National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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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 Maplewood Memorial Park historic name other names/site number 2. Location street & number Bounded by Oakland Road, Valley Street, Baker Street, and Dunnell Road not for publication vicinity city or town Township of Maplewood state New Jersey code NJ county Essex 013 zip code 07040 code 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X_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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: X local national statewide + COMMISSIONCE 200 Sele Signature of certifying official/Title Date DEP DU State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government does not meet the National Register criteria. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ___ Signature of commenting official Date State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government Title 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby ceftify that this property is. entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain:) ignature of the Keeper Date of Actio

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service / National Register of His	storic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018

Category of Property

building(s)

district

structure

object

site

(Check only one box.)

X

Maplewood Memorial Park Name of Property

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

private

public - Local

public - State

public - Federal

Name of related multiple property listing

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

5. Classification

х

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Essex County, NJ County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

ContributingNoncontributing2buildings2sites5132123Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A	0
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)
LANDSCAPE/park	LANDSCAPE/park
	Materials
Architectural Classification	Materials (Enter categories from instructions.)
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century American Movements	1. (314)2 1. (30.) (*
7. Description Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century American Movements Other: American Romantic Style of Landscape Architecture	(Enter categories from instructions.)
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century American Movements Other: American Romantic Style of Landscape	(Enter categories from instructions.) foundation: STONE
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) Late 19 th and Early 20 th Century American Movements Other: American Romantic Style of Landscape	(Enter categories from instructions.) foundation: <u>STONE</u> walls: <u>CONCRETE; BRICK; WOOD</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.) See Continuation Sheet.

Property is associated with events that have made a

significant contribution to the broad patterns of our

Property is associated with the lives of persons

Property embodies the distinctive characteristics

and distinguishable entity whose components lack

Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information

Owned by a religious institution or used for religious

of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high

artistic values, or represents a significant

important in prehistory or history.

removed from its original location.

a birthplace or grave.

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property

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Essex County, NJ

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Maplewood Memorial Park Name of Property

for National Register listing.)

history.

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Property is:

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

significant in our past.

individual distinction.

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

purposes.

a cemetery.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape Architecture

Other: Recreation

Period of Significance

1919-1931

Significant Dates

1919, 1922, 1926, 1931

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Olmsted Brothers

Brinley & Holbrook

within the past 50 years. Narrative Statement of Significance

a commemorative property.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.) Previous documentation on file (NPS): Primary le

_____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)

a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

less than 50 years old or achieving significance

- 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 # ______

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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Maplewood Memorial Park	
Name of Property	

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22.18 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18N	561464.81	4509306.86	3	18N	561344.15	4508791.99
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	18N	561509.47	4509281.14	4	18N	561031.09	4509039.66
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.) See Continuation Sheet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) See Continuation Sheet.

11. Form Prepared By name/title Alison J. Ross, Brock A. Giordano, and Andrea Burk. organization Dewberry date August 2014 street & number 600 Parsippany Road, Suite 301 telephone 973-576-9681 city or town Parsippany aburk@dewberry.com state Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- 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. Key all photographs to this map.
- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name Township of Maplewood	
street & number 574 Valley Street	telephone 973-762-8120
city or town Maplewood	state NJ zip code 07040

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 18 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.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Maplewood Memorial Park (Memorial Park) is a municipal park located in the center of the Township of Maplewood ("Maplewood") in Essex County, New Jersey. Located in a valley between South Mountain and a ridge to the east, Memorial Park is southeast of the railroad tracks that travel through the center of Maplewood. The park comprises 24.3 acres and is bound by Oakland Road to the northeast, Dunnell Road to the northwest, Baker Street to the southwest, and Valley Street to the southeast. Memorial Park sits in the middle of the civic center of the town; one of the town's two commercial centers, Maplewood Village, lies northwest of the park along Maplewood Avenue, and residential areas surround all sides. Oakview Avenue travels through the park in a northwest to southeast direction, dividing the park into two sections.

Memorial Park is a large triangular-shaped area of open space, designed in the American Romantic style of landscape architecture. It features a channeled waterway traveling through the park, the East Branch of the Rahway River, and a smaller tributary, Crooked Brook; an organically shaped pond; an expansive manicured lawn, with gently rolling topography and a natural amphitheater; artfully arranged, yet natural-looking, groupings of trees and flowering shrubs; memorial tree groves; meandering foot paths throughout the park; expansive recreation areas, including several baseball and soccer fields; tennis courts and a basketball court; several playgrounds; gracefully arching foot bridges over the river; one two-lane vehicular bridge carrying Oakview Avenue over the channeled river; various memorials; and two recreation buildings.

Contributing Resources

The contributing resources in Memorial Park are character defining features of the park and are consistent with parks designed in the American Romantic style of landscape architecture. The American Romantic style, popularized in the United States in the last half of the 19th century, includes an emphasis on centrally-located waterways, naturalistic-looking landscapes in both open and wooded spaces, organically-shaped forms, and access throughout the park by way of pedestrian foot paths. However, elements of the park reflecting the reform park movement which emerged from Progressive Era ideals of social reform in America are also expressed in the presence of the park's sporting and recreational field areas. Following is a description of the contributing resources of Memorial Park that were constructed during the 1919-1931 period of significance and that contribute to its historic significance and integrity in the area of Landscape Architecture.

Channeled East Branch of the Rahway River and Crooked Brook

The East Branch of the Rahway River is a central focus of Memorial Park (see Photo 1). The channeled river runs in a northeastern to southwestern direction through the park. In the park's northwestern section, the river runs close and almost parallel to Dunnell Road. Just north of and behind the library is Crooked Brook, a tributary of the river that also flows through the park (see Photo 2). One vehicular bridge, Oakview Avenue, and three foot bridges carry vehicular traffic and pedestrian foot paths over the river.

Maplewood Memorial Park Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Originally located closer to Valley Street, the East Branch of the Rahway River was intentionally diverted from its original course during the park's construction. Rerouting and channeling the river was first planned by the Olmsted Brothers firm, and its design was also included in the plans by Brinley & Holbrook. The river is lined with concrete and stone walls along its entire length. Some sections of the wall are original, with rubble stone set in concrete (see Photo 3), and other sections are composed of man-made pre-cast concrete panels that are imitative of stone walls. The replacement panels were installed in 1999 following damage inflicted by Hurricane Floyd (see Photo 4).

Pond

The pond, also known as the "Lily Pond," is located southeast of the channeled river between Baker Street and Oakview Avenue (see Photo 5).

Landscaping

Memorial Park is a designed landscape that comprises large expanses of mown grass lawn interspersed with clusters and individual specimens of well-maintained coniferous and deciduous trees, ornamental trees and shrubs and occasional plant beds (see Photos 6 and 7). Stands of mature trees are scattered throughout the park and are located around the park's perimeter. A semicircle of eight American Elm trees (with each one representing a fallen local World War I soldier) was formerly planted at the top of the amphitheater close to the flagpole by Dunnell Road (see Photo 8); however, after gradually being stricken with Dutch Elm disease, seven of the trees were removed. In 2007, seven replacement American Liberty Elms were planted in a more random pattern near the solitary survivor. There also is a small row of Cherry trees located behind the library that are individual memorials as well as a ring of weeping cherries around the pond. A stand of mature trees is also located at the bottom of the amphitheater (see Photo 9). On the library's southeastern side there is a picturesque raised rock garden (also known as the "Rockery") which centers around a sundial and is surrounded by six mature White Ash trees, azaleas and other plantings. The park's overall designed landscape is counted in this form as one contributing resource.

Recreational Areas

Memorial Park contains many recreational areas, including: two playgrounds (a small children's playground on the north side of Oakview Avenue near Valley Street and a larger playground in the northernmost section of the park between the tennis courts and Oakland Road) (see Photos 10 and 11); tennis and basketball courts east of the Civic House (see Photo 12); a large open space with two baseball fields between Oakland Road and Oakview Avenue (see Photo 13); and three additional baseball fields between Oakview Avenue and Baker Street (see Photo 14). All of the recreational areas are counted in this form as one contributing resource.

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Foot Bridges

Three original foot bridges exist in the park. According to their archived collection, Brinley & Holbrook initially designed three different styles of footbridge for the park, which were labeled "Sketch A," "Sketch B," and "Sketch C." It appears that the one depicted in "Sketch C" was chosen for construction because the extant bridges most closely resemble that sketch. One bridge is near the southwestern corner of the park and crosses Crooked Brook behind the library (see Photo 15); another bridge crosses the East Branch of the Rahway River north of Baker Street (see Photo 16); and the third bridge crosses the same river in the northwestern side of the park in front of the Civic House and next to Dunnell Road (see Photo 17). Designed in a manner consistent with the naturalistic style of the park, the rustic-style foot bridges consist of a formed concrete arch deck supported by beams of reinforced concrete. The bridges' superstructure rests on poured concrete abutments faced with ashlar stones of traprock and granite. Four end posts are of stone masonry and have granite caps. All of the bridges have railings of timber post-and-rail construction, with most of the timbers in a rustic style. Some timbers on the bridge in front of the Civic House have been replaced with four-foot by four-foot posts. This bridge was also retrofitted with a metal pipe railing to comply with the code requirements of the American with Disabilities Act.

Foot Path System

The foot path system consists of a near-continuous, asphalt-paved, curved walkway throughout the park (see Photos 18 and 19). Comparison of the current path locations with Brinley & Holbrooks' 1926 drawing shows that many of the paths are in the originally designed locations. Departures from the plan include sections of foot path added to both sides of the river at the bottom of the amphitheater and foot paths added to access newer memorials, such as the Vietnam War Memorial. Characteristic of parks of the American Romantic style of landscape architecture, Memorial Park's foot paths were designed to provide public access to the park's features for viewing and enjoyment, notably the waterway, planting beds, amphitheater, memorials, and recreational facilities. Far-reaching vistas were attained in the placement of the foot paths. The foot path system is counted as one resource.

Civic House

Constructed in 1929, the Civic House (also known as the Shelter House) is in the northern section of Memorial Park near Dunnell Road between the East Branch of the Rahway River and the tennis courts (see Photos 20 and 21). It is situated west of the tennis courts.

The Civic House is a one-and-one-half-story Tudor Revival-style building clad in brick veneer that is laid in Flemish bond. The building's original section is rectangular in plan, and a rectangular one-story addition is on the southern side of the building. An entrance vestibule is on the main building's northern end, and a covered porch is on the eastern side. Its steeply-pitched roof has intersecting gables and is clad in multi-colored slate shingles in a coursed pattern. A brick chimney projects from the southern end of the roof. The windows in the original building section are metal frame casements with either six or eight lights and have brick sills and red sandstone lintels.

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There is a one-story addition that was constructed in the 1950s and connected to the southern side of the building with a one-story, flat-roofed hyphen. Both the hyphen and the addition are clad in brick laid in Flemish bond. The addition has a lower pitched roof with brick parapeted gables trimmed in limestone and clad in slate shingles in a coursed pattern. A one-story entrance vestibule with a set of double-leaf metal doors on the western side provides the primary access to the building. Windows in the addition are metal frame, with a variety of casements and fixed panes.

The Civic House was not included in the plans of either the Olmsted Brothers or Brinley & Holbrook and appears to have been designed after the completion of the park's initial design. By 1940, the Civic House was used as a civic defense shelter during World War II, and the 1950s addition has been used as a large classroom and offices for after-school programs. The Civic House was also used as living quarters for the first park superintendent and later park caretakers and their families up until the 1950s. Since its construction in 1929, the Civic House has served the community as a center for recreation, scout activities and community meetings and events.

Skate House

Constructed in 1929, the Skate House (also known as the "Field House") is located in Memorial Park on the northern side of Oakview Avenue (see Photo 22) next to the field designed to be flooded in the winter for skating. It is a small one-story, one-bay, Craftsman-style building with a rectangular plan and a hipped roof. The roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and is clad in asphalt shingles. Exterior walls are clad in a variety of materials, including wood shingles, vertical wood boards and plywood panels. The foundation consists of rubble stone supporting the piers with concrete block between the piers. A brick chimney on a rubble stone foundation is on the northern side of the building. Fenestration consists of three sets of casement windows with eight-by-eight lights on the northern elevation. A concrete pad was added to the southern side and is covered with a flat roof supported by metal poles. The Skate House was included in the designs for the park and is indicated on the Brinley & Holbrook plan dated October 11, 1926, in approximately the current location.

Memorials

Two memorials in the park were included in the original design of the park and were installed during the park's period of significance. A small memorial boulder with a bronze plaque is located northwest of the amphitheater near Dunnell Road marking where eight American Elm trees were planted to commemorate fallen soldiers (see Photo 23). A large boulder (six-feet tall, 10 tons) with a bronze memorial plaque dedicating Memorial Park "to the men and women who served their country during World War I" was installed on a rise just north of Baker Street and east of the East Branch of the Rahway River (see Photo 24). The formal dedication was on Memorial Day, May 30, 1931. Originally next to a path near the elms, in 1998 the memorial boulder was moved to a more prominent site under the park flagpole.

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Non-Contributing Resources

There are features within Memorial Park that were constructed outside of the 1919-1931 period of significance. Because their construction dates fall outside of this period, they are considered to be non-contributing resources in the areas for which the park is significant. Following are their descriptions.

Vehicular Bridge

Memorial Park contains one ca. 2000 vehicular bridge that carries Oakview Avenue over the river from Valley Street to Dunnell Road (see Photo 26). Two additional vehicular bridges that carry Baker Street and Oakland Road are just outside of the park boundary.

Memorials

In 1972 a memorial boulder honoring Christopher Columbus was placed above the amphitheater between the flagpole and Dunnell Road by the local chapter of UNICO, an Italian American service organization. A Vietnam War memorial was erected in 2010 in a wooded hollow at the southeastern corner of the park near the intersection of Valley and Baker Streets (see Photo 27). While they commemorate important events that are significant in the history of the United States, they were installed outside of the park's period of significance.

Historic Integrity

As a central focus of the township, Memorial Park is well maintained and in excellent condition. The park retains a substantial degree of historic integrity, retaining its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The park remains in its original location, and its basic design reflects the original design intent of both the Olmsted Brothers firm and the firm of Brinley & Holbrook, as well as the character defining features of its American Romantic style of landscape architecture, namely, a central waterway as a focal point, a naturalistic-looking designed landscape, open and wooded areas containing recreational spaces, foot paths with foot bridges over the waterway, and buildings within the park to support the recreational activities. There have been few changes to the shape or footprint of the park, and, for the most part, the park closely resembles its original shape and form. Aside from the construction of the library, changes to the park have included the creation of baseball ball fields and the installation of cages within the fields delineated as playgrounds on the plans, the alteration of one of the three tennis courts built in 1929 to a basketball court, the installation of children's playgrounds and playground equipment on Oakview Avenue and on Oakland Road, the addition of paved foot paths along the banks of the river and along the western side of Valley Street, and the addition of small tree memorials and park furniture throughout the park.

The park has retained its integrity of setting and remains in the middle of Maplewood's civic center, between Maplewood Avenue's commercial center and railroad station and the surrounding residential areas, making it open and accessible to all citizens. The park retains a substantial degree of integrity of

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materials, as evidenced by the plant and building material; however, over the years storm damaged or diseased plantings, such as the American Elm trees, have been replaced and new plantings have been integrated into the original park plan. Vegetation throughout the park has changed over time, with the maturing of trees, the removal of dead specimens, and the planting of additional trees and shrubbery under nationally known horticulturist Richard Walters, who served as Supervisor of Parks and Shade Trees from 1935 until 1970. However, the trees and plant material have been incorporated into already planted areas and beds and in keeping with the original design intent of the park.

The park's integrity of workmanship is exhibited in the shaping and construction of the riverbed lining, the foot bridges, the planting beds, the paved foot paths, and the construction of the buildings. The original concrete liner of the East Branch of the Rahway River still remains, although repairs have been made to it, and sections of the wall were replaced following hurricane damage. The park's integrity of feeling has been retained and is evidenced by the sense of peacefulness and tranquility evoked by its naturalistic setting and the sense of welcome that its openness and expansiveness impart to people using it. The park's integrity of association with the other municipal and public facilities surrounding it, such as the National Register-eligible Municipal Building, the Maplewood Country Club, Maplewood Middle School, Maplewood Library, the train station, and the police and fire stations, is still very apparent. In particular, perhaps the most impressive visually esthetic representation of the planned civic center is the Municipal Building which occupies a lot with a broad, well-manicured lawn fronting Valley Street on an upland terrace overlooking Memorial Park and is visible from many points around the town. The municipal building was completed in 1932 as an integral component of the new civic center under construction in Maplewood from 1922-1932. The building's Classical Revival style combined with its display of interior artwork is a significant form of architectural expression that had become widespread and emblematic of civic architecture during the City Beautiful movement that followed the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, when communities were establishing their governing bodies and seeking to add a sense of distinction and importance to their governments. Memorial Park's association with the surrounding community is apparent and is evidenced by the constant level of activity occurring within the park.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Maplewood Memorial Park (Memorial Park) is an excellent and complete example of an early 20th century small neighborhood park located in a suburban railroad community. It is a centrally-located, selfcontained park adjacent to the train station and railroad tracks and surrounded by residential and commercial neighborhoods. The park was designed in the popular American Romantic style of landscape architecture that evolved from the 19th century parks movement, promoted by the work of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and that continued into the 20th century through the work of his sons, the Olmsted Brothers, and other contemporary landscape architecture firms, such as Brinley & Holbrook. With foresight and planning community leaders started acquiring land for the park in 1912, established the park in 1919, and, in the 1920s, hired the prominent firms of the Olmsted Brothers and Brinley & Holbrook to complete the park. Upon its completion in 1931, Memorial Park reflected the designs of both firms, containing many of the features on their original drawings and for which the firms were known. The park features have remained and are emblematic of the American Romantic style of landscape architecture, including a central waterway around which the park is designed, a naturalistic setting, wooded and open spaces, organically shaped planting beds, a system of meandering foot paths, pedestrian foot bridges, recreation-related buildings, designated active and passive recreation areas, and scenic vistas and overlooks from within the park. Since its establishment in 1919 and ultimate completion in 1931, Memorial Park has provided the community a centrally located recreational area for all ages. The park provides availability for leisurely walks, seasonal sporting activities, playgrounds, and annual community gathering events, such as the annual July 4th celebrations. Although not a part of the Essex County Park System, the country's first county-wide park system whose parks were designed by the Olmsted Brothers, Memorial Park is very similar to other parks in the system in its size, scale, location, features, and design intent. Memorial Park was designed concurrently with the Union County Park System, also designed by the Olmsted Brothers. Although Memorial Park has received equipment upgrades, new plantings, and repairs over the years, the different areas of the park are used for the same purposes as originally intended. Like other centrally-located neighborhood parks of the era, Memorial Park is fully integrated with its surrounding community and the recreational daily lives of those who use the park. Memorial Park is unique for its placement as a central feature of Maplewood's civic center, which includes civic and government buildings that surround the park. Since its completion, Memorial Park has been the heart of Maplewood. Memorial Park is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at a local level for its significance in the area of Landscape Architecture. Its period of significance is 1919-1931, beginning with the year that the ordinance creating the park was passed and ending the year that the park was dedicated.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Public Parks Movement

Movement toward the creation of a public park in Maplewood stemmed from the public parks movement that occurred in the country in the latter half of the 19th century. With the creation of Central Park in Manhattan and Prospect Park in Brooklyn, Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner, Calvert Vaux, helped to popularize the idea of the centrally located public park as a pleasure ground. Seeing the success of the two parks in New York, citizens in Newark, New Jersey, became interested in developing their own park. In 1867, Olmsted, Vaux & Company submitted a report entitled, "Report on a Site for Newark," which discussed many aspects of the desired park, ranging from the European inspiration that informed Olmsted and Vauxs' park designs to the Newark park's recommended siting and its advantageous location adjacent to residential neighborhoods. The report was influential in the growing public parks movement and the eventual creation of the Essex County Park Commission (Renner and Galop 2009). The City Beautiful movement, an architectural and planning movement that emerged from the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, also supported the public parks movement by embracing the ideal of designing cities with centrally located parks and open space.

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On March 5, 1895, the New Jersey Legislature enacted precedent-setting legislation, known as the Park Act, which provided for the creation of county park commissions and empowered such commissions to create countywide park systems. Essex County's establishment of a county park commission received voter approval on April 8, 1895, and the Essex County Park Commission was instituted ten days later on April 18, 1895. Plans were started immediately for a park system throughout Essex County, and the "Park at Newark," first discussed by Olmsted and Vaux in 1867, soon became the Essex County Park System's first park, known as Branch Brook Park. The commission initially hired the firm of Bogart and Barrett to design the large park; however, the design was completed by the Olmsted Brothers. Branch Brook Park was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) on January 12, 1981. In its early years, the Essex County Park Commission acquired significant acreage throughout the county that was developed into parks and reservations (Renner and Galop 2009).

The Olmsted Brothers and the Essex County Park Commission envisioned four categories of parks: large reservations that preserved natural features; playgrounds and neighborhood parks in densely populated spots; a combination of neighborhood parks and reservations; and a parkway system linking places with scenic roadways. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and John Nolen, a city planner, described small or "neighborhood" parks as being between 10 and 200 acres in size, adding that "the scenery can seldom be natural in appearance but it can often be quite beautiful, a certain elaboration, elegance and even magnificence taking the place of the more quiet and restful simplicity of the large park in a way that appeals very obviously to many people" (Renner and Galop 2009; Olmsted, Jr., and Nolen 1906).

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The first three parks in the Essex County Park System that were conceived as small neighborhood parks, according to Olmsted and Nolen's definition, were Independence Park (12.69 acres in Newark's ironbound section), West Side Park (31.36 acres in the center of Newark), and Orange Park (47.63 acres in Orange), which received an Opinion of Eligibility on May 14, 2011. Anderson Park, now known as Montclair Park, was designed in 1903 and was situated adjacent to the railroad tracks in a developing residential community, with the town's commercial center on the other side of the tracks. Although it was located in a less developed area than the others parks, park planners anticipated the rapid development of its surrounding neighborhood and planned accordingly, knowing it would become a neighborhood park (Renner and Gallup 2009). Anderson Park was listed in the National Register on December 11, 2009. Memorial Park is similar to Anderson Park, in that it, too, is a small neighborhood park placed strategically next to the railroad tracks and commuter train station and surrounded by a commercial district and a residential neighborhood.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the role of the public park began to undertake a paradigm shift from a "pleasure ground" for passive enjoyment such as sitting, strolling, viewing, and picnicking, to a place where people could enjoy active recreation such as baseball, tennis, and ice-skating. As social reforms advanced by Progressives of the time culminated in improvements like the five-day work week, resistance grew against the notion of large-scale parks sited on the city outskirts, calling instead for accessible recreational areas near workers' homes. Public parks became what one scholar has called "reform parks," where organized activity and sports were expected to keep people active and the youth free from trouble (Cranz 1982). In response to the "Reform Park" movement, landscape architects increasingly included spaces for active recreation within their park designs, designating areas for specific sports activities like ball fields and playgrounds.

Establishment of Memorial Park

In response to the encroaching development occurring in the Township of South Orange (to become the township of Maplewood in 1922) and the establishment of other small neighborhood parks within Essex County, in 1912 community leaders started planning for their own parks centrally located in each of the township's sections, including Maplecrest Park in the center of the Hilton section and Memorial Park in the Maplewood section. According to municipal clerk records of 1912 and 1913, government land acquisition began in earnest in 1912 when the Township of South Orange started purchasing land from private landowners for the future Maplewood Park, to be located in the valley of the East Branch of the Rahway River, between Dunnell Road and Valley Street and between Oakland Road and Oakview Avenue.

The first acquired land parcels were in the northeastern half of the park between Oakland Road and Oakview Avenue, with property acquisition in the southwestern half between Oakview Avenue and Baker Street soon following. The last area incorporated into Maplewood Park was a row of 11 building lots with dwellings on the northeastern side of Baker Street, known as the Chapin development. The township acquired the properties from private owners in 1930, and the dwellings were demolished the

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same year (McCornack 1935). Historic maps showing the location of Memorial Park are shown on Figures 1-7.

The township paid large sums of money for tracts in the future park area, including \$6,000 for the Freeman plot along Valley Street and \$4,000 for the Oakes Tract along Oakland Road (Township Clerk 1913). According to clerk records, the land was "necessary and proper for the completion of the improvement as a public park" and that "the special election authorizing the purchase of land in Hilton and Maplewood for park purposes by bond issue opens up an improvement that will be a lasting benefit to the community" (Lemos 2005).

The newly acquired land between Oakland Road and Oakview Avenue was first used as a park in 1916. According to an undated ca. 1918 newspaper article, local citizens initiated the construction of a large playground (the name used at the time for a park) in the spring of 1916. Residents prepared the land and installed equipment, and the township installed a pond and comfort station. Kenneth Dalzell of Budall Realty, who subsequently designed many homes in Maplewood, constructed a small shelter house north of the area now containing the tennis courts (Kurshan and Stout 2009; South Orange Record 1920). The playground was in full operation by the summer of 1917.

To acquire the remaining land needed for the desired park, the Township of South Orange drafted an ordinance that provided for the establishment of Memorial Park. The ordinance was first read on June 17, 1919, at the Township Committee meeting, and final passage occurred after the second reading on July 1, 1919. The ordinance contained language allowing for "the acquiring of lands and real estate and easements and interests therein necessary to be acquired in the establishment of said public park or open space." The private property proposed for acquisition included land from several large estates and from a number of Maplewood property owners whose land was located within the boundaries of the committee's planned park (see Figure 8). The ordinance empowered the township to acquire the remaining privately held land expressly for park purposes and allowed for the layout, improvement, and maintenance of the park (South Orange Record 1919).

In the 1920's the Maplewood section's population expanded rapidly after World War I as soldiers returned from the war and as in the rest of the country, a housing shortage prompted another wave of residential development. In 1922, the Township of South Orange changed its name to the Township of Maplewood (Maplewood) in order to prevent confusion and to create a distinct identify for the community.¹ The new government saw the dramatic changes occurring in the area and moved to enact ordinances that empowered it to control land use, plan for the town's physical growth, and acquire the land required for municipal facilities to serve the growing population. A zoning committee was formed the same year and, by June 1922, a zoning ordinance was adopted, regulating Maplewood's land use and designating where industrial, residential, and open space areas would be located (Township Clerk 1922).

The governing body of the new municipality was the Township Committee, with John S. DeHart, Jr., as its chairman. The Township Committee was eager to create a new identity for the recently incorporated township that would help define it and elevate its status among other Essex County communities.

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Additionally, neighboring Union County was in the middle of establishing its park system in 1922 and had hired the Olmsted Brothers to design its parks. The Union County Park System's first parks, Warinanco Park and Echo Lake Park, were under construction by the fall of 1923. With one eye on the Union County park planning activities and another eye on the national planning trends promoted by the City Beautiful movement, the Township Committee proceeded with planning for a new civic center, with civic, municipal, and public-oriented buildings surrounding a centrally-located community park.

Chairman DeHart believed in the merits of the civic center and park to provide a recreational area for the community to gather so he ardently pursued their development. With strong support from other community leaders and financial support from bond issues, the Township Committee ambitiously embarked on completing the civic center. Once completed, the civic center included Memorial Park at its core, constructed from 1923-1931; a new fire station northwest of the park on Dunnell Road, constructed in 1924; a Civic House (also known as the Shelter House) within the park, constructed in 1929; a police building northwest of the park on Dunnell Road, opened and dedicated in 1931; and the new Municipal Building at the park's southeastern side on Valley Street, completed in 1932. Completing the complement of municipal, commercial, and civic buildings surrounding Memorial Park were Nelson's Garage and the Maplewood Garage north and northwest of the park, the Maplewood Country Club, southwest of the park, and the Maplewood Middle School, which had been constructed across Baker Street. The Township Committee had desired that other civic-oriented facilities be located around the park as well, one of which was the Maplewood Women's Club (Women's Club).²

The creation of the new civic center was complete by 1932 after the construction of the large new municipal building on Valley Street overlooking the park. In 1956, the Township of Maplewood constructed the Maplewood Memorial Library on the western border of the park land at the northeastern corner of Baker Street and Dunnell Road. The library has been successfully integrated into the town's civic core, bordering the park and also utilizing the park's space for some of its planned activities.

Memorial Park has been an integral part of the entire community since its initial development, drawing residents to it daily. It has been a venue for innumerable events and recreational activities from organized sports, informal walks and gatherings and seasonal community celebrations for many years. Notable events for which the park is known include the annual day-long Fourth of July Celebration, which is depicted in one of the Municipal Building murals, and Maplewoodstock, the town's popular annual celebration of community music and art. The park's location adjacent to the railroad tracks makes it a regular part of the daily commute for many residents, as they disembark from the train and walk through the park en route to their homes. For many residents, Memorial Park is the heart of Maplewood.

Initial Design of Memorial Park by the Olmsted Brothers

In 1922, the Township Committee hired the popular landscape architecture firm of the Olmsted Brothers to bring to fruition the long-standing plans for a park. The Olmsted Brothers had just completed the design of the nearby South Mountain Reservation, a part of the Essex County Park System and located just two miles away in portions of today's Maplewood, Millburn, and West Orange. The firm was also in

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the middle of designing parks for the Union County Park System. The hiring of the prominent firm for Maplewood's park seemed to be an obvious choice.

The Olmsted Brothers' initial design for Maplewood's park included all of the features that were characteristic of the American Romantic style of landscape architecture that their father, Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., had popularized in the United States from the middle to the end of the 19th century. Similar to the park designs for Essex and Union Counties, the Olmsted Brothers' design for Memorial Park included a central waterway as a focal point in the park, in this case the relocated East Branch of the Rahway River; a naturalistic setting with gently rolling terrain; a combination of both wooded and open spaces; passive and active recreation areas; organically shaped features; separate circulation systems for pedestrian and vehicular transportation in the form of winding drives and meandering foot paths through the park; and vistas and scenic overlooks across the landscape.

Memorial Park was the Olmsted Brothers' Project No. 07045. The firm produced plans over approximately a nine-month period between 1922 and 1923. Archived correspondence between the Olmsted Brothers firm and the township is currently held at the Robert H. Grasmere Local History Center in Maplewood and contains details about the hiring of the firm and administration of the project. In July 1922, in response to a request for a proposal for a design that would enable the gradual development of the park, the Olmsted Brothers firm submitted a proposal letter to complete the project for a fee of \$500 plus expenses for drafting, travel, and other incidental items, which were estimated not to exceed \$900. As described in the proposal letter, services included in the fee were the preparation of a preliminary plan based on a topographical map to be provided by the township; the preparation of a detailed grading plan showing the contours of the park, the grading of the ground, the construction of walkways, and other features; a planting plan showing the position of proposed trees and the outlines of beds for shrubberies and other plants; and a planting list corresponding to the planting plan. If the township did not have a topographical map already made, the firm offered to make one for a cost of \$12.00 per acre (Gallagher 1922).

Percival Gallagher managed the Maplewood project, as evidenced by his signature on at least one of the drawings and by correspondence between the firm and the Township Committee. Gallaher submitted design plans for Memorial Park and maintained a correspondence with the Township Committee for three years (1922-1925) (RBA 2013). Gallagher was an accomplished landscape architect who graduated from Harvard University's Bussey Institute and supplemented his education with classes in Harvard's Fine Art program where he met Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. After graduating in 1894, Gallagher joined the firm of Olmsted, Olmsted, & Eliot, whose principles at first were Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., John Charles Olmsted, and Charles W. Eliot. In 1904, Gallagher attempted to open a firm with landscape architect James Sturgis Pray but returned to the Olmsted office after two years. Simultaneous to his work on Memorial Park in Maplewood was his planning for the Union County Park System in the early 1920s. In 1927 Percival Gallagher became a full partner with the Olmsted Brothers firm. While with the firm, Gallagher contributed to the design work of college campuses as well as municipal parks. He redesigned the campus of Bryn Mawr College, which Frederick

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Law Olmsted, Sr., had first completed, as well as the campuses of Haverford, Swarthmore, Vassar, and Duke University.

Because Maplewood had no topographical map, it authorized the Olmsted Brothers firm to complete the work, resulting in the preparation of Plan No. 4, dated August 25, 1922. The firm then received authorization to proceed with the preparation of the preliminary plans. In his "Memorandum on the Design of Maplewood Park" drafted in 1923, Percival Gallagher expressed his views and considerations on the park's design, saying:

This park in Maplewood must not only serve adequately the requirement of presentday ideals in out-door recreation but must also appear a thoroughly beautiful and attractive adjunct to the town itself. In many ways, the park b[y] its central location and situation in the valley of the Second River, must reflect the ideals of the town and stand out as one of its most striking natural features.

In addition, Gallagher believed that the promenade through the park was to be a dominant feature and that training the stream by channeling it and confining the flood waters was a major importance to the design.

A subsequent ca.1922 Preliminary Plan with Gallagher's signature shows a general layout of the park, emphasizing the locations of the main recreation areas, an outdoor auditorium, a channeled waterway, interior circulation systems, vehicular drives traversing the park, planting areas, and cross sections of the park's topography (see Figure 9). A more detailed archived Grading Plan for Memorial Park designed by Gallagher and dated December 13, 1922, depicted a more detailed layout with a centrally-located lake, measuring approximately one square mile in area, between Oakview Avenue and Baker Street; a concrete-and stone-lined channel for the rerouted East Branch of the Rahway River north of the lake; a system of winding foot paths throughout the park; a monument at the Dunnell Road side; an outdoor auditorium and coasting hill between Baker Street and Oakview Avenue; and playing fields plotted in different areas throughout the park. At the northeastern end of the park on Oakland Road, the plan showed an area with a flower garden and arbor, bathroom facilities, a wading pool, sand courts, a hard gravel playground, swing set, slide, and covered seating area.

To raise money for the park's construction, the Township Committee voted unanimously in 1923 to issue park bonds, 45 of which were sold at \$1,000 each to cover the initial project costs. In 1925 engineer David Petruzziello was awarded a contract for changing the course of the East Branch of the Rahway River. The rerouted stream was lined with a concrete and stone liner to control its flow and runoff (Lemos 2005; Kurshan and Stout 2009), which still exists on the floor of the river.

For the township to construct the park, Percival Gallagher suggested the use of a landscape contractor, J.V. Bonnell, who completed work for noted landscape architect James L. Greenleaf. It appears that the grading of the western portion of the park was not underway until June 1924. According to correspondence, the grading work included removing of top soil from the proposed lake site and placing

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it on Dunnell Road. No further information regarding the construction work was found during research, and it is not precisely clear how much of the design was completed during this original effort or how much work was completed using the Olmsted Brothers' design.

As with the development of other parks in Essex and Union Counties, financial constraints slowed the development of Memorial Park and necessitated a phased approach to its completion. The township completed the park's western portion next to Dunnell Road first, but waited before proceeding with additional sections, evidenced by correspondence from 1923-1925 between George K. Thompson, probably a member of the Township Committee, and the Olmsted Brothers. According to the correspondence, Gallagher did not complete a planting plan right away because he was waiting for the township to do the grading, after which he would design the park planting. The planting plan of a section of Memorial Park, Plan No. 6, and the accompanying planting list were submitted to the Township Committee by February 5, 1923. The grading plan for another section, labeled as Plan No. 9 and dated March 10, 1923, was then issued. A third planting plan and list, dated April 11 and 12, 1923, soon followed (Olmsted Research Guide Online 2011). Actual planting first occurred in the spring of 1923 using Plan No. 9 in the park section opposite the railroad station, with the preparation of shrubbery beds and the planting of trees. Another section of the park on Dunnell Road was planted in the spring of 1925 using Plan No. 11 and its accompanying planting list.

Despite Percival Gallagher's recommendation to install a monument of a manufactured granite slab with a recessed bronze plaque, Maplewood adhered to its own plan of using a boulder in keeping with the naturalistic appearance of the park. A natural boulder with a recessed bronze plaque dedicating the park as a memorial to World War I service men and women was unveiled on Memorial Day, May 30, 1931 near Baker Street. Other monuments were installed in the park in subsequent years. Many of the plants and flowers used in the park originally were grown in the park department's hothouses located behind the Municipal Building on Valley Street. Citizens also donated plant material from their own properties (McCornack 1935).

In December 1925, in an effort to construct more playgrounds in the park, the Township Committee authorized the appropriation of \$50,000 to purchase new tracts of land to extend the park site, including more land on Dunnell Road, which was owned by the Lackawanna Realty Company and by Albert Knoll and his son Albert Knoll, Jr. In the spring of 1926 the Township Committee passed an ordinance for the acquisition of more land for the establishment of municipal buildings and other uses, and in November 1927 the Public Buildings Committee was delegated the authority to hire additional assistance in the improvement of the park (Lemos 2005; Kurshan and Stout 2009).

Design by Brinley & Holbrook

In December 1927, the Township Committee hired another prominent landscape architecture firm, Brinley & Holbrook, to complete the remainder of the park (known as Project No. 328) (Lemos 2005; Kurshan and Stout 2009). There appears to have been an overlap in the use of the Olmsted Brothers Firm and Brinley & Holbrook, as evidenced by archived correspondence from both firms. The exact reasons

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for the switch from using the Olmsted Brothers to using Brinley & Holbrook are unknown; however, it was not uncommon at the time for a client to hire one firm to do the initial design and grading work and continue with the services of another firm for subsequent phases of a project. In support of this claim is research that revealed that in several instances, John Brinley was hired to either complete landscape designs that were started by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., such as Morristown's Green, or redesign other landscape architects' residential landscapes after a property changed ownership and underwent renovations and reconstruction.

Brinley & Holbrook was a successful landscape architecture firm well known not only in New Jersey but throughout the country. With offices in both Morristown, New Jersey, and in New York City at 156 Fifth Avenue, the firm was similar to that of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and its successor firm, the Olmsted Brothers, in the type of clientele it served. Brinley & Holbrook was known for designing landscapes for the large estates of prominent and wealthy clients; the campuses of county- and state-owned institutions; and parks for local municipalities.

The firm of Brinley & Holbrook was associated with Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and the Olmsted Brothers in a number of ways. John Rowlett Brinley, a distinguished landscape architect and Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects, graduated from the Columbia University School of Mines in 1884 with a degree in civil engineering. Brinley, the son of prominent surveyor Edward Brinley, worked first as a civil engineer, completing land surveys for other firms, including that of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. In 1890 Brinley was hired to survey the property for Hamilton M. Twombly's Morris County estate, "Florham," and worked under the direction of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. He supervised the clearing, drainage, and planting work prior to the completion of the estate house, which was designed by McKim, Mead, and White (Birnbaum and Foell 2009). Brinley also assisted John Charles Olmsted with the landscape design for "Faircourt," a remodeled residence in the exclusive Somerset Hills area in Bernardsville, and with "Crescent Court," financier and philanthropist Otto Kahn's first estate, located in Morris Township, New Jersey (Turpin 2004).

In 1901 Brinley formed a partnership with fellow Columbia School of Mines graduate John Swift Holbrook. Known as Brinley & Holbrook, Landscape Engineers and Architects, the firm received commissions for many post-Gilded Age-era estates in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and elsewhere through their connections with Olmsted, Sr., and the Olmsted Brothers. After John Holbrook left the firm in 1905 to join the Gorham Manufacturing Company, Brinley retained the firm's name and continued practicing landscape architecture until the 1940s. With a home office in Morristown, the wellconnected firm was retained by Morris County, New Jersey, clients to design the grounds of their estates, including John F. Dryden II's "Stronghold;" Charles Engelhard's "Craigmore;" William Thorn Kissel's "October House;" John Talmage's "Audley Manor;" and Chandler White Riker's "Vernon Manor" (Turpin 2004). Notable projects outside of the Morris County area included the estate of James Buchanan Duke in Charlotte, North Carolina, whose New Jersey property "Duke Farms" was designed earlier by the firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and "The Jay Estate" in Rye, New York, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1993. _

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Brinley & Holbrook's public commissions included the 1908 redesign of the Green at Morristown, New Jersey. In 1909, Brinley & Holbrook designed Rye Town Park, in Rye, New York, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. The State of New Jersey hired Brinley & Holbrook to design the grounds of many of its agencies' institutions, among which were prison farms, tuberculosis sanatoriums, hospitals for the insane, an epileptic colony, a soldier's home, and a colony for the feeble-minded, to name a few. The firm also created landscape designs for schools, golf clubs, and cemeteries. Of particular note is the firm's mausoleum design for the Woolworth Estate (Brinley & Holbrook 1923) in the Bronx' Woodlawn Cemetery. The Woolworth Mausoleum was described as "an example of notable craftsmanship and one which serves to forcefully illustrate the efficacy of planting as an attribute of the lawn-plan," a popular practice of cemetery landscaping of the day.

The firm of Brinley & Holbrook is also associated with the New York Botanical Garden, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and became a National Historic Landmark in May 1967. In 1896, Brinley was included on a commission of experts for the planning of the botanical garden (Newcomb et al. 1897) and later became the chief landscape architect for the garden. Several years later, the firm of Brinley & Holbrook prepared watercolor presentation drawings depicting a series of proposed architectural structures and features, all of which are archived at the botanical gardens today (New York Botanical Garden 2011). A few of the buildings and structures were later built, including a stone wall that surrounds the entire botanical garden property (National Park Service 2011).

Recreation trends of the day informed the park designs of Brinley & Holbrook. Since the 1890s, active recreation and vigorous athletics, especially baseball, had become more popular, and parks started to accommodate the sport by incorporating ball fields and playgrounds in their plans (Cranz 1982). In a letter to the Commission describing its proposed plan for Memorial Park, Brinley & Holbrook wrote, "We wish to state that as the park area and the adjoining playground are so closely connected, it seemed impossible to consider the one without the other." Brinley & Holbrook's 1926 plan for Memorial Park provided for boy's and girl's play areas, a space for small children, a "Mother's Shelter," a skating rink and shelter, tennis courts, and football and baseball fields (see Figure 10). In addition to baseball, ice skating had become very popular by the 1870s, and many park managers around the country regularly flooded areas within their parks to create small rinks. Brinley & Holbrook included a field for ice skating as well as a small skate house on its plan.

Brinley & Holbrook's proposed written plan also included a description of the firm's ideas for a World War I memorial, the namesake of Memorial Park. Provisions for the memorial included a memorial grove at the top of the amphitheater near the train station, where a grove of evergreen trees and a semicircle of eight American Elm trees were to be placed. At the bottom of the amphitheater hill was to be a plaza containing a flagpole and an ornamental base with a memorial plaque. The firm intended the flagpole to be the "memorial center of the entire park." Because it was anticipated that the meadow between the lake and Valley Street would serve as a parade ground, the firm suggested the placement of a small covered platform to be used as a reviewing stand and shelter (Brinley & Holbrook 1926).

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Brinley & Holbrook's 1926 plan and written proposal recommended the construction of a dam and a small lake at the bottom of the hill. The proposal also stated that the firm wanted to retain many of the trees in the meadow along Valley Street and a system of paths throughout the park. Interestingly, the shortcuts through the park that already existed were to be respected and incorporated into the scheme "so as to admit of no possible disfigurement, so common to many parks." Finally, the written proposal mentioned that a sufficient number of bridges were proposed that would provide all the necessary circulation (Brinley & Holbrook 1926).

In April 1927 the firm prepared a grading plan for the playground, and in July 1928 a General Planting Plan was prepared. The firm of Runyon and Carey of Newark designed lighting for the park, but the location of the lighting fixtures within the park is unknown.

Two buildings associated with the park's recreational use were included on Brinley & Holbrook's plans and eventually constructed within the park. In 1929-1930 a small one-story Skate House designed by William Mitchell was constructed by the skating pond to provide shelter in the winter time. Another park building, the 1929 Civic House (or the Shelter House as it was originally called), was designed by local architect Charles C. Grant (who also designed the old police building) and constructed in the northwestern side of the park. The Civic House served as a caretaker's apartment and also provided accommodations for Boy and Girl Scout organizations and for the care of children using the park.

On the southern border of the park was a rock garden, or rockery, that was designed and constructed in approximately 1930 during the park's construction. The inclusion of rocks in the park aligns with the prevailing practice in park design at the time. Naturalistic rockwork provided rustic accents to the manmade landscape and was frequently incorporated in municipal and federal parks designed during this time period (McClelland 1993). Some accounts say that the rocks for the garden were obtained during the demolition of the neighboring Chapin development on Baker Street. The garden suffered years of neglect before it was restored ca. 2009.

Brinley & Holbrook designed foot bridges that crossed the East Branch of the Rahway River in a rustic style, with unpeeled logs and stone masonry abutments (see Figures 11, 12, 13 and 14). This style of bridge had become popularized by Alexander Jackson Downing in his *Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening*, published first in 1841, and became a widespread feature in public parks in the late 19th and early-20th centuries (McClelland 1993). Three of the bridges are extant; however, repairs have been made to several of them in recent years (dates unknown), including wood replacement and new handrails for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The original stone wall along the river remains, but sections were replaced after hurricane damage in 1999.

Memorial Park was officially dedicated in 1931 and it became the core of the town's planned civic center. Despite some changes to the original Olmsted Brothers design for Memorial Park, Brinley & Holbrook's plans contained the same characteristic features of the American Romantic style of landscape architecture, which are still in evidence in the park today, including the incorporation of the East Branch of the Rahway River and Crooked Brook (see Figure 15). Although not designed by either

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firm, both the Skate House and the Civic House were conceived early in the design process and were included on Brinley & Holbrook's 1926 plan. Both buildings contribute to the design of the park and represent prominent architectural styles that were used at the time of the park's construction. The placement of the Civic House on the waterway enhanced the picturesque appearance of the waterway and its surrounding gardens and added to the park's utility as a community center. In addition, its Tudor-Revival style reflected the architecture of the nearby train station in the town's commercial center as well as the neighboring residential architecture. By 1935 Memorial Park contained three tennis courts, and it was used as one of six municipal parks in Maplewood (McCornack 1935).

Comparisons of the Designs of the Olmsted Brothers and Brinley & Holbrook

A comparison of the 1922 Preliminary Plan and the March 10, 1923, Grading Plan by the Olmsted Brothers with the 1926-1929 drawings by Brinley & Holbrook reveals many similarities. It appears that Brinley & Holbrook utilized the Olmsted Brothers' design as a starting point for their plans. Brinley & Holbrook retained the same footprint as the Olmsted design and the same general location of recreation areas within the park. Other similarities between the two designs are the placement of the rerouted East Branch of the Rahway River through the park (which may have already been built by the time the latter firm got involved); the organically shaped circulation system of foot paths throughout the park; the placement of a natural amphitheater in the southwestern area next to Dunnell Road; a memorial grove on top of the amphitheater hill; a civic building near Dunnell Road; and designated areas throughout the park for ballfields and playgrounds. Similar to other designs by the Olmsted Brothers, the park incorporated a system of footpaths that was separate from vehicular circulation.

The major difference between the plans of the two firms is the size of the pond in the center of the park. This is most clearly illustrated in the 1926 plan which did not maintain the large lake and wading pool (RBA 2013, see Figure 5). The Olmsted Brothers planned for a large pond approximately one acre in area that would be separate from the channeled river. Brinley & Holbrook planned for a slightly enlarged area within the river. The pond that was actually constructed appears to be a compromise of the two designs. A separate pond was constructed east of the river, but its size was much smaller than that envisioned by the Olmsted Brothers. Another difference between the two designs was that, although both firms utilized a natural amphitheater between Baker Street and Oakview Avenue (see Figure 16), the Olmsted Brothers envisioned the World War I memorial to be placed at the top of the hill only, while Brinley & Holbrook proposed a large memorial and plaza for the bottom of the hill as well as a grove of elm trees at the top of the hill placed on the same axis. The completed park had the memorial at the top of the hill, with a natural boulder and a memorial plaque installed (see Figure 17).

Both the Olmsted Brothers and Brinley & Holbrook envisioned a building between the river and Dunnell Road. The completed Civic House, however, was much larger than the drawings indicated.

Despite differences in the size of the pond and the location of several elements within the park, the design intent of the Olmsted Brothers was carried through in the plans of Brinley & Holbrook and ultimately in the park's completion. Except for the annexing of acreage at the park's southwestern corner

(Expires	5-31-2012)
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on Baker Street and the addition of the library building in 1955-1956, the boundaries of today's Memorial Park are the same as the boundaries of the park as it was designed by both firms in the 1920s. The routing of the river, as well as the network of foot paths, the planting areas, and the placement of most of the ballfields and playgrounds has remained as designed. The Skate House depicted on Brinley & Holbrook's drawing was constructed as shown and still exists in the same location. The 1928 plan best reflects the park today and includes the Shelter House, tennis courts, pathways, lagoon, amphitheater and monuments. This plan also identifies the skating pond and skating pond shelter house which is indicated as bring relocated from the area of the tennis courts (RBA 2013).

Evolution of Park Property and 20th Century Changes

Designed in the early 20th century American Romantic style of landscape architecture by a series of two well-known and influential landscape architectural firms, Memorial Park has retained the same approximate triangular shape and size as it was originally envisioned by early township officials and designed by the landscape architects. The township leaders had started planning for the acquisition of parcels between Dunnell Road and Valley Street and between Oakland Road and Baker Street as early as 1912 during a time of quickly disappearing farm land and open space. The passage of a 1919 ordinance officially established the park, allowing for further land acquisition by the municipal government. In its development of the initial set of plans in 1922, the Olmsted Brothers firm adhered to the township's intentions and designed the park within the boundaries established by Maplewood. In its redesign of portions of the park in 1926, Brinley & Holbrook retained the original shape of the park (while also expanding the park) in developing its plans.

In 1946, the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of Maplewood requested authorization from the Township Committee to use a site within Memorial Park for a new library building to commemorate veterans of World War II. The site was requested because of its advantageous location across from the school, its location in the geographical center of the area where library members lived, and its adjacency to the park (Bates 1946). The new library was constructed in 1955-1956 on the northern side of Baker Street, with an addition built in 1969-70. While the library was constructed within the original park's limits, it currently resides outside of the park's defined historical boundary due to the changed in landuse from recreational park space to the library. This change in use excludes the library from the park's boundary. The rockery built in the late 20th century, located on the eastern side of the library, was restored by the Maplewood Garden Club ca. 2009.

In 1972, a memorial boulder honoring Christopher Columbus was placed above the amphitheater between the flagpole and Dunnell Road by the local chapter of UNICO, an Italian American service organization. A Vietnam War memorial was erected in 2010 in a wooded hollow at the southeastern corner of the park near the intersection of Valley and Baker Streets.

These changes have not diminished the historic integrity of Memorial Park. The park is well maintained by the township and is in excellent condition. Memorial Park continues to function as originally intended and subsequently planned by the architecture firms of the Olmsted Brothers and Brinley & Holbrook in the early 20th century—as a small neighborhood park in the center of the suburban railroad community

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of Maplewood. As a result, Memorial Park meets National Register significance Criterion C for its significance in the area of Landscape Architecture.

¹ South Orange Township (including portions of present-day Maplewood) was incorporated in 1861 from portions of the Townships of Orange and Clinton. In 1904, the Village of South Orange was separated from the Township of South Orange. The remaining area continued to use the name "Township of South Orange" until 1922 when the name was changed to "Township of Maplewood" due in part to confusion in having one part called "Village of South Orange" and the other "Township of South Orange" (Foster 1930).

² In early 1929 the Women's Club had plans to construct a clubhouse at the corner of Woodland Avenue and Inwood Place near Maplewood's commercial center. The club had not broken ground yet for the project when the Committee learned of the plans and requested a delay in the building's construction. Because the Committee strongly felt that the Women's Club building belonged in the group of new municipal and civic buildings facing Memorial Park, it proposed that the Women's Club alter its plans and build its clubhouse adjacent to the park at the southeastern corner of Baker and Valley Streets on property then owned by the Maplewood Country Club (Daily Courier 1929). The Women's Club considered the location shift because it wanted what was in the best interests of Maplewood (Members Chat 1928). Apparently, prominent citizens applied pressure to the Maplewood Country Club by sending a resolution recommending that the country club offer a portion of its property for sale to the Women's Club. The country club, however, was opposed to the idea and passed a resolution preventing the sale or lease of the club's property to the Women's Club or any other party. It felt that the land, then used as a putting green for the golf course, was essential to the proper use of the country club (Daily Courier 1929).

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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior	
National Park Service	

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of Maplewood Memorial Park extends from the southwestern side of Oakland Road to the northeast, the northwestern side of Valley Street to the southeast, and to the northeastern side of Baker Street to the southwest. At Baker Street, the boundary extends 570 feet to the northwest before sharply turning 107 feet northeast to the Crooked Brook. The boundary extends 580 feet northwest along the Crooked Brook before terminating 115 feet from the northwest corner of Baker Street and Crooked Brook. The boundary continues from the southeastern side of Dunnell Road to the northwest terminating at Oakland Road (see Figures 18 and 19).

Boundary Justification

The boundary of Maplewood Memorial Park is consistent with the original 1922 Olmsted Brothers preliminary plan design (see Figure 9). This is the first official park design published as a result of the Maplewood Township Committee hiring the Olmsted Brothers specifically for the design of the park.

The original 1922 design omits the present-day Maplewood Library (constructed in 1956) which is located in the present-day tax parcel. In 1922, the tract of land which presently contains the Maplewood Library consisted of a series of private dwellings (see Figure 7). The dwellings were ultimately acquired and demolished in 1930 as a result of an ordinance which passed in 1919. The ordinance contained language allowing for "the acquiring of lands and real estate and easements and interests therein necessary to be acquired in the establishment of said public park or open space." Brinley & Holbrook's 1926 plan expanded the design to include the acreage extending to Baker Street (see Figure 10). The 1926 design shows this area intended as vegetative parkland and walking paths. The Maplewood Library therefore was not envisioned to be included within the park design by the landscape architects Olmsted Brothers or Brinley & Holbrook. In addition, Maplewood Library (constructed in 1956) extends beyond Memorial Park's period of significance dating from 1919-1931.

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Page <u>1</u>

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information is the same for all photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name of Property:	Maplewood Memorial Park
City or Vicinity:	Maplewood
County:	Essex
State:	NJ
Name of Photographer:	Brock Giordano
Date of Photographs:	June 2, 2011
Location of Negatives:	600 Parsippany Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054

Photo locations are shown on Figure 20.

Photo #1:	Channeled East Branch of the Rahway River, facing northeast.		
Photo #2:	Crooked Brook, tributary of the East Branch of the Rahway River, facing north.		
Photo #3:	Original concrete and rubble stone wall, facing northwest.		
Photo #4:	Pre-cast concrete replacement panels next to original concrete and stone wall, facing northwest.		
Photo #5:	Pond, facing southwest.		
Photo #6:	Grass lawn and ball field, facing southwest.		
Photo #7:	Designed landscape along the East Branch of the Rahway River, showing hardwood trees, conifers, flowering shrubs, and footpaths, facing north.		
Photo #8:	Former location of semi-circle of Dutch Elm trees at top of amphitheater, facing north.		
Photo #9:	Grove of mature trees at bottom of amphitheater, facing southeast.		
Photo #10:	Small children's playground on Baker and Valley Streets, facing west.		
Photo #11:	Large playground between tennis courts and Oakland Road, facing southwest.		
Photo #12:	Tennis and basketball courts between Oakland Road and Oakview Avenue, facing northwest.		
Photo #13:	Ball fields between Oakland Road and Oakview Avenue, facing northeast.		
Photo #14:	Ball fields between Oakview Avenue and Baker Street, facing northwest.		

(Expires 5-31-2012)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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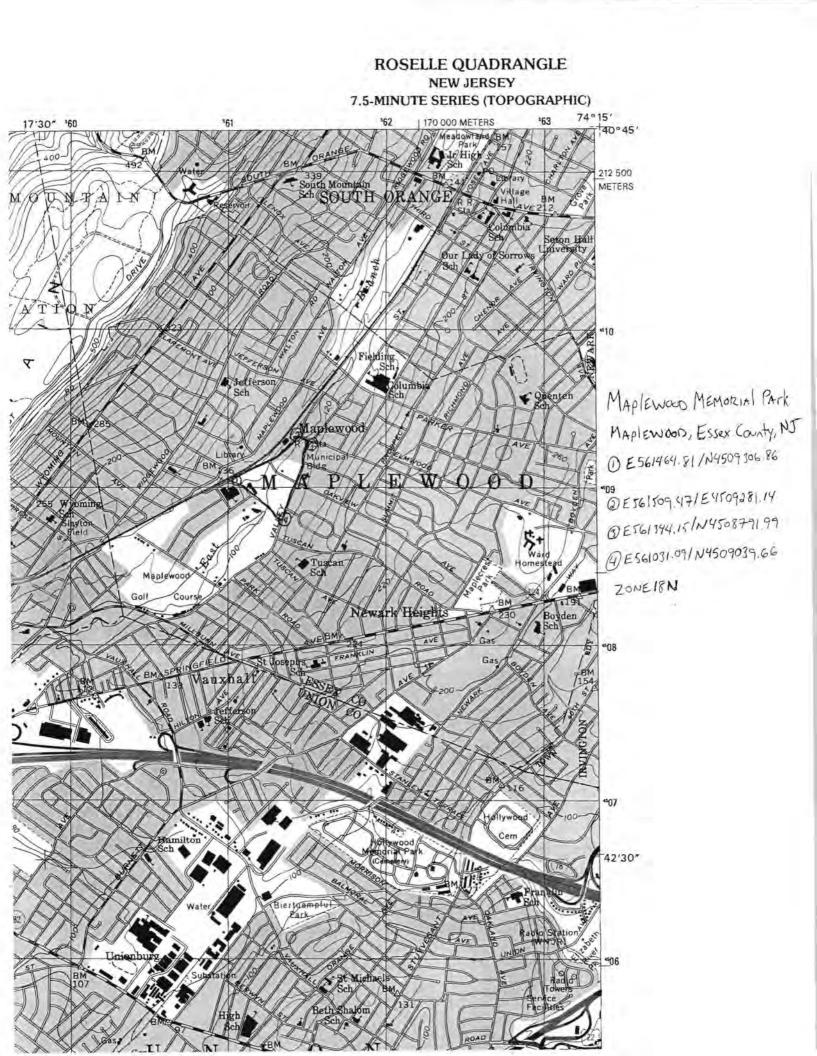
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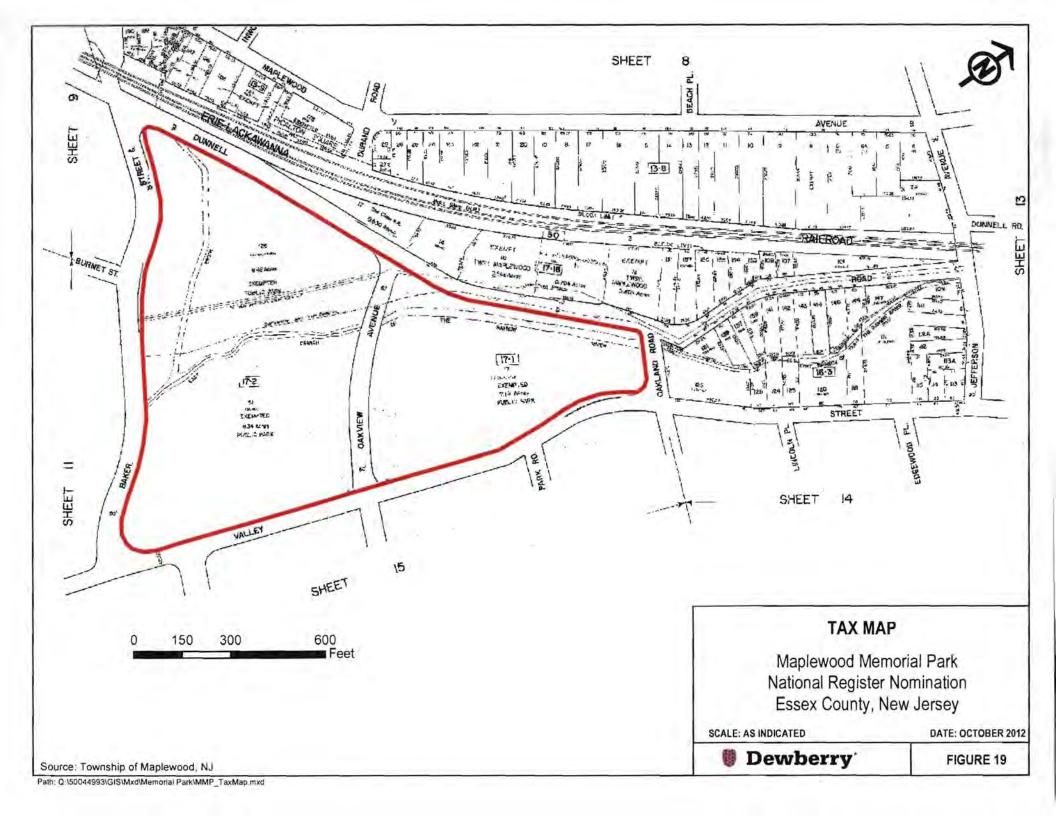
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County and State

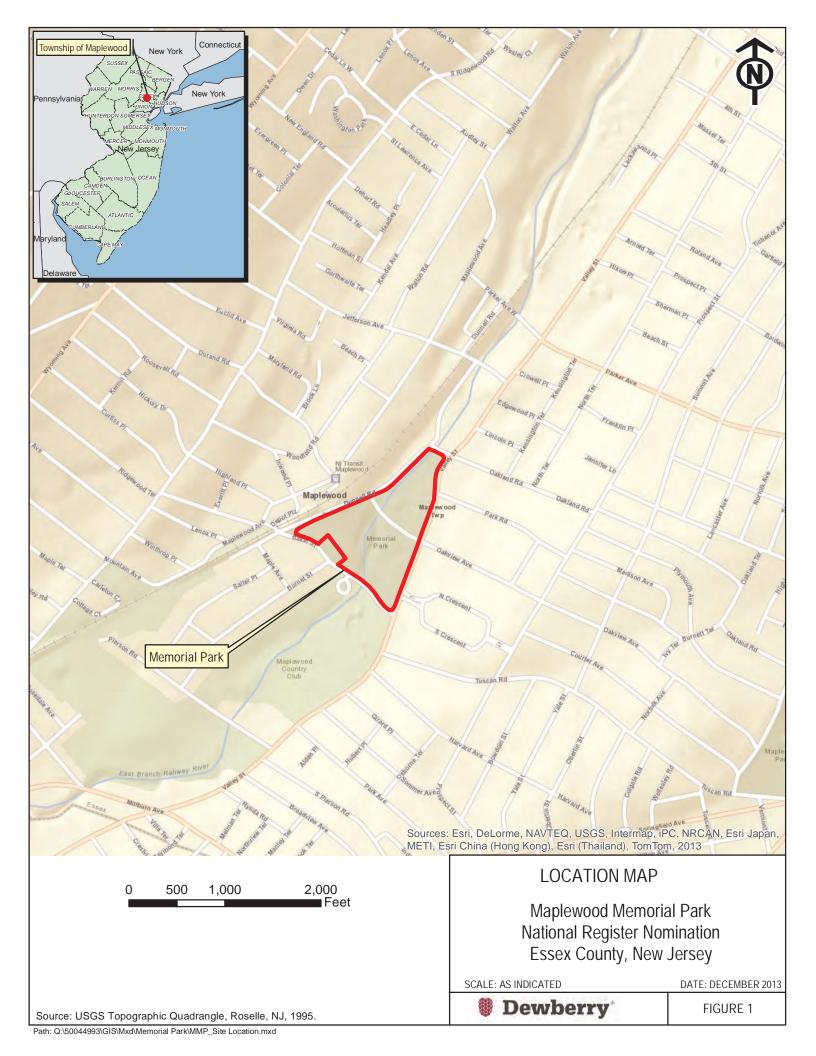
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number <u>Photos</u> Page <u>2</u>

- Photo #15: Footbridge behind and north of library, facing southwest.
- Photo #16: Footbridge north of Baker Street, facing southwest.
- Photo #17: Footbridge in front of Civic House, facing southwest.
- Photo #18: Foot path system along northwestern side of river, facing southwest.
- Photo #19: Foot path system in southeastern corner of park near Baker and Valley Streets, facing south.
- Photo #20: Southeastern façade of original section of Civic House, facing northwest.
- Photo #21: Northeastern end of Civic House, facing southwest.
- Photo #22: Skate House, facing south.
- Photo #23: Memorial Plaque for eight Dutch Elm trees at top of amphitheater, facing northwest.
- Photo #24: Memorial boulder for fallen World War I soldiers, facing northeast.
- Photo #25: Maplewood Memorial Library on Baker Street, facing north.
- Photo #26: Vehicular bridge carrying Oakview Avenue, facing north.
- Photo #27: Vietnam War Memorial, facing southwest.









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Maplewood Memorial Park National Register Nomination Essex County, New Jersey

SCALE: AS INDICATED

DATE: DECEMBER 2013



FIGURE 2

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Maplewood Memorial Park Name of Property

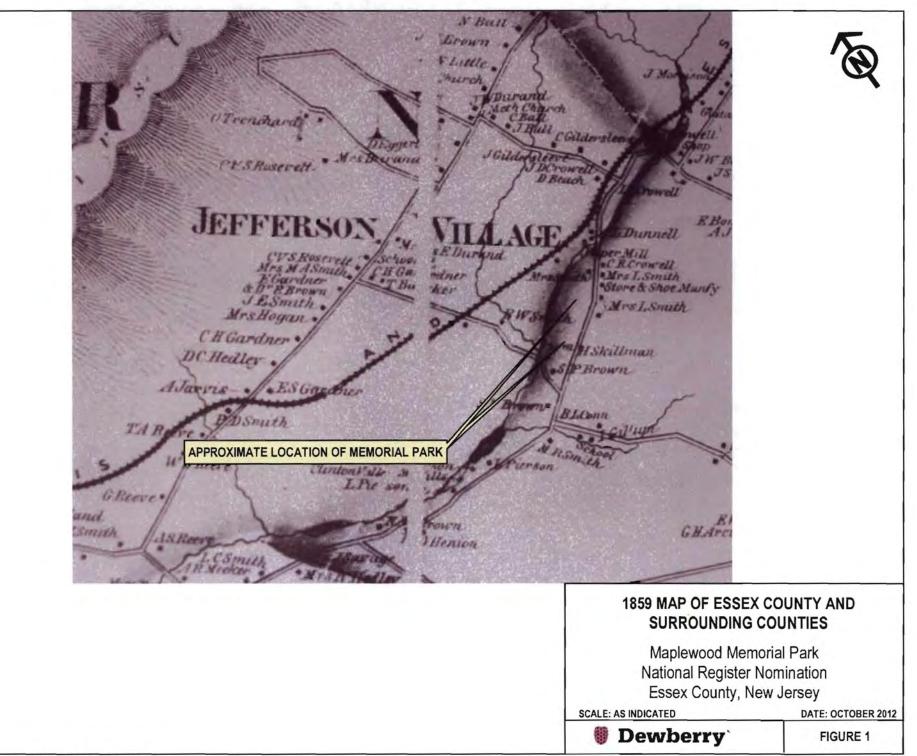
Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

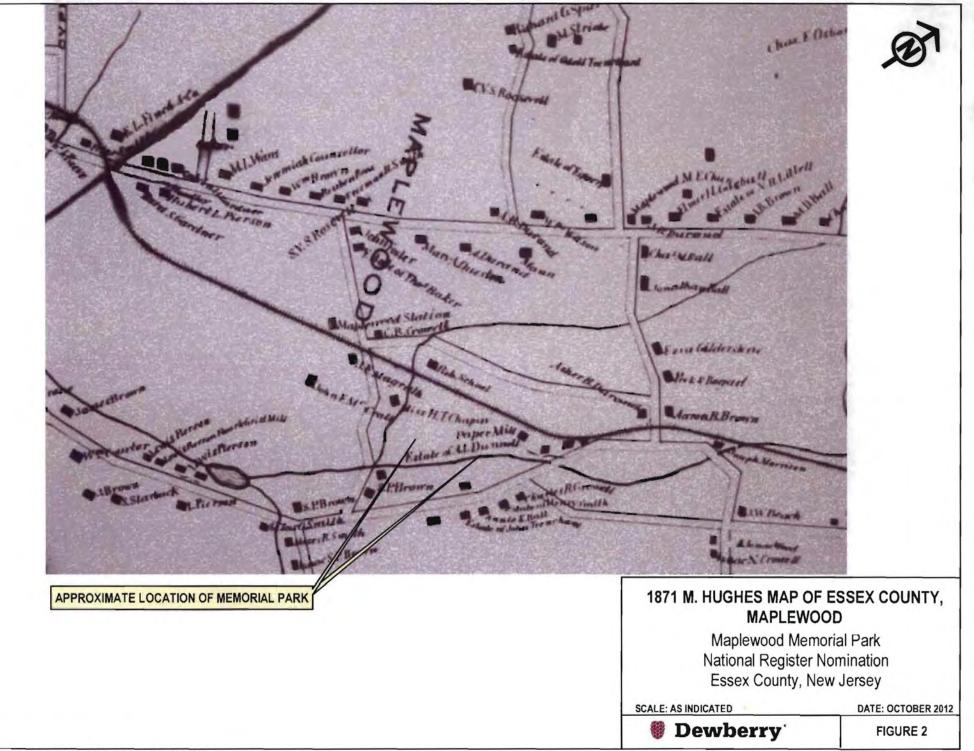
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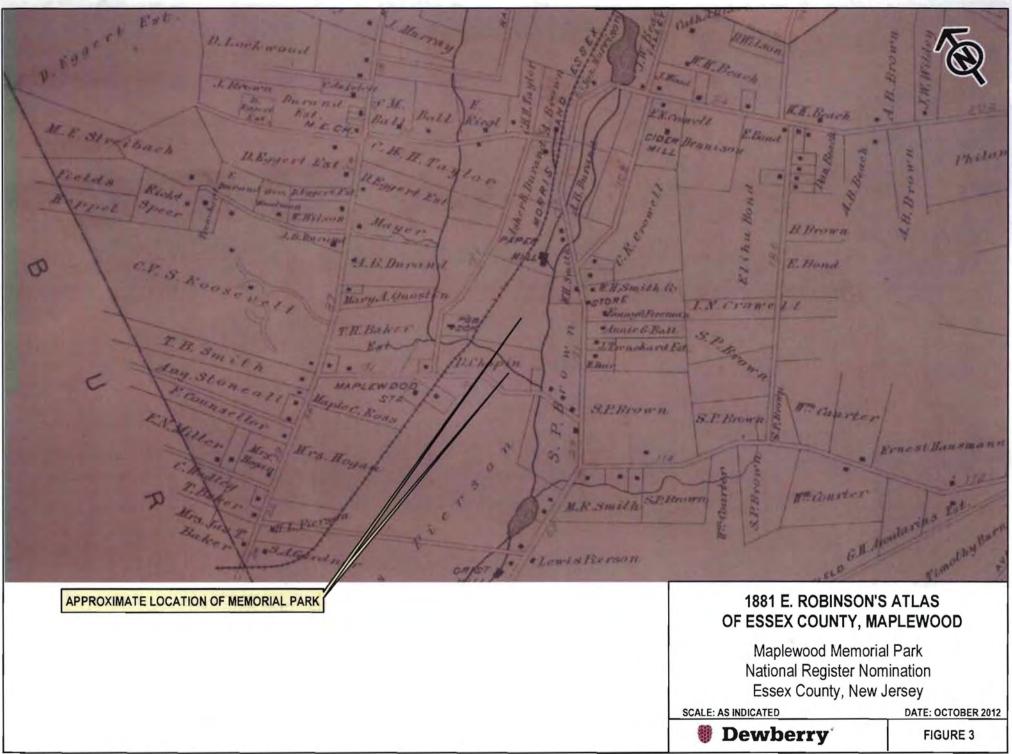
Section number <u>Figures</u> Page <u>1</u>

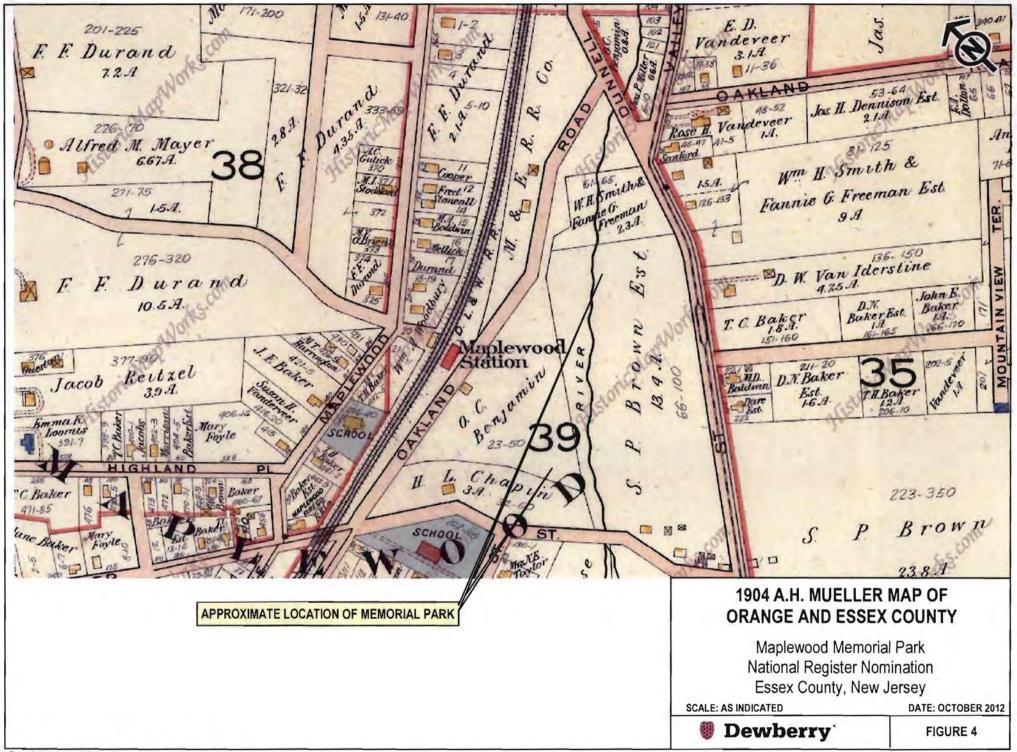
FIGURE LIST

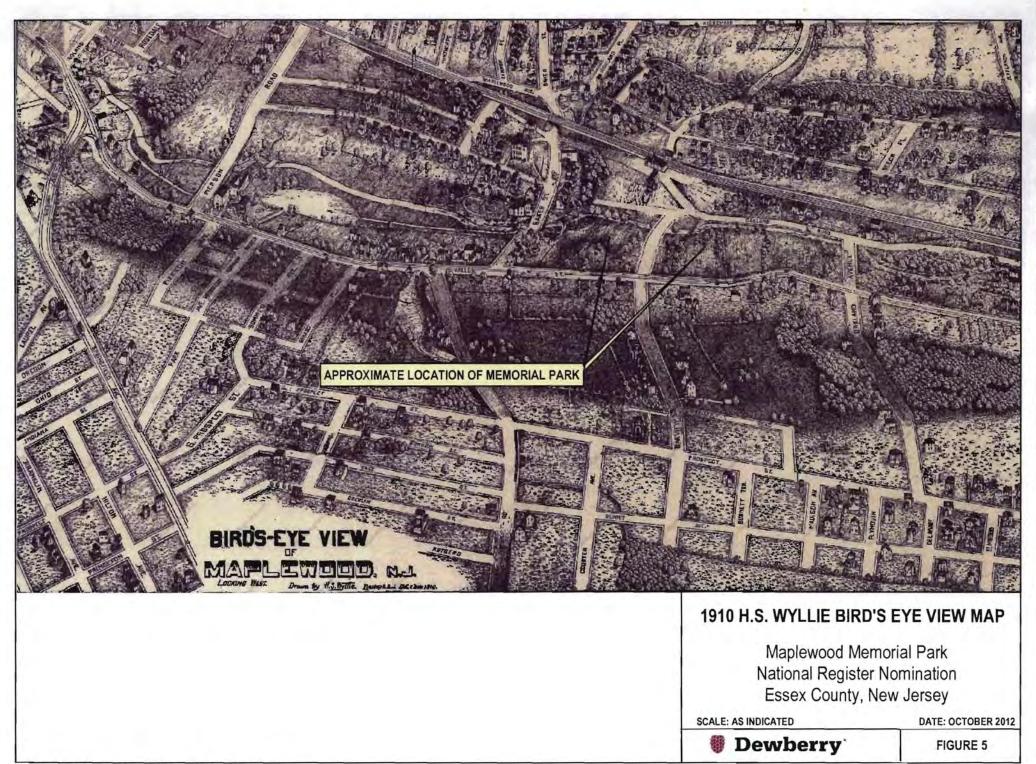
- Figure #1: 1859 Map of Essex County and Surrounding Counties
- Figure #2: 1871 M. Hughes Map of Essex County, Maplewood
- Figure #3: 1881 E. Robinson's Atlas of Essex County, Maplewood
- Figure #4: 1904 A.H. Mueller, Map of Orange and Essex County
- Figure #5: 1910 H.S. Wyllie, Bird's Eye View Map
- Figure #6: 1911 A.H. Mueller, Map of Orange and Essex County
- Figure #7: 1928 E. Robinson Atlas of Essex County, NJ
- Figure #8: 1919 Map of Proposed Park Site
- Figure #9: Ca. 1922 Olmsted Preliminary Plan
- Figure #10: Brinley & Holbrook 1926 Plan
- Figure #11: Footbridge Sketch A
- Figure #12: Footbridge Sketch B
- Figure #13: Footbridge Sketch C
- Figure #14: Half Elevation and Section Drawing
- Figure #15: The Brook at Memorial Park, April 1940
- Figure #16: Ca. 1930 Photo of the Natural Amphitheater
- Figure #17: Photo of Memorial Boulder at Top of Amphitheater
- Figure #18: Location Map
- Figure #19: Tax Map
- Figure #20: Aerial Photo Map and Photo Location Plan

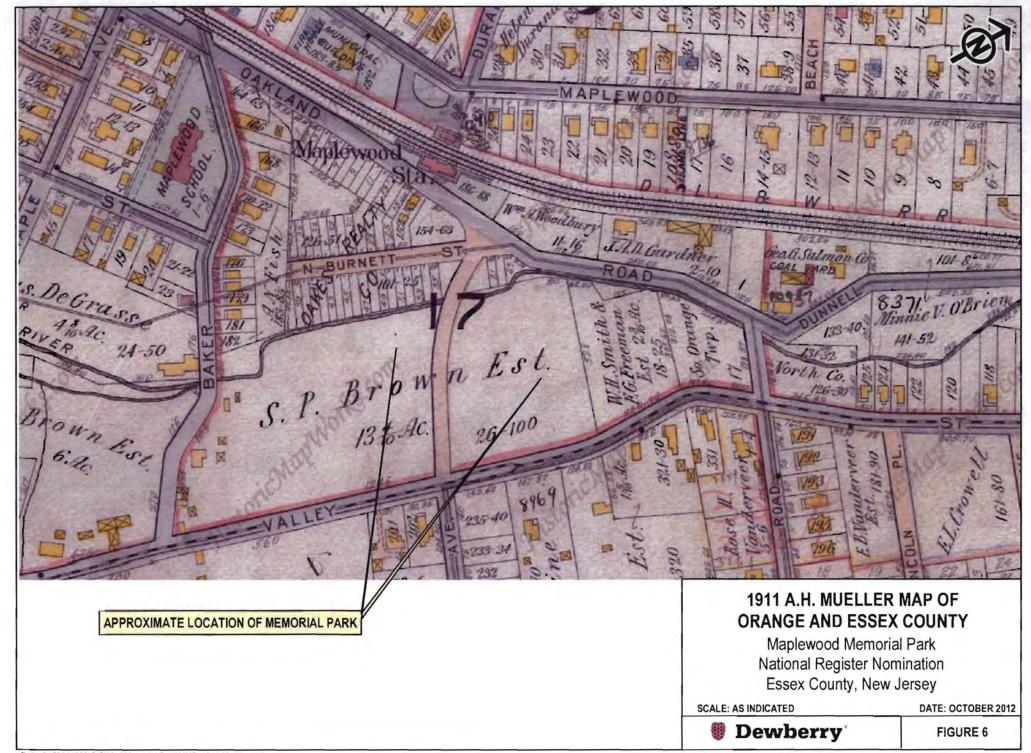


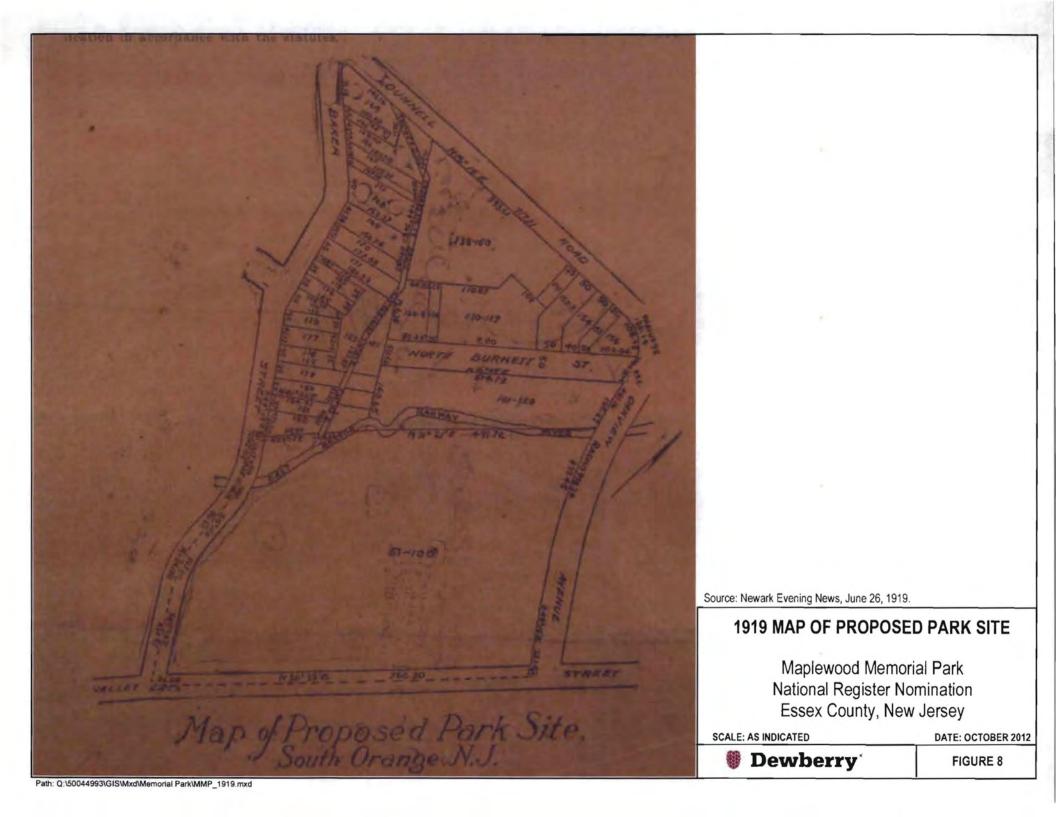


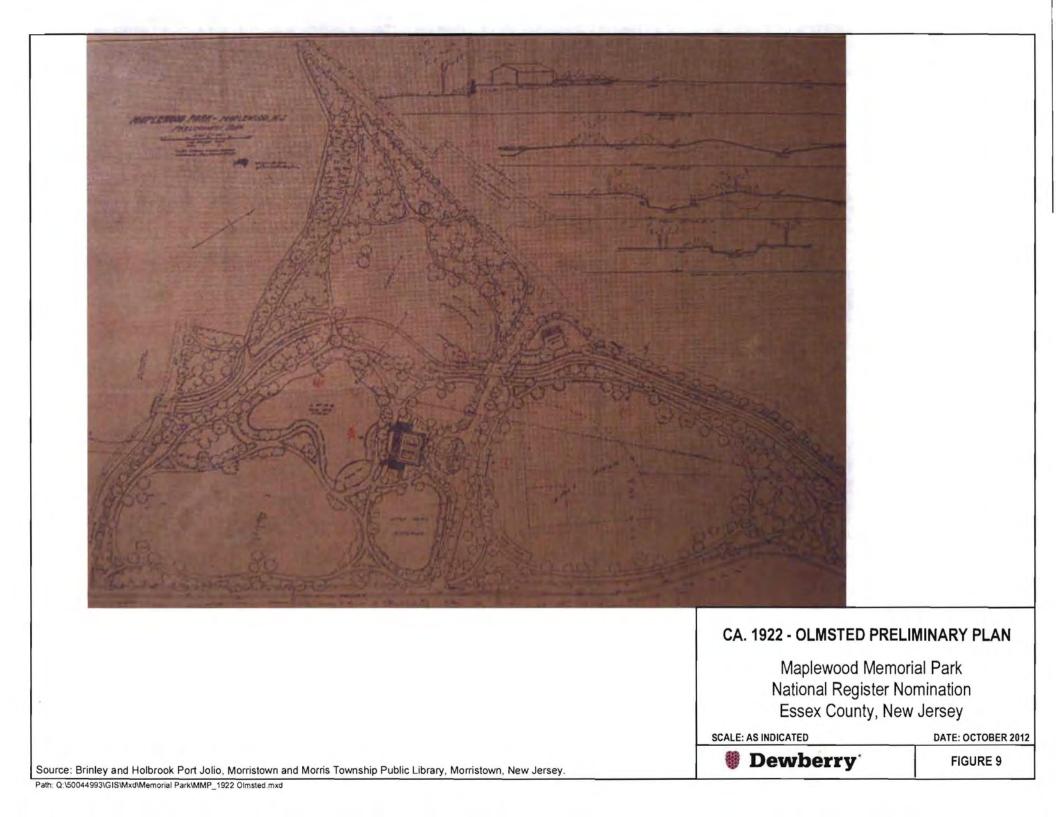


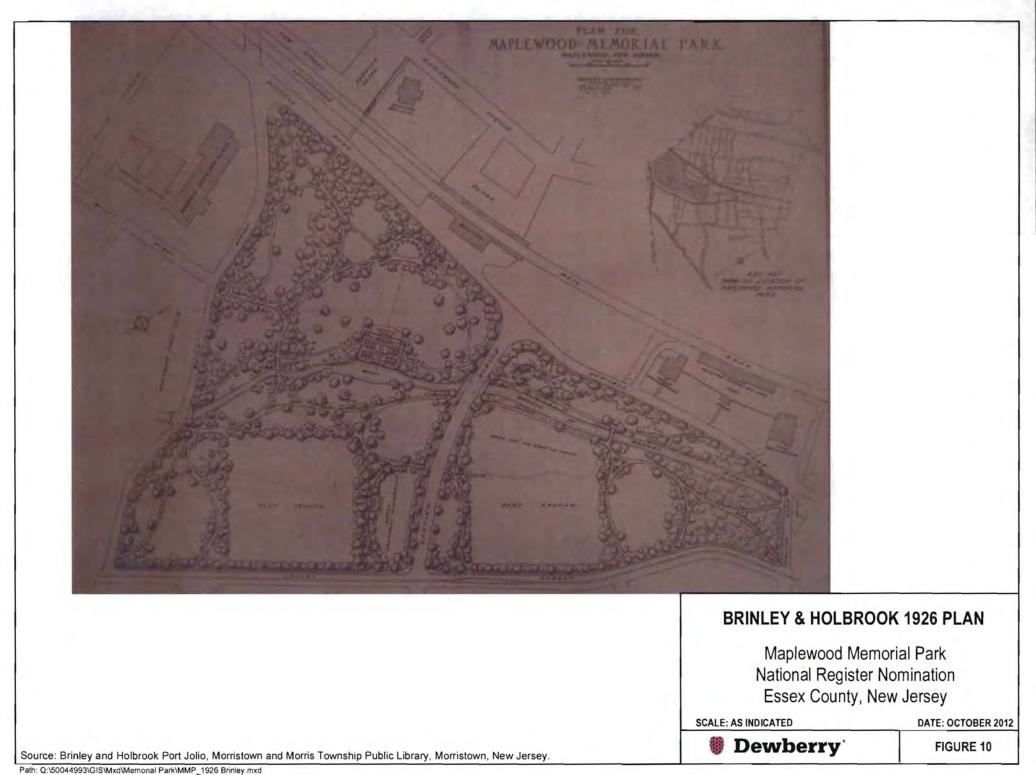


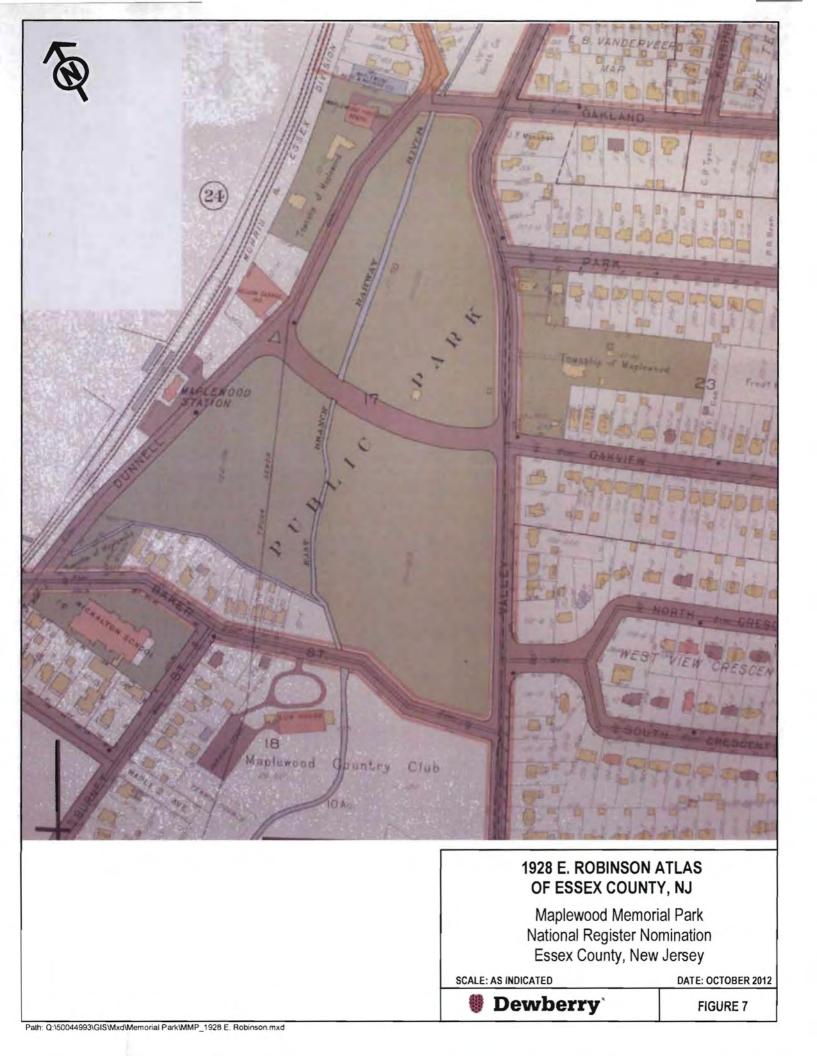


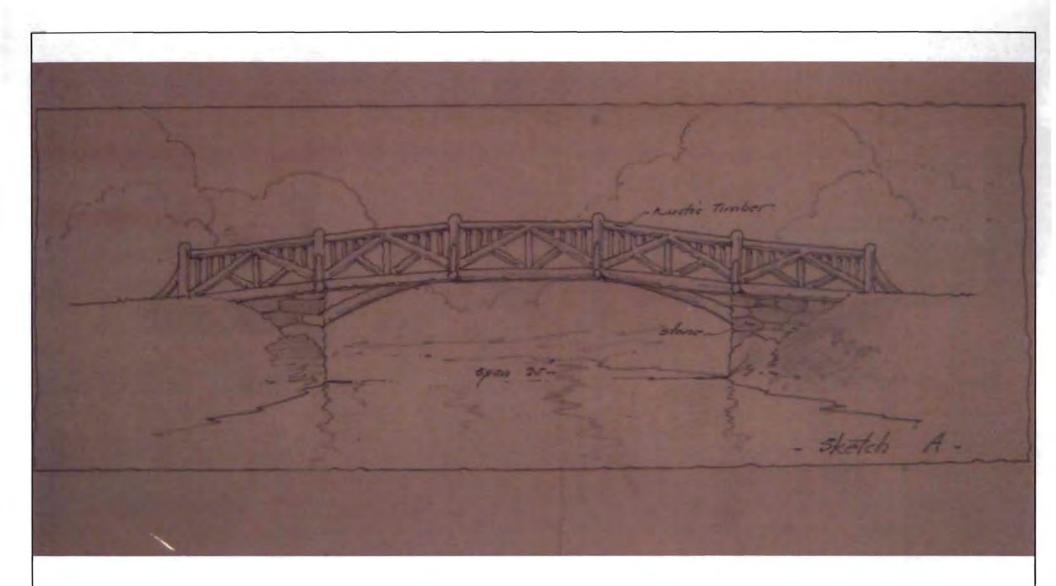












FOOTBRIDGE - SKETCH A

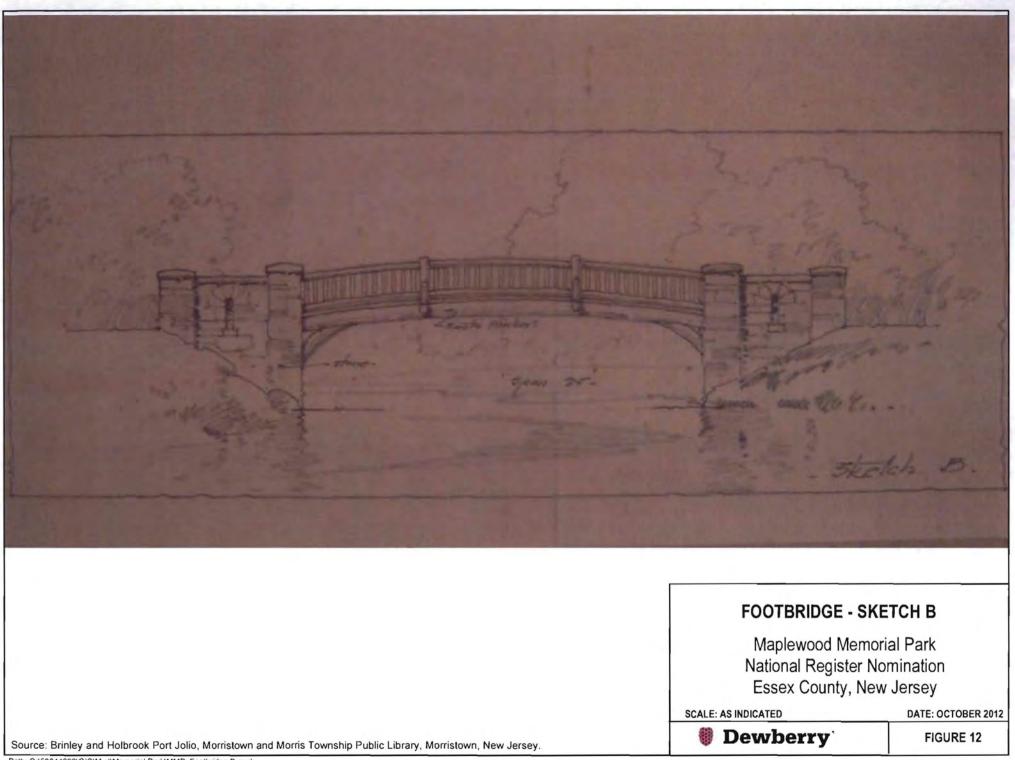
Maplewood Memorial Park National Register Nomination Essex County, New Jersey

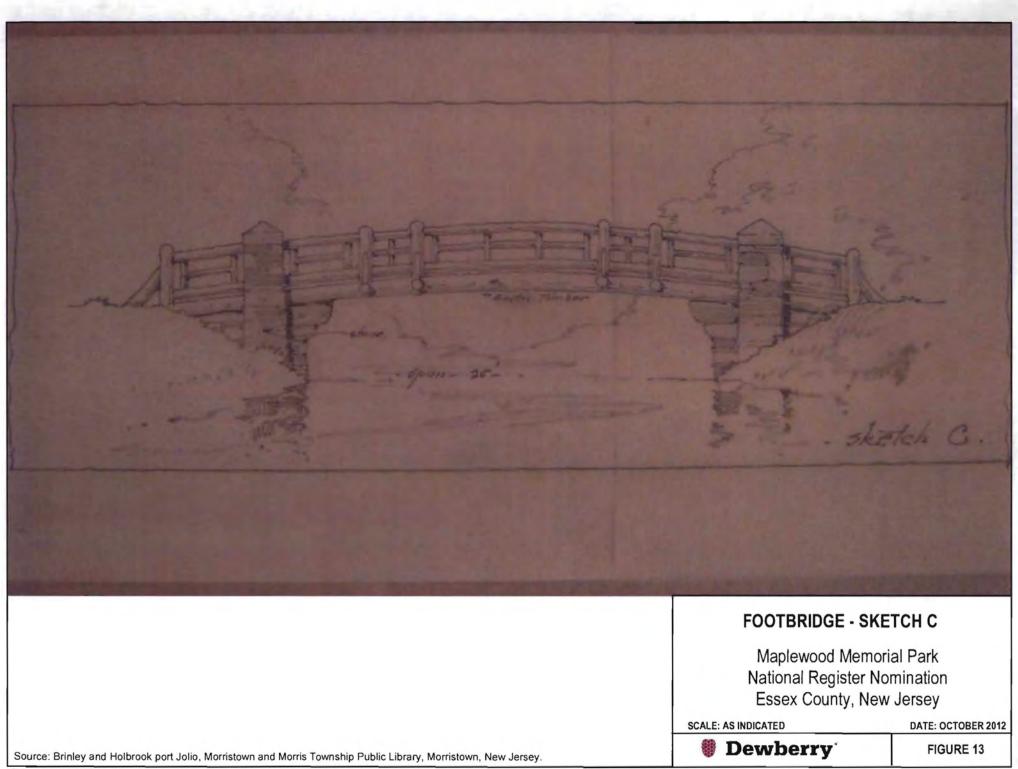
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Dewberry

DATE: OCTOBER 2012

Source: Brinley and Holbrook Port Jolio, Morristown and Morris Township Public Library, Morristown, New Jersey.

















































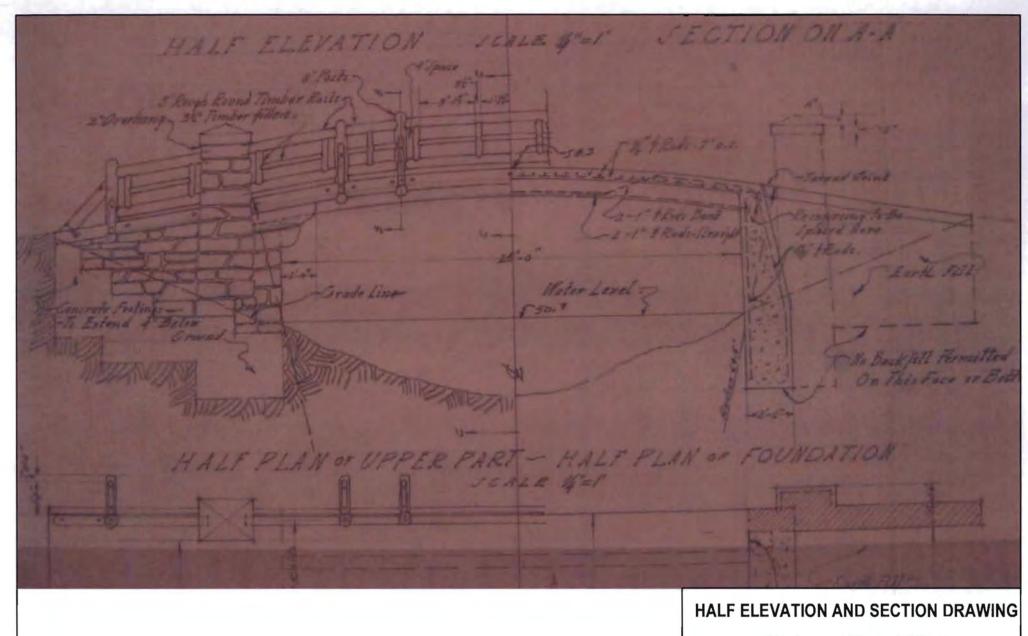












Maplewood Memorial Park National Register Nomination Essex County, New Jersey

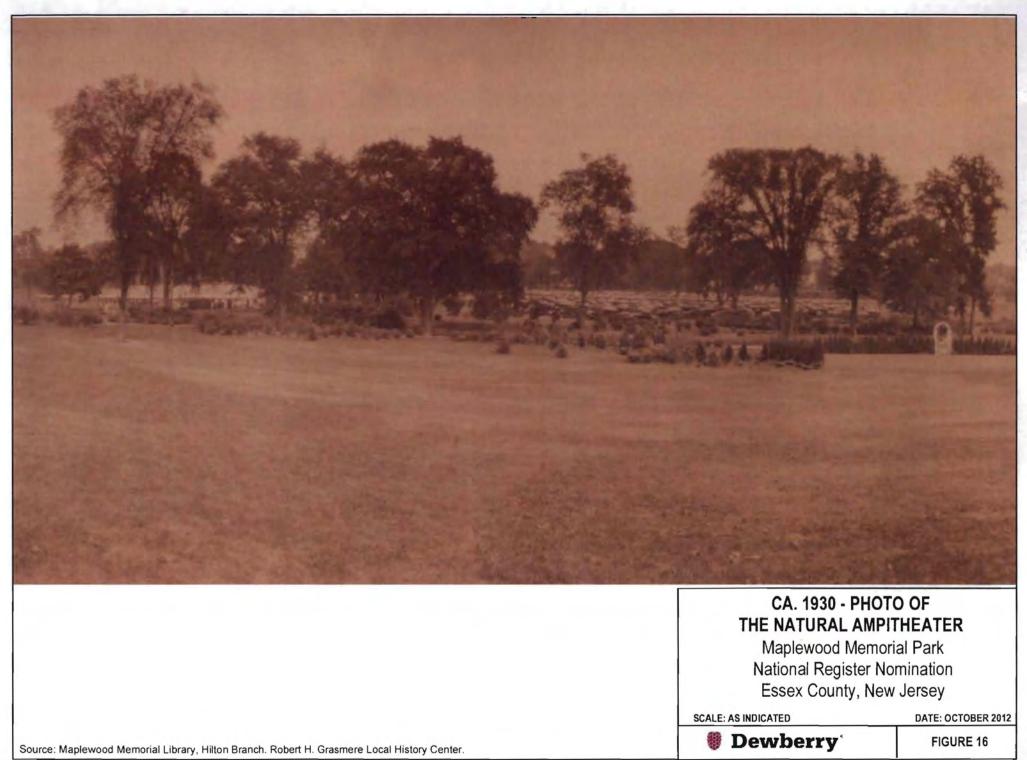
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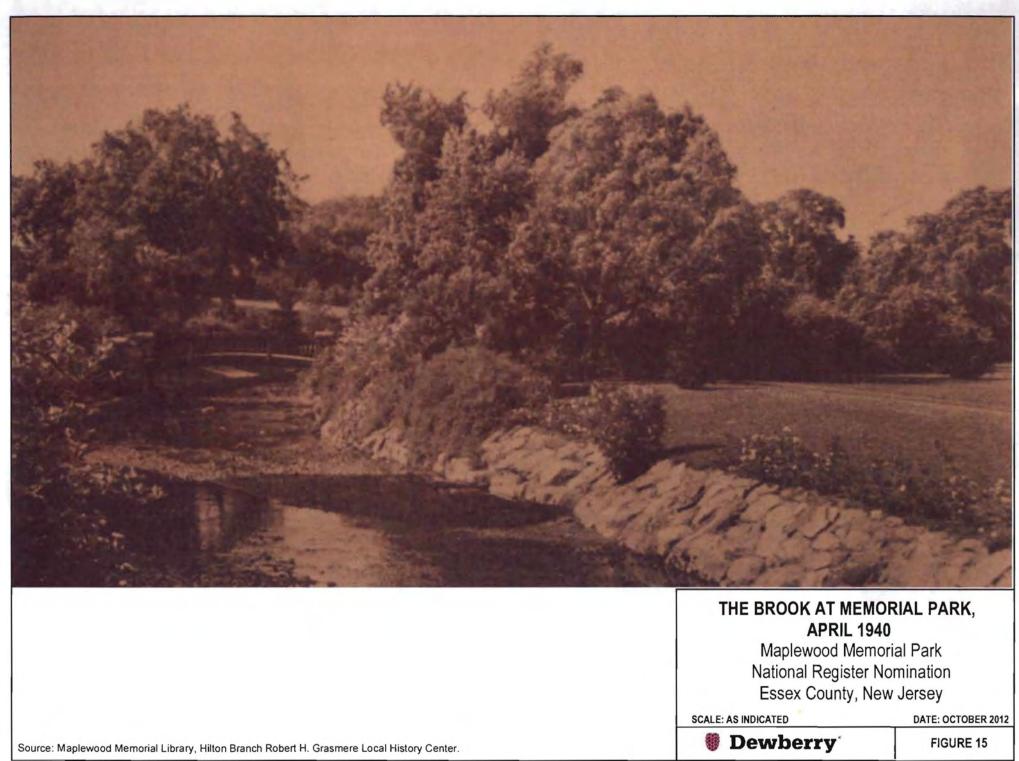
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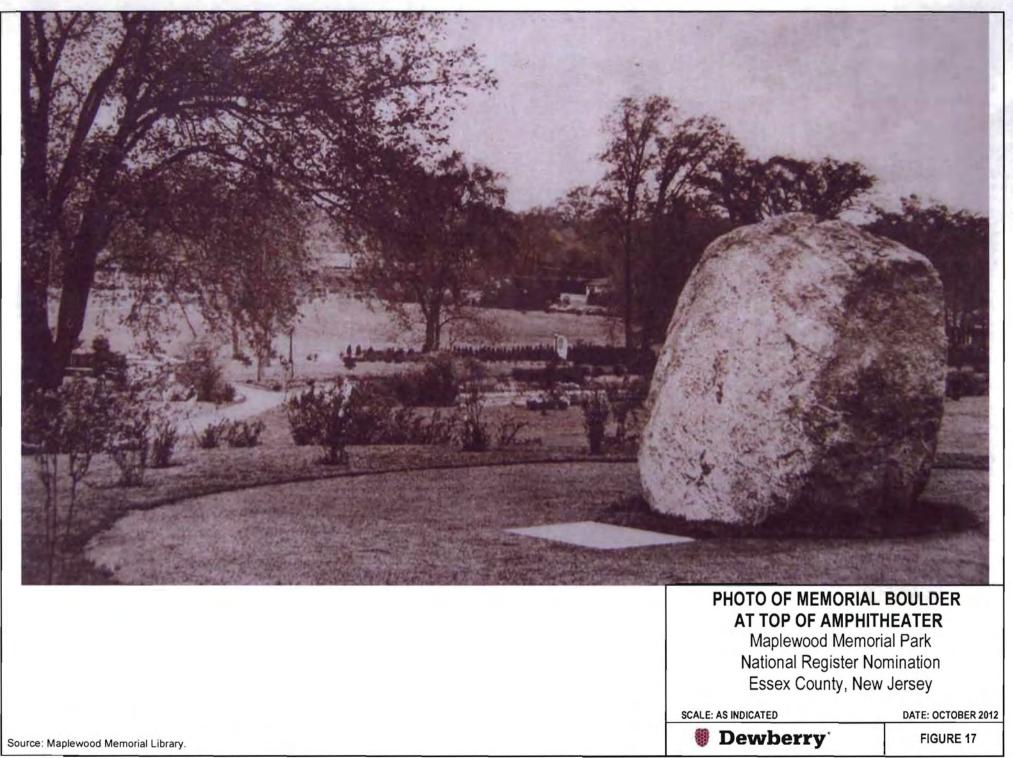
DATE: OCTOBER 2012 FIGURE 14

Source: Brinley and Holbrook Port Jolio, Morristown and Morris Township Public Library, Morristown, New Jersey.

Path: Q:\50044993\GIS\Mxd\Memorial Park\MMP_Half Elevation.mxd







Path: Q:\50044993\GIS\Mxd\Memorial Park\MMP_Boulder Photo.mxd

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION Maplewood Memorial Park PROPERTY NAME : MULTIPLE NAME : STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Essex DATE RECEIVED: 6/19/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/15 7/22/15 DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/04/15 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000489 REASONS FOR REVIEW: APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N OTHER: N PDIL: REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: Entered in The National Register of **Historic Places** RECOM./CRITERIA REVIEWER DISCIPLINE TELEPHONE DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Proj. #11-1724 Chrono #:B2015-178

CHRIS CHRISTIE Governor

KIM GUADAGNO Lt. Governor DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES Office of the Assistant Commissioner

State of New Jersey

MAIL CODE 501-03A PO Box 420 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 609-292-3541/FAX: 609-984-0836 BOB MARTIN Commissioner

RECEIVED 2280

JUN 19 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

February 17, 2015

Paul Loether, Chief National Register of Historic Places National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Maplewood Memorial Park, Township of Maplewood, Essex County, New Jersey.

This nomination has received unanimous approval from the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites. All procedures were followed in accordance with regulations published in the Federal Register.

Should you want any further information concerning this application, please feel free to contact Daniel D. Saunders, Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, Mail code 501-04B, P.O. Box 420, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0420, or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Rich Boornazian Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer