PHILADELPHIA REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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DATE ENTERED 9 August 2000

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1. NAME

HISTORIC: League Island Park

AND/OR COMMON: Franklin Delano Roosevelt (F.D.R.) Park; "The Lakes"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1400 Pattison Avenue

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
[X] DISTRICT	[X] PUBLIC	[X] OCCUPIED	[ ] AGRICULTURE	[X] MUSEUM
[ ] BUILDING(S)	[ ] PRIVATE	[ ] UNOCCUPIED	[ ] COMMERCIAL	[X] PARK
[ ] STRUCTURE	[ ] BOTH	[ ] WORK IN PROGRESS	[X] EDUCATIONAL	[ ] PRIVATE RESIDENCE
[ ] SITE		ACCESSIBLE	[ ] ENTERTAINMENT	[ ] RELIGIOUS
[ ] OBJECT	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	[ ] YES: RESTRICTED	[ ] GOVERNMENT	[ ] SCIENTIFIC
	[ ] IN PROCESS	[X] YES: UNRESTRICTED	[ ] INDUSTRIAL	[ ] TRANSPORTATION
	[ ] BEING CONSIDERED	[ ] NO	[ ] MILITARY	[X] OTHER: landscpe

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: City of Philadelphia, Fairmount Park Commission

STREET AND NUMBER: Memorial Hall, P.O. Box 21601

CITY, TOWN: Philadelphia | STATE: PA | ZIPCODE: 19131

5. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: None

DATE

[ ] FEDERAL [ ] STATE [ ] LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN | STATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☐ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☐ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☒ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☒ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- ☐ PREHISTORIC
- ☐ 1601–1700
- ☐ 1701–1800
- ☐ 1801–1850
- ☐ 1851–1900
- ☒ 1901–1950
- ☐ 1951–
- ☐ ARCHELOGY–PREHISTORIC
- ☐ ARCHELOGY–HISTORIC
- ☐ AGRICULTURE
- ☒ ARCHITECTURE
- ☐ ART
- ☐ COMMERCE
- ☐ COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE – CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- ☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING
- ☐ CONSERVATION
- ☐ ECONOMICS
- ☐ EDUCATION
- ☐ ENGINEERING
- ☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- ☐ INDUSTRY
- ☐ INVENTION
- ☒ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- ☐ LAW
- ☐ LITERATURE
- ☐ MILITARY
- ☐ MUSIC
- ☐ PHILOSOPHY
- ☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- ☐ RELIGION
- ☐ SCIENCE
- ☐ SCULPTURE
- ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- ☐ THEATER
- ☐ TRANSPORTATION
- ☐ OTHER *(Specify)* _____

SPECIFIC DATES 1914, 1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Olmsted Brothers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See attached.

10. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE
Donna Handforth

ORGANIZATION	DATE
	July 1999
STREET AND NUMBER 334 Cantrell Street	TELEPHONE 215-467-6525
CITY OR TOWN Philadelphia	STATE PA

Boundaries

Beginning at a point on the southwest corner of Broad and Pattison Streets, continuing westward to 20th Street; turning south, following the chain-link fence along 20th Street separating the golf course from the rest of the park, to the southwest corner of the park; traveling east along Interstate 95 to Broad Street; moving north along the western side of Broad Street to the point of origin.

Description

This nomination includes those parts of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park (originally League Island Park) that preserve the conditions created under the original Olmsted plan for the Park in 1914 and by the Sesquicentennial Exposition of 1926, namely, the area bounded by Broad Street, 20th Street, Pattison Avenue, and Interstate 95. The municipal golf course located west of 20th Street was not part of the Olmsted plan and is clearly separated form the original Park by a chain link fence and vegetation.

The overall plan of F.D.R. Park is defined by a system of vehicular drives that encircle various bodies of water and designed landscape areas. Several buildings stand near the edge of the park, leaving the central area open. The vehicular drive is asphalt with granite block curbing. Towards the south of the park, the curbing becomes concrete. Four single-span bridges carry traffic over the various lakes. Non-historic pole-mounted lighting fixtures with scalloped metal bases illuminate the vehicular path. To accommodate cars, the Fairmount Park Commission added five aggregate-concrete parking lots to F.D.R. Park, each surrounded by rustic, square wood bollards.

Simple, winding concrete footpaths, sans curbing, cross the landscape in various places. One footpath, between Edgewood and Meadow Lakes, also has two schist bridges that match the bridges on the vehicular drive. Various sections of the park have non-historic concrete and wood picnic tables and benches. Non-historic wire-mesh and wood trash receptacles dot the park.

From the park's principal entrance on Pattison Avenue near Broad Street, the vehicular drive circles to the west and winds around the entire park, creating an outer ring and an inner ring of landscape features and buildings. Immediately after the entrance, the Guardhouse in the outer ring comes into view with its front door facing eastward. A parking lot lies in front of the building, and grass and several older trees surround it. In the bend of the first water feature, Lull Water, stands the bandstand. Plantings and trees form an informal amphitheater surrounding the concrete structure. Coursing westward, the drive approaches Lull Water. This water feature stretches to the northern boundary of the park and is surrounded by marsh grasses. Deciduous trees stand along the western and northern edges of the lake. Farther along the outer ring stands the American Swedish Historical Museum, which faces southward. A large parking lot with landscaped islands and deciduous trees form a courtyard between the drive and building. Large expanses of grass lie to the building's east and west.

After the museum, the drive turns southward. Near the outer ring are the clubhouse and parking lot of the golf course. Large older trees provide shade to a grassy area and scattered picnic tables in this zone. Another bridge carries the vehicular drive over Hollander Creek. This watercourse carries water from Edgewood Lake to the culverts emptying into the Navy Yard Reserve Basin. After passing under the vehicular drive, the creek runs underground. The Creek features many trees around its edges and a parking lot is situated next to it. The drive then curves towards the east and runs alongside Interstate 95. At this point, the outer ring also forms the southern boundary of the district. The area to the south of the drive consists primarily of unpaved dirt and a parking lot. At the southeastern corner of the park, the drive turns northward. The outer ring has grass with scattered trees and a steep incline to Broad Street. The drive then turns westward to return to the entrance.

Most of the notable features of F.D.R. Park are concentrated in the inner ring of the park. At the park's entrance and immediately westward a large expanse of grass with few trees can be seen. A tot lot occupies a parcel just to the west. Olmsted named this area the "Lawn" in his 1914 plan, but the City renamed it the "Meadow" in its Master Plan of 1968. This is an open grassy area with a single backstop for baseball. The northeastern part of the area along Edgewood Lake has reverted to a densely vegetated meadow.

Farther along, a parking lot comes into view as well as the first water feature of the inner ring, Edgewood Lake. Next to the parking lot a classical style gazebo abuts the edge of Edgewood Lake. Nearby stands the brick open-air boathouse. Edgewood Lake is the largest and deepest body of water in the park and serves as the major focus of the park. Ground water and storm water from South Philadelphia supply the lake, which then feeds into Lull Water. A schist and concrete retaining wall supports the Gazebo and wood bulkheads edge the west shoreline. A ring of various deciduous trees, ornamental grasses and lawns slope into the water.

After the boathouse, the drive turns southward. The inner ring features a large open space that has two formal baseball fields, encircled by chain-link fencing, and soccer goalposts. A parking lot sits between the fields and Edgewood Lake. Olmsted called this area "the Meadow" in his 1914 plan.

Farther along, the drive comes to Meadow Lake and two bathhouses. Meadow Lake, constructed originally as a "natural" lake, was divided into two smaller bodies of water and paved with concrete to accommodate many swimmers in the summer months. However, improved public health standards terminated its use for bathing in 1958. The upper lake presently serves as a run-off basin for excess water during heavy storms, and the lower part has been allowed to return to its natural state, with marsh plants providing secluded feeding and nesting ground for birds. Between the lake and the bathhouses, the City installed a pool in 1958, which is surrounded by a chain-link fence. A small concession stand sits next to the bathhouses. The drive then leads northward and passes another parking lot and the original Lawn, rejoining the drive at the entrance.

The park lies below the level of most of the surrounding land, as seen most dramatically in the vicinity of the American Swedish Museum. The land undulates throughout the park, sloping down to the various lakes and rising up to the large expanses of grass and fields. Many trees of various types and ages adorn the park and ring the individual water features. Grasses and other indigenous plants can be found along the lakes. Open fields, a soccer field and formal baseball diamonds invite more organized recreational activities. Except for large development outside the existing park boundaries, F.D.R. Park provides visitors with a clear view of a "natural" landscape. The Naval Hospital, Veterans Stadium, First Union Center and the elevated portions of Interstate 95 can be seen at the outer edges of the park, and represent the only intrusions of the outside world.

Over the years F.D.R. Park lost approximately 32 acres of parkland, including a running track, a picnic shelter with fireplace, several heavily used picnic areas, a soccer field, a volleyball court, a children's playground, the Melville Memorial and 649 mature trees.[1] The area that is now occupied by the First Union Spectrum was once part of League Island Park. Over the past 43 years, only a few structures have been added to the park, including the new swimming pool in 1958. Some facilities such as walks and restrooms have fallen into disrepair over the years; however, despite the loss of a large number of trees, the park remains a picturesque open space, used heavily for a multitude of recreational purposes by the residents of South Philadelphia.

[1] Fairmount Park Commission, *Master Development Plan for FDR Park*, 1968; updated 1988.

Significance

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (F.D.R.) Park in South Philadelphia qualifies for designation under criteria a, b, d, e, g, and h, found in Section 14-2007(5) of the Philadelphia Code. The park has significant character, interest, and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of the City. As the site of the Sesquicentennial Exposition in 1926, it is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City and Nation. F.D.R. Park embodies distinguishing characteristics of the landscaped park movement that began in the 19th century, and is an example of an engineering specimen for the land reclamation process employed to produce the park. Also, the park is the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., a designer and landscape architect whose work has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, and cultural development of the Nation. As a park, it should be preserved according to an historic, cultural and architectural motif. Lastly, owing to its unique location and physical characteristics, F.D.R. Park represents an established and familiar visual feature of the South Philadelphia neighborhood.

Early Planning

The conception of F.D.R. Park, formerly League Island Park, began in the early 1900s. The Department of Public works established a program to develop and create a park system throughout the City of Philadelphia. City Officials saw League Island Park as a linchpin of that system in South Philadelphia. The philosophy behind the park system was "streets, playgounds, parks, parkways, public squares and riverfront improvements are all essential to the modern city."[1] Originally designed in 1908 by the City's Bureau of Surveys, the park stretched from Pattison Avenue to the Navy Yard, and from 11th Street to 20th Street.[2] On the western side, west of Broad Street, the park had a single water feature surrounded by a concrete wall. Vehicular and pedestrian drives were to meander throughout the park with double-arched bridges carrying traffic over the lake. The eastern portion of the park also would have featured a network of drives. The entire park was to have many trees and various plantings. However, politics and economics stalled the construction of League Island Park in 1910. The lake and its concrete wall

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[1] *Annual report of the Department of Public Works and Bureau of Surveys of the City of Philadelphia – 1908* (Philadelphia: Dunlap Printing Company, 1909) p. 84.
[2] *Annual Report of the Department of Public Works and Bureau of Surveys of the City of Philadelphia – 1911* (Philadelphia: Dunlap Printing Company, 1912) p. 57.

were finished, but few other features ever materialized. In 1912, the Department of Public Works approached the Olmsted Brothers to redesign the park.

The Olmsted Legacy

The Olmsted Brothers landscape architectural firm accepted the commission to design League Island Park (Job #3822).[3] The firm, a successor to the one founded by Frederick Law Olmsted, continued Olmsted's vision of landscape architecture. Olmsted, in concert with Calvert Vaux, designed many exceptional parks throughout the United States, including Central Park in New York City, Prospect Park in Brooklyn, and part of Boston's Emerald Necklace. When Olmsted became ill in 1895, he left the firm in the hands of his stepson, John (1852-1920), and his partner, Charles Eliot. They continued the firm's commissions while Olmsted's son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., referred to as Rick (1870-1957), oversaw his father's design at Biltmore in North Carolina. In 1897, Eliot died suddenly and Rick, at the age of 27, became a partner with his stepbrother. They renamed the firm Olmsted Brothers and continued to take on new projects.

Rick quickly showed talent in landscape architecture and design and began making a name for himself in the field. In 1898 he was appointed as the head of the landscape architecture division of the Boston Metropolitan Park Commission and a year later helped establish the American Society of Landscape Architects. He contributed to the development of the curriculum for landscape architecture at his alma mater, Harvard University. In 1903 Theodore Roosevelt appointed him to the Senate Park Commission, which created the McMillan Plan and the design for the park system in Washington, D.C.[4] Among Rick's many commissions, League Island Park stands as an excellent example of the principles of landscape architecture that he embraced.[5]

John was an accomplished landscape architect as well, and showed a gift in managing the Olmsted firm. After he graduated from Yale University's Sheffield Scientific School in 1875 he worked with Olmsted, Sr. and became a full partner in 1884. He helped Rick establish the American Society of Landscape Architects and became its first President. Also following the precepts that his stepfather created, John designed several important projects, including the

[3]Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm 1857-1950 (Boston: Massachusetts Association for Olmsted Parks, 1987)
[4] Levee, Arleyn. *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places* (The Preservation Press) p. 60.
[5] Rybczynski, Witold. *A Clearing in the Distance: Frederick Law Olmsted and America in the Nineteenth Century* (New York: Scribner, 1999) pp. 410-410.

playgrounds of the South parks of Chicago and the park systems for Dayton, Ohio, Seattle, Washington and Essex County, New Jersey.[6]

Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., believed that landscape design could affect society, especially promoting a sense of community. Olmsted described his philosophy in a report submitted with his and Vaux's plan for Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York in 1871. He saw his parks and park systems to be "social spaces 'for people to come together for the single purpose of enjoyment, unembarrassed by the limitations with which they are surrounded at home.'"[7] In addition, Olmsted believed that scenery could have a powerful psychological effect on people. He was convinced that the open, rolling terrain of his parks provided a specific, medical antidote to the artificiality, noise, and stress of city life. The psychological power of scenery, he believed, could be achieved in landscape design only by melding individual elements into a single effect. There must be no planting or work of architecture or sculpture to be viewed for its individual beauty. For reasons of function as well as effect, Olmsted carefully separated different activities, such as strolling, swimming, and boating, and different styles of planting. Olmsted passed down these ideas to his pupils and partners, John C. Olmsted (his stepson), Henry Sargent Codman, and Charles Eliot.

The design of the park with its picturesque curving roads, walks, lakes, and tree planting was executed in the tradition of the romantic park design characteristic of the period. Typical Olmsted features appear in the design of F.D.R. Park: a wide expanse of field greets visitors as they first enter the park; the flow of each area is subtly separated for specific activities, and the lack of any one site or piece of architecture is viewed for its individual beauty. For example, although the Gazebo stands out as being of great architectural beauty, the viewer's eye is drawn to the beauty of the lake it overlooks and takes in the scene as a whole. Remnants of the original design remained; however, Olmsted approached the features in a more naturalistic way. Instead of a concrete wall surrounding the water features, Olmsted designed lawns, trees and other plantings at the water's edge.

Olmsted's League Island Park followed the original design and also was bounded by 11th Street to the east, Pattison Avenue to the north, the mouth of the Delaware River to the south, and 20th

[6] Levee, p. 48.
[7] Rybczynski, p. 271.

Street to the west. However, the eastern portion became the site of the municipal stadium in 1926 and now has the First Union Center, eradicating the original plan east of Broad Street.

Sesquicentennial Exposition of American Independence

In 1926, League Island Park was used as a portion of the Sesquicentennial Exposition of American Independence. The total fair extended over 1,000 acres, from Packer Avenue south to the river between 11th and 20th Streets. A number of buildings were constructed for the exposition, with several in the park itself, including the Japanese Pavilion, the Municipal Stadium and the John Morton Memorial Building built in honor of this signer of the Declaration of Independence by the Swedish-American Centennial Association. This building is now the Swedish American Museum and is the only building created specifically for the Sesquicentennial celebration still standing in the park. For the Exposition the existing boathouse was made a "Russian Tea Room" with dining tables and chairs on the upper level and lower decks. The present concert grove was a "Treasure Island."

The exhibits for the Sesquicentennial Exposition included an immense structure, 970 feet long and 392 feet wide, called the Palace of Liberal Arts and Manufactures, which displayed the newest wonders of the world. Among these were "talking pictures," electric refrigeration, multiple-message telegraphy, transmission of photos by wire and radio, electric typewriters, office dictating machines, and the use of public address systems that could work effectively in huge stadia. Another building, the Palace of Fine Arts, featured paintings by Goya, Velasquez, Renoir, and Degas and other works of art. Visitors could view historical items, such as the anchor of the Santa Maria, the airplane in which Richard E. Byrd flew to the North Pole, Thomas Jefferson's carriage and Benjamin Franklin's scientific equipment. The Persian Building and the India Building modeled after the Taj Mahal were among the many smaller buildings in the Exposition. Other attractions included a magnificent reproduction of High Street, Philadelphia's main thoroughfare in the Colonial era, and a mammoth reproduction of the Liberty Bell that was 80 feet high and trimmed with 26,000 electric bulbs. Notable visitors to the Sesquicentennial Exposition included President Calvin Coolidge, then Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, Queen Marie of Rumania, and General Douglas MacArthur.

Despite all of the grand exhibits, the Sesquicentennial celebration was a failure. Philadelphia politics delayed the construction for the exposition, budget constraints limited its development

and the preparations fell far behind schedule. Although Mayor Kendrick, Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg and Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover opened the Exposition with a grand ceremony on 31 May 1926, few buildings were completed, with many not even finished by July. When the Shriners came to Philadelphia for a convention, they were greeted by unpaved roads, unfinished buildings and empty exhibitions. Bad weather, bad press and bad word-of-mouth doomed the Exposition. Attendance never reached expected numbers of 30 million visitors and when the Exposition closed in November, Philadelphia was left with a $9 million deficit.[8]

F.D.R. Park

After the Sesquicentennial, League Island Park reverted back to its original purpose as a public park, with only the American Swedish Historical Museum and the Municipal Stadium remaining from the exposition. In the late 1940s the City renamed the park Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park in honor of the former President. Under the auspices of the Fairmount Park Commission, F.D.R. Park has grown and changed over the years. It now stretches west of 20th Street and includes a municipal golf course surrounding the historic Bellaire Mansion. The City redeveloped the area east of Broad Street several times, completely eradicating any of the original Olmsted design. The southern portion was lost in the 1950s with the construction of Interstate 95 and its access ramps around Broad Street. As defined in Philadelphia's comprehensive plan, F.D.R. Park is a "regional park" (over 300 acres). However, in actual usage, it serves more as a district park for South Philadelphia, rather than for the entire region. Major uses and activities within the park include tennis, skateboarding, baseball, football, swimming, fishing, bicycling, bird watching, jogging, and picnicking.

Conclusion

Although the City of Philadelphia truncated F.D.R. Park at its eastern end, the original plan designed by the Olmsted Brothers remains highly visible. As a design following the philosophies of the landscaped park movement and the site of the national Sesquicentennial Exposition, F.D.R. Park meets six criteria found in Section 14-2007 of the Philadelphia Code. The park has significant character, interest, and value as part of the development, heritage and cultural characteristics of the City, is associated with an event of importance to the history of the City and

[8] Weigley, pp. 571-574.

Nation, and represents an established and familiar visual feature of the South Philadelphia neighborhood.

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Inventory of Structures

The Guardhouse

2-story, 3-bay Flemish-bond brown brick Arts & Crafts building. Central, single-leaf paneled and glazed door with 8-light sidelights and wood screen door, bracketed hood with asphalt shingles; single-light basement windows with greenhouse window covers, tripartite 8/1 flanked by 4/1 double-hung windows in 1st and 3rd bays on 1st and 2nd stories, central 8/1 window on 2nd floor; soldiercourse lintels and sills; red terra cotta-tiled hipped roof with two dormers with horizontal 4/4 windows; two brick chimneys at north and south ends. 1-story brown brick wings with hipped roofs on either side near west elevation with infilled openings.

North and South elevations: 2-bay; 8/1 windows; cellar bulkhead.

West elevation: 8/8 window, double-leaf wood hay door on 2nd story. 1-story stucco addition with thirteen single-light awning windows, double-leaf wood garage doors; asphalt-shingle hipped roof with boarded-up lantern.

Originally constructed to serve as a headquarters for a Park Guard unit, The Guardhouse was later used as the headquarters for the Mounted Police Training and Services with stables for 25 horses and as K-9 Corps Kennels. The building is undergoing renovations for conversion to office space and an Environmental Education Center. Contributing.

Bandstand

3-foot high granite and concrete U-shaped bandstand; 6 stairs on north side with kneewall; surrounded by picnic tables; two non-historic lights on metal poles.

Built 1980s. Non-contributing.

Gazebo

Six steps flanked by large aggregate-concrete urns and carved granite scrolls; circular concrete and bluestone stand; circular granite and bluestone base with eight Doric columns; entablature with unornamented frieze and dentils; topped with frieze of carved lion heads that serve as rainwater spouts, another plain entablature and conical roof with red terra cotta tiles. Underside has 1st frieze and dentils, dome lined in blue Guastavino tile.

Built 1914. Contributing.

American Swedish Historical Museum

2-story, 9-bay, stucco building flanked by open pavilions. Central projecting pavilion with 3-bays separated by limestone pilasters; terra cotta panels between 1st and 2nd stories; central entrance with double-leaf bronze door with relief carving, limestone surround with quoins, entablature with inscription "John Morton Memorial Building" topped by two stylized griffins; paired 10-light casement windows with 4-light transoms, wire security screens on 1st story; stucco limestone quoins, entablature and frieze with wood brackets and terra cotta panels; stucco pediment with limestone shield; standing-seam metal gable roof; central metal cupola with finials. Pavilions: square stucco buildings with squared entrance openings flanked by limestone

capped stucco pilasters; shallow stucco pediments; metal domed roof with cupola; curved arcaded links with standing-seam metal gable roofs connect main building to pavilions. Aggregate retaining wall with massive limestone staircase leading to main building, six wrought-iron lanterns with glass globes, four large trees at bottom of wall and six trees on terrace; contemporary wrought-iron fence surrounds property.

East and West elevations: 4-bay; paired 10-light casement windows with 4-light transoms; entablature and frieze continue.

North elevation: 4-bay; central rear wing; flanked by 1-story entrance pavilions with limestone door surrounds and keystones, single-leaf flush metal doors; two limestone chimneys.

Interior details: The museum is laid out much like a castle or manor house. Without corridors, one walks from room to room on both floors flanking the entrance hall. The entrance hall is two stories with a large central stair leading to open balconies at the second floor. The ceiling and walls have decorative murals that depict the arrival of the New Sweden settlers aboard their leading ship, the Kalmar Nyckel; the signing of the Declaration of Independence by Swedish descendant John Morton; and the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, an event attended by Swedish officers who had contributed their service in the American Revolution. The rooms of the museum were finished as donors were found, and in most cases were designed by Swedish architects and furnished by Swedish artists and designers. The 1930s architect G. Ullenius, designer Ewald Dahlskog, and artist Sten Nilsson; the 1950s architect Hans Asplund and artist Kurt Jungstedt; and the 1960s furniture designer Peter Celsing, left a significant 20th century design history. Two rooms on the first floor are notable: first, another art deco room features a map painted on bronze leaf depicting Sweden during the 17th century when the New Sweden colonists left for the New World. Second, Stockholm architects Hans Borgstrom and Bengt Lindros designed the library in 1957. Its furnishings were designed and constructed in Sweden; the shelves are made of lacquered birch, the chairs and reading tables of beech.
The most striking room is on the second floor. Commemorating John Ericsson (1803-1889), famed for the design of USS Monitor of the Civil War and the creation of the first working propeller, this room was designed by Swedish architect Martin Hedmark. It features and interpretive mural painted in 1931 by artist Olle Hjortzberg. The furnishings are among the finest examples of 1930s art deco interior design in the City of Philadelphia.

Built 1926, by the Swedish-American architect John A. Nyden for the Sesquicentennial. Now owned and operated by the American Swedish Historical Foundation, a national non-profit institution, whose mission is to commemorate and present the history of Swedish influences in America. At the request of its founder, Dr. Amandus Johnson, the building's style was influenced by George Washington's homestead at Mt. Vernon and the 17th century Eriksberg castle in Sodermanland, Sweden. The Foundation chose this site because the land had been deeded by Queen Christina of Sweden to Lt. Sven Skute, a leader in the mid 17th century New Sweden community, in 1653. However, he never laid claim to the land. This roof form is found in many Swedish 17th and 18th century public and private buildings, particularly estate manor houses such as Eriksberg castle. The copper cupolas, inspired by those of Stockholm City Hall, were designed by Swedish architect, Ragnar Ostberg and completed in 1923. The windows, with heavy mullioned 2/2 casement sash are typical of windows in buildings of stature in Sweden and are used throughout Eriksberg castle. The stucco walls with applied classic swags and decorated panels are also found at Eriksberg castle. Stucco is a material that is widely used in Sweden on masonry buildings. Significant.

Boathouse

1-story, 7-bay brown brick building; central steps, 3-bays in width, with brick balustrade and urns; seven wide, open arches framed by brick pilasters; asphalt shingle gable roof; two chimneys at east and west ends. Plaque: "FDR Park/ A Public Recreation Area Provided by/ Fairmount Park Commission 1992/ Funding Assistance from/ The CZM Program/ US Department Of Commerce/ National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration/ National Ocean Services/ Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management/ Administrated through/ Commonwealth of Pennsylvania/ Department of Environmental Resources"

South (lake) elevation: seven open arches with brick pilasters; brick extension below arches with roll-down garage doors to the water; floating wood dock surrounds extension.

East and West elevations: single open arch.

Built 1916. Part of the original design of League Island Park, the boathouse served as an elegant "Russian Tea Room" during the Sesquicentennial, with tables situated on the dock. At one time, rental boats were available; however, this proved an unprofitable venture for the park. Contributing.

Swimming Pool and Support Buildings

- Two, 1-story beige brick buildings; several single-leaf flush doors, various squared garage entrances with metal roll-down doors; five, paired 6/3 metal windows with rounded wire-mesh security grates; many openings infilled with glass block or beige and brown brick; soldiercourse lintels and sills; corrugated metal hipped roof.

Built in 1921-22. Originally built as men's and women's locker rooms and bathhouses. Contributing.

- Concrete, rectangular in-ground pool. Surrounded by concrete paving, metal and wood benches, and chain-link fence.

Built 1958 as a substitute for Meadow Lake. Non-contributing.

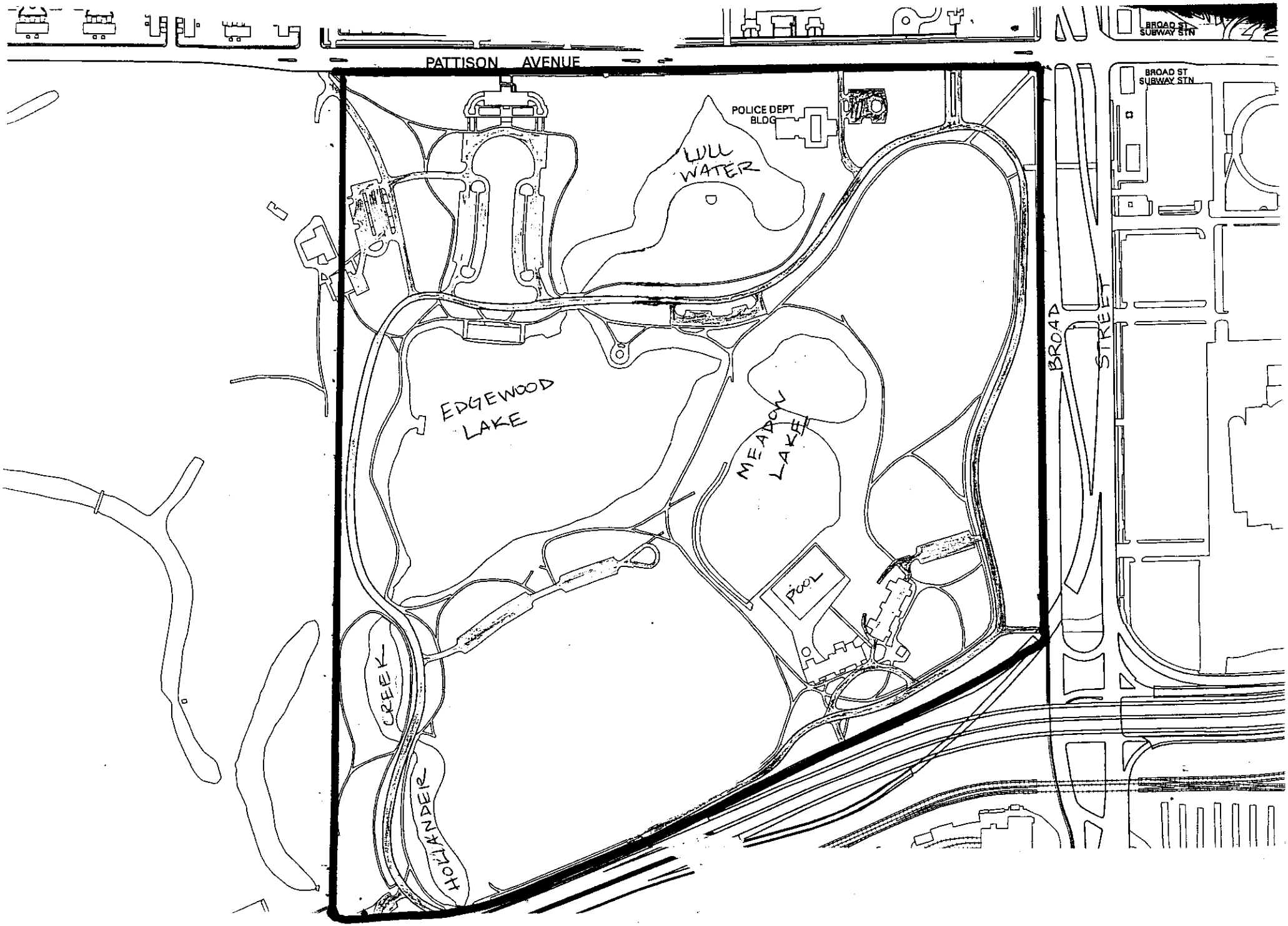
- 1-story, 1-bay random coursed stone concession stand; large openings with wood covers; wood pediment; asphalt gable roof.

Built 1954. Non-contributing.

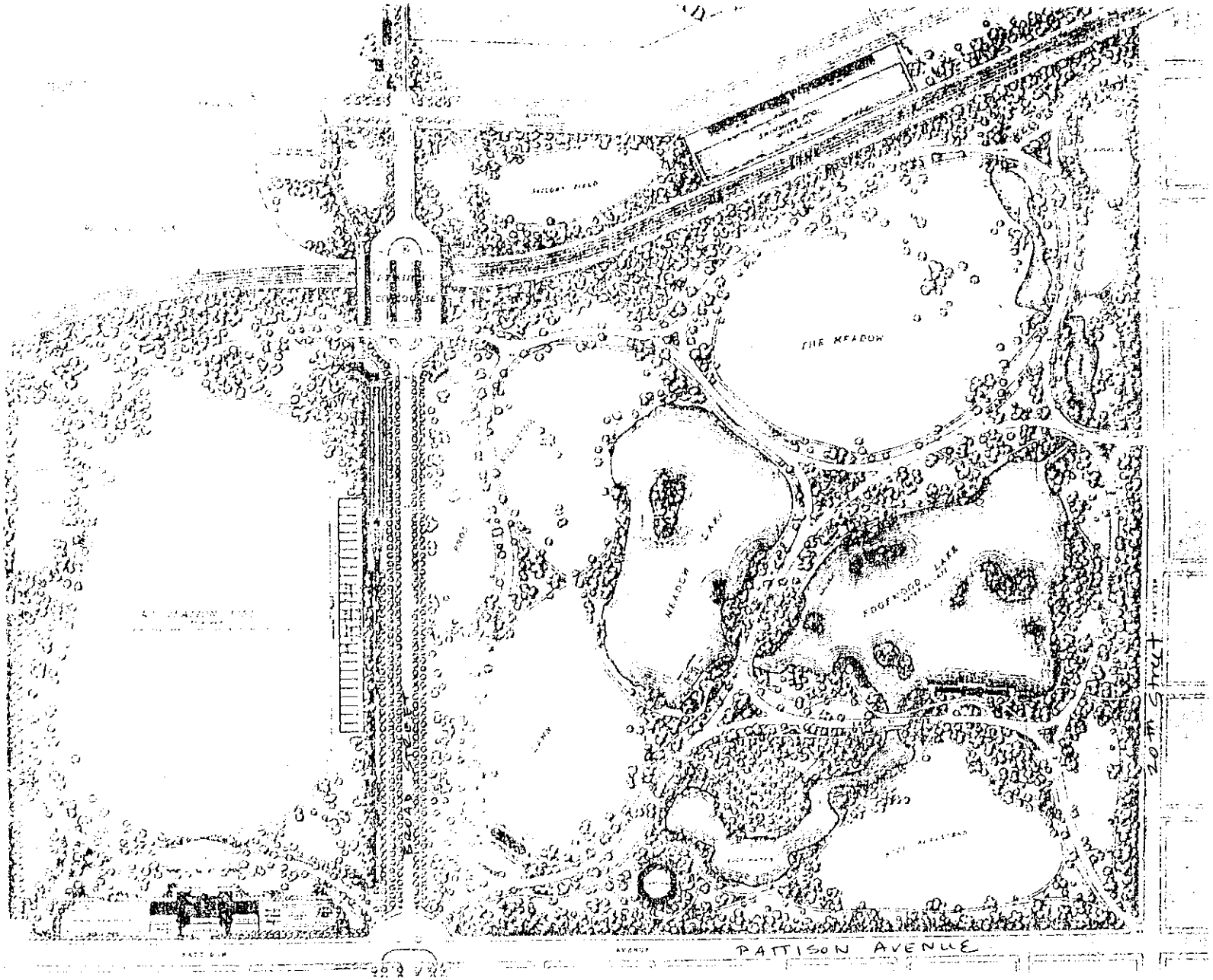
Bridges

Six single-span bridges with random-coursed schist walls; soldiercourse segmental arches; soldiercourse coping; asphalt paving.

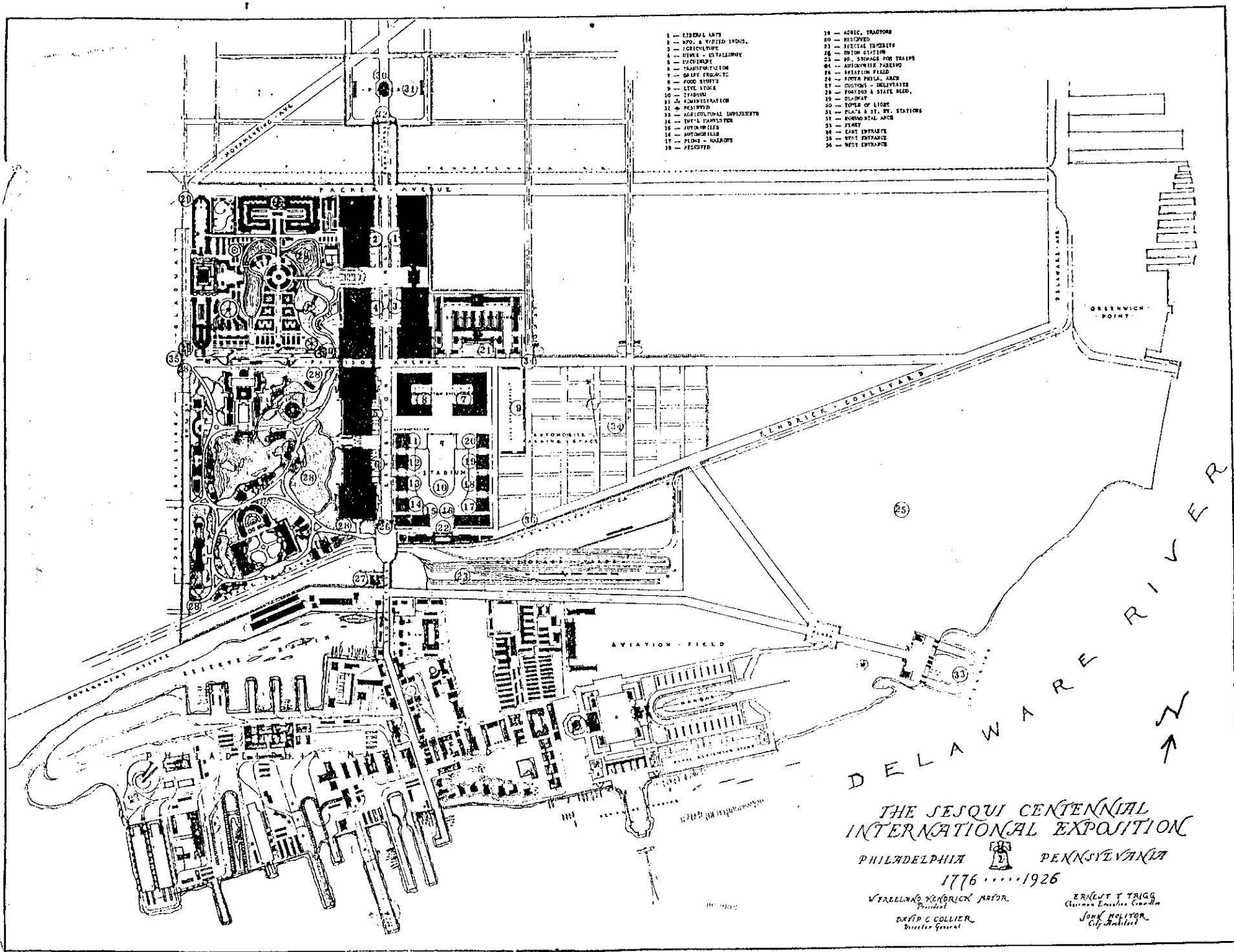
Built 1914. Contributing.



FDR PARK aka LEAGUE ISLAND PARK



THE ORIGINAL OLMSTED PLAN FOR LEAGUE ISLAND PARK



THE SESQUI CENTENNIAL INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

PHILADELPHIA PENNSYLVANIA

1776 ····· 1926

W. FREELAND KENDRICK MAYOR
President

ERNEST T. TRIGG
Chairman Executive Committee

DAVID C. COLLIER
Director General

JOHN MCILVAIN
City Architect