the park's setting remains intact in the midst of residential and commercial neighborhoods. The number of homes has increased to the north and west; commercial businesses fill the area to the south; and athletic fields remain east of the park. It has been enhanced with continued maintenance of the grounds and plantings. Well-tended, open, spacious lawns complement the park buildings and facilities. The setting features mature shade, flowering, and evergreen trees; gently rolling terrain near the band shell, wood and metal benches, and curving drives, parking areas, and sidewalks.

The park retains very good integrity of **materials** because the fieldstones, repurposed bricks, and wood in the structures and buildings are the original materials of construction, except for the reroofing of the enclosed shelter house, the cabin, the schoolhouse, and the restrooms as part of regular maintenance. The band shell and the footbridges have some deterioration.

Graham Park retains very good integrity of **workmanship** because the original design of the park and its facilities are preserved. The buildings, structures, and gateways all survive even though repairs and improvements have been needed through the years. Local building materials such as rocks from farm fields used by skilled local masons and carpenters are present in the stone in the band shell, open and enclosed shelter houses, the gateway structures, and the restroom buildings. Pioneer building techniques and details are evidenced in the trappers' cabin and the schoolhouse, which were moved to the property within the Period of Significance.

The park retains strong integrity of **feeling**. Because of the rustic buildings and structures and the addition of the trappers' cabin and schoolhouse, the park evokes an earlier sense of time and place as well as a community recreation ground on the south central side of Carroll since 1920. The park can still be experienced by visitors much as it was throughout the twentieth century, with daily visitors coming to play individual and organized sports, to have picnics and family reunions, and to enjoy musical and cultural performances. For over 100 years its winding road and sidewalks have been favorite places for people to walk, jog, bicycle, exercise their

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

dogs, and enjoy nature.

Graham Park retains excellent integrity of **association** because as the largest park in the City of Carroll, it remains an active recreation ground and gathering space. The stone structures of the park are part of the architectural “identity” of Carroll as in elements in all of its parks and other facilities such as Swan Lake and the cemetery. The hard work and cooperation of various individuals and entities benefited and continue to benefit from the many amenities and activities offered in Carroll’s parks.

CHRONOLOGICAL INVENTORY OF RESOURCES



Figure 1. Cement Barriers, Parking, Graham Park Road, Wood Barriers (facing NW) June 6, 2023

Resource Number: 1

Historic Name: Barriers/Roadways/Parking

Date of Construction: 1920s (Roadways) 1958 (Barriers)

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park workers

Description: As part of the initial grading of the site in 1920, roadways were installed first. A series of 38 log parking barriers and 123 concrete parking stops now line the main roadway and parking areas to delineate those areas, to provide safety for pedestrians and users of the park, and to protect the grassy lawns from vehicles (Figure 1). Along the road in the park and near the shelter houses and playground areas are spaces for approximately 148 vehicles. The lot between the skate park and the tennis courts at the Tenth Street entrance can hold approximately 20 cars.

History: When work began on Graham Park, roadways and parking were the first resource installed on the site, allowing workers easy access and providing a framework within which to place buildings and attractions. In 1948 the *Carroll Times Herald* states, “. . . facilities at Graham park . . . easily accommodate several hundred picnickers. There are no parking restrictions, enabling parties to drive right up to the tables and fireplaces. ‘This unusual innovation is especially appreciated by the elderly who are unable to walk a hundred

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

yards to a picnic table,' one member of the commission commented" ("Carroll Park Board," 1). Walnut Street/Ninth Street (aka Graham Park Road) was graded and graveled when the park was laid out in 1920. At various times it was oiled to keep down dust. In 1950 it was blacktopped. The city rebuilt the park road in 1958, when the barriers were added to keep vehicles off the grass. In 1966, the roadway was improved with asphalt surfacing.



Figure 2. Pines planted in 1923 (facing N) Sept. 5, 2023



Figure 3. Horse chestnut (facing NE) Sept. 5, 2023

Resource Number: 2

Historic Name: Trees

Date of Construction: 1920s

NRHP Status: Contributing Objects

Architect/Builder: Ray F. Wyrick/ Newell Guernsey/Carroll Park workers

Description: The district features approximately 300 trees from over 15 different genera. Almost 50 percent of the park's mature canopy of trees are maple and crabapple. Maples include Silver Maple, Norway Maple, Sugar Maple, Freeman Maple, and Red Maple. Jay Darling Crabapples encircle the flowerbed where the gardens used to be, and they line the west side of Grant Road and the west side of the open shelter house. Other species of trees include spruce, honey locust, ash, pear, linden, pine, oak, horse chestnut, and sycamore.

History: In 1922 landscape architect Ray F. Wyrick recommended and ordered the nursery stock for the year's planting. The next year he suggested a row of evergreens to line the north side of the Graham Athletic Field. These large pines are still in place (Figure 2). The Woman's Civic League, under the supervision of Wyrick, arranged to have sixteen horse chestnut trees planted in the City Park on Arbor Day 1922 as a memorial to the fifteen soldiers and a female Red Cross worker who were killed in France in World War I or who had died since the war. One of these trees survives in the park (Figure 3).

Over the years, Park Commission meeting minutes list regular orders for trees and bushes from a variety of nurseries in western Iowa, including Mount Arbor Nurseries, May Nursery, and Earl E. May Seed Co., Shenandoah, Iowa; Central Nurseries; Meneray Nursery and Seed Co., Council Bluffs; Storrs-Harrison Co., Painesville, Ohio; Earl Ferris Nursery Co., Hampton, Iowa; Sac City Nursery, Sac City, Iowa; Rose Hill

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Nursery; Louis J. Olberding/ Carroll Nursery and Park Gardens, Carroll; Augustine Ascending Elm, Bloomington, Illinois; and Heards Landscape Nurseries, Des Moines.

In 1941 the commissioners planted American elm trees in the two new lots purchased from Mrs. Daugherty at the corner of North East and Tenth Streets and along the drive in the old park. In the years after World War II, members of the park board decided to honor fourteen serviceman of Carroll who died in the war by planting a Norway Maple along the east side of the park in tribute to each one's memory. Each tree was planned to have a concrete marker sunk into the ground; on each marker would be imbedded a bronze plaque inscribed with the man's name, dates of birth and death, and branch of service. In 1948 this was modified to a bronze plaque on a large boulder in the park on which the names of the war heroes would be inscribed. No trace of the plaque or boulder remains.

In 1954, 225 new hardwood trees, purchased at a cost of about \$800, were planted in the north part of Graham Park, the former athletic field. Most of these trees, which then measured eight to 10 feet in height and included linden, hackberry, several kinds of maple, pin oak, American elm, and Moline elm, among other varieties, now form a mature canopy. Boy Scouts volunteered to help dig holes for planting the new trees.

Replacement of old and storm-damaged trees has been ongoing since the mid-20th century. Seven elm trees in the park were removed in 1972 because of Dutch elm disease. They were replaced with pin oaks, maples, and lindens. Some of the 20 ash trees have been removed recently because of the emerald ash borer. Culling the ash trees is ongoing. They are being replaced with a variety of insect- and disease-resistant trees.

The careful planning and continued maintenance of trees within the park encourage visitors' interaction with the environment and provide natural shade.



Figure 4. Storm Creek (facing N) - 1960s
Carroll County Historical Museum



Figure 5. Storm Creek (facing S) after
2022 stabilization Jan. 10, 2023



Figure 6. Storm Creek (facing N)
June 18, 2023

Resource Number: 3

Date of Construction: 1920s

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: C. E. Elzy, of Nevada, Iowa

Historic Name: Storm Creek (Drainage Ditch #77)

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Description: Storm Creek, or Drainage Ditch #77, runs through the east side of the park next to Grant Road from Eleventh Street south to Seventh Street. The ditch runs from north of Carroll, through residential areas to Graham Park before draining into the Middle Raccoon River south of Carroll (Figures 5-6).

History: The ditch was originally a natural creek, which was expanded to provide drainage and prevent flooding in the area. In July 1919, the Board of Supervisors awarded the contract for digging the new open drainage ditch, the principal part of which flows through the east part of Carroll, to C. E. Elzy, of Nevada, Iowa at a cost of \$9,901.98. In February 1952, the Park Commission permitted the City Council and Board of Supervisors to straighten and clean the drainage ditch, and to move the ditch four to five feet west from Eleventh Street south to Seventh Street in Graham Park (*Record* 191). One of the biggest park projects in 1953 was regrading and seeding to prevent erosion. The drainage ditch was completely cleared of shrubby growth and graded, and new seedings were planted on the banks (Figure 4). The ditch provides an important outlet for the area's flood plain.



Figure 7. Ninth Street Gateway (facing SE) June 10, 2023

Resource Number: 4

Historic Name: Ninth Street Gateway

Date of Construction: 1932

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park Commission

Description: Ninth Street pillars (2'-4"W x 7'-10"H x 2'-6"D) for the gates are of irregular boulders. The top of each pillar is domed, made of smaller stones set in concrete. Metal gates of a graceful curved design are attached to the fieldstone pillars. Two black gates (5'-10"H sloping to 42"H x 14'W) are made of steel rods, donated by a local company at no cost to the city (Figure 7).

History: In 1932 the stone gate entrance for cars to Graham Athletic Field was constructed of fieldstones at

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Ninth Street on the west side of the park. These stones were picked up by city and volunteer workers from farm fields and obtained without cost. Metal gates were added in 1953.



Figure 8. Tenth Street Entrance to Graham Athletic Field (facing E) *Carroll Daily Herald* Sept. 19, 1939



Figure 9. Tenth Street Gateway (facing E) Sept. 5, 2023

Resource Number: 5

Historic Name: Tenth Street Gateway

Date of Construction: 1939

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park Commission/ NYA Laborers

Description: The two sets of Tenth Street pillars, a pair of sloping walls terminated with large pillars at the street and smaller pillars inside the park, are made of irregular boulders. The domed pillars (3'-3"W x 1'H x 3'D and 2'-6"W x 10'H x 2'D) are connected by a sloping rock wall (1'-6"W x 4'-4"H in middle x 1'-6"D).

History: A larger stone gateway with six pillars and curved walls connecting the four outer ones was built at Tenth and North East Streets in 1939 (Figure 8). The stones were gathered by city and volunteer workers. National Youth Administration (NYA) Labor under the direction of Nick Schwarzenbach completed this new

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

entrance to Carroll's Graham Athletic Field football stadium. The two middle pillars were removed in the late 1950s. The four outer pillars and their curved connections still stand at the gateway (Figure 9).



Figure 10. Seventh Street Gateway (facing NE) March 4, 2023

Resource Number: 6

Historic Name: Seventh Street Gateway

Date of Construction: 1940s

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park Commission

Description: Two single stone pillars of uneven heights flank the park's main entrance road at Seventh Street. The west pillar (2'-6"W x 7'-6"H x 2'-5"D) is slightly taller than the east pillar (2'-6"W x 7'H x 2'5"D). Metal gates of a graceful curved design are attached to the fieldstone pillars. Added in 1953, the two black gates (6'H sloping to 3'-6"H x 13'-8"W) at Seventh Street are made of steel rods welded together (Figure 10). The only cost was welding; Franzwa Blacksmith Shop built and mounted the four park gates at Seventh and Ninth Streets for \$89.34.

History: In 1923 the Women's Civic League arranged for a large ornamental arch at the park entrance on Sixth Street (Lincoln Highway). Designed by Grover C. Beiter, city engineer, the plans designated two large gate pillars three feet square, eight feet high and twenty feet apart. A wall running from the pillars three feet high and 18 to 24 inches thick extended west to a wing on the bridge and east to the drainage ditch. Following the rustic naturalistic design, the material was rock, set in cement, with a large arc light on top of each pillar.

This original south entrance to the park was from Highway 30/Lincoln Highway/Sixth Street; however, having the south entrance to the park on the highway created an automobile hazard. In 1941 the Seventh Street entrance north into Graham Park and across east to Grant Road was opened with pedestrian walks only in conjunction with Seventh Street, rather than over the Lincoln Highway. When the main entrance to the park changed from Sixth Street to Seventh Street, the original auto entrance on Sixth Street was closed except to pedestrians, eliminating the hazard. The change also slowed down traffic in the park drives. A bridge for Seventh Street east over the Storm Creek/Drainage Ditch #77, which runs along the east side of the park, had

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

to be built by the county in 1942 as the State law provided that the county construct all bridges more than four feet long within the town limits.

An October 6, 1944, article in the *Times Herald* – “Work on Gateway to Graham Park Nearly Finished” -- describes the rebuilt rustic decorative entryway:

Work on an ornamental gateway at the south entrance to Graham Park is well under way with the stone pillars nearing completion. The south entrance fronting on Highway 30 . . . is being made into a pedestrian entrance with six pillars closing off all but six feet of the original width. Two tall granite boulder pillars six feet apart will carry a wooden archway of logs with the name ‘Graham Park’ facing the highway. On either side will be four additional pillars, two to a side, also of granite boulders but smaller than the center ones. Connecting the pillars carrying the arch and the two flanking on either side will be logs set into the masonry to close all of the entranceway with the exception of the space under the arch. Globes will be placed on the outside pillars, which tie into the present wall on the south side of the park. (6)

Because the main entrance to the park is now from Seventh Street, this decorative gateway and wall at Sixth Street no longer exist, possibly removed in the late 1950s due to commercial development of the area.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 11. Picnic Tables (facing N) June 10, 2023



Figure 12. Wooden Bench (facing E) Jan. 10, 2023



Figure 13. Drinking Fountain (facing S)
March 4, 2023



Figure 14. Grill (facing SE), March 4, 2023



Figure 15. Park Lamppost
(facing S) March 4, 2023

Resource Number: 7

Historic Names: Picnic tables, Benches,
Drinking Fountain, Metal Grills, Park Lamps

Date of Construction: 1940s - present

NRHP Status: Contributing Objects

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park workers, John J. Witte

Description: Scattered throughout the picnic and playground areas are tourist amenities such as picnic tables, park benches, a drinking fountain, metal grills, and seven lampposts. Green painted wooden tables sit outside the shelter houses and around the picnic area. More tables fill both shelter houses. Over the years, painted accents and objects have changed from red to gray to green. Green steel barrel-type trash cans throughout the park match the picnic tables. Twenty benches of various types are situated throughout the park: concrete, aluminum with backs at the tennis courts, aluminum with no back at the basketball courts, wood with steel pipe

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

base, and a green wood bench at the enclosed shelter house (Figure 12).

A drinking fountain from the early 1940s, its exterior now significantly corroded but with a newer faucet head, sits on a concrete slab near the 1950 restroom building (Figure 13). Four older metal box grills on metal supports are widely located in the picnic area (Figure 14). Seven tall silver floodlights furnished by the Park Commission illuminate the picnic and playground areas (Figure 15). In 1944, a rustic stone drinking fountain was constructed directly east of the tennis courts, west of the garden fountain, however, it was likely removed in the 1980s.

History: In the early years of the park, tables and benches were ordered from outside companies; then the Park Commission had wood plank tables constructed by park laborers, particularly during the winter (Figure 11). Twelve additional picnic tables were constructed in 1944 to bring the total to 36. Each table seated 12 and gave Graham Park a capacity of 432 picnickers. By 1953 there were 49 tables, and 115 by 1957.

A drinking fountain from the early 1920s, which was installed for the tourists who camped in the park, was in need of repair by 1925 and again in 1938. In 1942 its repair or replacement was discussed. The same year John J. Witte of the Park Commission was ordered to build a new water fountain in the south part of the park, “the plan being to connect the fountain with lead or copper pipe to the hydrant at the end of Eighth Street, and place the fountain just East of the point of shrubbery approximately fifty feet Northeast of the hydrant” (*Records* 147).

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 16. Sidewalk (facing E) Jan. 10, 2023



Figure 17. Guernsey Development Plan for Park (facing N) 1959
Carroll Community School District Archives, District Office

Resource Number: 8

Date of Construction: 1940s

NRHP Status: Contributing Objects

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park workers

Historic Name: Sidewalks

Description: Narrow concrete sidewalks, ranging from two feet, ten inches to five feet in width, connect the enclosed shelter house parking area with the schoolhouse and weave between the skate park and the 1943 restroom, curving east to the north footbridge and north to the band shell and tennis courts. The sidewalks in the north part of the park retain most of the original axial bilateral design. Around the central flowerbed the

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

sidewalk is seven feet, ten inches wide. In the south end of the park, nonlinear sidewalks connect the open shelter house, the 1950 restroom, and the parking area. The oldest sidewalk (39"W) lies between the flowerbed and the 1943 restroom (Figure 16). The sidewalk from the flowerbed to the west side has some cracks; the rest are newer and in good repair.

History: After the athletic field was removed, sidewalks were developed in the central and southern parts of the park as the shelter houses, restrooms, band shell, and other facilities were constructed (Figure 17).



Figure 18. 1943 Restroom (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023

Resource Number: 9

Historic Name: Restroom or Park Latrine

Date of Construction: 1943

NRHP Status: Contributing Building

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park Commission/park workers

Description: The 24' x 14' rectangular building's recycled stones are light tan. The roof is covered in brown asphalt shingles (Figure 18). The women's door is on the east side; the men's is on the west. Both doors are gray painted rustic wood (2'-10"W x 6'-3"H) made of vertical planks. Outside each door is a gray wood privacy fence (6'-10"W x 6'H and 6'-8"W x 6'-5"H). Two windows (4'-5"W x 3'-4"H) on each of the north and south sides have stone sills and metal mesh screens. A vent window (2'W x 3'H) above the women's entrance is covered with plywood. The construction year "1943" is carved into a stone to the right of the east entrance.

History: Public toilets (aka latrines/comfort stations) were erected in 1943 on the football ground near the Ninth Street entrance, largely from stone and slate salvaged from the North Grade School building demolished by WPA workmen in 1941. The park board maintained this facility.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Figure 19. 1950 Restroom (facing SW) Jan. 10, 2023

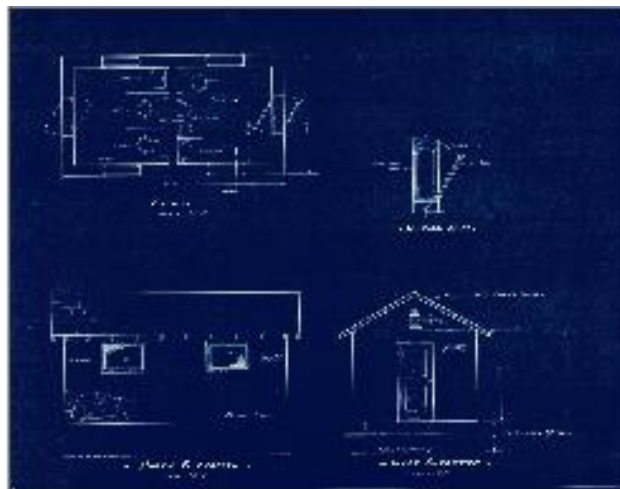


Figure 20. Youngerman blueprint for south restroom
1950 *City Engineer's Office, Carroll City Hall*

Resource Number: 10

Date of Construction: 1950

NRHP Status: Contributing Building

Architect/Builder: Wesley J. Youngerman/Carroll Park Commission

Historic Name: Restroom or Park Latrine

Description: The 1950 rectangular restroom building is bisected into two rooms, with the women's door on the north side; the men's on the south. Both doors are gray painted wood (2'-9"W x 6'-5"H) made of vertical pieces. Outside each door is a gray wood privacy fence (6'-7"W x 6'-1"H and 7'-1"W x 6'-5"H). Two windows (3'-4"W x 2'-2"H) on each of the north and south sides have stone sills and wood slat openings. A louvered vent window (1'W x 1'H) and "1950" carved in stone are above the women's entrance. The roof is covered in brown asphalt shingles.

History: In 1950 a limestone building (20' x 12'), designed by City Engineer Wesley J. Youngerman and similar to the 1943 building, was constructed with limestone from the South Side School razed in 1949 (Figures 19-20). The new restroom, with lavatories and concrete floors in the southwest part of Graham Park, totaled nearly \$3,000. The unique stonework of both restrooms adds to the park's historic and rustic identity.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 21. Open Shelter House (facing SW) 1960s
Carroll County Historical Museum



Figure 22. Open Shelter House (facing SW) June 6, 2023

Resource Number: 11

Date of Construction: 1950-1951

NRHP Status: Contributing Building

Architect/Builder: Evor Morgan and Joe Hoelscher/Carroll Park Commission

Historic Name: Open Shelter House or Pavilion

Description: An octagonal shelter house with a concrete floor and a low rock wall (14”H x 16”W) with three openings/entrances (2’ to 3’-11” W) provided places for picnickers to sit before green wooden picnic tables were added. To create shelter over the fireplace and sitting area, a green asphalt-shingled wooden roof on eight square pillars (2’-1”W x 7’-11”H x 2’-1”D) was constructed in 1951. Diagonal wood support beams connect the pillars with the roof (Figure 24). The two-level fireplace has a cooking part (4’-5”W x 2’-1”H x 2’-5”D) and a stone back (3’-7”W x 4’-3”H x 3’-5”D). The cooking level was originally open; then it was piped for gas; now it is cemented over.

History: By 1948, the Park Commission planned construction of a new stone shelter house to augment facilities at Graham Park. The commission had long planned this type of rustic building but had lacked funds in its limited budget. They had most of the materials on hand—rocks and boulders that had been piled in the south part of the park for several years. The octagonal open shelter house, or pavilion, at the southwest end of the park began in 1950 with the construction of the rock fireplace, then the pillars, wall, and roof (Figures 21-22).

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 23. Band Shell (facing NE) July 1, 2017



Figure 24. Band Shell Amphitheater (facing E) June 18, 2023

Resource Number: 12

Historic Name: Band Shell

Date of Construction: 1953

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Henry Pfiester/Carroll Park Commission/local laborers

Description: The band shell is a brick and concrete structure 50'-6" wide, 27' deep with a shell covering 17' and capable of seating 100 persons. The inside of the shell (42'W) has a final coat of tan plaster; originally it was light blue. The base is recycled brick laid in the same design as the enclosed shelter house; the dome is concrete over a steel arch from a bridge near Manning. Facing west, the band shell has seven stairs on the south approach to the concrete stage floor (Figure 23).

History: In February 1953 the Park Commissioners discussed the construction of a band shell on the east side

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

of the old athletic field. Responding to a request by high school band boosters for a modern shell where band concerts could be held, the Park Commission approved the plan submitted by Henry Pfiester, the secretary of the Park Commission, and they started the ball rolling with a \$500 appropriation. Called "Pfiester's Folly," the finished product cost only \$2,500 in cash but was valued at \$25,000 - \$30,000 ("Bandshell" 1).

The county gave steel beams from the dismantled bridge near Manning, the city gave brick from torn-up street paving, the Iowa Public Service Company donated reinforcing rods, and local firms added other materials, chiefly sand and cement. W. J. Judge contributed the excavating work and footings began. School children, adults, and Band Boosters cleaned the brick. A bricklayer was hired and then other volunteer bricklayers came in. One volunteer welder, Walt Mein of Franzwa Blacksmith Shop, gave over 340 hours of his work; his firm also donated steel. Vernice Gray gave almost 300 hours of work. Among the more than 60 people who worked on the band shell, Floyd Boell was another city worker who gave a large number of hours of work. Dale Johnson, manager of the Iowa Electric Light & Power Company, was on hand almost every night. Floodlights were set up at night for workers to continue their progress. Volunteer collectors canvassed the city for funds, raising well over \$1,200. The commission bought only sand, cement, metal lathe, and lights, which cost about \$500.

From the band shell an open grassy expanse was graded to slope gently upward to the west, forming a natural amphitheater with space for spectators' lawn chairs, blankets, and benches. A set of cement stairs leads from the Tenth Street parking area to the amphitheater. In 1958 the commission purchased seating facilities to be placed in front of the band shell for summer band concerts. The amphitheater-type permanent seating for the band shell was actually constructed in 1960. The area was sodded. The purpose was to make the band shell a more active part of the park system since no concerts had been held there since 1957. This seating is no longer there; only the open grass expanse remains (Figure 24).

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 25. North Stone Footbridge (facing NW) circa 1954-1959
Flickr Photolibrarian



Figure 26. North Stone Footbridge (facing SW)
Jan. 10, 2023

Resource Number: 13

Date of Construction: 1953

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park Commission

Historic Name: North Stone Footbridge

Description: The wood, steel, and stone bridge has stone masonry approaches and steel railings (4' high in the middle x 36'-6" long) replacing original wood railings. Unpainted wooden planks make up the walking surface (5'W x 36'-6"L). Flat-topped stone pillars on all four corners of the bridge sweep down eight feet to a three-foot high base that is 34 inches wide (Figure 26).

History: In the 1930s a wooden pedestrian footbridge that sat east and west across Storm Creek connected the park with the American Legion swimming pool across on Grant Road. Using local fieldstones, the northern stone footbridge replacing the wooden span was completed in November 1953 (Figure 25). Steel for the bridge was donated and Franzwa Blacksmith Shop welded the bridge railings for \$31.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 27. South Stone Footbridge (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023

Resource Number: 14

Historic Name: South Stone Footbridge

Date of Construction: 1954

NRHP Status: Contributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park Commission

Description: The wood, steel, and stone bridge has stone masonry approaches and steel railings (4' high in the middle x 36'-6" long) replacing the wood railings. Unpainted wooden planks make up the walking surface (6'W x 36'-6"L). Flat-topped stone pillars on all four corners of the bridge sweep down eight feet to a three-foot high base that is 34 inches wide (Figure 27).

History: This second matching footbridge across Storm Creek to the south entrance of Merchants Park was completed in 1954. Citizens collected stones for both bridges from farm fields. For \$47.10 the Park Commission purchased three planks and 320' of reinforcing rods from Carroll County. Steel for the bridge was donated. Franzwa Blacksmith Shop welded the bridge railings. This bridge differs from the north bridge only in that the wooden walkway is six feet wide instead of five feet.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 28. Enclosed Shelter House (facing NE) July 1, 2017



Figure 29. Enclosed Shelter House interior (facing N) June 6, 2023



Figure 30. Stone fireplace (facing NW) June 6, 2023

Resource Number: 15

Date of Construction: 1954

NRHP Status: Contributing Building

Architect/Builder: Henry F. Pfister/Carroll Park Commission/local laborers

Historic Name: Enclosed Shelter House

Description: This large rectangular one-story brick shelter house with a shingled roof sits along the west edge of Storm Creek. Trimming/buttresses are fieldstone of the type used for the restroom buildings. The bricks are laid in a horizontal pattern with the ends slightly protruding in alternate rows. The shelter house sits on footings three feet deep and a concrete floor at ground level. It measures 40'-7" by 82'-6" and can accommodate 300 people. The eight supports or buttresses (1'-6"W x 6'-10"H x 1'D) are evenly spaced along the east and west sides from corner to corner and have a ten-inch slant on the top of each. The double buttresses on the south corners face two directions. Six metal-framed windows (5'W x 2'-9"H) with concrete sills and covered with black metal mesh screens are spaced in pairs between the buttresses on each side. On the south side, a similar window is located on each side of the double door (10'W x 7'-10"H). Above the door "1954" is carved in a stone. A dark gray wood door (3'-9"W x 6'-9"H) on the northwest side leads into the kitchen area. A bumped-out area on the north side contains women's and men's restrooms. On the body of the shelter house, two more windows (5'W x 2'-9"H) flank the restroom area. Two dark gray painted doors (3'W x 6'-6"H) are on the north, and single two-pane windows (2'-9"W x 19"H) are on the east and west sides of the

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

bump out (17'W x 6'-11"D). All of the shelter house doors are constructed of rough barn wood in the ledged and cross-braced design (Figure 28). With complete cooking, dining, and recreation facilities, the interior of the shelter house contains picnic tables, a stone fireplace, barbecue, and kitchen equipped with worktables, a sink, and range (Figures 29-30).

History: Park Superintendent Henry Pfiester, who supervised the project, said some of the materials for construction of an enclosed shelter house on the east side of the park were available in 1953, such as discarded red paving bricks from downtown streets, as had been used in building the band shell ("Begin Construction" 1). In November 1954, a coal burning furnace was installed in the enclosed shelter house for temporary heating while volunteer workmen and park employees completed the job of laying the fireplace and finishing the interior. Exterior work had been completed except the stone chimney, which was built above the inside fireplace at the north end of the building. The roof was hand-split shake shingles. Twenty new picnic tables were made by 1955. Mr. Pfiester estimated that the total cost of the Graham Park shelter was about \$4,000, not including labor. The only outside labor was a stonemason for the supports.



Figure 31. Flowerbed 1998 – present (facing NE)
Sept. 5, 2023



Figure 32. Flower Gardens (facing NE) circa 1970
Carroll County Historical Museum



Figure 33. Stone fountain and flower gardens (facing N)
circa 1960 *Carroll County Historical Museum*



Figure 34. Fountain and flower gardens (facing NE)
circa 1960 *Carroll County Historical Museum*

Resource Number: 16

Date of Construction: 1957-1998; 1998-present

NRHP Status: Noncontributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Henry F. Pfiester/James M. Gillett/Tony Broich/Bernard Bolster

Historic Name: Fountain and Formal Gardens

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Description: The present circular flowerbed (22'-4" diameter) has a decorative block surround. This block wall (1'W x 1'-5"H) is two stones high with a capstone. It is encircled by a wide sidewalk, trees, and three park benches—two of wood and one of concrete. Narrower sidewalks radiate out to nearby facilities (Figure 31). This flowerbed replaced the old fountain in 1998, which no longer worked and was crumbling. Therefore, it was demolished and the area was re-landscaped.

History: The stone fountain constructed in the formal gardens at Graham Park is described in the September 30, 1958, *Carroll Daily Times Herald*: "The main body of the fountain is constructed of blue gray stone from quarries at Logan with coping around the edges of buff split limestone. It is built in octagonal shape, measuring 18 feet 6 inches across, with a 4-foot pedestal in the center. Four jets will throw streams of 6 to 8 feet from the center pedestal, which will be illuminated by colored lights" ("New Stone Fountain" 1). A pump circulated water through the fountain, and balances controlled wind resistance while the fountain operated (Figures 33-34). Tony Broich and Bernard Bolster, park employees, laid the masonry under the supervision of Joseph P. Frank, Park Commission member. Park employees laid asphalt walks in the garden.

For over 40 years, a top attraction in Graham Park was its beautiful flower gardens and lighted stone fountain. In the spring of 1957 Henry F. Pfiester, Superintendent of Parks, began preliminary work on new formal gardens south of the old athletic field in Graham Park. An area about 200 by 250 feet was plowed southwest of the band shell for the colored foliage and shrubs, along with flowering plum and crabapple trees, young maples, and beds of flowers to be planted in the plot. James M. Gillett, a well-known local florist and former park commissioner, designed the formal gardens. By 1966 the gardens contained 25 annual beds laid out in concentric circles with a lighted fountain in the center. The flowerbeds also were lighted with colored lights. In addition to the annual beds, there were 20 beds of roses with three new varieties among the 1,300 rose bushes (Figure 32). Two of the varieties were introductions by E. S. Boerner, an eastern rose specialist, and one was imported from Germany. The world's largest rose growers, Jackson and Perkins Co. of Newark, N.Y., used the Graham Park formal rose garden as a test garden. Members of the Iowa Master Gardener program's Class of 1995 discussed doing a sustaining project, such as reintroducing rose beds in the fountain area at Graham Park, but it didn't happen.

In 1969 the Carroll Rotary Club donated a plaque affixed to a large boulder next to the trappers' cabin in memory of Gillett, who died in 1968. The plaque reads: "In Memoriam / James M. Gillett / 1915 – 1968 / What we have done for ourselves / alone dies with us, / what we have done for others / remains and is immortal. / Our friend, James Gillett, took / God's flowers and arranged them / for us and our children to enjoy. / A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 35. Trappers' Cabin (facing SE)
Carroll Daily Times Herald June 4, 1957



Figure 36. Trappers' Cabin (facing SE) Jan. 10, 2023

Resource Number: 17

Built: 1852

NRHP Status: Contributing Building

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Historic Name: Trappers' Cabin

Acquired: 1957

Description: An example of pioneer building techniques with its handcrafted details, the 18' x 20', story-and-a-half cabin's rough-hewn logs support a rustic wood door (2'-7"W x 5'-10"H) on the west side, one nine-pane window (3'-2"W x 4'H) on the north and south sides, and a square four-pane window (3'-3"W x 3'-3"H) on the east side. All of the windows have wood frames and sills and are covered with black metal mesh screens. On the left side of the door is a bronze plaque from the McPherson Memorial Company purchased by the park commissioners in 1958. It reads, "1852 Pioneer 1957 / Log Cabin / built on the bank of / the Middle Raccoon River / in Carroll County by an / unknown fur trapper / and early settler / moved to Graham Park / City of Carroll, Iowa / February – 1957 / Carroll Park Commissioners / J. M. Wiederhold, Chairman / J. P. Frank J. M. Gillett."

History: In 1956 Carroll park commissioners discovered this 1852 cabin, the last remaining building of its type in Carroll County (Figure 35). The cabin was acquired in 1957 from Frank Anderson along the Middle Raccoon River three and a half miles west of Coon Rapids. Park workers dismantled it, moved it to Graham Park, and reassembled it on concrete and stone footings southwest of the enclosed shelter house. Some rotted hand-hewn logs were replaced with white oak timber from among trees near the Anderson farm, where the cabin had been used for storage of hay. Given this historic addition to the park, it appears the city chose to acquire it because of its compatibility with the park's rustic design. It serves as an excellent example of the design's intent which "reintroduced pioneer building techniques" and the use of "local natural materials of wood and stone" (IDNR 13). Originally serving as a seasonal shelter for trappers, now it is furnished with antiques from pioneer days and used as a historical museum by the Carroll County Historical Society (Figure 36). In honor of the national bicentennial the Priscilla Chapter of the DAR had furnished the cabin as a pioneer home with further historic donations.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 37. Maple River Schoolhouse #5 (facing SE) 1950s
Carroll County Historical Museum



Figure 38. Maple River Schoolhouse #5 (facing NE) July 21, 2014

Resource Number: 18

Date of Construction: 1871

NRHP Status: Contributing Building

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Historic Name: Maple River Schoolhouse #5

Acquired: 1965

Description: The one-story, one-room schoolhouse (22'-6"W x 24'-6"L) also exemplifies rustic park architecture in its exterior siding and interior wood floor. The wood frame building has horizontal cedar siding painted red and vertical white corner boards. The white painted wood door (2'-5"W x 6'-4"H) in a wood frame faces west, leading into an entry room (16'-6"W x 10'-2"D). Three two over two double-hung sash windows (2'-6"W x 5'H) on the north and south sides of the building have white wood frames and are covered in black metal mesh screens, as are the single four pane windows (2'-6"W x 2'-3"H) on either side of the entry room. The building sits on a limestone and concrete base; the roof is brown asphalt shingles and has a small chimney on the west peak. No plumbing, sanitation facilities, or electricity exist in the schoolhouse.

History: From 1871 to 1946 the schoolhouse had also been used as a voting site (Wederath and Chapman 28). As a Carroll Kiwanis Club project in 1965, M. H. Van Valdenburg, Alfred Meyers, Frank Hoffman, and John Fitzpatrick decided that the 1871-1947 Maple River Schoolhouse #5, originally called the Center School House, should be purchased for \$50 and brought into Graham Park to be preserved (Figure 37). Before it was moved from a one-acre lot near the center of the Maple River Township, Meyers and Mr. Willey from Glidden removed the chimney. Louis Hausman from Halbur used his tractor to pull the house into Carroll. Frank Wagner, a bricklayer, offered his services to rebuild the chimney once the schoolhouse was placed in Graham Park north of the enclosed shelter house. John Sieman, a local carpenter, offered free service to repair the siding on the old school using wood siding salvaged from the fire at the West End Cafe. A new foundation was built under the school. Dorothy and Alfred Meyers donated a washstand and a stove, which was over 100 years old. Like the log cabin, given this historic addition to the park, it appears the city chose to acquire the schoolhouse because of its compatibility with the park's rustic design. It also serves as an educational resource; its relocation was to use it as an example of pioneer building techniques and use of local materials. Now owned by the Carroll County Historical Society, the Maple River Schoolhouse is used for their annual Open House each June and for demonstrations of historical education programs throughout the spring, summer, and fall (Figure 38).

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 39. Playground (facing NE) circa 1960s *Carroll County Historical Museum*

Resource Number: 19

Historic Name: Playground Apparatus

Date of Construction: 2000 (1921)

NRHP Status: Contributing Object

Architect/Builder: Carroll Park Commission

Description: The playground is located west of the main road near the center of the park. Apparatus includes a steel and plastic play structure with multiple slides, climbing features, and monkey bars; a steel and plastic play set with climbing wall and spiral slide; a metal slide; an open spiral metal slide; a yellow swing set with three swings (standard, infant, and chair); a swing set with four swings on a blue painted steel frame; a steel dome climbing structure; and a track ride. Old and new pieces are tied together by their primary colors. Natural surface materials of sand and mulch support the steel and plastic equipment. Current apparatus is still centralized in the original playground location (1921) in the south half of the park.

History: Ida Daugherty's 1920 donation reservation that "the property shall be used for park and playground purposes" (*Resources* 128) prompted swings and slides to be added to the park already by 1921. Apparatus has been added and updated throughout the ensuing years. Commissioners continually added playground apparatus, such as a merry-go-round (1940), two new swings, an American wave slide, a giant slide (1942); swings, merry-go-rounds, teeter-totters (1948); a giant climber (a continuous construction of iron bars); a small slide (1950); trapezes, whirlers, a merry-go-round, a big jungle gym (1951); Tots' Fantasy Land—a dome whirl, an elephant slide, a large turtle, rodeo rocky ponies, a flying pony swing set, a trail-blazer slide, a merry flyer (1963); and three-dimensional fiberglass playground equipment (1964) (Figure 39).

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

POST PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: ALTERATIONS

Since 1965, alterations to the buildings, structures, and objects in the park have been made during regular maintenance and to improve utility, accessibility, and safety. Building on the existing historic facilities within the original footprint of the park, changing interests in sports activities have led to updated athletic complexes.

PLAYGROUND

Several post-Period of Significance additions continue to support the outdoor recreational function of the park. These include a frisbee golf course (1980); a play area comprised of repurposed concrete pipes, berms, and tires installed within a sand lot (1981); a vinyl playscape for ages 2-12 designed to comply with the American With Disabilities Act in 1996 (“Lions begin” 1); along with a 12-foot, freestanding spiral slide, two rock-climbing walls, and a glider, all installed in 2001.

BARRIERS /ROADWAYS/ PARKING AREAS

In 1998-1999, the original surface of the road through the park was milled, and the millings were repurposed for parking areas on each side of the road. Rohlin Construction re-graded the park road before asphalt was laid there. Originally surfaced in the 1970s, the 2.5-3 inch thick road had deteriorated, requiring extensive resurfacing.. The Carroll City Council approved changing the asphalt on the bottom layers within Graham Park from Type "A" to Type "B" to reduce maintenance. Although Type A is better for the second (top) layers, Type B is a coarser mixture that has less oil. The change of the bottom layers on the two portions reduced the cost of asphaltting (“Parks Department” 2). In addition to the resurfacing, the road was realigned to get the maximum amount of parking space.

TREES

Replacement of old and storm-damaged trees has been ongoing since the mid-20th century and has been part of regular park maintenance. Seven elm trees in the park were removed in 1972 due to Dutch elm disease and were replaced with pin oaks, maples, and lindens. Emerald ash borers have damaged some of the ash trees, and mitigation is ongoing. Park trees are being replaced with a variety of insect- and disease-resistant trees.

STORM CREEK/DRAINAGE DITCH #77

In 2022, the Carroll City Council approved a plan to stabilize and improve Storm Creek (Figures 5-6). The streambed stabilization project included reinforced concrete walls, rebuilding of outfalls and footings, large boulders, excavation, and utility adjustment. Healy Excavating of Lake View reshaped the bank, adding riprap to help with overall flow. On the north end, a new concrete retaining wall was constructed to stop erosion toward the tennis courts. Storm sewer pipes that enter the ditch from the east and west sides were repaired. Grass was reseeded to complete the project. Some sidewalk replacement was done at the footbridge north of the enclosed shelter house and across from DMACC. Cost of the project was \$285,727, including engineering and construction costs and overall master plan. The city received a \$125,000 REAP (Resource Enhancement and Protection) grant through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

OUTDOOR GAMES AND RECREATION

Horseshoe pits, which were rebuilt in 1981, and two sand volleyball courts installed in 1985 provide recreation near the picnic area at the south end of the park.

BAND SHELL

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Continuing maintenance on the shell includes a plan for upcoming painting and brick repair.

ENCLOSED SHELTER HOUSE

The wood shingles were replaced with green-gray asphalt shingles in 1995, and concrete work was done at the northwest entrance to make it more handicapped accessible. A concrete patio (25' x 25') on the south side now provides a place for up to six picnic tables.

TRAPPERS' CABIN

A nineteenth century fire department bell made of brass alloy on a stone pedestal was displayed in 1958 between the log cabin and shelter house; it has since been removed. The cabin had new shake shingles installed in 2021 and the logs have been chinked as part of regular maintenance.

SCHOOLHOUSE

In November 1966 the white frame schoolhouse was painted red, and the Kiwanis Club handed over the deed to the building to Mayor Bill Farner. The roof was damaged by water and bees invaded the walls in 1980. After extensive remodeling and repairs by the Kiwanis Club and the Lions Club in 1981, the schoolhouse reopened and was turned over to the Carroll County Historical Society. Kiwanis members painted the school using paint supplied by the Lions Club in 1984. Historical Society members and volunteers painted the interior and repaired several windows in 1991. Because replacing broken glass was a constant problem, wire mesh was placed over the windows damaged by vandals. It received a new exterior coat of paint in 2006 from the Carroll Sherwin-Williams store and Hoffman Painting. The roof on the "Little Red School House" had several layers of old shingles and some leaks in various areas in 2010. At the request of the County Historical Society, Central Roofing and Construction applied new asphalt shingles.

In 2012 Joe Goebel of Goebel Custom Woodworking in Coon Rapids replaced about 20 percent of the cedar siding on the pioneer schoolhouse that had been damaged by water, weather, and disc/frisbee golf impacts. He spent 30 hours replacing siding and over 30 hours painting. The Sherwin-Williams store in Carroll donated the oil-based white primer and barn-red, low-gloss paint for the project. The next year the inside was repainted and broken windows were replaced. Most recently, Mike McCarty painted the outside in July 2018.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

POST PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: ADDITIONS/MODERN FACILITIES

Modern sports facilities within the original footprint of Graham Park continue the purpose “for the sole use and benefit, in perpetuity, of the people of Carroll and vicinity, for a city public park and playground purposes” beyond the Period of Significance to the present. These facilities’ low, open profiles do not interfere with the visual landscape of trees and rustic structures. Public and private cooperative efforts have initiated and funded these amenities.

DISC GOLF COURSE (nonextant)

History: A nine-hole frisbee golf course, covering about 11 acres in the north part of Graham Park, was opened in 1980. The area was laid out like a golf course. Carroll Parks and Recreation Department employees designed, built, and installed the course, wooden signs, and posts at a cost of about \$350. The course was shaded by trees, which also provided obstacles and barriers. Drainage Ditch #77 provided a water hazard near holes four and six. A top professional disc-golf player planned improvements of the course in 1998 with the installation of poles with chain baskets atop them to replace the original wood posts. The course was also redesigned so that it extended about 1,700 feet throughout the park. By 2014 only six holes remained in Graham Park as a result of the development of the tennis complex, the skate park, and an 18-hole disc golf course at Swan Lake State Park south of Carroll. Those remaining six holes have since been moved to the Rolling Hills course.



Figure 40. Skate Park (facing SW) Jan. 10, 2023

Resource Number: 20

Address: Graham Park

NRHP Status: Noncontributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Brian Clark and Associates, Des Moines, IA/Badding Construction, Carroll IA

Historic Name: Skate Park

Date of Construction: 2007

Description: Having a smooth concrete surface with transitions for all levels of skaters, the skate park sits on a leveled bed of gravel on the west side of Graham Park between the basketball courts and the tennis courts. An initial layer of concrete was poured, on which six pre-cast ramps were positioned. A second layer of concrete on top forms an even joint with the ramps and creates a smooth skate surface. The skate park has 10,000 square feet of skating area (Figure 40). Metal railings serve as barriers on top of the high parts of the ramps.

History: The concrete skate park got its first full year of use in 2008. Safety and accessibility were primary considerations in locating the facility in Graham Park. The City Council awarded the \$243,000 skate park

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

project bid to Badding Construction of Carroll. Brian Clark & Associates of Des Moines designed the facility. Funding for the project came from private contributions, grants, and the city. Construction was completed in 2007 for a total cost of \$297,000.



Figure 41. Tennis Courts (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023



Figure 42. Tennis Equipment Shed (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023

Resource Number: 21

Address: Graham Park

NRHP Status: Noncontributing Structures

Architect/Builder: JEO Consulting Group/Badding Construction, Carroll IA

Historic Name: Tennis Courts and Shed

Date of Construction: 2012

Description: The tennis complex includes four courts on the far north end of the park, adjoined by two more courts southwest of them, leaving open space to the east where the wooden storage shed for tennis equipment was added. Four courts have been additionally striped for 10-and-under kids' play and two for 8-and-under. Those courts are smaller than the regulation 36' by 78' courts. Players 10 and under use a softer ball, and 8-and-under players use a foam ball and smaller net. The asphalt surfaces are painted dark green on the courts, bordered by standard turf green. Stripes for sidelines, service courts, and alley lines are white. The chain-link fence around the courts is coated black (Figure 41).

History: Six new tennis courts and a tennis storage shed were built in 2012 on the north side of Graham Park, where the park maintenance garage had burned down in 2006. The Carroll Parks Department brick maintenance garage in the north end of Graham Park had been built in 1956, expanded in 1960, and heavily damaged by fire July 13, 2006. It was later rebuilt at the Carroll Municipal Golf Course. Six new tennis courts and a tennis shed were built in the area (Figure 42). Badding Construction of Carroll was contractor for the project, JEO Consulting Group did the engineering, and Midwest Track and Tennis of Denison painted the courts.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Figure 43. Basketball Courts (facing NE) Jan. 10, 2023

Resource Number: 22

Address: Graham Park

NRHP Status: Noncontributing Structure

Architect/Builder: Badding Construction, Carroll IA

Historic Name: Basketball Courts

Date of Construction: 2015

Description: The two basketball courts are high school regulation (50-feet by 84-feet) and are constructed with 5 inches of concrete overlay with a granular bond between the existing concrete from the former tennis courts and the new courts. Four hoops on metal stands and benches along the east end complete the courts (Figure 43).

History: Tennis and basketball courts near the Ninth Street entrance were first established for use by the public in 1922. Three new tennis courts just west of the original ones were ready to use in 1941. These tennis courts had a gravel surface at first, costing the city an average of about \$500 a year for upkeep. By June 1954 two of three new concrete tennis courts with curbs at a cost of \$7,000 were ready, and they proved very popular for daytime play. Towers for floodlights and light fixtures were installed. Several square dancing groups held dances on the new courts when they were available for night use. In November the tennis courts were tarred preparatory to flooding them for ice skating during the winter, and a coal heater for skaters was installed in restrooms near the tennis courts. By the mid- to late-1990s the deteriorating concrete tennis courts were being used for skateboarding and roller blade hockey. Replacing these original tennis courts, two regulation-sized basketball courts were built in 2015 because all of the outdoor courts in Carroll's parks were too small for full-fledged 5-on-5 games. Carroll City Council members signed off on the \$202,000 estimate for the two-court basketball complex. Badding Construction of Carroll had the low bid for the project. Public taxes and private donations funded the complex.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

ADJUNCT AREAS TO GRAHAM PARK

Areas to the west and east of Graham Park have historic and current connections to the park and its role as the centerpiece of the Graham Recreation District. However, they are outside the physical and/or chronological boundaries of this National Register consideration.

West of North East Street: Graham Lots (nonextant)

In July 1939 for \$1,000 the Park Commission purchased from A. J. Graham, Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty's brother, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 in Block 52 of the Fourth Addition of Carroll. The lots were contiguous to Graham Park on the northwest side across North East Street, and the commission understood "that said property shall be used for park and playground purposes" (*Records* 103). The next month the Commission leased the property to the local school district "for playground, physical training and athletic purposes" for ten years for \$500 (*Records* 105). The school district had the right to grade and improve the premises, but the City retained the right to use the lots "in connection with the use of its [Graham] park and playground" as long as it didn't interfere with the schools' uses. The school district used the lots for a football practice field and a kitten ball diamond.

Twilight men's softball teams played games on the adjacent property in 1941. County 4-H clubs used the Graham Lots for their club show August 25, 1942. In 1944 stables were built on part of the area. Set on three sides of the lot, with the open end facing to the east, was a section of 25 stalls, each with an adjoining section for storing equipment and feed and for the handlers' sleeping quarters. In the center of the lot were the two main barns. The American Horse Show Association carnival in July 1945 was held on the Graham Lots.

In October 1947 the Board of Education approved application of the Carroll Cooperative Club to construct an ice skating rink on the public school football practice field. The only stipulations made were that work could not begin until the school was through with the field for the season and that the club restore the area to its present condition after the skating season was over. The skating rink was the first of a series of civic enterprises the Cooperative Club sponsored in Carroll. While the rink was open to the public, the primary purpose was to provide recreation for the children of the city.

After the 1947 football field was built east of Grant Road, in 1949 a 25-unit brick apartment building was planned on the city-owned property/football practice field between Ninth and Tenth streets on North East Street. Paul McCorkle, a Sac City contractor; and Robert Moehn, a Carroll banker, obtained an option to purchase Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Block 52, Fourth Addition to Carroll, for \$4,000. That three-story apartment building still stands on the former Graham Lots.

Land northwest of the park for pickle ball courts became available in 2021 with the donation of three lots on Block 60 (north of the Graham Lots) by Paul and Jane Schaben and their family. "We donated mainly to expand the park," Paul Schaben said. "It's such a nice park, and [the pickleball complex] is right next to the park. We always thought it would be nice if the park could take [that area] over, so in their honor and our honor we decided to give it to the park" ("Pickleball" 1).

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

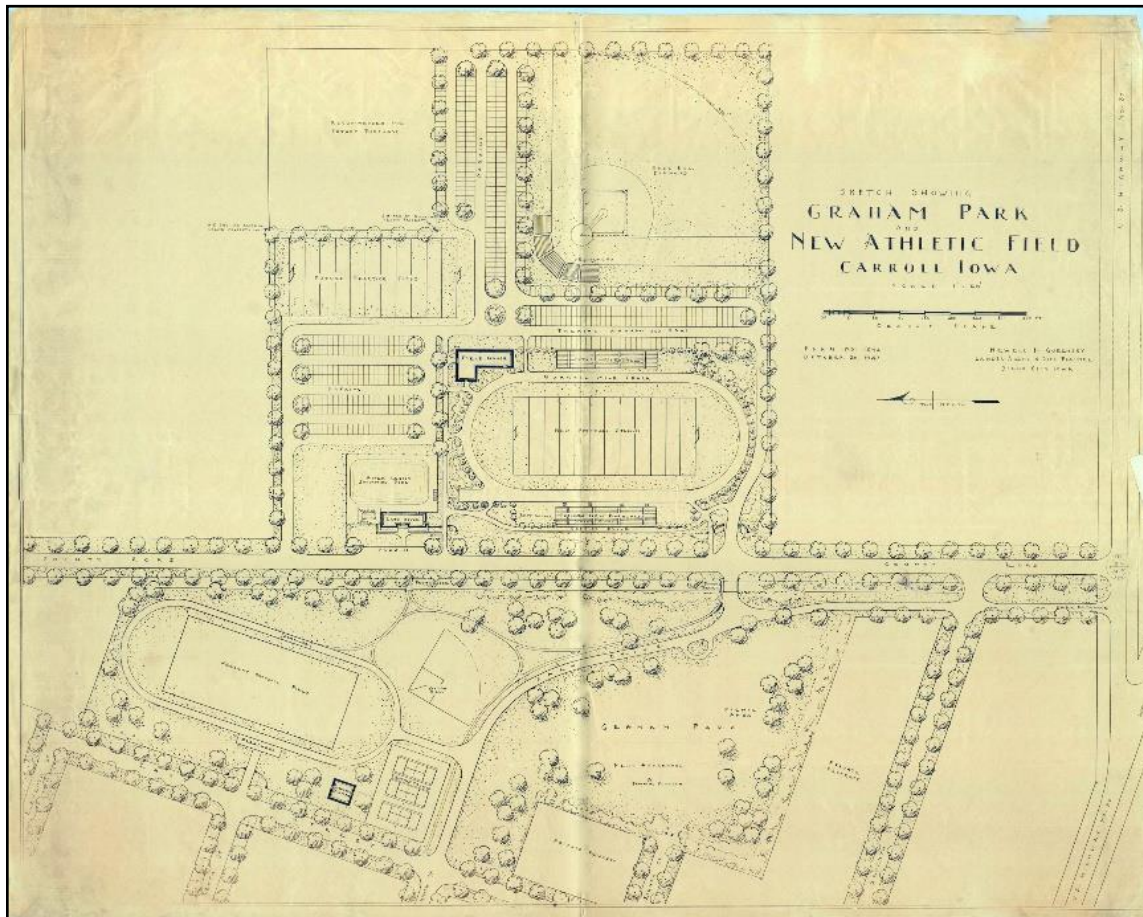


Figure 44. Newell Guernsey sketch for Graham Park and new athletic field
Oct. 20, 1947 *City of Carroll City Engineer, Carroll City Hall*

**East of Grant Road: Graham Recreation District:
Carroll Stadium/Merchants Park/Recreation Center (noncontributing)**

In 1947 for almost \$14,000 Mrs. Ida Daugherty offered to sell her 15.15 acres across Grant Road east of Graham Park to the school district and Park Commission for a new athletic field. The school district wanted to construct a football gridiron and track field on the west five acres, for which it paid \$4,620.46; the city paid for the remainder. Newell Guernsey sketched his design for the new athletic field and changes to Graham Park in the same year, blending the two areas into one recreation district (Figure 44).

The Carroll Park Commission “in the interests of beautification and economy to the taxpayers of Carroll” and “in order to obtain the maximum amount of return for the money invested in recreational and park facilities for the residents” offered to lease Graham Athletic Field, its bleachers, and lights to the school district; but the offer was refused (*Records* 163-164). As a result, the Graham Field stadium and lights were left at their original location in the north end of Graham Park for other civic activities until 1959, when Guernsey further developed the area’s plan for the park.

The school district’s new stadium built across Grant Road used temporary bleachers until a 1963 school bond issue for new facilities carried by 89.7 percent. The 1963 Carroll Football Stadium was rebuilt in 2017.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

On the east and south ten acres that the City paid for, the Carroll Athletic Club (later Carroll Athletic Association) raised funds for the development of fields and facilities for athletics, particularly baseball. In 1947 they planned and laid out Merchants Park, a modern baseball diamond east of the football field with parking facilities located between the two fields. A major renovation in 2017 brought the baseball stadium into compliance with current building codes; and provided handicap accessibility, structural rehabilitation, a new ticket booth and concession areas, new restrooms, an updated audio system, and improved dugouts, while highlighting and emphasizing the historic nature of the stadium with six large informational plaques.

Within the 40 acres of the overall Graham Recreation District, the city property also includes the Carroll Recreation Center (1977) with basketball courts, swimming pool, and theater; the Family Aquatic Center (2009), the Carroll Softball Field (2010), and the slow pitch fields.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation
Social History

Period of Significance

1920 - 1965

Significant Dates

1920s, 1953, 1954, 1959, 1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Beiter, Grover C. Guernsey, Newell F.
Pfiester, Henry Carroll Park Commission
Wyrick, Ray Floyd Youngerman, Wesley J.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Statement of Significance

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations).

Graham Park is locally significant and eligible for the National Register under **Criterion A** as a historical landscape associated with significant events and trends. As Graham Park, the city's signature park, evolved from the 1920s into the 1960s, its growth reflected several major trends that had been occurring in larger urban areas throughout the nation such as the early twentieth century Playground and Recreation Movement. In addition, the district also represents a local representation of broader trends for parks' development in the following areas: city government involvement, tourism and transportation, volunteer organizations' participation, school-community cooperation, and the post-New Deal recreation movement. Some of the developments in Graham Park predated national trends; some occurred at the same time; and others followed the national patterns.

Under **Criterion C**, Graham Park is eligible as a local example of rustic design and method of construction, which were influenced by several architectural trends: the National Park Service's (NPS's) adoption and promotion of the rustic, non-intrusive park architecture and landscape design between 1916-1942; and the rustic style's subsequent implementation, during the Great Depression, through Franklin Delano Roosevelt's (FDR) New Deal work relief programs as laborers developed state and municipal parks throughout 1933-1942. As authentic examples of rustic park architecture, the brick, stone, and log buildings and structures added in the park throughout its Period of Significance (1920 to 1965) have developed its uses while retaining the park's historic integrity. This was made possible through the efforts of two well-known Iowa landscape architects, Ray F. Wyrick and Newell F. Guernsey, who were hired by the city to plan and beautify the grounds. Because of Graham Park's use of rustic, non-intrusive landscape design, the buildings' method of construction, which gives the feeling of having been built by pioneer craftsmen, and their use of native materials, the park serves as an exemplary model of the NPS's distinctive architectural style.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

(Iowa SHPO Additional Instructions: For properties not nominated under Criterion D, include a statement about whether any archaeological remains within or beyond the footprint of the property were assessed as part of this nomination under the subheading **Archaeological Assessment**.)

Criterion A: Narrative Statement of Significance

Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

In 1920, Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty donated the land to the City of Carroll to form Graham Park, which she intended "for the sole use and benefit, in perpetuity, of the people of Carroll and vicinity, for a city public park and playground purposes" (*Resources* 128). As the city's signature park, Graham Park evolved from the 1920s into the 1960s, and its growth reflected several major trends that had been occurring in larger urban areas throughout the nation. The district represents national, state, and local trends for parks' development, such as city government involvement, tourism and transportation, participation by volunteer organizations, park planning and design movement, school-community cooperation, the municipal playground movement, and the post-New Deal recreation movement. Some developments in Graham Park occurred prior to national trends; some happened concurrently; and others adopted the national patterns. As authentic examples of rustic park architecture, the brick, stone, and log buildings and structures added in the park throughout its Period of

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Significance from 1920 to 1965 have developed its uses while retaining the park's historic integrity. Graham Park's association with twentieth century trends of park development, design, usage and community involvement should qualify it under Criterion A for the National Register of Historic Places.

Carroll Park Commission – Local Government Involvement

Shortly after Daugherty's land donation in 1920, Carroll Park Commission established Graham Park and, with the Carroll City Council, began its development. Later, renamed the Park Board (now the Parks and Recreation Department), the local government administered and developed the historic Graham Park and the rest of the park system in Carroll.

In the early twentieth century in the United States,

. . . the concept that city governments should provide recreation facilities, programs, and services became widely accepted...More and more states passed laws authorizing local governments to operate recreation programs, and between 1925 and 1935 the number of municipal recreation buildings quadrupled. Some cities acquired major park properties through gifts. (McLean et al.78)

The Council of the Incorporated City of Carroll met April 20, 1920, to adopt Ordinance Number 144, establishing a commission consisting of three members who shall "perform the duties of park commissioners as provided by Chapter 9, Title V, of the Code of Iowa" (*Records* 3). The special election was held May 17, 1920. At their first meeting May 31, the newly elected and appointed Park Commissioners, C. C. Helmer, Lambert Baumhover, and L. G. Patty, read, discussed, and accepted the proposal of Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty to donate a park site for the city (*Records* 5). Now the Carroll Park Commission had the authorization and the City Park site to develop into Graham Park.

Tourism and Transportation

By the early 20th century, the American economy boomed, American industrial workers had set schedules, and thus had dedicated time for leisure activities; as a result, people sought places to recreate. In Iowa, as well as elsewhere, an increasing number of people sought outdoor recreation.

Attracting tourists to the City Park one block north of the Lincoln Highway in Carroll was an early goal of the park commission. Shortly after the Carroll city park land was donated in 1920, the *Carroll Times* states,

A large number of cities and towns in Iowa are laying out parks and places along the highways, especially for the benefit of tourists who may happen to pass their way. The tourist knows as well as the residents of such cities and towns know, that it is done for the benefit of the city or town, from a financial standpoint, even though a charge is never made for the parking which is done. But eventually, it is going to be a great thing for those places who have taken time by the forelock, and have provided these parking places. The tourists are going to tell at every stopping place of the wonderful advantage obtained by stopping at one of these places. The tourist if he is not in a hurry, and figures on resting a day or two, is going to stop and rest at one of these places. When he needs gasoline or repairs, he is going to have it done at one of these places. . . . And that is exactly what Carroll has planned on doing

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

with her new park. Arrangements are going to be made to care for tourists who drive this way. (“Parking” 2)

After the land was graded, the southern half—Lot 2 of Ida Daugherty’s original donation of land—was equipped with picnic tables and fireplaces, playground apparatus, and tennis courts. With the park’s proximity to the Lincoln Highway, initial plans were to create a tourist park because

. . . there are hundreds of reasons why it is a standing advertisement to a town or city that is of incalculable value. . . . Arrangements are going to be made to care for tourists who drive this way. There will be water, there will be permanent cooking places, there will be everything necessary to the comfort of the tourist . . . [so] that we may begin to hear the praises sung about the thriving and accommodating little city of Carroll, city of conveniences for true. (“Parking” 2)

The article’s author is very enthusiastic about the new park and suggests, “so what Carroll residents should be glad to do is to help in every way possible to get the park completed as at early a date as possible. . . . C’mon-let’s go” (“Parking” 2). This they did with the original installation of playground apparatus and picnic facilities within the first two years of its existence, and these still draw visitors to Graham Park.

Volunteer Organizations

Volunteerism as a social movement focused on improving communities. Members of nonprofit groups coordinated projects and encouraged connections between businesses and communities. Since the early 1920s, individual volunteers and organizations have contributed their time, talents, financial support, and community pride to make Graham Park the centerpiece of the Graham Recreation District and the City of Carroll.

As volunteer organizations became more popular in Carroll, they got involved in furnishing the park with tourist amenities. In 1922, a committee of the Commercial Club solicited funds for equipping the city park with toilets, platforms for tents and brick stoves for use by tourists. City water was extended to the park, a driveway was added, and various organizations planned to install a fountain.

The Women’s Civic League, whose purpose was “to co-operate with any proposition or movement that might be undertaken to add to the betterment and the beautifying of the city of Carroll,” invited Ray F. Weirick [aka Wyrick], landscape architect of Des Moines, to give an illustrated lecture on park and playground improvements and planting in March 1922 (“Answers the Question” 6). Besides Wyrick’s lectures, the Civic League planted memorial shade trees and sponsored a stone arch with large gates for the highway entrance to the park in 1923. In 1931 the group made plans to beautify the grassy triangle area near the entrance to Graham Park.

Other volunteer organizations such as the Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Campfire Girls, and Boy and Girl Scouts were instrumental in initiating, developing, and financing many of the park projects. City workers, business people, and citizen volunteers participated in these projects as well. These early volunteer efforts extended through to the middle of the century with donated historic furnishings for the trappers’ cabin and the schoolhouse. These efforts continue beyond the Period of Significance with fundraising campaigns for the modern sports facilities in the park.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Park Planning and Design Movement

Graham Park's design reflects not only national and state trends in park planning and design, but also those occurring at the municipal level during the 1920s. At this time municipal park planners struggled with their landscape designs as they tried to accommodate the public's interest in adding playgrounds. Topography and location became priorities: "the size, the shape, boundaries, and character of the land" were considered. If the grade was too steep, the site most likely was rejected (Cranz 83). Graham Park's original undeveloped land provided a blank canvas on which to create a beautiful landscape design.

With the rise in popularity of public playgrounds, "Citizen groups began to request that playgrounds be inserted into existing parks and park departments tried to integrate playground equipment and traditional landscaping" (Cranz 86). Park departments came to accept that, "Ideally the playground could be both beautiful and serviceable, since most modern facilities could be decorated with trees, shrubs, and flowers without their interfering with play space" (Cranz 86).

However, as a practical matter, landscaping municipal parks posed a challenge: "The designers' handling of landscape elements and details of construction reveals how the tension between utility and appearance was resolved in practice" (Cranz 87). By 1922 a typical city park was to have at least ten acres

ringed by shrubbery . . . divided into an indoor and outdoor plant . . . and a children's playground for boys and girls under ten with swings, teetertotters, giant slides, wading pool, sand bin, and free game space . . . a formal axis led to the playing fields . . . the park was both symmetrical and formal. Paths and roadways were minimized to save space for games and direct use. (Cranz 87-88)

Planners for Chicago's Pulaski and Harrison Parks established a model that was emulated by other municipalities. They created lawns that were "tree dotted" and "bilaterally symmetrical, rectangular" with trees used "to accentuate lines rather than to create volume. . . . The grounds were no longer undulating but flat to accommodate baseball diamonds, running tracks, and other equipment" (Cranz 89-90, 91).

Following this model, the tree-lined south half of Graham Park was balanced by the athletic fields in the north half and later, the axial bilateral layout. Newell Guernsey's 1947 and 1959 design plans for Graham Park resolved in practice "the tension between utility and appearance." His 1947 design for Graham Park and the new athletic field, across Grant Road to the east, reveals how he resolved this tension: ringed shrubbery encompasses the entire park and includes designated areas for a variety of uses. Trees are interspersed throughout and line the winding main road, which creates an abundance of open space for amenities. FDR's New Deal federal work relief programs played a major role in the development of the parks and recreation movements that occurred during the 1930's and 1940's, at both the state and municipal levels. His programs, specifically the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), National Youth Administration (NYA), and Works Progress Administration (WPA), "revealed FDR's predisposition toward organized sport and recreation. . . . they were a means toward building a healthy nation" (Wong 173).

During these decades FDR's New Deal programs contributed to the development of Graham Park. Though Carroll's City Council and City Park Commission partnered with state and federal agencies and benefited from the relief workers' labor on several projects, most of the credit for Graham Park's existence, as well as the entire city's park system, can be given to local leaders/visionaries, philanthropists, civic groups and organizations, both youth and adult, men and women, and Carroll's numerous citizen volunteers.

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

When the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), WPA, and NYA relief programs were created, they offered more than jobs for the unemployed. Now the government played a role in the people’s well-being and health—reflected in the growth of parks and recreation at all levels of government. FDR redefined “the federal government’s role as the guardian of social welfare” (Wong 173).

Under the direction of the Carroll Park Commissioners over the years, Iowa Emergency Relief Administration (IERA) and NYA laborers and volunteer citizens, ranging from children to adults, worked on the park facilities. Second-generation immigrants, mostly Germans, applied their work ethic to the development of the park’s structures and buildings throughout its first fifty years. These thrifty people recycled bricks from city streets, fieldstones from farmers’ fields, limestone blocks from razed school buildings, and donated construction materials to create the rustic restrooms, footbridges, gateway pillars, shelter houses, and band shell, which still maintain their structural and historic integrity.

School-Community Cooperation

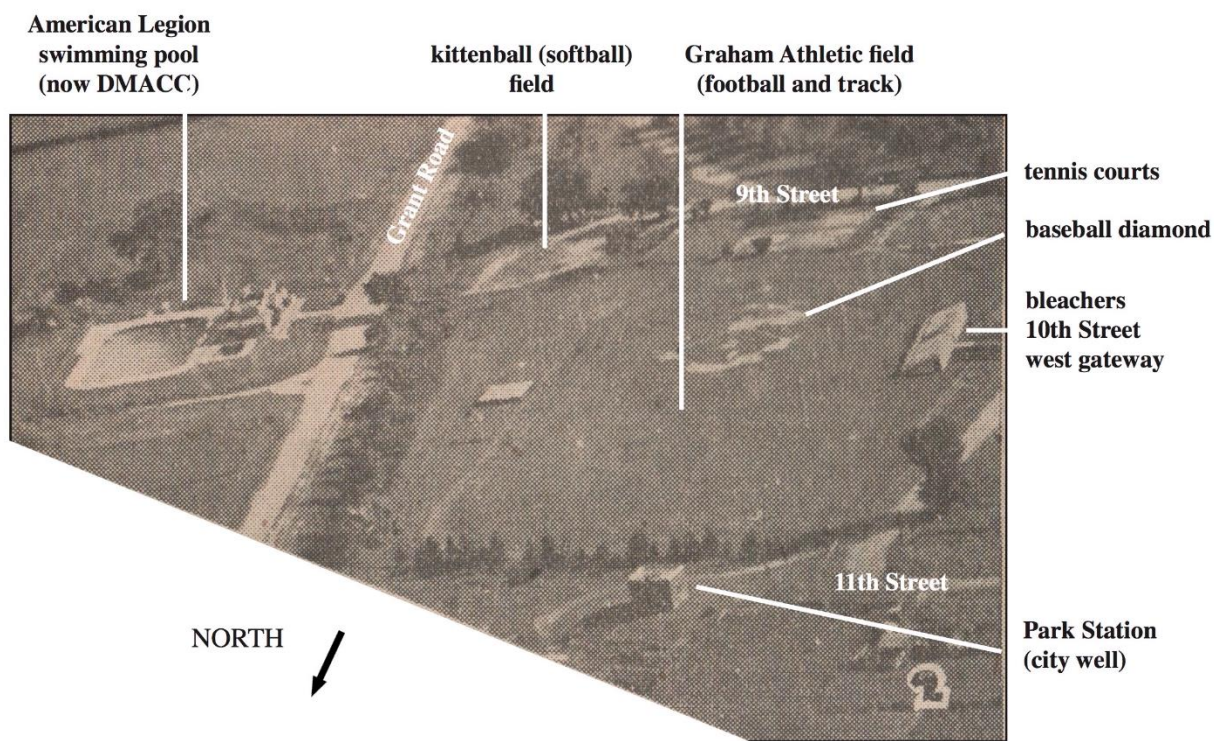


Figure 45. Graham Athletic Field (facing SW) Dec. 30, 1940 *Carroll Daily Times Herald*

According to McLean, et al., “In the early 1930s the National Education Association carried out a major study of leisure education in the nation’s school systems and issued a report, *The New Leisure Challenges the Schools*, that urged the educational establishment to take more responsibility for this function and advocated enlarging the school’s role in community recreation” (87).

Almost from Graham Park’s beginning, school-city cooperation was evident in the Graham Athletic football field and cinder track in the north part of the park. This relationship continued in the park until 1947, when the school district decided to create its own football field across Grant Road. Until 1959 the athletic field facilities

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

in the park were still used for community recreational activities.

From 1921 to 1959, the north half of Graham Park (Lots 1 and 9) between Ninth and Eleventh Streets was used as Graham Athletic Field (Figure 56). From the City and the City Park Commission, the Independent School District leased the six acres extending from the north boundary of the fenced portion of the park (Eleventh Street) south to the tennis courts (Ninth Street), running east and west between Grant Road and North East Street, for school activities. The high school football field and cinder track ran north to south with the baseball field in the middle and the kitten ball (softball/puddin' ball--indoor ball played outdoors) field southeast of the track.

Carroll Cardinals, a semi-pro football team organized in 1921, and high school teams practiced at the City Park/Graham Park. In 1923, John Minchen, a civic leader, donated the old baseball bleachers from Minchen Park and had them moved to the west side of the City Park track inside the Tenth Street entrance; in 1926 new bleachers were built on the west side, paid for by Park Commission funds, school athletic funds, and season ticket sales. In 1925 the first Carroll Relays were held at Graham Athletic Field. The first night practices and football games were held under lights in 1930.

In 1937, under the supervision of John Howard Hodges, building contractor, and John Joseph Witte of the Park Commission, the back of the north half of the bleachers was enclosed underneath to provide a shelter house for the city park and a storage space for park and athletic equipment. The enclosure was open to the public as a shelter house during summer months, at athletic events for refreshment sales, and as a retreat from cold weather. In 1939, NYA labor constructed six stone pillars as the west gate entrance to Graham Athletic Field at Tenth Street.

While the school district used Graham Athletic Field for sports, May fetes, and school contests, the City Park Commission sponsored a variety of community activities there. CCC Camp teams played kitten ball. Chamber of Commerce members, school personnel, and businessmen sponsored a 1939 high school music festival with nearly 5,000 visitors. Northwest Iowa Trail riders and a number of local persons joined in a trail ride and horse show in 1942, where the ride ended at Graham Park. Across the street on the Graham Lots, stables were built for other horse shows at Graham Field in 1943, 1944, and 1946. A show ring and track were constructed on the football field and the amphitheater grounds were put in shape for reserved seating. Additional bleacher and box seats were constructed. Sawdust and shavings covered the ring and track to protect the field turf, and an annual Farm Sports Festival and 4-H Livestock Show used the facilities as well.

By 1946, the school board had grown dissatisfied with the shared arrangement at Graham Park controlled by the City Park Commission because the school district lacked authority to control use of the athletic field and to make its own improvements. Some events held on the football field had proved damaging to the turf and track. The board believed that if the district owned its own field, it would be able to control the events held there and add its own improvements. As a result, the school district built its own athletic field across Grant Road in 1947-1948.

In developing the new athletic field, the Board of Education made provision to buy up to five acres of land in conjunction with the city's purchase for use as a football field and for track because:

The city attorney pointed out that there is a statute permitting school districts and city governments to cooperate in planning and setting up playgrounds and recreational areas and added 'there's no reason

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

why the spirit of the law should not be complied with because the money which goes to support these playgrounds comes from all people in the community and everybody is benefited by it.' ("Voters Authorize" 1)

Graham Park no longer has a football field and track, but both the parochial and public high schools use the tennis courts for extramural competitions, and the elementary and middle schools use the facilities for recreational and educational field trips.

Municipal Playground Movement

Recreation scholars refer to the period from the mid-nineteenth through the early twentieth century as the "public recreation movement," which was "characterized by the widespread development of organized recreation activities and facilities by government and voluntary agencies with the intent of achieving desirable social outcomes" (McLean et al. 71). The municipal playground was one outcome of the public recreation movement.

FDR believed his New Deal relief programs' goals of relief, recovery, and reform should promote "healthy minds and bodies" (Wong 174). However, his vision actually reflected the earlier Progressive Era reforms, which sought to use the government to improve society. Progressives had pushed for urban "recreation opportunities, particularly for children, in close-to-home neighborhood parks. Thus, was born the notion of the playground. The concept of recreation expanded to include swimming pools, ballfields, and indoor facilities in the early and middle part of the 20th century" (Walls 2).

Promoters believed playgrounds, "should be places for organized play"; in the late 19th century larger cities started to add play equipment to existing parks (Cranz 66, 63). Advocates for neighborhood parks promoted sites accessible to working class people so children could utilize playgrounds. Playgrounds in neighborhood parks, reformers believed, should offer organized play in a safe environment.

Carroll park commissioners implemented elements of the playground and recreation movements with the addition of playground equipment as soon as the City Park land was graded in 1920-1921. Roads, sidewalks, grills, picnic areas, and water supplies were installed for the benefit of tourists and local citizens. By the mid-twentieth century, these amenities were expanded with the construction of the restrooms, band shell, footbridges, and open and enclosed shelter houses.

Balancing the playground equipment with other types of activities within the park, the summer playground program in Graham Park in the 1940s and 1950s included supervised tournaments in shot put, discus, football throw, box hockey; plus supervised play of archery, darts, croquet, horse shoes, basketball, softball, dodge ball, touch football, and capture the flag. Baseball, basketball, volleyball, and high jumping were standard organized sports in 1951 for boys; girls who were interested in sports shared in the games. Other supervised activities included finger painting watercolors, modeling clay, textile painting and crayons; standard games like "Red Rover," "Capture the Flag," "Dodge-ball," "Hide-and-Go-Seek," bicycle races, and a daily story hour.

Post-New Deal Recreation Movement

During the 1930s and continuing into the mid-1960s, recreation was viewed "as an essential of life like health, education, work, and religion. . . . that park design and equipment were 'just for the fun of it'" (Cranz 101-

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

102). According to *The Politics of Park Design: A History of Urban Parks in America*,

Since leisure time was indeed increasing, after the Depression as well as during it, the new emphasis [on leisure] had a basis in fact. The shorter work week, long weekends, daylight-saving time, improved automobiles and road systems, earlier retirement ages, and longer lives meant that more people had more time outside work and sleep than ever before. (Cranz 106)

During the 1940s, with the emphasis on leisure, park officials came to see their role as meeting “public demand for leisure activities” (Cranz 106-107). In a 1942 article about park improvements, the *Daily Times Herald* states, “Attempting to furnish local and county residents with a completely equipped recreation center . . . the park commission hopes to encourage people to observe defense measures and spend leisure hours locally” (“Improvements” 5). During World War II “Gas rationing and restrictions on vacation times forced people to return to their local parks . . .” (Cranz 107).

Parks continued to accommodate automobiles, especially for tourists; some park roads had to be paved and widened. Whether playground equipment or sculpture, “the standard argument for these innovations was merely that people had to be lured from their homes by something more than a place to picnic” (Cranz 131). Rather than being attracted by natural beauty, as with the original national and state parks, the reality for city parks as they became viewed by the public as a necessity can be summed up with this quotation: “The ability to hold and attract people to our parks for any length of time is in proportion to the number of attractions offered” (Cranz 133). The band shell, the open and enclosed shelter houses, the flower gardens and fountain, the trappers’ cabin, and the schoolhouse were attractions that drew people to Graham Park between 1950 and 1965.

The evolution of Carroll’s City Park/Graham Park, from the 1920s into the 1960s, reveals the park’s strong ties to twentieth century national, state, and municipal trends for parks’ development such as city government involvement, tourism and transportation, volunteer organizations’ participation, early parks and recreation movement, school-community cooperation, the municipal playground movement, and the post-New Deal recreation movement. As municipal parks evolved throughout the nation between 1900-1965 with the emergence of the playground and recreation movements, Graham Park also evolved; though its landscape and usage changed over time, this park maintained and even expanded its use of the National Park Service’s rustic park architecture and landscape design. Carroll’s city leaders, civic groups, and volunteers worked tirelessly to create the attractive and utilitarian space Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty envisioned when she generously deeded her land to the City of Carroll in 1920 for a “City Park and public playground” (*Records* 5). Under Criterion A Graham Park should qualify on the local level for the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with these movements that have made significant contributions to the broad patterns of American history.

Criterion C: Narrative Statement of Significance

Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Graham Park meets National Register Criterion C on a local level because its significance and integrity are reflected in its rustic design and method of construction, which were influenced by the following historical

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

periods: the National Park Service's (NPS's) adoption and promotion of the rustic, non-intrusive park architecture and landscape design between 1916-1942 and the rustic style's subsequent implementation, during the Great Depression, through FDR's New Deal work relief programs as laborers developed state and municipal parks throughout 1933-1942. During Graham Park's Period Of Significance, 1920-1965, its physical improvements reveal the city's commitment to the consistent use of the NPS's rustic non-intrusive design throughout its 19.6 acres. Additionally, as a result of the efforts of two well-known Iowa landscape architects, Ray F. Wyrick and Newell F. Guernsey, who were hired by the city to plan and beautify the grounds, Graham Park became Carroll's signature park and playground. Because of its rustic non-intrusive design, method of construction, which gives the feeling of having been built by pioneer craftsmen, and use of native materials, the park serves as an exemplary model of the NPS's distinctive architectural style.

The Evolution of the National Park Service's Rustic Park Architecture & Landscape Design from its Implementation in National Parks to the Design's Adoption in Iowa for State and Municipal Parks

Decades prior to the New Deal the impetus for both state and municipal parks' adoption of rustic park architecture was provided by the federal government when it began to set aside land for the first national parks: Yosemite in 1866 and Yellowstone in 1872. The natural beauty within these parks soon became a draw; tourism became a trend. An early version of what later became known as rustic park architecture, the aesthetic on display throughout Graham Park, emerged because of "The development of railroad hotels in national parks and other western areas . . . after the turn of the century" (Tweed et al. 5). For these hotels, such as the Glacier Park Hotel, "Log pillars were used for both the interior and exterior to bring nature to the guests" and when the Grand Canyon El Tovar hotel expanded in 1914, native stone was used "which matched the form and color of the surrounding cliffs" (Tweed et al. 10, 11).

Inspired by these structures, a new architectural style emerged within the national parks. From 1916-42 the National Park Service (NPS) promoted rustic non-intrusive architecture to create coherence in design among its parks. Soon "the importance of nature in architectural design" began to be promoted by professional landscape architects who "strengthened the connections between architecture and landscape materials" (Tweed et al. 3). Buildings were constructed of "'natural' materials including native stone, timbers and shingles" as architects sought harmony between man-made structures and their sites (Tweed et al. 3). The same rustic architectural design and building materials were used for Graham Park's man-made buildings and structures not only because they were available locally and usually obtained without much cost, but also for the same design intent as in national parks—to create harmony within the park's natural setting.

Iowa native President Herbert Hoover, FDR's predecessor, played a significant role in the development the National Park System. In fact, "The growth of the NPS budget accelerated under President Hoover (Tweed et al. 48). Major roads systems were constructed in the parks during the late 1920s into the 1930s. According to Tweed et al., "The field architects were responsible for minimizing the landscape damage done by new roads. Many of the rules of rustic architecture had application to road design. In particular, the landscape architects attempted to avoid straight lines in park roads not only to avoid being intrusive but also to follow the natural contours of the grounds (68).

In Iowa, P. H. Elwood and John Fitzsimmons, landscape architects at Iowa State University, followed the NPS's lead and "advanced the rustic design aesthetic throughout the 1910s and 1920s" for Iowa's state parks (IDNR 12). Iowa's use of the design, with its "pioneer building techniques" and use of local, natural materials

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

such as stone and timber “visually unified national and state parks” (IDNR 13). Some of Iowa’s municipal parks, such as Graham Park, soon followed this trend.

When City Engineer Grover C. Beiter laid out the original plan for Graham Park in 1920, the NPS’s rustic park architecture and landscape design was adopted for the park’s main winding road and, as the park developed, for its structures, buildings, and landscaping. The road follows a curvilinear path to blend with, not disrupt, the park’s landscape. For the park’s man-made structures, local building materials, such as fieldstones and timber, were used, and native plantings and trees were strategically placed throughout the grounds.

During the 1920s the American economy boomed, roads were built and paved, cars were inexpensive, and people had more time for leisure, so they sought places to recreate. By 1927 Iowa’s state parks had grown to 38 (Conard 6). In fact, “By 1931, Iowa had one of the largest numbers of state parks in the nation. And the 1930s would bring remarkable progress despite the Great Depression” (Button 18). Federal legislation was passed that created jobs for the unemployed and many of them worked on parks projects.

As a result of FDR’s New Deal relief programs, “Between 1933 and 1942, hundreds of buildings and other improvements were constructed in state parks, thanks to the CCC and WPA” (Conard 9). These decades became known as “The era of ‘rustic park architecture’” (qtd. in IDNR 13). Consistency in design and materials was desired for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) national parks projects. Therefore, a CCC manual created by the NPS was published to explain the basics of the rustic style: stone was to be used for walls to create a natural appearance; both stone and logs were to be proportioned to the natural setting, and regularity of rock size was to be avoided to reflect the variety found in nature (Tweed et al. 93). According to Tweed et al., construction projects in national parks “represent only a small portion of the building construction effort of the Corps” (91). In 1933 the Emergency Conservation Act (E.C.W.) was passed which “authorized the President to use CCC crews on state and municipal lands. . . FDR had sought this authority for the purpose of encouraging and assisting the development of state and county park systems” (Tweed et al. 91).

Throughout the New Deal era Iowa and the federal government invested heavily in state and municipal parks. In Carroll and Carroll County, projects were made possible because of the CCC’s (1933-42), WPA’s (1935-43), and NYA’s (1935-44) relief workers’ efforts. Not only Graham Park but also Carroll County’s Swan Lake State Park, located two miles southeast of Carroll, was a beneficiary of New Deal relief programs. Swan Lake’s implementation of rustic park architecture and landscape design reflect the many hours of labor provided by New Deal relief workers. When Graham Park’s open stone shelter house and fireplace were constructed in 1950, the design was inspired by a similar stone shelter house which New Deal laborers had constructed at Swan Lake State Park in Carroll in 1934.

During the 1930’s the number of municipal parks increased thanks to state and federal funding. The Iowa State Planning Board’s report, dated September 1934, which includes a Data on Recreation section, reveals “by 1934 Iowa had 529 city parks totaling 7,180 acres, 21 county parks totaling 661 acres, and 40 state parks totaling 8,962 acres”; also, Iowa had hundreds of playgrounds, swimming pools, and picnic areas (Iowa, State Planning Board 336, 337).

During the 1930s and continuing into the 1950s, Carroll’s Park Commission established the city as a leader in parks development: “‘We have, for our size of town, one of the largest park acreages in Iowa and possibly the nation,’ H. F. Pfiester, superintendent of parks said,” (qtd. in “Carroll Park Acreage” 1). Not only is Graham Park’s size distinctive, but also its NPS rustic park architecture.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Graham Park's Implementation of the Rustic Park Architecture and Landscape Design as Promoted by the National Park Service from 1916-1942

Graham Park's architecture and landscape design, as well as the materials used for its buildings and structures, reflect the rustic non-intrusive architecture style adopted and promoted by the National Park Service (NPS) from 1916 up to WWII. The coherence and consistency of design achieved by Carroll's use of the aesthetic throughout the park's nineteen acres, during its period of significance, reflects the same vision the NPS practiced within its national park system during the early twentieth century. According to Tweed et al., "NPS rustic park architecture earned for itself a secure place in the history of modern architecture. It was an expression of the romanticism of pioneer America. . . . At its best, rustic architecture produced buildings of rare and distinctive beauty" (105, 106). Graham Park serves as a model and tribute to the National Park Service's distinctive rustic design; therefore, it qualifies to be listed on the National Register under Criterion C.

When national parks with buildings and a few roads were founded in the late nineteenth century, no single architectural style predominated until the National Park Service came into existence in 1917. Rather than continuing to allow a variety of styles within its parks the NPS sought uniformity and promoted the belief "that park buildings properly designed to harmonize with their natural setting" was the preferable design aesthetic (Tweed et al. 68). Additionally, "Many of the rules of rustic park architecture had application to road design. In particular, landscape architects attempted to avoid straight lines in park roads" so they would blend into the natural environment and avoid being intrusive (Tweed et al. 68).

Over a decade later, the NPS's rustic design was defined in its 1935 publication *Park Structures and Facilities*, to promote consistency for Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) construction projects. Editor Albert H. Good, provides the following definition in the book's first chapter: "Successfully handled, [rustic] is a style which, through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools" (qtd. in Tweed et al 93).

Good also explains the CCC rustic design intent: "Buildings were to seek harmony with their physical setting through sensitive use of native and planted vegetation" (qtd. in Tweed et al. 93). He also points out that buildings should harmonize with the physical setting through the use of natural colors for the exterior; for walls stone should be used to achieve a natural appearance; both stones and logs must be proportioned to the natural setting, and regularity of rock size is to be avoided because variety is found in nature (Tweed et al. 93).

These features are easily identified among Graham Park's rustic buildings and structures. In fact, for visitors, this park serves as a visual and tangible history lesson on NPS rustic architecture; upon entering the park some feel as if they are stepping back in time and experiencing an earlier era.

In a February 19, 1920, newspaper article entitled "Just Where Does Carroll Stand?" the author challenges city leaders to create a "park or playground" (2). Residents learn that a city park and playground may soon become reality because of the generosity of a local philanthropist. The following month readers learn in a March 11, 1920, *Carroll Times Herald* article that a committee chaired by C. C. Helmer, chairman of a park committee, had been working with Ida Graham Daugherty to draw "up an agreement in which she donates a tract of about 11 acres to the city. . . .The committee will have a landscape architect here within a short time to lay the grounds out according to park plans" which were sketched by City Engineer Grover C. Beiter ("City Engineer"

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Though plans for the public park and playground were “drawn by G. C. Beiter” and shown to Daugherty in a pencil sketch for her approval, well-known Des Moines, Iowa, landscape architect Ray F. Weirick (aka Wyrick) was hired by the Park Commission to implement Beiter’s plan (*Records* 5, 7). Their September 6, 1920, minutes read: “On motion the bill of Ray F. Weirick for \$75.00 was allowed and ordered paid” (*Records* 10). The following year Weirick was paid \$100.00 for “Arch. Fees” in the amount of \$552.50, based on the Park Commission’s minutes for June 6, 1921 (*Records* 14).

The park’s main road and location of trees were included in Beiter’s plan. A gently winding road progresses through the park, following the NPS rustic non-intrusive road design, which recommends avoiding straight lines. Beginning at Walnut Street, to the southeast, the road gently winds through the park and ends at Ninth Street to the northwest. Trees line the main road and are to be interspersed throughout the grounds to provide areas of shade and to leave spaces open for playground and picnic areas.

In the February 23, 1922, edition of *The Carroll Times* under “Local Happenings” an upcoming lecture by Wyrick is included: “Ray F. Wyrick, landscape architect of Des Moines will give an illustrated lecture on park and playground improvements and city plantings at the Baptist Church Thursday evening March 2, at 8 o’clock under the auspices of the Women’s Civic League” (10). During May 1922 the Women’s Civic League stayed involved with Wyrick’s landscaping efforts and planted “Fifteen horse chestnut trees . . . in the city park Arbor Day as a memorial to soldiers who were killed in France . . . which was done under the supervision of a landscape artist of Des Moines” (“Local Happenings” 6).

At the April 3, 1922, Park Commission meeting, beautification of the park was addressed. Another motion was passed “to direct Ray F. Weirick, architect, to order the nursery stock for the year’s planting in the park as outlined in his letter” (*Records* 18). A year later the Park Commission held a special meeting on March 5, 1923. Their minutes indicate: “R. F. Weirick, who has charge of the landscape work at the park, was present. An inspection of the park was made and Weirick was instructed to advise the Secretary as to his recommendations for plantings for the year 1923” (*Records* 29).

During their April 5, 1923, meeting the Commission accepted Weirick’s recommendation for plantings and the Commission told Weirick “to order evergreens, as recommended for the north side of the athletic field, at a price not to exceed \$35.00” (*Records* 31). A 1940 aerial photo of Graham Park published in the *Carroll Daily Herald* on December 30, 1940, shows mature evergreens along the entire north border of the Graham Athletic Field located on Eleventh Street (9).

When plans were being made for a new south entrance to City Park, along the Lincoln Highway, rustic park architecture was chosen for the design. In June 1923, sponsored by the Women’s Civic League, plans were drawn up by City Engineer G. C. Beiter for a stone archway entrance and wall. An article in the *Carroll Times Herald* on June 21, 1923, describes the project:

The present plans designate large gate pillars three feet square and eight feet high and a wall running from the pillars three feet square and 18 to 24 inches thick. The material to be used is rock. . . . everybody is urged to help gather these rocks and dump them just inside the entrance. (“Plans are Made” 1)

A few months later Beiter turned to the public again for their help. According to an August 9, 1923, news article, City Engineer Beiter wants the public to know, “Enough rocks have not been gathered and the people

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

of Carroll and vicinity are urgently requested to gather rocks or loan their trucks or other conveyances for this purpose” because work on the arch was planned to start later in the week or the following week (“Work to Begin” 12).

During the following years Wyrick continued to work with the Park Commission on landscaping plans not only for Graham Park but also other city parks. According to the *Carroll Daily Herald*, on April 11, 1932, the city’s goal was “to improve the city’s looks and to furnish labor for unemployed. . . . Shrubbery and trees, which have grown in profusion in Graham Park and the boulevard are being thinned out” under the supervision of Wyrick (“Park Commission Providing Work” 1). Two years later, during their April 4, 1934, Park Commission meeting, “The chairman presented plans prepared by Ray F. Wyrick for the improvement of the south part of Graham Park as a picnic ground” (*Records* 80).

Following the NPS rustic park design, a stone gated entrance to Graham Athletic Field for automobiles was constructed in 1932 on the west side of the park on Ninth Street. Four fieldstone pillars were erected for the gates and flanked the two curved stone walls. The top of each pillar was domed and embellished with small stones set in concrete. These were constructed of irregular-sized boulders collected from local farm fields, at no charge, by city and volunteer workers.

By the early 1930s the nation was in the midst of the Great Depression and in need of relief due to high unemployment. According to Dorothy Schwieder, in her book *IOWA: The Middle Land*, “As a result of widespread unemployment, many Iowa families either went on direct relief or the family breadwinners went to work on federal projects sponsored by the Works Progress Administration” (266).

Because of Iowa’s *25 Year Conservation Plan* that was completed in 1933, the state would “immediately qualify for federal relief and jobs programs,” (Button 19). Additionally, the state’s 1934 progress report was submitted to the National Resources Board, Washington, D. C. in September 1934. Both documents added to Iowa’s ability to obtain New Deal relief funding at state and local levels, which was critical to the development of their park systems.

In need of funding to hire laborers for its park projects, the Carroll Park Commission, at their March 29, 1933, meeting, passed a resolution to apply for Emergency Relief Funds, “for the purpose of employing labor to do certain work in the park for which it does not have funds” (*Records* 75). Another resolution was passed by the Park Commission at a special meeting on November 9, 1934, in response to a request from “A. E. Holmes, Approving officer for the State Emergency Relief Association” who asked for an appropriation from the Commission to help fund “projects for improvements in City Parks” (*Records* 81). All members voted “Aye” to approve the Resolution, which committed \$200.00 “to meet the appropriation” and another \$117.00 “for the use of the Iowa State E.R.A. on this project, materials, equipment and services” (*Records* 81).

In addition to relief laborers, city employees also worked on Graham Park’s projects. A May 6, 1936, *Carroll Daily Herald* article reports, “City crews have begun relocating the road through Graham park [sic] so more shade trees will be available for persons wishing to have picnics in the park. At present most of the trees are along the drive. The drive will be shifted and grass planted under the trees” (“City Crews” 1). This slight adjustment to the main road did not significantly change Beiter’s 1920 original curvilinear route, which reflects the NPS’s rustic non-intrusive design that had been implemented within national parks.

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Improvements to Graham Park continued with the help of New Deal relief workers. A September 19, 1939, *Carroll Daily Herald* article, "New NYA-Built Stone Entrance to Graham Park Athletic Field" explains: "NYA labor under the direction of Nick Schwartzenbach, has nearly completed this new entrance to Carroll's Graham Athletic Field, now seeing weekly service as a football stadium" (1). The article's accompanying photograph reveals the use of rustic park architecture for the ornate stone pedestrian entrance on Tenth Street. Large fieldstones and boulders of a variety of sizes were used to create its six stately pillars and curving walls (1). Four of the original six stone pillars remain standing and are in good condition. NYA youth between the ages 16-25 built this stately rustic structure, which is still in use today.

According to the *Carroll Daily Herald*, on February 13, 1941, the Carroll Board of Education met with Bryan Van Cleave, district WPA supervisor about having the WPA raze the old grade school building and possibly build "bleachers on the east side of the football field in Graham Park" ("School Board" 1). No members of the Park Commission were in attendance, so the project was not pursued at this time.

However, a few months later at a Carroll County Board of Supervisors meeting on June 2, 1941, an official agreement with the Independent School District of Carroll, Iowa, granted the school district permission "to store brick and other such material as are deemed necessary . . . during the duration of the W.P.A. Project connected with the demolition of said North Grade Building" (*Carroll County* 618). Stones from this building were recycled for a restroom in Graham Park a few years later.

When the park's first rustic restroom was constructed in 1943 near the Ninth Street entrance, the stone and slate salvaged from the WPA's demolition of the North Grade School in 1941 were used. In 1950 a similar rustic stone restroom was constructed in the southwest section of Graham Park with stone salvaged from the South Side School, which was razed in 1949. This structure, or "park latrine," was designed by City Engineer Wesley J. Youngerman. His blueprints for the 1950 restroom are on file at Carroll's City Hall.

The *Carroll Times Herald*, dated October 25, 1943, includes an article about Graham Park's rustic stone entrances. It begins by reminding readers that the new south entrance for cars from Grant Road was opened in 1942 because of traffic hazards when entering the park from the Lincoln Highway. This entrance, located at the Seventh Street gateway, is flanked by two fieldstone pillars. The article continues: "There are two other entrances opening on East Street, one at Ninth Street for cars and the other at Tenth Street leading through a stone gate into the athletic field" for foot traffic ("City Park Commission" 3). The Ninth Street entrance was constructed in 1932 and the Tenth Street entrance in 1939. All of Graham Park's entryways exhibit the NPS rustic architecture design. Their pillars and gently curving walls were constructed of local multi-colored fieldstones of irregular sizes, which complement the natural beauty of the park's grounds.

When the New Deal's work relief programs came to an end in the mid-1940s, Carroll's Park Commission knew they needed a plan to generate funds for the long-term to continue improving the city's parks. Therefore, at a March 6, 1944, Special Meeting a resolution was passed to send a ballot issue to the public on March 27, 1944, asking them to approve an additional levy, for a period of ten years "for the sole and only purpose of purchasing and paying for real estate and permanently improving the same and lands theretofore acquired for park purposes" (*Records* 139). After a successful city vote the Commission, during their April 3, 1944, meeting, passed a resolution to establish "a separate real estate and improvement fund as the said tax is collected" for park purposes (*Records* 142, 143). This fund was used to pay the laborers who constructed the new rustic south entrance to Graham Park (*Records* 148).

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

Before setting up this fund the Commission had already planned “the planting of a number of American elm trees. . . . Some will be planted in the new lots purchased recently at the corner of East and Tenth while the remainder will be placed along the drive in the old park” (“More Facilities” 3). John J. Witte, park commissioner, identified the following new amenities that were also a part of the Commission’s “definite program” planned for completion in 1944: a new stone restroom in the “western part of the park. This with a new drinking fountain near the tennis courts and the new pedestrian entrance to the park from highway 30” (“More Facilities” 3).

These three structures were also built of stone to blend in with the park’s previous rustic park architecture construction projects. A photo of the rustic drinking fountain appears in a June 19, 1948, *Carroll Times Herald* article “PICTURE PARADE: Interesting Glimpses of You and Your Neighbors” with the caption “THIRSTY? HAVE A DRINK, CHUM . . .” (6). Additional photos of the fountain appear in the paper’s August 8, 1967, and July 20, 1978, publications. At some point after 1978 the fountain was removed from the park and no longer exists.

An October 6, 1944, article in the *Carroll Times Herald* shares news regarding the new ornamental rustic south pedestrian gateway:

Work on the ornamental gateway at the south entrance to Graham Park is well under way with the stone pillars nearing completion. . . . Two tall granite boulder pillars six feet apart will carry a woode archway of logs with the name ‘Graham Park’ facing the highway. On either side will be four additional pillars, two to a side also of granite boulders but smaller than the center ones. (“Work on Gateway” 5)

Wyrick, who had been working with the Park Commission since 1920, was paid for “Architect plans, Entrance” (*Records* 149). Though Wyrick was employed by the Park Commission between 1920-1945, he was also hired by the city to be Carroll’s landscape architect from 1934-1941 for its cemetery’s expansion and beautification project. For both Graham Park and the cemetery project he implemented the NPS rustic park architecture and landscape design. This created continuity between Graham Park and the Carroll City-Mount Olivet Cemetery, which are located a few blocks from each other on the west side of Grant Road, a main arterial north-south street intersected by Highway 30.

Going against the trend toward the use of manufactured materials for park structures, Carroll continued to implement the rustic park design aesthetic to maintain coherence within Graham Park. Given the historic additions to the park, the wooden schoolhouse and log cabin, it appears the city chose to acquire them because of their compatibility with the park’s rustic design. They serve as excellent examples of the design’s intent which “reintroduced pioneer building techniques” and the use of “local natural materials of wood and stone” (IDNR 13). James Gillett, Park Commissioner, shared the following thought about the value of a city park at a Clio Club meeting on April 16, 1959: “Besides being a physical thing with a playground and picnic facilities . . . a park has esthetic [sic] value because of its beauty and nostalgic value” (“James Gillett” 4). For these reasons Graham Park became, and remains, a popular destination for both local and area residents of all ages.

A *Daily Times Herald* article from August 23, 1948, “Carroll’s Fine Parks Developed, Extended On a Limited Budget” explains, “Graham Park has become Carroll’s recreational center because it is adjacent to the American Legion swimming pool and the public school athletic fields” (1). Because of its usage, “Construction of a new stone shelter house to augment facilities at Graham Park is being planned by the Carroll park [sic]

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

commission” (“Carroll’s Fine Parks” 1). This article goes on to explain, “The commission has most of the materials on hand—rocks and boulders that have been piled in the south side of the park for several years” but funds were scarce (1). After accumulating a small budget surplus, the commissioners planned to begin construction in the fall with Evor Morgan, park superintendent for 22 years, leading the project (1). They planned “to erect a building similar to that at Swan Lake State Park. . . . The commission also plans to build a circular fireplace” (1). Swan Lake’s open shelter, was constructed of fieldstones and boulders, in the NPS rustic park architecture design by New Deal relief workers, is still in use today.

At this time Newell F. Guernsey, a Sioux City, Iowa, park planning architect, was involved with the Carroll Athletic Association. This group was in charge of the New Athletic Field project, a collaborative effort between the city and the Carroll School District. Due to construction delays on the grandstand, the Athletic Association, at its March 3, 1948, meeting, “directed the building committee to take immediate steps to landscape the new baseball field area. . . . Newell Guernsey, Sioux City landscape engineer and site planner presented plans for the entire park area and new athletic field” (“Order Ball Field Landscaped” 1).

A copy of Guernsey’s “Sketch Showing Graham Park and New Athletic Field” dated October 20, 1947, is stored at Carroll’s City Hall (Figure 44). In his plan Guernsey divides Graham Park into two distinct areas with different uses: a picnic area and playground to the south of the Ninth Street entrance and the football field, baseball diamond, and three tennis courts to the north of Ninth Street. His plan includes a New Athletic Field, with space for both football and baseball, as well as parking and landscaping, directly to the east of Graham Park across Grant Road. Guernsey’s work with the city and Carroll Athletic Association eventually led to his being hired by the Park Commission on April 8, 1959, “to develop the Carroll Park System” and also to coordinate a plan for both Graham Park and the new Athletic Field to create coherence between the two projects (*Records* 182).

Meanwhile, work on the park’s new stone open shelter house continued. A photo, with a caption, in the *Carroll Daily Times Herald* on July 7, 1950, shows Evor Morgan “with a trowel applying cement while Joe Hoelscher assists him with the construction of the fireplace (“Rock Fireplace” 2). By August 2, 1950, the new structure, located in the southwest area of the park, was the “first of its kind to be installed here. In the near future, a wooden roof will be constructed to provide shelter over the fireplace area . . . and low rock wall encircling the fireplace will provide places for picnickers to sit while food is cooking” (“New Fireplace” 5). The rustic open octagonal shelter house has three openings, or entrances, and an asphalt-shingled wood roof positioned on eight square stone pillars. Diagonal support beams made of wood connect the pillars to the roof. Its design and materials are outstanding examples of NPS rustic architecture; especially impressive is the shelter house’s expression of pioneer building techniques with its handcrafted details.

Another rustic structure became a priority for the Park Commission a few years later. Since the 1930s a wooden pedestrian bridge had run across Storm Creek to connect Graham Park with the American Legion swimming pool located across Grant Road/County Road to the east. A March 26, 1953, *Carroll Daily Times Herald* article, “Park Commission Gets Set For Another Big Season,” lists many upcoming projects in the Commission’s “improvement program,” which includes improving the “footbridge over the creek” (1). On November 23, 1953, the *Carroll Daily Times Herald* confirmed the new stone bridge had been completed and “New steel railings on the bridge across Storm Creek in Graham Park have been completed for some time” (“Enlarge And Improve” 1). The following day, on November 24, 1953, a photo of the new stone footbridge appears in the paper with the following description: “Replacing an old wooden span is this attractive wood,

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

steel, and stone bridge with its attractive stone masonry approaches and steel railings” (“Park Improvement Program” 8).

Four months later, on March 23, 1954, the *Carroll Daily Times Herald* reports, “A new footbridge is in process of construction across Storm Creek from Graham Park to the entrance of the baseball park. A wood floor already has been constructed and the laying of the stone parapets will begin soon” (“Seek Contributions” 1). An update is provided on June 9, 1954: “One pillar of the footbridge across Storm Creek from Graham Park to the south entrance of Merchants Park is nearly completed. . . . Work on the remaining pillar will proceed as soon as the tennis courts are finished” (“More Improvements” 1). On July 8, 1954, readers learn the new footbridge across from Merchants Park is “completed except for the railings which it is hoped will be installed Thursday or Friday” (“Begin Construction” 1).

In an August 20, 1954, *Carroll Daily Times Herald* article, “Recreation Facilities in Carroll Second to None,” Graham Park is recognized as “the center of the recreational activities in Carroll. . . . New stone entrances to the park, the athletic fields, and the foot bridges have improved the appearance of the park” (41). Stones for both rustic bridges were collected from local farm fields. The only distinction between the two bridges is the south bridge’s wooden plank walkway is six feet wide, rather than five feet wide like the north bridge.

Over the years Graham Park had become a popular destination for both local residents and tourists. Praising Graham Park, the *Carroll Daily Times Herald* writes on June 4, 1957, “One of the most elaborate small city park and playground systems in the nation will make Carroll vacation picnic headquarters for thousands of Iowans this summer” (“Carroll Park Acreage” 1). The park would soon become even more elaborate with its next landscape project.

This next improvement to the park was soon initiated. In 1957 land south of the old athletic field and just north of the main road, which leads to Ninth Street, was prepared for Graham Park’s new formal garden by Henry Pfiester, superintendent of parks. This area covered 200 x 250 feet. According to Pfiester, “Colored foliage and shrubs will be planted in the garden plot along with flowering plum and crab apple trees, young maples and beds of flowers to provide touches. . . . Eventually a fountain will be added” (“New Formal Gardens” 1). A local florist and former park commissioner, James M. Gillett, designed the garden.

A stone fountain was added in the fall of 1958 and the “Masonry was laid by two park employees, Tony Broich and Bernard Bolster” (“New Stone Fountain” 1). It is described in a September 30, 1958, *Carroll Daily Herald* article: “The main body of the fountain is constructed of blue-gray stone from quarries at Logan with coping around the edges of buff split limestone. It is built in octagonal shape measuring 18 feet 6 inches across, with a four foot pedestal in the center” (“New Stone Fountain” 1).

Photos taken of the fountain and formal garden in the late 1950s to 1960s reveal paved sidewalks that lead to and encircle the fountain’s stone base. These paths bisect the flowerbeds that also surround the fountain in an axial bi-lateral design. Low to the ground plantings line these sidewalks, and flowering trees surround the grassy area near the flowerbeds, which also includes a few benches. Because the flowerbeds do not overwhelm the fountain, its rustic stonework blends in with and complements the park’s other rustic buildings and structures. The layout for the garden and fountain reflect the “classical formality” of the early 20th century City Beautiful landscape design with its “axial alignment of principal avenues of approach” which all lead to a central focal point (Potter and Boland 6). Because the stone fountain lies at the center of the paths, it is the main focal point of the formal garden and the grassy area surrounding it. The sidewalks serve as approaches to

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

the fountain but also branch out from it and lead to the park's main road to the south, the band shell and its grounds to the north, the stone footbridge to the American Legion Swimming pool to the east, and the tennis courts to the west.

Photos of Graham Park, as well as aerial photos, from the 1940s up to 2017, reveal that the park's topography, landscaping, and amenities reflect municipal park planning trends that were introduced in the 1920s. At the turn of the century landscape architects tried to achieve a balance between a park's being both attractive and useful as they worked to accommodate the public's needs, as Guernsey's sketches from 1947 and 1959 reflect.

Parks were typically "ringed by shrubbery" to allow space for playgrounds and sports; trees were used "to accentuate lines rather than to create volume;" additionally, "paths and roads were minimized to save space for games and direct use;" and "a formal axis led to playing fields" and other amenities; finally, "The grounds were no longer undulating but flat to accommodate baseball diamonds, running tracks, and other equipment" (Cranz 87-88, 89-90, 91). Both Wyrick and Guernsey integrated these trends into their landscape designs for Graham Park.

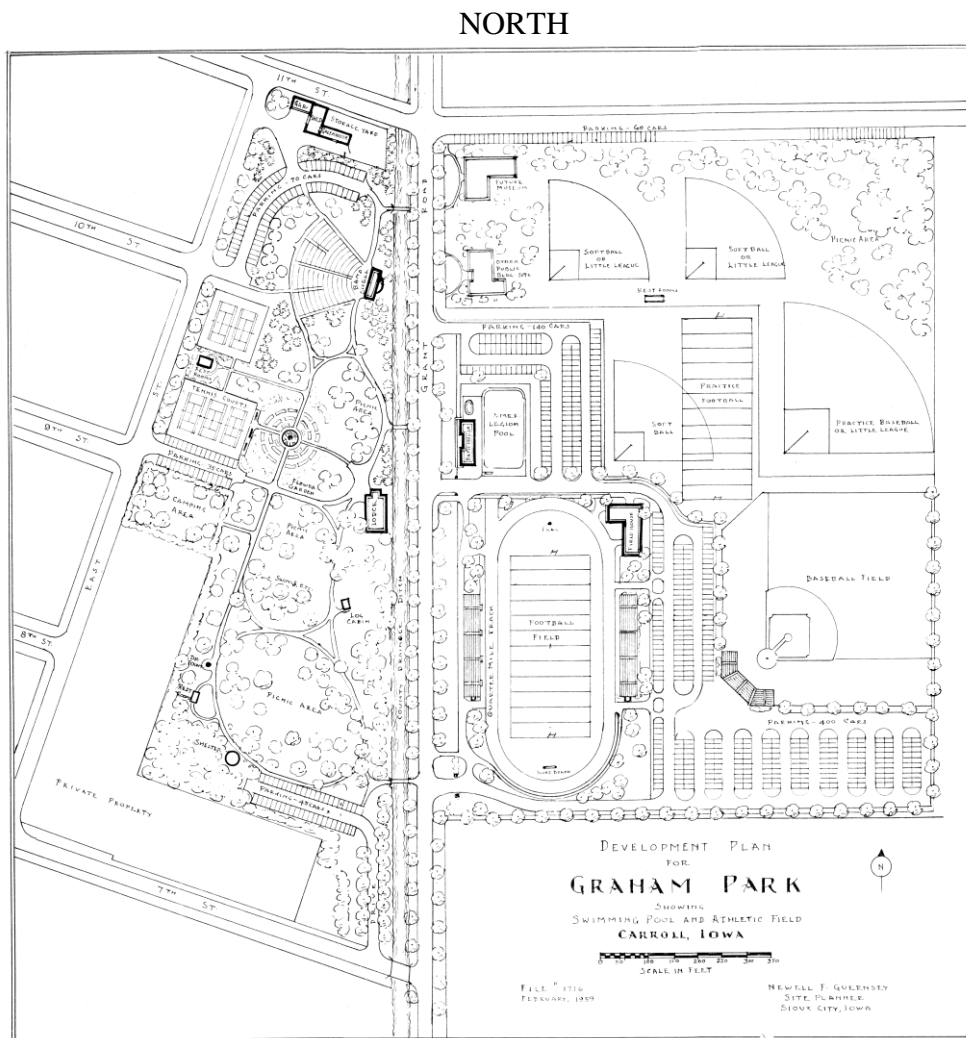


Figure 46. Guernsey Development Plan for park and athletic field layout (facing N)
1959 Carroll Community School District Archives, District Office

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

By April 1959 the Park Commissioners were ready to make additional improvements to Carroll's parks, in particular, Graham Park. They decided to hire a professional to assist with a long-term plan. At their April 8, 1959, meeting, the Commissioners unanimously "agreed to employ the services of Newell F. Guernsey, Park Planning Architect of Sioux City, Iowa, to develop the Carroll Park System for an amount not to exceed \$600.00" (*Records* 182). Guernsey was already known to city officials, local leaders, and School Board members because he had worked with the city's Planning and Zoning Commission and City Engineer W. J. Youngerman in 1950 to conduct a land use survey as well as with the Carroll Athletic Association and School Board during the late 1940s ("Planning Commission" 1).

Only days after Guernsey was hired, his plans for Graham Park were presented, which are the same as his February drawing. An April 17, 1959, *Carroll Daily Times Herald* article reports, "The plan calls for the removal of the Graham Field and concentration of all athletic fields in one area across Grant Road. Picnic areas will also be concentrated [sic] in one section. Three parking places are provided" ("New Shelter" 1).

According to the same article, Guernsey's long-range plan also includes "two new tennis courts, an amphitheater west of the bandshell. . . . Extensive improvements also are suggested in the formal gardens" ("New Shelter" 1). The commissioners reveal these are to begin in the future, but "The new fountain and formal gardens, completed last summer, will go into operation this spring" with new plantings being added (1).

Another article in the same paper begins with a quote by James Gillett of the Park Commission, while speaking at a Clio Club meeting about long range planning for the city's parks: "A good park must have an area of interest for everyone" ("James Gillett" 4). He continues to tell the group that the Park Commission, acting on suggestions from the public, decided, "Graham Park will be divided into many areas, including special picnic grounds and a section for music" ("James Gillett" 4).

Overall, Guernsey's February 1959 plan pulls both of his projects, Graham Park and Graham Athletic Field, together (Figure 46). In contrast to his October 20, 1947, plan, Guernsey's February 1959 "Development Plan For Graham Park" reveals he has added new features to the park, which fill in the space vacated by the sports fields, but has retained the formal garden and fountain area with the four axial bi-lateral sidewalks. In his latest drawing the four pathways still radiate out from the fountain area but then gently follow curvilinear routes to the existing band shell and new amphitheater to the north, a "lodge," (enclosed shelter house) to the east near Grant Road, the three existing tennis courts, with two added, to the west near Tenth Street, and a spacious new picnic area to the south. These sidewalks then gently curve and encircle the picnic and band shell areas. Eventually, they connect with the parking lots located along the park's periphery. These paths follow the rustic non-intrusive design. They surround the green spaces so they harmonize with, rather than disrupt the natural setting; and large grassy areas, dotted with shade trees, remain open for outdoor activities. Trees line the main drive and ring the park's periphery. Additional picnic areas, with shade trees, have been added. Guernsey's plan protects the park's green space, preserves the natural beauty of the landscape, and complements the park's rustic architecture. Guernsey's February 1959 plan is located at the administration building for the Carroll Community School District.

Gillett's belief that a city park "must have an area of interest for everyone" and his insight that "a park has esthetic [sic] value because of its beauty and nostalgic value" sum up the guiding principles which led to Graham Park's becoming Carroll's signature park ("James Gillett" 4).

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Inspired by the National Park Service’s implementation and promotion of rustic architecture for its parks, Carroll’s leaders adopted the design when land for City Park/Graham Park was gifted to the city. Since 1920, beginning with City Engineer Beiter’s initial plan for the park, followed by its expansion during the 1930s and 1940s, and the park’s many improvements over the following decades, Graham Park has retained its rustic park architecture and landscape design aesthetic. Because of its design, method of construction, and use of native materials, the park serves as an exemplary model of the NPS’s distinctive architectural style. Visitors to the park are taken back in time to an earlier era as they enjoy the park’s many amenities. Recreation and history co-exist and offer young and old a unique experience, in a beautiful rustic setting. For these reasons Graham Park qualifies for National Register eligibility at the local level under Criterion C.



Figure 47. Future site of Graham Park circa 1905-1917 (facing NE)
Carroll County Historical Museum

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT OF GRAHAM PARK

Park Design (1920 – early 1930s)

In August 1867, Carroll was platted for a town before a single dwelling house was built, and in 1879 a massive fire wiped out the downtown district, destroying most of the businesses and upstairs residences. Rebuilding began within weeks. Carroll, the county seat of Carroll County, its government and business center, had developed to the west and north of the courthouse square. In the process of rebuilding the city, citizens began to consider parks integral amenities. By 1920 citizens were ready for a city park, and the community school district needed its own athletic field for its sports activities.

In 1907 the Citizens’ Club, a group of business and professional men organized to stimulate community interest and bring business to the city, was formed. The park committee of the Citizens’ Club initiated the movement to establish a municipal park, and the local newspaper reinforced their vision in a February 1920 editorial:

Natural environments that border on the beautiful are everywhere present. One can look in any

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

direction and point out a beautiful location for a park or a play ground. The natural roll of the ground as laid out by Mother Nature could not be more splendidly pictured by an artist. . . . Dame Fortune and Mother Nature have indeed been kind to Carroll. . . . They have come because of the kindness of Dame Fortune who selected the location, and have come, without an effort on the part of the residents. ("Just Where Does Carroll Stand?" 2)

By 1920 such a location became available for a park east of the city, just north of the Lincoln Highway, which had been graded all across Carroll County by 1917 (Figure 47). Auto dealers and tire companies, who wanted people to travel, heavily promoted the highway as an avenue for tourists, who would need parking and camping grounds.

The Graham Park land was originally owned by William L. Culbertson, president of the First National Bank of Carroll until his death in 1908. Then it passed through his widow Ruth and into a receivership of the First National Bank of Carroll. James B. Graham, a local landowner, purchased the farmland for \$3,000 through the receivership. In 1916 he bequeathed the land to his daughter Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty in his will.

According to Mrs. Daugherty, who donated Lots 1, 2, and 9 west of Grant Road (Figure 51) to the Park Commission of the City of Carroll in May 1920, the park was to serve "for the sole use and benefit, in perpetuity, of the people of Carroll and vicinity, for a city public park and playground purposes" (*Records* 128). On June 7, 1920, the City Council accepted Mrs. Daugherty's proposition with her reservations "that if said ground is neglected and not kept in suitable condition as a park and playground that said premises shall revert to the original grantor" and "that this offer [should be] acceptable by June 1st, 1920, and a substantial start made towards planning and beautifying said grounds during the year of 1920" (*Records* 6).

Ida made additional donations of smaller lots of land to the park on the west and south sides in 1923, 1941, and 1943. In 1923 Mrs. Emilie Boehme sold the east half of Lot 3 on the southwest edge of the park to the Park Commission to add to it. In 1925, at Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty's further request, the City Park was renamed Graham Park in honor of her father, James B. Graham.

No construction drawings or site plans for the park's beginning were located during the research for this survey, but local newspaper accounts, Carroll Park Commission minutes, and City Council minutes indicate that design plans were the responsibility of city engineers and hired landscape architects. Grover C. Beiter, city engineer, sketched the original layout of the park in 1920 (*Records* 5) and the Women's Civic League entrance gateway in 1923.

From 1920 through the 1930s the Park Commission hired Ray F. Wyrick, landscape architect from Des Moines, to supervise the work of designing, ordering nursery stock, moving, and transplanting trees and shrubs to beautify the park. (In Carroll he also landscaped the Carnegie Library grounds in 1926, Minchen Park in 1931, and the City Cemetery between 1933 and 1941.) Locally sourced natural materials were acquired to develop the landscaping.

In 1931 Grant Road was graded and opened north of Sixth Street past the newly opened American Legion Swimming Pool site. That same year the first wooden pedestrian footbridge connected the pool to the park.

From 1923 to 1959 the north six acres of the park were used as Graham Athletic Field for school and community athletic purposes. In 1923 Commercial Club volunteers moved the old baseball bleachers to the

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

west side of the City Park field. Track and field, kittenball, and baseball games were added to the school's athletic field purposes. The city used the field for civic affairs, such as band concerts, softball, 4-H shows, horse shows, and other activities.

Repurposing and Beautification (early 1930s – late 1940s)

Wyrick presented plans for the improvement of the south part of Graham Park for picnic grounds in 1934. City crews shifted the road through the park in 1936 so more shade trees would be available for people having picnics there. The Ninth, Tenth, and Seventh Street stone gateways were constructed. In 1945 Wyrick was paid for his design for the park's south entrance, the stone pillar and wood arch gateway built in 1944 at the Sixth Street pedestrian entrance. In 1937 the Graham Field bleachers were enclosed underneath to provide a shelter house for the city park and storage space for park and athletic equipment.

The Board of Education, the Park Commission, and Mrs. Daugherty worked out a plan in 1941 for the school district to lease the football field from the city for approximately \$500 yearly for 20 years, at the end of which time a transfer of title would be affected. The board was also allowed to continue to lease the Graham Lots just opposite the football field. The lease would give the district its own athletic field to be administered directly by the board; a considerable investment in equipment and improvement had already been made in this field and more football field improvement was contemplated. By 1946, however, the school board was dissatisfied with the lease at Graham Park controlled by the city park commission because the school district lacked authority to control use of the field and to add its own improvements. Therefore, the school district decided to build their own football field across the road where Mrs. Daugherty offered 15.15 acres for sale.

Development of Landscape and Historic Structures (late 1940s – 1965)

In 1947 Newell F. Guernsey, landscape architect and site planner from Sioux City, submitted to the Park Commission a sketch showing Graham Park and the New Athletic Field across Grant Road (Figure 44). In February 1959 he designed a long-range plan for improvements in Graham Park: removing Graham Field and concentrating all athletic fields across Grant Road; concentrating picnic areas in one section; providing three parking spots; creating two new tennis courts and an amphitheater west of the band shell for concerts or summer theater; and planting new annuals ("New Shelter" 1). That same year the bleachers were removed to the schools' new athletic field east across the road, and the former football field was landscaped with trees and bushes. After 1959 the north end of the area was further developed with park landscaping and facilities for local citizens and tourists. From 1959 through 1963, Guernsey was paid \$1,417.50 to further develop the Carroll park system.

Outdoor concerts had originally been held on the courthouse grounds and later near the swimming pool. In 1941 the park board received a petition from residents living south of the railroad tracks requesting a band shell be located on the south side school grounds. Instead, responding to a request by high school band boosters for a modern shell where concerts could be held, the park commission decided to build the band shell in Graham Park, a more central location, in 1953.

Local talent did some of the work of designing and constructing the now historic structures in the park in the early 1950s. Members of the Park Commission spearheaded many of the construction projects. City Engineer Wesley J. Youngerman designed the second limestone restroom building in 1950. Evor Morgan, park caretaker, and Joe Hoelscher built the stone fireplace and the open shelter house around it. Henry Pfiester, park

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

secretary and superintendent, supervised the band shell and enclosed shelter house construction; and he initiated the formal flower gardens. James M. Gillett, commissioner, developed the gardens and the lighted fountain. Commissioner John J. Witte built the new water fountain in the south part of the park.

Because of the park's available space and location, and to further its historic atmosphere, the pioneer schoolhouse and the log trappers' cabin, early examples of handcrafted rustic architecture, were added as living museums in 1957 and 1965, completing Graham Park's Period of Significance.

What *The Daily Times Herald* notes in 1948 is still mostly true today:

Carroll [is] noted far and wide for its beautiful parks and modern facilities. Nightly and on weekends the main park, Graham, is crowded with picnickers. On hot evenings people come from miles around to eat their lunches under the big trees, enjoy cool breezes, and loll on the well-kept greensward. The parks are favorite spots for family reunions and celebrations. For the children, a trip to one of Carroll's fine parks is a big event. There are swings, merry-go-rounds, slides, teeter-totters and all the other play paraphernalia that appeals to small fry. For their parents there are many attractions besides the sturdy picnic tables, fireplaces, and abundance of fresh running water. Here they listen to Sunday concerts by the Carroll school and municipal band, watch softball games under the lights, and see a variety of events. Most important of all, there is plenty of parking space. The family car can be driven right across the grass up to the picnic site. Carroll's parks are unique in that there are no 'Don't' signs. Carroll people are proud of their parks and they rarely abuse their privileges. It is no accident that Carroll has such fine parks. They have been developed by a hard-working, forward-looking group of men interested in the welfare of the community. ("Carroll's Fine Parks" 1)

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

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Carroll, Iowa

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Graham Park

Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa

County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local Government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 19.6 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than
WGS84:

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>42.069743</u>	<u>-94.860402</u>	5	<u>42.065537</u>	<u>-94.859841</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	<u>42.069463</u>	<u>-94.859303</u>	6	<u>42.066007</u>	<u>-94.861588</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
3	<u>42.064840</u>	<u>-94.859329</u>	7	<u>42.067112</u>	<u>-94.860964</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
4	<u>42.065021</u>	<u>-94.860068</u>	8	<u>42.067297</u>	<u>-94.861554</u>
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Graham Park is abutted on the north by Eleventh Street, on the east by North Grant Road and the Graham Recreation District facilities, on the south by Seventh Street and commercial businesses, on the southwest by one-story apartments, and on the west by North East Street and residences.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries were selected because they are the limits of the original donations of land by Mrs. Ida Graham Daugherty in 1920, 1923, 1941, and 1943, and the east half of Block 3 sold by Mrs. Emilie Boehme in 1923 for the Carroll City Park, now Graham Park.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary (Vicki) Gach and Carolyn Siemann date 10/12/2023
organization Carroll Historic Preservation Commission telephone 712.792.3427/712.830.3710
street & mvghome@q.com
number 860 E. Anthony St. email carolynsiemann@gmail.com
city or
town Carroll state IA zip code 51401

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Include for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State



Figure 48. Carroll County in Iowa



Figure 49. GIS Location Map
IA_Carroll_East_020151123_TM_geo-1
Accessed 16 April 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

NORTH

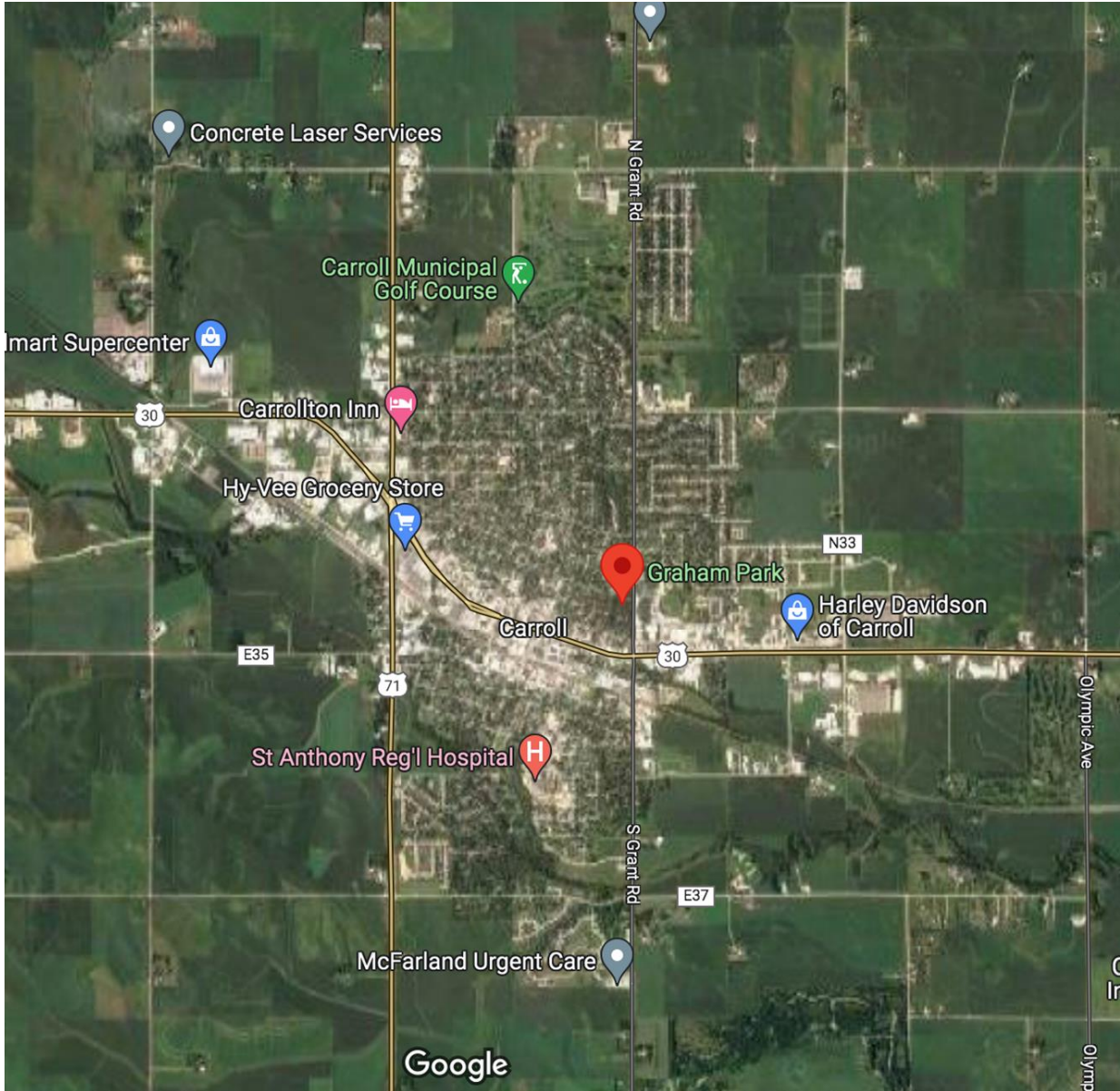


Figure 50. Carroll, Iowa (Graham Park)
Source: Google Maps. Accessed 4 July 2023

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

GRAHAM PARK LEGAL DESCRIPTION

11/10/1923 QUIT CLAIM DEED - Ida Graham Daugherty **May 1920 donation** to the Park Commissioners of City of Carroll
Lot 9, Irregular Survey of the North East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M.;

Also Lot 1 Irregular Survey of the South East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M.;

Also part of Lot 2 Irregular Survey of the South East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M.;

Also a strip of land 100 feet wide east and west lying on line of lot 2 extending from north line of Lincoln highway, Carroll (to convey such strip of land for a driveway to connect the land with Lincoln Way).

4/25/1923 WARRANTY DEED/AGREEMENT- Emilie Boehme to City of Carroll pp. 181-182

E1/2 of Lot Three (3) of the Irregular Survey of the South East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M.

11/10/1923 QUIT CLAIM DEED City of Carroll to City Park Commission p. 193

The **North East Quarter of Lot Three (3)** of the irregular survey of the South East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M.; Also commencing at the North East of said Lot Three (3) and running thence in a southerly direction along the easterly line of said Lot Three (3) 165 feet; thence running in a westerly direction on a line parallel with the south line of Eighth Street in the City of Carroll, Iowa, 80 feet; thence running in a northerly direction on a line parallel with the easterly line of Lot Three (3) 165 feet; thence running in a westerly direction along the south line of Eighth Street in the City of Carroll, Iowa, 80 feet to the place of beginning. (*This parcel of land is a portion of a vacated street.*)

11/10/1923 QUIT CLAIM DEED Ida Daugherty to the City of Carroll p. 194-195

The **South East Quarter of Lot Three (3)** of the irregular survey of the South East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M.; also commencing at the southeast corner of said Lot Three (3) and running thence in a northerly direction along the easterly line of said Lot Three (3) 165 feet; thence running in a easterly direction on a line parallel with the north line of Seventh Street in the City of Carroll, Iowa, 80 feet; thence running in a southerly direction on a line parallel with the east line of said Lot Three (3) 165 feet; thence running in a westerly direction along the north line of Seventh Street 80 feet to the place of beginning.

Also commencing at the southeast corner of **Block 2 of Graham's First Addition** in the City of Carroll, Iowa; thence running in a northerly direction along the easterly line of said Block Two (2) to the northeast corner of said Block Two (2); thence running in an easterly direction along the south line of Seventh Street 66 feet; thence running in a southerly direction on a line parallel with the easterly line of said Block Two (2) last above described to the north line of Lincoln Way; thence running west along the north line of said Lincoln Way 69.8 feet to the place of beginning. (*These two parcels of land are portions of vacated streets.*)

1923 – MAPLE STREET between the north line of Seventh Street and the south line of Eighth Street, being the street abutting on the east line of Lot 3 of the irregular survey of the South East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M. is vacated.

4/15/1941 DEED RECORD #35/REVERSION Ida Graham Daugherty

Re: piece of land immediately west of and abutting on and adjoining the **strip of land 100 feet wide along the east side of said Lot Two** conveyed by the grantor herein to the Park Commissioners of the City of Carroll, Iowa, by deed dated November 9, 1923, and recorded in Book 22 at Page 191 of the deed records of Carroll County, Iowa . . . upon the express agreement that said parcel of land shall be used for public park and playground purposes and if said land is not so used, then the same shall revert to the grantor, her heirs or assigns.

Lot Nine (9) QUIT CLAIM DEED Filed March 17, 1942 Ida Graham Daugherty

Lot 9, (except the south 137 feet thereof) Irregular Survey of the North East Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Twenty-four (24), Township Eighty-four (84) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the 5th P.M.

7/23/1945 – WARRANTY DEED Ida Graham Daugherty pp. 134-135

Lots One (1) and Two (2) in Block One (1), Graham's First Addition to Carroll, Iowa.

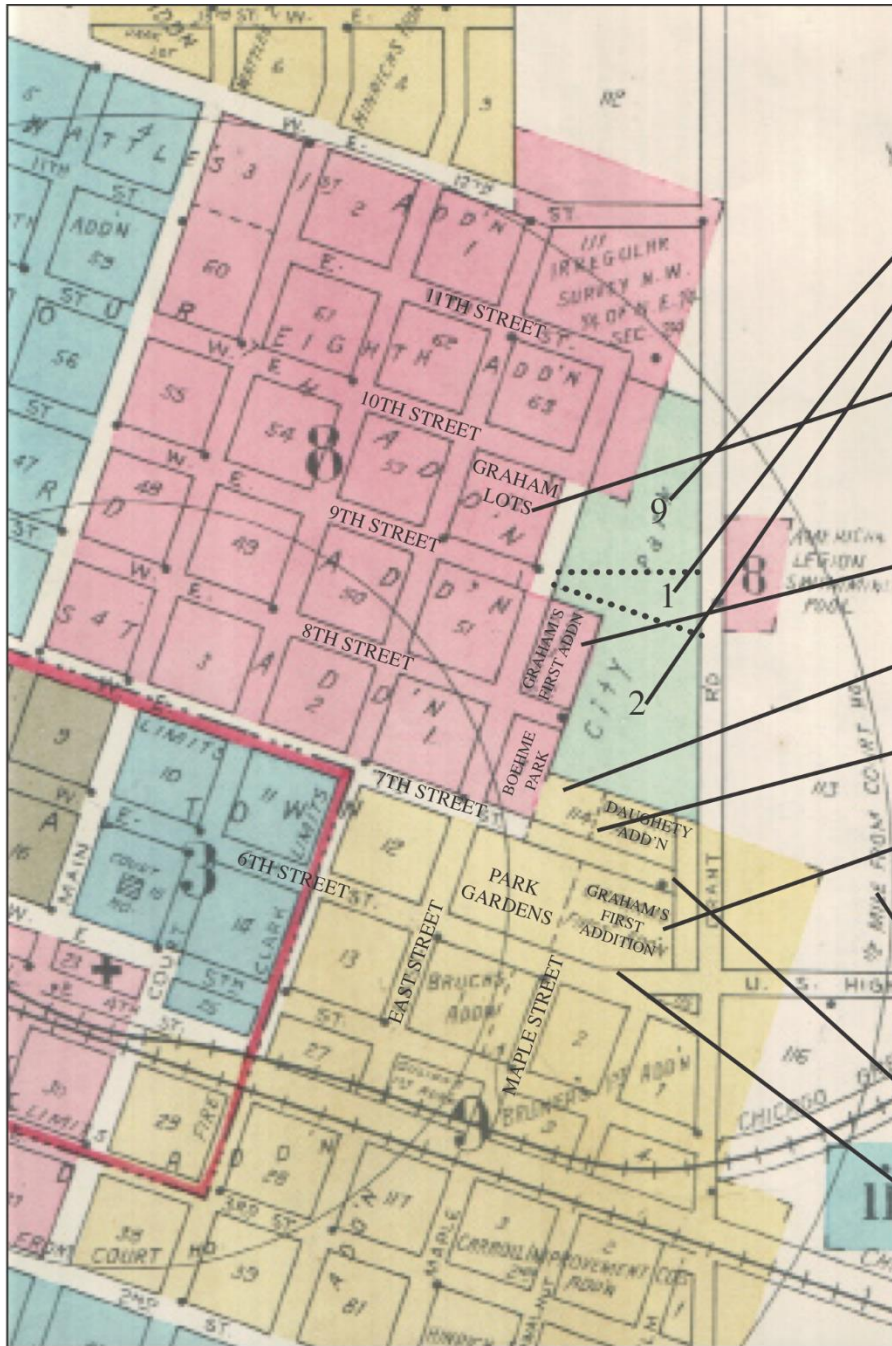
Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

NORTH



1920 Ida D.
exchanged land for
assessments

Lot 9
Lot 1
Lot 2 (partial)

1939 Graham
lots 1,2,3,4,5 in
Block 52 bought
from A. J. Graham
and leased to school
for practice fields

1943 Ida D.
donated 2 lots to
the city

1923 Boehme
sold east 1/2 of
Block 3 to city

1923 Ida D. sold
Maple Street land
to city

1941 Ida D.
donated 2 lots to
the city with
access to the
Lincoln Highway

1947 Ida D.
sold 15.5 acres to
the city and school
district

1941 7th St.
opened to Grant
Road

1941 6th St.
(Lincoln High-
way /30) entrance
closed to park

1935 SANBORN FIRE MAP

Figure 51. Sanborn Fire Map 1935

Source: Carroll County Historical Museum, Carroll, IA

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

NORTH

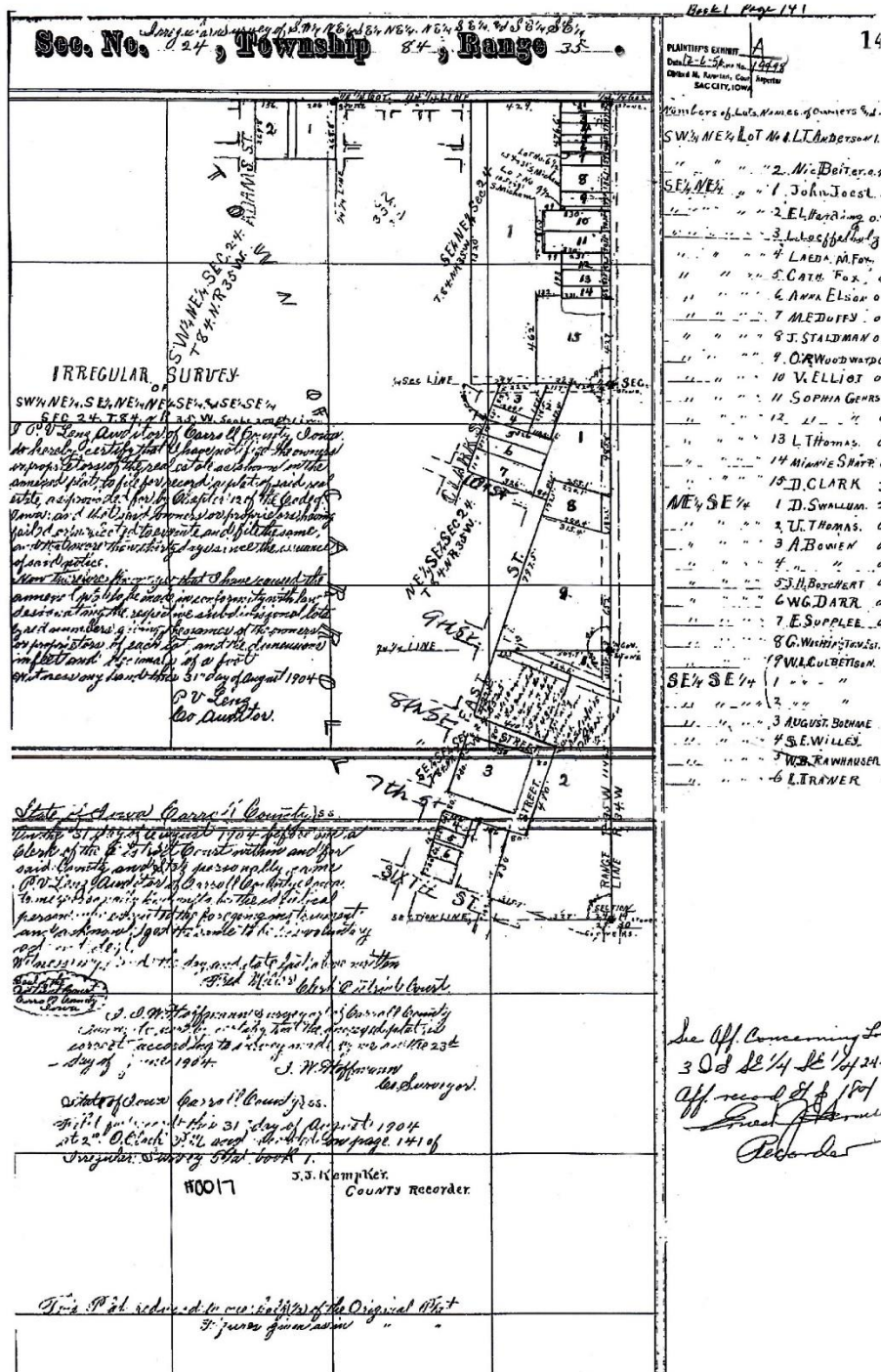


Figure 52. Graham Park Landowners' Map 1904

Source: Carroll County Courthouse, Carroll, IA. Accessed 9 February 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

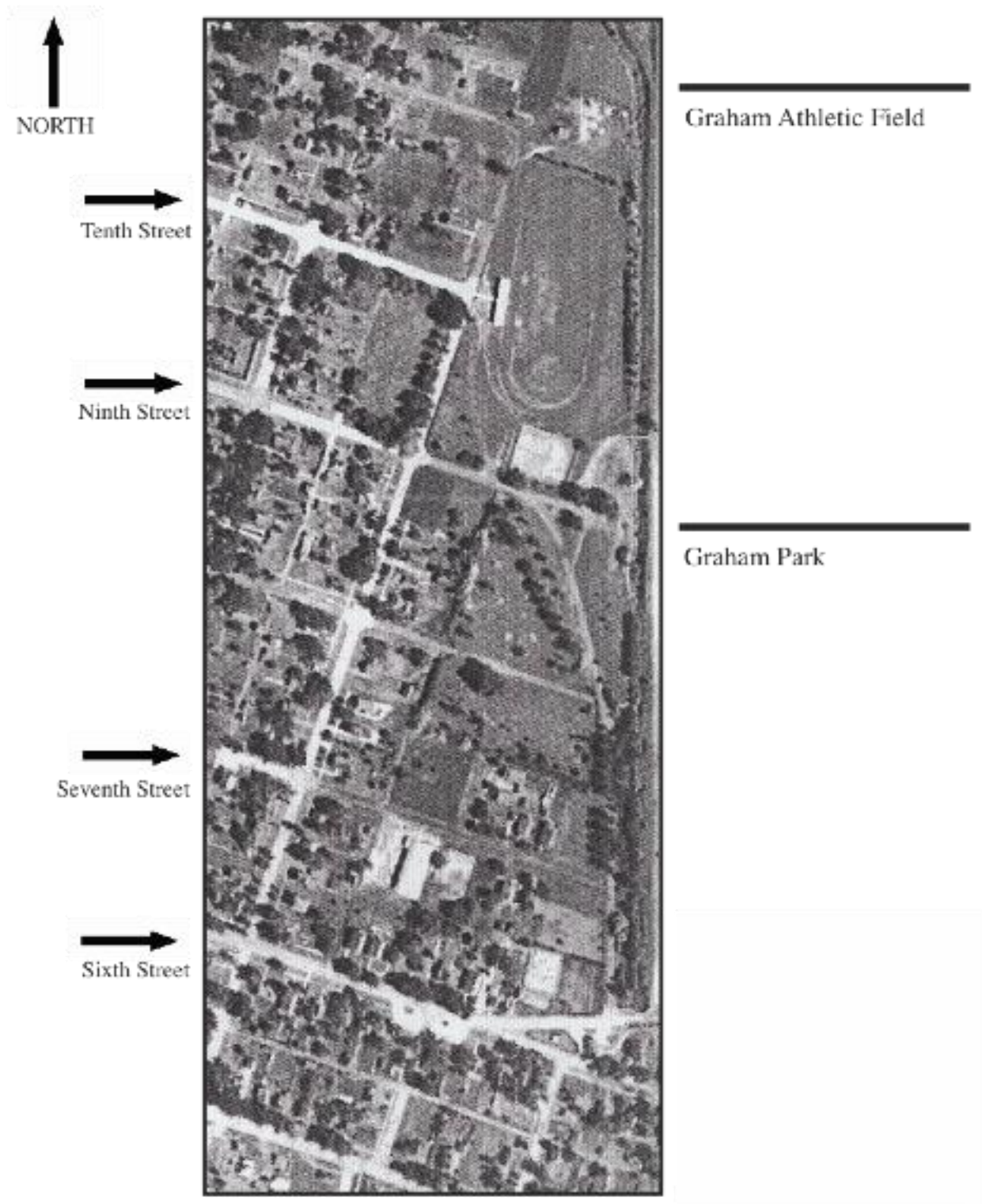


Figure 53. Graham Athletic Field/Park circa 1930s-1940s
Aerial photo of Maple River Township. Source: Carroll County Courthouse, Carroll, IA

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

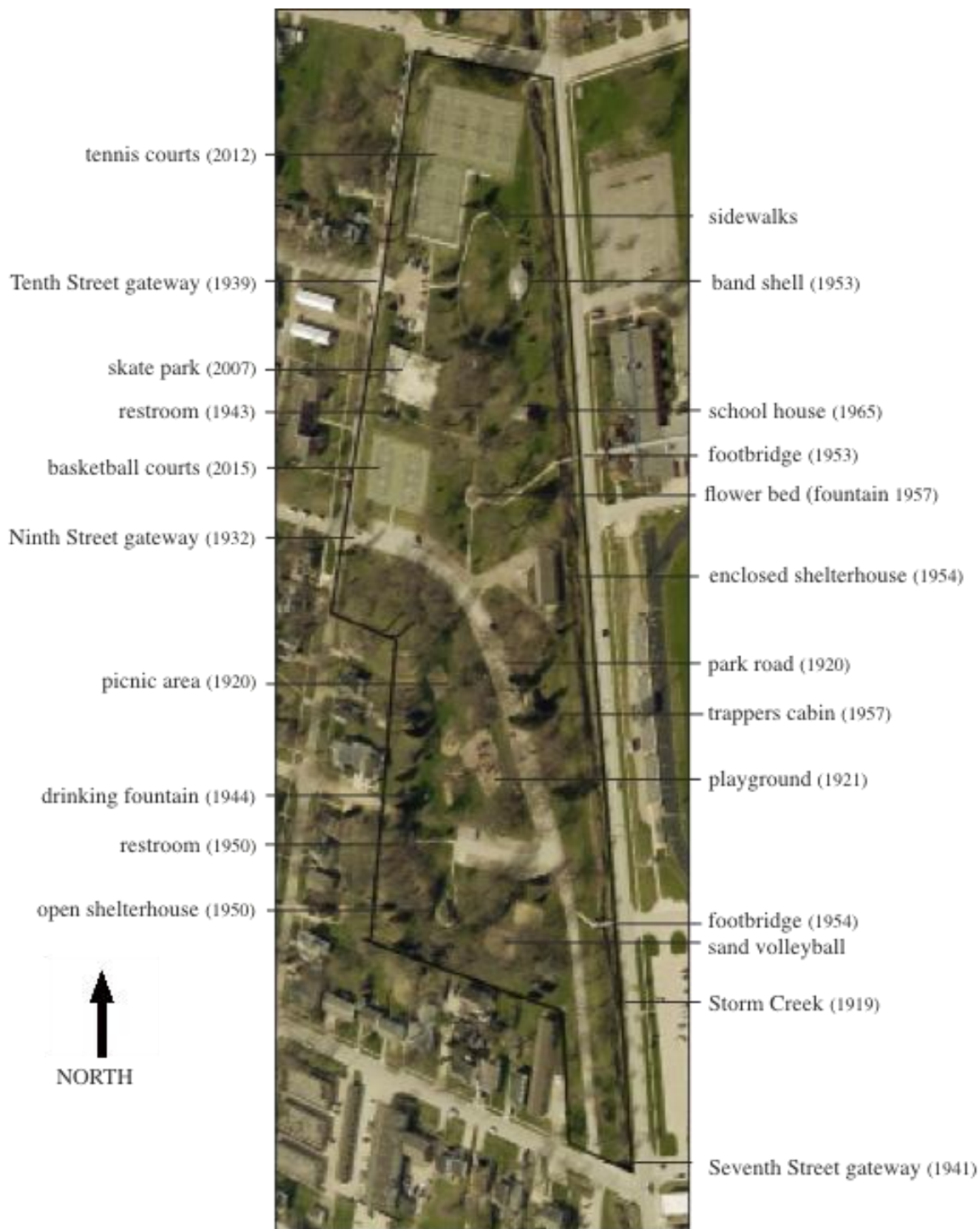


Figure 54. Graham Park 2017 (2023)
Source: Carroll Parks and Rec Department, Carroll City Hall

Graham Park

Carroll, Iowa

Name of Property

County and State

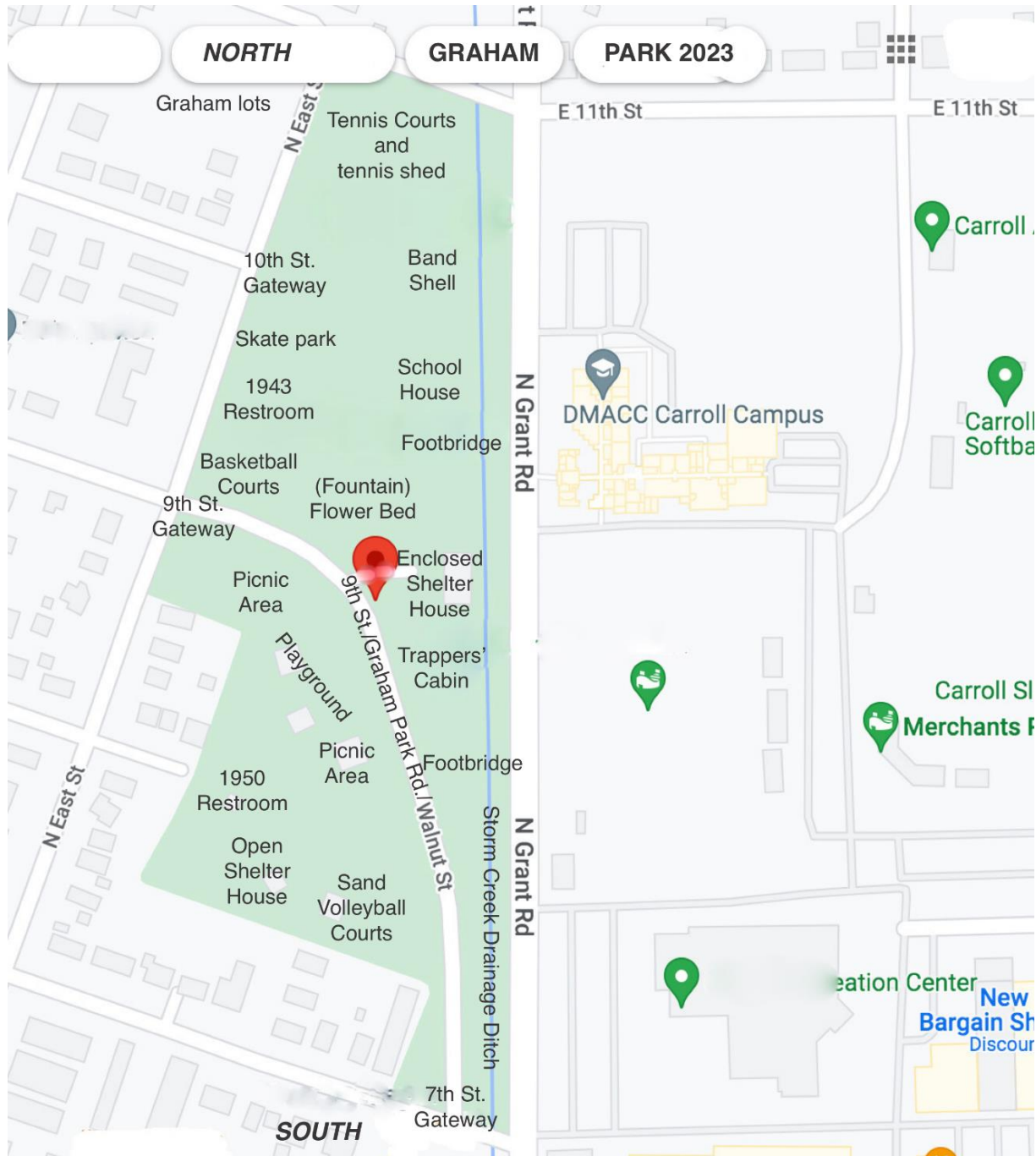


Figure 55. Graham Park 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Graham Park
City or Vicinity: Carroll
County: Carroll **State:** Iowa
Photographer: Mary V. Gach Carolyn Siemann
Date
Photographed: As noted

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

PHOTO LOG

Photo 1 - Cement Barriers, Parking, Graham Park Road, Wood Barriers	(facing NW)	June 6, 2023
Photo 2 - Pines planted in 1923	(facing N)	Sept. 5, 2023
Photo 3 - Storm Creek	(facing N)	June 18, 2023
Photo 4 - Ninth Street Gateway	(facing SE)	June 10, 2023
Photo 5 - Tenth Street Gateway	(facing E)	Sept. 5, 2023
Photo 6 - Seventh Street Gateway	(facing NE)	March 4, 2023
Photo 7 - Picnic Tables	(facing N)	June 10, 2023
Photo 8 - Drinking Fountain	(facing S)	March 4, 2023
Photo 9 - 1943 Restroom	(facing NW)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 10 - 1950 Restroom	(facing SW)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 11 - 1950 Women's Restroom Interior	(facing S)	June 7, 2023
Photo 12 - Open Shelter House	(facing SW)	June 6, 2023
Photo 13 - Picnic Tables in Open Shelter	(facing SW)	June 10, 2023
Photo 14 - Band Shell	(facing NE)	July 1, 2017
Photo 15 - North Stone Footbridge	(facing SW)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 16 - South Stone Footbridge	(facing NW)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 17 - Enclosed Shelter House	(facing NE)	July 1, 2017
Photo 18 - Flowerbed - 1998 - present	(facing NE)	Sept. 5, 2023
Photo 19 - Trappers' Cabin	(facing SE)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 20 - Trappers' Cabin interior	(facing NE)	June 6, 2023
Photo 21 - Maple River Schoolhouse #5	(facing NE)	July 21, 2014
Photo 22 - Schoolhouse Interior	(facing E)	June 6, 2023
Photo 23 - Skate Park	(facing SW)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 24 - Tennis Courts	(facing NW)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 25 - Basketball Courts	(facing NE)	Jan. 10, 2023
Photo 26 - Present Playground Apparatus	(facing S)	June 8, 2023
Photo 27 - Present Playground Equipment	(facing NW)	Jan. 10, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Photo Locations Map

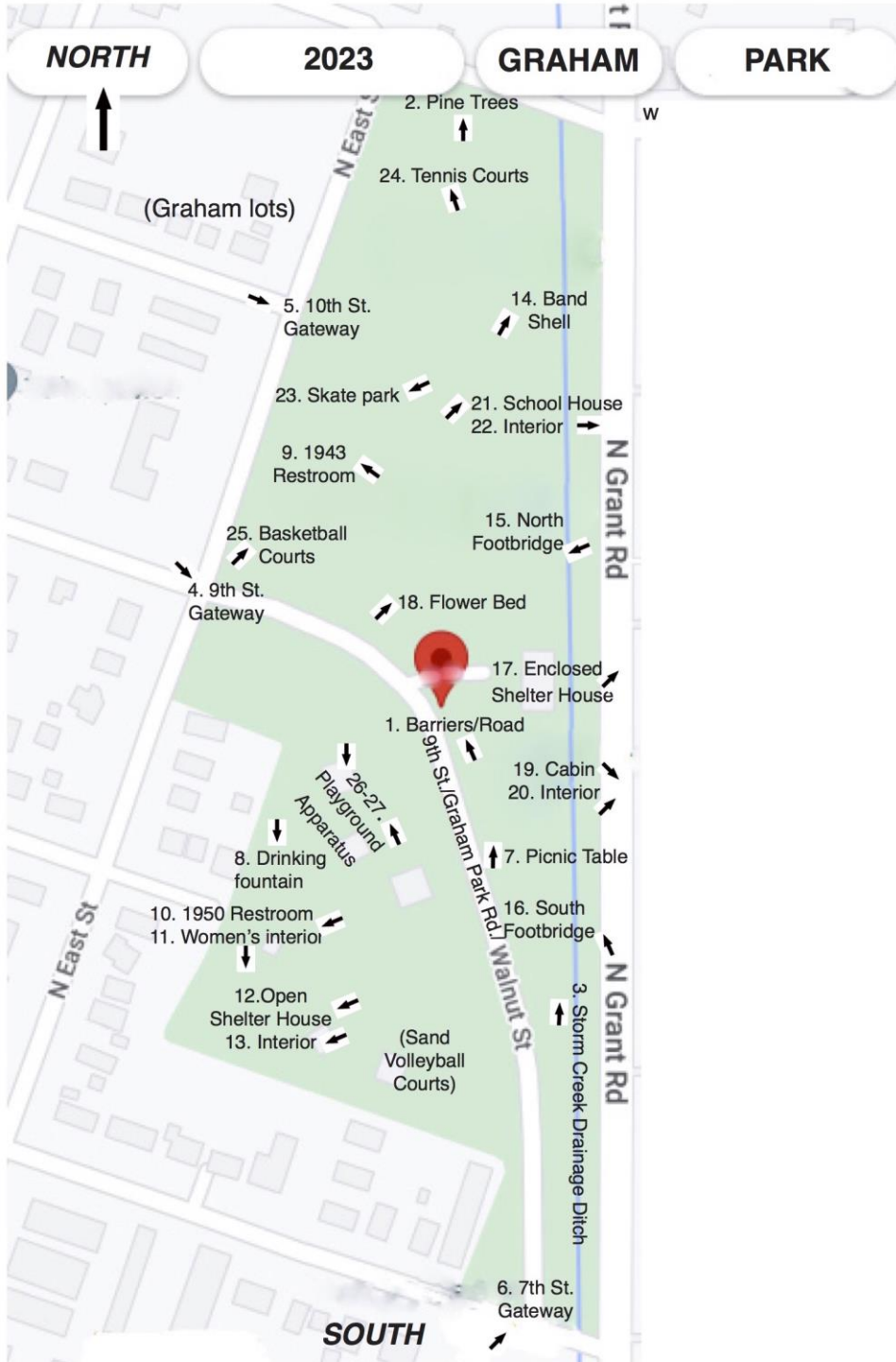


Figure 56. Photo Locations and Directions

Graham Park
 Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
 County and State

FIGURES LIST

Figure 1. Cement Barriers, Parking, Road	(NW)	6/6/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 2. Pine Trees	(N)	9/5/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 3. Horse chestnut	(NE)	9/5/2023	Carolyn Siemann
Figure 4. Storm Creek 1960s	(N)	1960s	CCH Museum
Figure 5. Storm Creek after stabilization	(S)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 6. Storm Creek	(N)	6/18/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 7. Ninth Street Gateway	(SE)	6/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 8. Tenth St. Entrance to Graham Athletic Field	(E)	9/19/1939	<i>Carroll Daily Herald</i>
Figure 9. Tenth Street Gateway	(NE)	9/5/2023	Carolyn Siemann
Figure 10. Seventh Street Gateway	(NE)	3/4/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 11. Picnic Tables	(N)	6/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 12. Wooden Bench	(E)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 13. Drinking Fountain	(S)	3/4/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 14. Grill	(SE)	3/4/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 15. Park Lamppost	(S)	3/4/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 16. Sidewalk	(E)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 17. 1959 Guernsey plan for Graham Park	(N)	1959	CCSD Archives, District Office
Figure 18. 1943 Restroom	(NW)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 19. 1950 Restroom	(SW)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 20. Youngerman blueprint		1950	City Engineer's Office, City Hall
Figure 21. Open Shelter House 1960s	(SW)	1960s	CCH Museum
Figure 22. Open Shelter House	(SW)	6/6/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 23. Band Shell	(NE)	7/1/2017	Mary V. Gach
Figure 24. Band Shell Amphitheater	(E)	6/18/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 25. North Stone Footbridge	(NW)	circa 1954-1959	Flickr Photolibrarian
Figure 26. 1953 North Footbridge	(SW)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 27. 1954 South Footbridge	(NW)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 28. 1954 Enclosed Shelter House	(NE)	7/1/2017	Mary V. Gach
Figure 29. Enclosed Shelter House Interior	(N)	6/6/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 30. Stone Fireplace	(NW)	6/6/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 31. Flowerbed 1998 – present	(NE)	9/5/2023	Carolyn Siemann
Figure 32. Flower Gardens	(NE)	circa 1970	CCH Museum
Figure 33. Stone Fountain and Flower Gardens	(N)	circa 1960	CCH Museum
Figure 34. Fountain and Flower Gardens	(NE)	circa 1960	CCH Museum
Figure 35. Trappers' Cabin in 1957	(SE)	6/4/1957	<i>CDTH</i> newspaper
Figure 36. Trappers' Cabin in 2023	(SE)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 37. Maple River Schoolhouse #5 in 1950s	(SE)	circa 1950s	CCH Museum
Figure 38. Maple River Schoolhouse #5	(NE)	7/21/2014	Mary V. Gach
Figure 39. 1960s Playground	(NE)	circa 1960s	CCHS Museum
Figure 40. Skate Park	(SW)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 41. Tennis Courts	(NW)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 42. Tennis Equipment Shed	(NW)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach
Figure 43. Basketball Courts	(NE)	1/10/2023	Mary V. Gach

Graham Park	Carroll, Iowa
Name of Property	County and State

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Figure 44. Newell Guernsey Sketch for Graham Park and athletic field 10/20/1947 | | City Engineer's Office,
Carroll City Hall |
| Figure 45. Graham Athletic Field 1940 | (SW) | 12/30/1940 <i>Carroll Daily Times Herald</i> |
| Figure 46: Newell Guernsey Development Plan for Graham Park and athletic field | | |
| | | 1959 City Engineer's Office,
Carroll City Hall |
| Figure 47. Future site of Graham Park | (NE) | circa 1905-1917 CCH Museum |
| Figure 48: Carroll County in Iowa | | |
| Figure 49: GIS Location Map | | |
| Figure 50: Carroll, Iowa (Graham Park) | | Google Maps |
| Figure 51: Sanborn Fire Map | | 1935 CCH Museum |
| Figure 52: (Graham Park) Landowners' Map | | 1904 Carroll County Courthouse |
| Figure 53: Graham Athletic Field/Park | circa 1930s-1940s | Carroll County Courthouse |
| Figure 54: Graham Park | 2017 | Carroll Parks and Rec Dept.,
Carroll City Hall |
| Figure 55: Graham Park | | 2023 |
| Figure 56: Photo Locations Map | | |

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 1. Cement Barriers, Parking, Graham Park Road, Wood Barriers (facing NW) June 6, 2023



Photo 2. Pines planted in 1923 (facing N) Sept. 5, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 3. Storm Creek (facing N) June 18, 2023



Photo 4. Ninth Street Gateway (facing SE) June 10, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 5. Tenth Street Gateway (facing E) Sept. 5, 2023



Photo 6. Seventh Street Gateway (facing NE) March 4, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 7. Picnic Tables (facing N) June 10, 2023



Photo 8. Drinking Fountain (facing S) March 4, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 9. 1943 Restroom (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023



Photo 10. 1950 Restroom (facing SW) Jan. 10, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 11. 1950 Women's Restroom Interior (facing S) June 7, 2023



Photo 12. Open Shelter House (facing SW) June 6, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 13. Picnic Tables (facing SW) June 10, 2023



Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State

Photo 14. Band Shell (facing NE) July 1, 2017



Photo 15. North Stone Footbridge (facing SW) Jan. 10, 2023

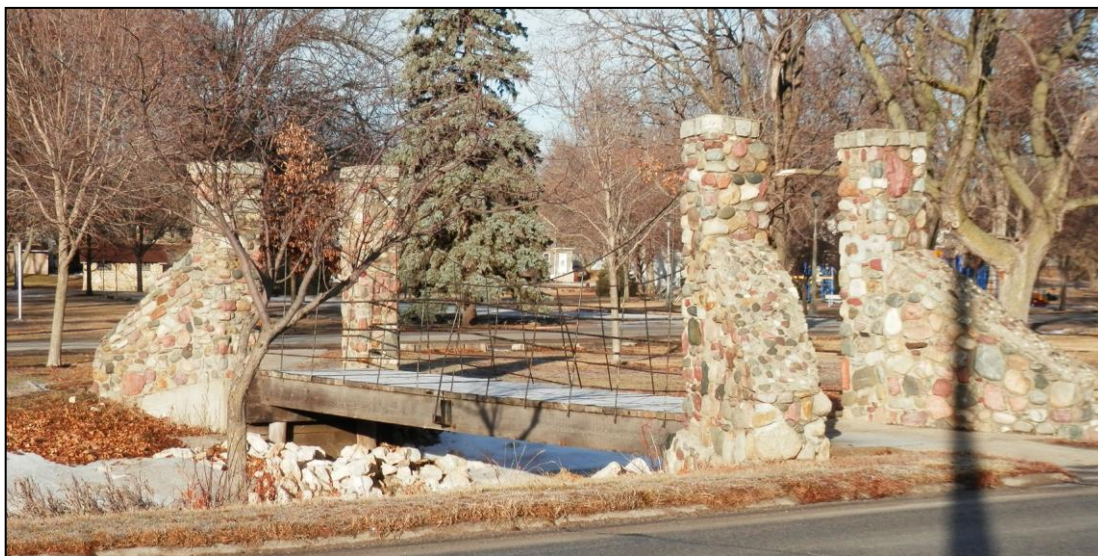


Photo 16. South Stone Footbridge (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 17. Enclosed Shelter House (facing NE) July 1, 2017



Photo 18. Flowerbed, 1998 – present (facing NE) Sept. 5, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 19. Trappers Cabin (facing SE) Jan. 10, 2023



Photo 20. Trappers' Cabin interior (facing NE) June 6, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 21. Maple River Schoolhouse #5 (facing NE) July 21, 2014



Photo 22. Schoolhouse Interior (facing E) June 6, 2023

Graham Park
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Carroll, Iowa
County and State

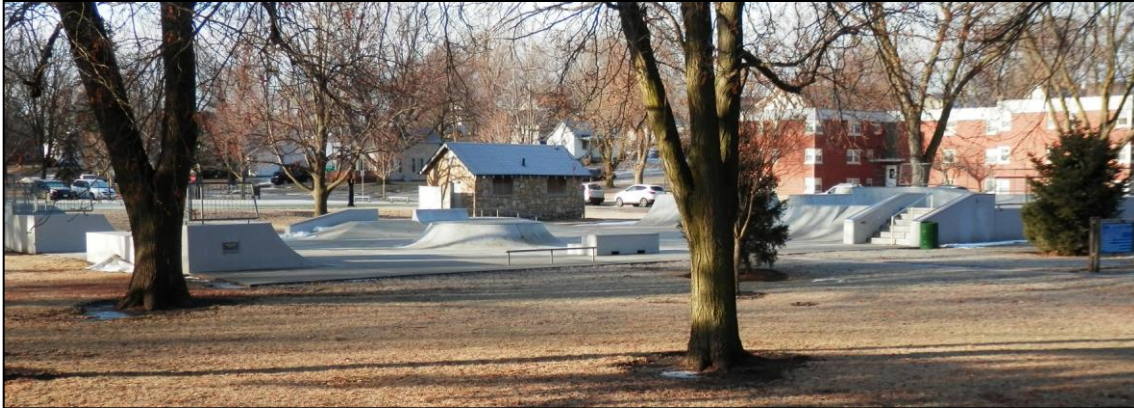


Photo 23. Skate Park (facing SW) Jan. 10, 2023



Photo 24. Tennis Courts (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023



Photo 25. Basketball Courts (facing NE) Jan. 10, 2023

Graham Park
Name of Property

Carroll, Iowa
County and State



Photo 26. Present Playground Apparatus (facing S) June 8, 2023



Photo 27. Present Playground Equipment (facing NW) Jan. 10, 2023

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

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