

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Highland Park

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Vicinity of N. Highland Avenue and Bunker Hill Street N/A not for publication

city or town Pittsburgh N/A vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Allegheny code 003 zip code 15206

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

<p>I hereby certify that the property is:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain: _____)</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Signature of the Keeper</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Date of Action</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Highland Park
Name of Property

Allegheny Cty., PA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	18	buildings
3		sites
4	2	structures
3		objects
14	20	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape / park

Industry / waterworks

Recreation and culture / work of art

Transportation / road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape / park

Industry / waterworks

Recreation and culture / work of art

Transportation / road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th century revivals /
Classical revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

Stone / granite

roof Stone / slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Government
- Entertainment / recreation
- Landscape architecture

Period of Significance

1889 - 1953 4

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Falconer

Monte...

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Highland Park
Name of Property

Allegheny Cty., PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 365 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	59	1	72	0	4	4	82	3	85
	Zone		Easting					Northing		
2	17	59	2	52	0	4	4	82	1	05

3	17	59	2	42	5	4	48	1	05	5
	Zone		Easting					Northing		
4	17	59	1	00	5	4	48	1	70	0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Eversmeyer

organization _____ date 11/12/03

street & number 1124 N. Euclid Avenue telephone 412-362-7623

city or town Pittsburgh state PA zip code 15206

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Pittsburgh / Department of Parks and Recreation

street & number City - County Building telephone 412-255-2539

city or town Pittsburgh state PA zip code 15206

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Highland Park Historic District
Description

*new
quartz
granite*

~~The Highland Park Historic District~~ includes approximately 365 acres of parkland adjacent to the Highland Park residential neighborhood in the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh's East End. The park dates from 1889, when the Pittsburgh City Council dedicated City property around the Highland Reservoir as a public park at the behest of Edward M. Bigelow, then Chief of the Department of Public Works. It is located on a hill that falls steeply toward the Allegheny River to the north and ravines to the east and west, with its principal landscape features and buildings situated on the hilltop and on narrow terraces and ledges on the hillsides. The northern boundary of the district lies along Washington Boulevard, a major road that clings to the south bank of the river. The eastern and western boundaries are the ravines cut by the former Negley Run and Heth's Run, respectively. The southern boundary of the district is the edge of the adjacent residential area, much of which lies along Bunker Hill Street. Within the historic district are fifteen (15) individual contributing elements, including two reservoirs (and three service buildings on their perimeters); one lake and the casting cabin on its shore; three stone arch bridges; the Farmhouse and the Rhododendron Shelter; and three sculptural groupings. In addition, there are a number of stonework and landscaping elements that add to the overall romantic landscape of the park. There are also twenty (20) non-contributing buildings and structures in the park, particularly 14 recently-constructed buildings that are part of the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, the swimming pool and bathhouse, a pumping station and microfiltration plant for the water system, and two maintenance buildings near the Farmhouse.

The model of the romantic landscape parks of Frederick Law Olmsted, the nineteenth century's most famous park planner – as adapted to Pittsburgh's rugged terrain – influenced the design of Highland Park. The design is characterized by terrain that appears to be "natural", but is actually the result of extensive manipulation of the contours of the land and the plants found in the park. This manipulation of land and vegetation was designed for romantic visual effect, and included curvilinear roads, dramatic stonework, overlooks and vistas, open fields alternating with woods and groves of trees, fountains, and lakes – all features that can be found in Highland Park.

One major road (the Hill Road) traverses Highland Park, climbing the hill from Washington Boulevard at the north past the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium to Bunker Hill Street at the south. Two other picturesque roads encircle Reservoir Number One: the Reservoir Road, just below the flanks of the reservoir, and the Lake Road, approximately halfway down the hill. Woodland footpaths and a bridle path connect the major features of the park. The clearing at the top of the hill, known as Mt. Bigelow, and the walkway around Reservoir Number One provide dramatic vistas up and down the Allegheny River. The reservoirs, Lake Carnegie, and the landscaped plaza at the Highland Avenue entrance form the other focal points in the park. The mature trees and the isolated terraces and ledges create a sense of separation from the adjacent city, which is enhanced by the major sculptural groupings that act as gateways at the principal entrances to

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Highland Park Historic District
Description

the park.

North of the plaza at the Highland Avenue entrance to Highland Park lies the two-lobed Reservoir Number One (1871-1879), the principal landscape feature in the park. This reservoir lies at the elevation of 1066 feet above sea level, and contains 117 million gallons of water. To the west, and partway down the hill, is Reservoir Number Two (1897-1903, elevation 972 feet, capacity 125 million gallons); below it is located the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium. Besides the plaza at the Highland Avenue entrance, there are three other substantial flat sections in the park, where most of the major landscape features in the park are located. The first is Mt. Bigelow, an open, grassy hillside north of Reservoir Number One that slopes down from a ring of trees at the hill's summit. The second is a terrace halfway down the hill to the east of the reservoir through which Lake Drive passes, where Lake Carnegie is found next to a public swimming pool and picnic groves and shelters. The third is a playing field next to the Farmhouse, which is located in the southeastern corner of the park, immediately adjacent to the residential section along Heberton Avenue. Almost all of the rest of the park's acreage is occupied by wooded hillsides.

A principal feature of Highland Park since 1898 has been the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium. The Zoo encompasses approximately fifty acres of the park below Reservoir Number Two. The Zoo buildings and pedestrian pathways are built onto and into the northwestern side of the hill upon which the Park is located. In the early 1980s, the City government decided to upgrade the quality of the zoo, which had been left behind by new trends in animal management and display, and started to construct naturalistic settings for the animals. A major building that dominated the zoo area in the past, the original Pittsburgh Zoo building of 1898, was demolished in the early 1980s and has been replaced by modern buildings for the animals and their human keepers and visitors.

Besides the zoo buildings, there are a number of other structures in Highland Park, but only a few that are historically significant. The Farmhouse, near the corner of Grafton and Heberton Streets, is the former home of Mary Negley. A large brick structure with a gabled roof, it was built in the decades after the end of the Civil War, and displays the brackets under the roof eaves that are typical of that period. It served as the park offices for most of the Twentieth Century. Another contributing building is the Rhododendron Shelter, an open yellow brick picnic pavilion near Lake Carnegie, that was constructed in 1902 in the Classical manner popular at that time. There are also a few small structures at the edges of the reservoirs that were built out of red brick and roofing slates in a kind of simple traditional vernacular style, and serve as restrooms and mechanical rooms for the reservoirs. A large new building was constructed in 2002-2003 at the rear of Reservoir Number One, its brick and slate in response to the smaller reservoir buildings; this new building houses a microfiltration plant for the drinking water in the reservoir.

(100)

buildings

what was it

like

be a little more precise

are there 30 S or?

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Highland Park Historic District

Description

While he was never able to create a formal entrance to Schenley Park, Bigelow succeeded in crafting just such a formal entrance to Highland Park by 1896. Located at the top of Highland Avenue, the park entry road is flanked by a statuary group sculpted by the Italian Giuseppe Moretti and known as "Welcome". "Welcome" is a Classical gateway consisting of a pair of granite shafts, each formed by four Ionic columns and surmounted by heroic bronze figural groups of women and children gesturing welcome. At the base of each shaft is a curved ornamental balustrade, on the end of which is a bronze eagle with its wings spread. Four years later, an additional ornamental gateway at the Stanton Avenue entrance to the park was completed with the erection of sculptural groups on two granite bases flanking the street. The sculptures, also by Moretti, were modeled after ancient and French precedents. They depict men taming horses, and are symbolic of man's control over the beauty and strength of Nature.

1896
bronze?

A simple granite memorial marker was erected in 1912 by Sarah Jane Negley Mellon in a clearing between Reservoir Number One and the Zoo that contains the graves of about fifty of the early settlers of the East Liberty section of Pittsburgh. The memorial commemorates those pioneers, and especially Ms. Mellon's great-great-grandfather, Alexander Negley, who settled in the area of the park around 1750. In addition, the Stephen Foster statue that currently stands in Schenley Plaza was commissioned in 1900 at the Highland Avenue entrance to Highland Park (and moved to Forbes Avenue in 1944).

counted?

Spanning some of the ravines within the park are three stone arch bridges that were built in the first years of the park's development out of stone quarried on the site. The largest of these bridges, a sixty-foot-diameter arch, is located on Lake Road south of Lake Carnegie, but (along with the ravine it spanned) it was buried in the 1970s by City engineers to avert a threat to the bridge's structural stability caused by erosion. The second of the bridges spans fifty feet and carries the Hill Road over a pedestrian underpass in the Zoo. The third bridge is much smaller (a twelve-foot arch) and supports Reservoir Drive above a pedestrian passageway to the west of Reservoir Number One. The stone steps at Bunker Hill Street and North St. Clair Avenue had been in disrepair for many years until they were repaired around 1990, and some of the stone retaining walls in the park are collapsing. Other, less obvious problems also exist: roads are crumbling in places, hillsides are eroding because of broken drainage systems, footpaths are disappearing because of the erosion, and trees are dying.

length
as
width

Highland Park has been maintained and altered by the City of Pittsburgh throughout its history. Alterations to the water system have included the construction of the second reservoir in 1903 and the current construction of a new microfiltration plant adjacent to Reservoir Number One. Over the years, other structures have disappeared, including a band shell and conservatory in the upper park, a boathouse on Lake Carnegie, and the original zoo building. Playground facilities were added in the early twentieth

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Highland Park Historic District
Description

century, and a swimming pool supplanted a part of the lake in 1932. However, aside from the second reservoir, these were minor changes in the context of the entire park. The overall landscape of Highland Park remains intact and representative of the late nineteenth-century era of park construction in Pittsburgh.

This must be more fully supported.

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Highland Park Historic District
Significance

in the area of ...
in the area of ...

Highland Park has local significance under Criterion A through its association with an important public works initiative of the City of Pittsburgh in the late Nineteenth Century, and its service as an important recreation area for residents of Pittsburgh and for visitors. Public Works Chief Edward M. Bigelow developed Highland Park after 1889 as one of the crowning successes of his program to establish a network of parks and connecting boulevards in the East End of the city. It also stands as a reminder of the great housing boom in the East End of Pittsburgh at the end of the nineteenth century, a boom that the development of the park helped to spur on. Highland Park also has local significance under Criterion C as a significant example of romantic landscape park design in Pittsburgh. Designed in the romantic landscape tradition – strongly associated with the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, who designed Central Park in New York City – Highland Park displays a very carefully cultivated “natural” appearance. Bigelow and his assistants and successors changed a barren patch of ground around a hilltop reservoir by grading the land, planting trees, shrubs, and flowers, and adding statues and rustic stonework. They enhanced the rugged and hilly character of the park land, with its rough topography and fine vistas, and created an oasis of open space and fresh air in the midst of the industrial city – one of the great progressive goals at the turn of the twentieth century. City Controller Henry Gourley articulated these ideals in 1895 as: “Give the people attractive parks; show them beautiful things and give them innocent amusements to entice them away from degrading things ... Let us open all the doors which lead to pure influence and to the better side of human nature”. Today, Highland Park stands as a reminder of that era of civic idealism, with its awareness of the living conditions of the urban population and its determination to provide amenities that would have an ameliorative effect on the problems of the populace. Its period of significance begins in 1889, with the initial public authorization for the construction of the park, and ends in 1953 (the fifty-year guideline of the National Register of Historic Places).

The genesis of Highland Park actually dates from 1871, when the City of Pittsburgh purchased twenty-five acres of land on a hilltop overlooking the Allegheny River from Caspar Negley, in order to construct a reservoir for its fledgling water system. This reservoir, now the Highland Reservoir Number One (or the “upper reservoir” in Highland Park), was completed in 1879. The City-owned land around the Highland Reservoir and the contemporary Herron Hill Reservoir, located atop high points in the East End of Pittsburgh, was thus available for improvement when Edward M. Bigelow was appointed Chief of the Department of Public Works. One of Bigelow’s dreams was to create a park system for Pittsburgh, which had only one small public park at Second Avenue and Grant Street. This stood in embarrassing contrast to the extensive parks that had been constructed from 1868 to 1876 in the neighboring and competing City of Allegheny. Bigelow set out at once to bring his dream of natural open spaces, available to the general populace of Pittsburgh – “breathing spots for the people”, as he called them – to fruition. In September 1889, he persuaded the City Councils of Pittsburgh

in what year ...

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Significance

to set aside the City properties around the two reservoirs for Highland and Herron Hill Parks, and to authorize the Department of Public Works to add to and improve them. Two months later, Bigelow was able to persuade the heiress Mary Schenley to donate a sizable portion of her holdings in the Oakland neighborhood to the City to create Schenley Park (listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985). Thus, at the end of 1889, Bigelow was able to lay the foundations for Pittsburgh's present extensive system of public parks. His basic concept included a scenic boulevard (called Grant Boulevard, now known as Bigelow Boulevard) from Downtown to the East End, running through Schenley Park and then turning north and east as Beechwood Boulevard and Washington Boulevard to Highland Park. Bigelow noted in 1897 that "Pittsburgh will then have a great arterial driveway beginning in the heart of the city and extending to its furthest park, and offering to the eye at every turn scenes of unsurpassed beauty."

Much of the design of Highland Park was not the work of a landscape architect. Instead, Bigelow set his own considerable energies to the development of the new parks, personally supervising their planning and layout prior to the hiring of James McKnight as Superintendent of Parks in 1892. Generally he followed the model of the romantic landscape parks of Frederick Law Olmsted, the nineteenth century's most famous park planner, but adapted to the rugged topography of Pittsburgh. The design is characterized by terrain that appears to be "natural", but is actually the result of extensive manipulation of the contours of the land and the plants found in the park. This manipulation of land and vegetation was designed for romantic visual effect, and included curvilinear roads, dramatic stonework, overlooks and vistas, open fields alternating with woods and groves of trees, fountains, and lakes. The first years were devoted to acquiring additional land for Highland Park (which grew from its initial 46 acres to 210 acres in 1891 and 303 acres in 1892), laying out roads, and preparing plans. Five and one-half miles of roads were built between 1891 and 1896, spanning ravines and pedestrian paths on three rough-cut stone arch bridges ranging from twelve to sixty feet in diameter of arch. The present system of roads remains mostly as it was built in the early 1890s. A partially-completed basin halfway up the hillside, planned originally as part of the reservoir system, was expanded and converted into Lake Carnegie in 1892. The creation of an imposing formal entrance to Highland Park at the top of Highland Avenue was begun in 1894 and completed two years later with the construction of a plaza (including a fountain and ornamental flower beds) and the erection of the "Welcome" piers and statue groups by the sculptor Giuseppe Moretti.

One of the striking features of the park in its early years was the barrenness of its hillsides. While allowing for panoramic views of the Allegheny River Valley, this barrenness did not accord with Bigelow's plans for the park, so he and Park Superintendent (and landscape architect) William Falconer (1896-1903) started a large-scale planting program. Eight hundred trees were planted in 1896; 3500 trees and 4000 shrubs in

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Highland Park Historic District
Significance

1897; 6000 trees and shrubs in 1898; another 900 trees and 1200 shrubs the next year; and 6000 more in 1900. The progress was such that Bigelow could report that "the work of transforming what were for the most part stretches of vacant ground, broken here and there with old buildings, into slightly pleasure grounds, traversed by shady drives and walks, connected by convenient bridges, has now advanced so toward completion that nature works hand in hand with us in adding to their beauty year by year."

In addition to plantings, an extensive campaign of grading during Falconer's administration of the parks helped to transform the appearance of Highland Park. The broad grassy hillside of Mt. Bigelow, above Reservoir Number One, was the product of one of these grading projects. In another major project, a bridle path was cut through the rock of the hillside between the reservoir and the lake in 1895. The excavated stone was utilized in other projects, including the rustic stone retaining walls found throughout the park. The Stanton Avenue entrance to Highland Park was ornamented by the installation on both sides of the street of statues of horses and horse tamers, also by Moretti, in 1900.

The principal adornment of the northwest section of Highland Park was the zoo building, which was donated by political boss Christopher Magee and his fellow directors of the Fort Pitt Traction Company in 1895. Magee believed that the \$100,000 gift would create an attraction that would induce large numbers of people to ride to the end of the line on his company's streetcars. The zoo building was begun in 1896, and opened in June 1898. The zoo menagerie was housed in a large brick structure under a shallow hipped roof, with curved side wings of cages and exhibits, and by 1904 housed 665 animals.

Finally, a second reservoir, below the original reservoir west of Mellon Street, was begun in 1897 and put into operation in 1903.

Highland Park became a favorite spot for Pittsburghers long before it was completed. Regular weekly concerts began in 1892, and Lake Carnegie was used for boating, swimming, and ice skating (in season) as soon as it was completed in 1894. The park was noted for its scenic vistas. Bigelow reported that "one of the most beautiful and panoramic views perhaps to be had in Allegheny County, is to be observed from Mt. Bigelow located in this park, from which point the surrounding country for many miles in all directions can be seen." It became the site of annual Sunday School picnics, Fourth of July celebrations, field days, concerts, and other popular events. One of the most popular was the annual Spring flower show at the park entrance at Highland Avenue, which was a regular event by 1898. In 1900, a total of 50,000 bulbs were planted by the park's staff; by 1914, over 100,000 tulips alone were used. Old photographs show decorative flowerbeds and flower clocks on the front slope of the reservoir.

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Significance

The creation of Highland Park had a formative impact on the development of the residential area just to its south. The Park was one of a number of major infrastructural improvements made in Pittsburgh in the 1880s and 1890s that spurred on the construction of houses in the area. These improvements included the installation of the electric streetcar lines in the 1890s, which enabled the population of Pittsburgh to disperse from the center of town, and the construction of the local Fulton School, in anticipation of the influx of school-age children into the neighborhood. The construction of Highland Park also provided a great visual and recreational amenity for residents of the adjoining neighborhood, which has been determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

At the same time that Highland Park was being developed, Edward Bigelow was also developing Schenley Park in the Oakland neighborhood in the heart of Pittsburgh's East End. Although Schenley Park is the larger of the two, the similarities between the two parks are striking. Both were established in 1889, though Schenley Park was the result of a donation of land by Mary Schenley, Pittsburgh's great absentee landowner. Both parks began as wastelands of rock outcroppings, barren hillsides, and disruptive ravines. Bigelow's first actions in both cases were to lay out roads and bridges to make the parks accessible to the public. He and William Falconer then planned and executed the resculpting of the landscape, grading extensive sections of each park, and followed that with the planting of thousands of trees and shrubs. Both parks were also affected by the playground movement of the early Twentieth Century that supplied them with swimming pools, tennis courts, and playgrounds. In spite of these similarities, there were – and remain – major differences between the parks. Even though substantial portions of both parks lie across inaccessible hillsides, Schenley Park is larger and has more extensive usable land. Schenley has larger and more extensive roads into and through it, and so is very accessible to residents of the densely-populated neighborhoods that surround it. Highland Park is more isolated in the northeast corner of the city, pressed up against the Allegheny River, and is not as heavily used as Schenley Park. Highland Park was provided with a strong formal entrance, while Schenley Park – bordered as it is by major institutions, including two universities – has never had a true formal entryway. Both parks have major public institutions within or next to their borders, but Schenley has more of them: the Zoo in Highland Park, the Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Oval, and the Carnegie Institute and public library in Schenley. In the final analysis, the similarities between the parks outweigh their differences, including the fact that both were originally conceived by Edward Bigelow as “jewels” on the “necklace” of his planned boulevard system in Pittsburgh's East End.

By the turn of the Twentieth Century, the landscape design of Highland Park had been completed. Change came to the park with the passage of time and the development of a new philosophy of active recreation (the “playground movement”). Large parks were criticized for being inaccessible to the lower classes and

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Significance

for not offering suitable recreational activities for them. The playground movement of that era promoted the development of smaller parks and playgrounds within poorer neighborhoods themselves and the reduction of attention to the larger landscape parks.

The effect on Highland Park included a running track next to Lake Carnegie (1913) that was the harbinger of other facilities: tennis courts in 1914, playground sets in the park, a swimming platform in the lake in 1915, etc. In 1932, the northern end of the lake was filled in for the construction of a swimming pool and bathhouse.

Some elements, such as the fountain at the entry and the greenhouse alongside the upper reservoir, were lost due to lack of maintenance. Other elements were added in Works Progress Administration projects during the Thirties. These included the double flights of stone steps at the Highland Avenue entrance to the upper reservoir, the stone steps west of that reservoir, and the steps and walls at the Mellon and Negley entrances to the lower reservoir. In spite of these changes, though, the overall landscape character of Highland Park, the fulfillment of Edward Bigelow's vision, remains largely unchanged.

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Highland Park
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Highland Park
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The boundaries of Highland Park are legally defined in the Allegheny County block and lot system as Block 82-H Lot 1. The nominated historic district, however, does not include all of the land currently included in the boundaries of the park. The nominated district does not include any of the park land located in the valleys of Negley Run and Heth's Run, including that along Washington Boulevard. The park land in the valley of Negley Run was added to Highland Park after its principal period of development, and consists basically of a four-lane highway and a number of institutional buildings. The park land in the valley of Heth's Run has been filled since 1950, and is currently used as a Department of Public Works yard and a parking lot for the zoo.

JUSTIF.

Beginning at the southeast corner of the Hill Road and Washington Boulevard (Pennsylvania Route 8), the boundaries of the historic district are as follows:

The southern curb of Washington Boulevard east to a point 400 feet west of the intersection of Washington Boulevard and Allegheny River Boulevard. South to the base of the slope of the hill below the Lake Road, west of Washington Boulevard. South along the base of the slope of the hill, to a point on a line extended from the northern boundary of the property denoted as Block and Lot 123-K-8. West along the extended line to the northern boundary of the property denoted as Block and Lot 123-K-8, and west along the northern boundaries of the properties denoted as Block and Lot 123-K-6, 123-J-180, 123-J-175, 123-J-164, and 123-J-152 to the curb on the east side of Heberton Street. The eastern curb of Heberton Street north to the eastern boundary of the property denoted as Block and Lot 123-E-110. North along the eastern boundaries of the properties denoted as Block and Lot 123-E-110 and 123-E-107, to the northern boundary of the property denoted as Block and Lot 123-E-107. West along the northern boundary of the properties denoted as Block and Lot 123-E-107, 123-E-104, 123-E-102, 123-E-100, 123-E-98, 123-E-96, and 123-E-94, to the western boundary of the property denoted as Block and Lot 123-E-94. South along the western boundary of the property denoted as Block and Lot 123-E-94 to the northern curb of Bunker Hill Street. West along the northern curb of Bunker Hill Street to the western curb of the Hill Road. South along the western curb of the Hill Road to the northern curb of Mellon Terrace. West along the northern curb of Mellon Terrace to the western curb of N. Negley Avenue. South along the western curb of N. Negley Avenue to the northern boundary of the property denoted as Block and Lot 82-G-71. West along the northern boundary lines of the properties denoted as Block and Lot 82-G-71, 82-G-50, 82-B-230, 82-B-228, 82-B-225, 82-B-222, 82-B-221, 82-B-217, and 82-B-213, to the base of the slope of the hill below Cordova Road. North along the base of the slope of the hill, to the southern curb of Washington Boulevard at the intersection of the Hill Road and Washington Boulevard (Pennsylvania Route 8).

DESCRIP.

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Highland Park Historic District
Resource Inventory

Inventory of Resources

Buildings

Contributing:

(1) Farmhouse (vicinity of Heberton and Grafton Streets)

Date of construction: Ca. 1880 (porch added in 20th century)

Originally property of Negley family

Description: Two-story 5-bay side-gabled brick center-hall building, with paired brackets under the roof eaves and 2-over-2-light double-hung windows (elements of a late Italianate architectural style); window lintels removed and one-story brick-pier porch added in 20th century

(2) Rhododendron Shelter (Lake Drive east of Lake Carnegie)

Date of construction: 1902

Description: One-story seven-bay open arcaded yellow brick shelter building with a shingled hipped roof; Classical detailing

(3-5) Reservoir service buildings (total of three)

Date of construction: ca. 1900

Description: Three small one-story red brick buildings with steeply-pitched hipped slate roofs, housing restrooms and mechanical functions for the reservoirs; two are located along the north side of Reservoir Number One, and one on the north side of Reservoir Number Two

(6) Casting cabin

Date of construction: ca. 1950

Description: One small one-story log cabin with side-gabled wood-shingle roof and central batten door on the south side of Lake Carnegie; originally constructed by fishing club as shelter while fishing in fish-stocked lake

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Highland Park Historic District
Resource Inventory

Non-contributing:

(7) Pool bathhouse (Lake Drive north of Lake Carnegie)

Date of construction: 1932, remodeled

Description: One-story flat-roofed concrete-block building

Reason for lack of contribution to historic district: Relatively recent date of construction, lack of architectural character

(8) Farmhouse service buildings (total of two)

Date of construction: ca. 1980

Description: Two one-story metal-clad buildings with shallow-pitched gabled roofs, used for storage and maintenance functions

Reason for lack of contribution to historic district: Recent date of construction, lack of architectural character

(9) Microfiltration plant / pumping station

Date of construction: 2002-2003

Description: Tall one-story red brick building with steeply-pitched hipped slate roof; tall hipped-roofed brick tower at eastern end of building; projecting eaves with exposed rafter ends; large openings with glass garage doors

Reason for lack of contribution to historic district: Recent date of construction

(10-23) Zoo buildings (total of 14)

(a) One building from the 1930s (Hoofed Stock Building); designed with rough stone walls; now used for storage

(b) One building from the 1950s (originally restroom building in children's zoo, designed in "storybook" or "fairy tale" style; now concessions building in children's zoo, in more subdued style)

(c) One building ca. 1965 (originally the Nocturnal Zoo, now called "Niches of the World"), most of which is subterranean; exposed section is composed of concrete slabs

(d) One building of unknown age (Main Service Building)

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Highland Park Historic District
Resource Inventory

(e) Three buildings in the first phase of reconstruction after the Master Plan of 1980 (ca. 1983) – the Elephant and Giraffe Building, and two concessions buildings on the site of the original zoo building; constructed of concrete block

(f) Two buildings ca. 1990 – the original Education Building, next to the Aquarium; and the Tropical Forest / Primate House, adjacent to the concessions buildings

(g) Two buildings built in 1993 – Administration Building and Education Building; designed by Indovina Architects; one-story red brick buildings with hipped metal roofs (raised to two stories in height in 2002)

(h) Two buildings built in 1995 – the Children's Zoo Discovery Pavilion (designed by Indovina Architects; one-story red brick building with hipped metal roof) and a one-story block concessions building at the main entrance

(i) One building built in 1999-2000 – the Aquarium

Reason for lack of contribution to historic district: Recent date of construction, lack of architectural character or distinct Modernist character

Sites

Contributing:

(1) Lake Carnegie (Lake Drive)

Date of construction: Ca. 1875, 1892

Originally excavated as intermediate basin in pumping system (halfway between river and reservoir), abandoned after adoption of more powerful pumping system; excavation completed in 1892; lake truncated by construction of swimming pool in 1932; concrete platforms constructed in 1960s

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Highland Park Historic District
Resource Inventory

Structures

Contributing:

(1) Reservoir Number One (Reservoir Drive)

Date of construction: 1871-1879

Description: Two-lobed reservoir (original separating wall collapsed partially in the 1960s, joining the two lobes) with capacity of 117 million gallons

(2) Reservoir Number Two (Mellon Street at Bunker Hill Street)

Date of construction: 1897-1903

Description: Unitary reservoir with capacity of 125 million gallons

(3) Stone bridge (Hill Road in the Zoo)

Date of construction: ca. 1895

Description: Rusticated stone arch bridge with a span of 50 feet

(4) Stone bridge (Reservoir Drive west of Reservoir Number One)

Date of construction: ca. 1895

Description: Rusticated stone arch bridge with a span of 12 feet

Non-contributing:

(1) Stone bridge (Lake Drive south of Lake Carnegie)

Date of construction: ca. 1895

Description: Originally rusticated stone arch bridge with a span of 60 feet; now not visible (buried in the 1970s)

(2) Swimming pool (Lake Drive north of Lake Carnegie)

Date of construction: 1932

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Resource Inventory

Objects

Contributing:

(1) Welcome (sculpture group) (N. Highland Avenue entrance)

Date of construction: 1896

Sculptor: Giuseppe Moretti

Description: a pair of granite shafts, each formed by four Ionic columns and surmounted by heroic bronze figural groups of women and children gesturing welcome. At the base of each shaft is a curved ornamental balustrade, on the end of which is a bronze eagle with its wings spread

(2) Horse Tamers (sculpture group) (Stanton Avenue entrance)

Date of construction: 1900

Sculptor: Giuseppe Moretti

Description: two granite bases flanking Stanton Avenue with statues depicting men taming horses

(3) Negley Monument (west of Reservoir Number One)

Date of construction: 1912

Description: Granite obelisk with carved inscriptions