NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bartlett Arboretum
other names/site number Bartlett Park / 191-227

2. Location

street & number SW Corner of HWY 55 and Line Street ☐ not for publication
city or town Belle Plaine ☐ vicinity
state Kansas code KS county Sumner code 191 zip code 67013

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick Zollner — 3-1-10
Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State Historic Preservation Office, Kansas Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action
4/19/10

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

Section number ____ Page____

County and State

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 10000180

Property Name: Bartlett Arboretum

County: Sumner State: Kansas

Multiple Name:

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Signature of the Keeper April 19, 2010
Date of Action

==========

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 5. Classification
The Category of Property is, hereby, changed to indicate that the property is a district. The Count of Resources is, hereby, changed to indicate the following: one contributing site, two contributing buildings, three contributing structures, three noncontributing buildings, and four noncontributing structures, for a total of six contributing and seven noncontributing resources.

Section 7. Description
The following list clarifies the contributing and noncontributing resources that make up the historic district:

One Contributing Site. This corresponds to the overall property and includes following features that are integral to the arboretum grounds: paths, walls, and terraces; boat landing; creek and islands; notable plantings and other vegetation; and special features/character areas (Formal Garden, Alcove, Grand Lawn, Back Meadow).

Three Contributing Structures. The Stone Bridge, Main Entrance, and Gazebo.

Two Contributing Buildings. The ticket booth/office/studio and tool shed/comfort station.

Three Noncontributing Buildings. These would be Park House, Hex House, Garaj Mahal--all built or remodeled after the period of significance.

Four Noncontributing Structures. North Bridge, South Bridges (2), Windmill--all built, replaced or installed after the period of significance.

The Kansas Historic Preservation Office was notified of and concurred with this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

Bartlett Arboretum
Name of Property

Sumner County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	3	buildings
1		sites
3	4	structures
		objects
16	7	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
Landscape: Park (private)
Landscape: Garden
Education: Research
Recreation & Culture: Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling
Landscape: Park (private)
Landscape: Garden
Recreation & Culture: Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A
walls N/A
roof N/A
other N/A

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations N/A
(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)
Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1910-1960

Significant Dates

1910, 1926, 1942

Significant Person
(complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder
Bartlett, Dr. Walter E. ; Bartlett, Glenn & Margaret

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:
Kansas Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15.2 acres

UTM References
(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	651580	4139550
2	14	651850	4139550
3	14	651850	4139390
4	14	651730	4139390

☒ See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Macy, Steward
organization Bartlett Arboretum date October 2009
street & number 201 North Line Street Post Office Box 871 telephone 620-488-3451
city or town Belle Plaine state Kansas zip code 67013

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 0r 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

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

Photographs

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

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

Property Owner

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

name Robin Macy
street & number 201 North Line Street telephone 620.488.3451
city or town Belle Plaine state Kansas zip code 67013

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

Bartlett Arboretum is located at the edge of the small, agricultural community of Belle Plaine, Kansas (population 1,528), in Sumner County. Its fifteen landscaped acres are situated at the southwest corner of the intersection of Highway 55 and Line Street (which was named for the city/county line.) To the north, east and south of the property various residences are found. The Burlington-Northern/Santa Fe Railroad runs along the west property line and agricultural farmland lies beyond. A new single-family housing development is to the south of the property. Euphrates Creek runs through the property making a circuitous route to the Ninnescah River two miles downstream.

What began as an undeveloped, treeless parcel of land alongside the railroad tracks on the edge of town was transformed first into a recreational landscape with athletic fields, picnic areas, and a waterfowl preserve with a variety of plant and tree species, and later, an arboretum complete with a designed formal garden, nursery, and hundreds of species of plants. Although the park ecosystem experiences rebirth and growth with each year, there were two primary phases of development. The first transformation occurred in 1910 with the construction of athletic fields, damming of the creek, planting of trees, and introduction of waterfowl and fish. The second major phase of development began in the mid-1920s with the creation of the formal garden and floral plantings and was intended to evolve and renew with each planting season. Other elements and structures have been introduced to the landscape since the 1920s, including a nursery to develop and experiment with a variety of plant species, but in a manner that enhances its intended design.

Bartlett Arboretum combines built features, plantings, and different landscape types to form an eclectic park landscape. Although the arboretum is not easily categorized into a particular landscape or park type, many elements reflect the influence of the picturesque pleasure grounds of the latter half of the 19th century. Picturesque landscapes, in contrast to formal and symmetrical grounds popular in Europe, were "arranged to resemble a beautiful picture, but also rugged and wild."[1] This less structured approach to landscape design included trees, shrubs, and flowers that were planted to suggest a natural setting. The property's winding gravel paths, terraced grounds, scenic meandering creek spanned by pedestrian bridges, and stands of historic forests all characterize a picturesque landscape.

The arboretum's historic and current landscapes include open fields, formal gardens, nurseries, broad vistas across the creek, forests, and pathways. This range of landscapes reflects the arboretum's dual function as a recreational park and a more scientific waterfowl preserve and nursery. The east half of the arboretum is dominated by and organized around the Lake or Euphrates Creek and contains most of the formal and picturesque park elements. Historically the west half of the property contained athletic fields and a mix of decorative plantings and orderly rows of nursery stock. Today an informal forested and open landscape has

[1] Baker H. Morrow, *A Dictionary of Landscape Architecture* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987), 244.

replaced the nursery stock. Gravel pathways dating from at least the 1920s wind their way throughout the arboretum.

Below is a summary of key resources within the arboretum. Each numbered resource is identified on the attached map.

1. Historic Main Entrance (1922) C Structure
A formal entrance gate is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Highway 55 and Line Street. Constructed in 1922 of stone, brick, and forged wrought iron set on deep, oversized footings, the entrance gates have survived nearly 90 years of traffic - from horses and wagons to semi-trailers. A long brick walk, probably also constructed in 1922, and a gravel road lead southwest from the gate down 300-plus feet to the large 40-foot span bridge that spans the creek. A separate gravel footpath leads from the main entrance south toward the formal garden.

2. Walkways, Paths, and Terraces (1920s) C - Site
Circuitous gravel paths measuring roughly six feet in width meander throughout the east side of the property, notably flanked by fossilized and stacked stone originally from the Silverdale quarry in southeastern Kansas. The walkways reflect the same path today as outlined on the 1938 map of Bartlett Arboretum. Collections of redbud, holly, Japanese maples, magnolias, dogwoods, roses, perennials and natives are displayed in the gardens around which the paths lead. The paths slope gently from east to west and are woven within thirteen terraces between the Line Street and Euphrates Creek. Glenn Bartlett is documented on a radio interview noting that there are thirteen different terraces that lead artistically from the street side to the water's edge.

3. The Park House (1914; rebuilt 2003) - NC building
A "little park house" as it was often called, was built in 1914 and made of brick fired in a kiln on site.[2] This building originally was used to store the Dr. Walter Bartlett's buggy, tools and gardening supplies. Later, in the early 1930s, it was converted into a small residence where various hired help could live. Upon Dr. Bartlett's death in 1937, his son Glenn with wife Margaret and their two daughters returned to Belle Plaine from New York and eventually lived in the residence.[3] In 2003, the little park house was renovated. The roof was raised to support a loft and an additional garden room was built on the south side using pinewood from more than 30 trees that had been removed due to the untimely pine wilt disease prevalent in this part of the United States. Every effort was made to keep the integrity of the original footprint, to complement its 100-year-old historic setting, and to ensure that the improved structure was consistent with the age of the garden. The two-story residence includes approximately 700 square feet and features a brick first story, a board-and-batten second story, and scalloped wood shingles in the gables. Recycled slate roofing was

[2] The same brick was used to create a parabolic retaining wall and alcove located along the water's edge just north of the house.
[3] Dr. Bartlett lived in various houses around Belle Plaine, which also served as his physician's office. One of these residences was directly across Line Street. At least one of his former residences is extant and occupied, but the house across Line Street was demolished a few years ago. Glenn and Margaret Bartlett lived on the property from 1944 on.

reclaimed along with used brick, cut stone and architectural salvaged doors and fixtures. The residence complements its setting, but is non-contributing due to the recent renovations.

4. The Formal Garden[4] (1922) C Site

South of the park house, a winding gravel footpath leads to the formal garden. One-hundred-foot-long raised beds with limestone and brick borders enclose the formal garden. A short Amur River privet hedge and boxwoods enhance the symmetrical layout. A gravel pathway divides the formal garden and lines the outer edges of the garden. At the south end of the formal garden is a sunken garden that is accessed by stone steps from three sides. Originally, a lily pond was found at the southern-most point of the sunken garden, but it was drained permanently in 1958. Various hollies, viburnums, oak leaf hydrangeas and mature California Incense Cedars, planted in 1970, dominate this landscape. Today, the area around the formal garden is lined with tulips just as it was in 1938.

5. Alcove – (circa 1918) C - Site

The alcove is centrally located within the arboretum along the water's edge overlooking one of the property's more dramatic vistas. The alcove sits sunken within a parabolic brick wall. Similar to the formal garden, a short Amur River privet hedge outlines the space within which tulips and other flowers are planted. The privet hedge forms a unique geometric pattern within the alcove that is virtually unchanged since the 1930s. A sundial sits at the center of the alcove, and was moved from elsewhere on the property to this spot in recent years. A sundial appears on the 1938 map on the west side of the property. Interestingly, the alcove was once a sort of sundial made of plant material. A tall columnar juniper kept track of the time as it made shade on the privet hedge, lined out like a sundial.

6. Gazebo – (1960) C Structure

A 1960 gazebo is situated between the alcove and north bridge along the picturesque east bank of Euphrates Creek. This round, open-air structure is constructed of wood and features a conical-shaped roof that is clad with wood shingles. It has a concrete base and includes a hanging swing.

7. Outbuildings along Line Street (2) – (1960) C- building

There are two small, one-story structures that were built beside and parallel to Line Street. Each building features a rectangular plan with a gabled roof. The buildings are connected end-to-end by a breezeway leading from the street into the arboretum. The buildings were erected in 1960 as the property was being readied for its re-opening in 1961 that was scheduled to coincide with the state's centennial celebrations.

The south building is constructed of concrete blocks, but the south elevation is clad with board-and-batten siding. The gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles and the rounded rafter tails are exposed. This south building was used as the park office where catalogs were kept and tickets were bought, and as Margaret

[4] The term "formal garden" implies this area is a symmetrical garden laid out on an axis or axes, and projects a strong geometric form and feeling in its hard and soft landscape elements. Baker H. Morrow, *A Dictionary of Landscape Architecture* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987), 121.

Bartlett's art studio where she produced her landscape renderings. The north building is slightly taller, but is also constructed of concrete blocks with a gabled roof and exposed rafter tails. The south and east elevations are clad with board-and-batten siding. Included here are a mothballed restroom and a large tool shed, which is still used.

8. Tulip Shed – (1960) C building
The tulip shed is located between the park house and the formal garden on the site of a former lily pond (as noted on the 1938 map). It is a one-story building with a poured concrete foundation, board-and-batten siding, and a gable roof. This 200-square-foot building is used to over-winter bulbs dug in the spring and sold the following year.

9. Euphrates Creek and Four Islands (1910 – contributing) C site
The Euphrates Creek snakes along the south and west fringe of Belle Plaine's agricultural community and distinctly bisects the arboretum. Dr. Bartlett dredged the slough in 1910 and created four islands to house his waterfowl. The islands have eroded over the years, but generally retain their original shape. Three of the islands contain plantings, but no built structures. The fourth island includes the remnants of two bridges and a tree-lined footpath that connect the east and west sections of the arboretum.

10. Bum Boat Landing – (1920s) C site
This boat landing is located along the east side of the creek on the north edge of the property where the creek broadens into a lake. The landing was noted on the 1938 map of the property as was a planned boathouse next to it. The boathouse was never built and this landing has never functioned as it was intended. A short brick wall with a concrete cap delineates the intended boat landing. Concrete steps provide access from the landing to the shore.

11. North Bridge - (1998) NC Structure
This wood footbridge spans the creek at the north end of the park and connects the east side to the west along the park's main path. There have been six different bridges at this location over the past 100 years, and the current bridge was erected in 1998. For many years, a Japanese-style pagoda covered much of the impressive 40-foot span. Today the white arched bridge, flanked with hand rails and wisteria, carries visitors across the creek to view the less formal west side and up onto the grand lawn. This bridge sits upon the site's original concrete abutments and maintains the same slight arch and width as the very first bridge.

12. Stone Bridge - (1920s) C Structure
This small limestone bridge is located on the west side of the property along the same path as the North Bridge. It spans a water inlet and includes a concrete deck, concrete culvert and abutments, mortared limestone wingwalls within the embankment, and mortared limestone sidewalls that are both laid atop the concrete road deck and built into the embankment.

13a. & 13b. South Bridges (2) – (post-1960s) NC Structures
At the southeast corner of the property, there are two wood bridges that connect an island to the east and west sections of the property. These bridges are smaller than the North Bridge.

The east bridge was noted on the 1938 map of the arboretum as the "Rustic Bridge" and featured log railings and a slightly arched wood deck. That bridge has been gone many years and the space currently features a late 20th-century wood footbridge of no particular significance. The original concrete abutments support this bridge.

The west bridge was noted on the 1938 map as the "White Bridge" and featured a wood deck and side rails that were painted white, limestone steps leading up to the bridge on either side, and concrete abutments. This bridge has been gone many years and, until recently, the space featured a late-20th century wood footbridge of no particular significance. It had deteriorated and was recently taken down due to concerns about safety. A new bridge is being planned. Current plans call for new bridges to be built this year in a design that is consistent with the age of the arboretum. They will connect the east with west on southern border of the property.

14. The Grand Lawn (circa 1920s, replanted grass mid-1950s) C Site
The grand lawn (also known as the Big Z ~ zoysia) has long been an open space that has evolved from Lakespur Field in the 1930s to a grand lawn in the mid-twentieth century. The grand lawn of today was developed in the mid-1950s during a drought when the rich silt from the dry creek bed was dredged upland and zoysia rysomes (grasses) were hand planted. Privet hedging, dogwood and stately Loblolly pines (planted in 1925) surround the acre lawn. Tucked within the tree canopy is a stage built of recycled cedar trunks, and is a place for concerts, an outdoor classroom or a wedding altar.

15. Back Meadow C Site
A three-acre sunny meadow is found on the far west part of the property. Dr. Bartlett first used this space to host track and field events and baseball games. Later, both he and Glenn used this space to raise nursery stock, grow fruits and vegetables, and as a truck garden.[5] Historically, leaves and clippings have been composted on this site and blue-ribbon garden vegetables are the result. In the late 1930s, this area was irrigated by water pumped from Euphrates Creek. In the 1970s, an old windmill was relocated to this area and provided water pumped from below. This part of the arboretum is currently earmarked as part of the future Tree Trail, as new tree varieties and cultivars will be introduced here.

16. Windmill (installed 1970s) NC Structure
Although the 1938 map of the property notes *plans* for a Dutch windmill on the west end of the property, it was never built. In the 1930s, water was pumped from Euphrates Creek to irrigate the gardens and nursery stock on the west side of the property. The extant windmill is a Dempster Annu-Oiled windmill

[5] A truck garden, or truck farm, is land that is used to produce vegetables to be sold at a local market.

manufactured by the Dempster Industries, Inc. of Beatrice, Nebraska. This particular model, which needs "only slight wind and oil once a year," was manufactured between 1931 and 1981. Although its age is not known, it was relocated to the property from a nearby farm in the 1970s. The windmill is fully functioning and continues to pump water.

17. Hex House (1971) - NC Building

This is a one-story, 600-square-foot building designed by Margaret Bartlett. Its form is hexagonal and it is clad with both stucco and cedar board-and-batten siding. The pitched hexagonal roof extends beyond the plane of the vertical walls and is supported by square wood posts to create a short porch that completely encircles the building. The ground-level porch features a flat brick base. There is a hexagonal cupola at the peak of the roof, which is covered with asphalt composition shingles. Glenn, Margaret and Glenna moved into this building shortly after its completion and lived there the remainder of their lives.

18. Garaj Mahal (2005, non-contributing) NC Buildings

This one-story, multi-purpose building was erected along the south edge of the property southwest of the Grand Lawn. The building features an irregular form (part octagonal, part rectangular) and roof and sits upon a concrete foundation. The exterior is clad with cedar board-and-batten siding and has two garage bays – on facing northeast and one facing northwest. The pitched roof extends beyond the plane of the vertical walls on the north, east, and west elevations and is supported by square wood posts to create a short porch. The ground-level porch features a flat brick base. This building is used for many purposes and occasionally hosts events.

19. Notable Plantings - C Site

The Bartlett Arboretum features many historic and unique plantings, including seven state champion or co-champion trees. The Kansas Forest Service administers the Kansas Champion Tree Program, which maintains "a list of the largest trees of the various species in our state so they can be identified, preserved, and enjoyed by all."[6] Below is a list of the property's notable plantings:

a. Bald Cypress (planted 1917)
b. Japanese Maple – noted on 1938 map
c. Biltmore Ash – from the Biltmore, NC estate
d. Giant Pin Oak (planted 1913)
e. Lace Bark Elm
f. Virginia Pine (Kansas Champion Tree, recorded 10-22-2009): Circumference: 66"; Height: 60'; Crown Spread: 39'
g. Arizona Cypress (Kansas Champion Tree, recorded 7-29-2009): Circumference: 79"; Height: 60'; Crown Spread: 36'

[6] Kansas Forest Service, Kansas Champion Tree Program website, www.kansasforests.org.

h. Loblolly Pine Stand (One is a Kansas Champion Tree, recorded 7-29-2009): Circumference: 120"; Height: 80'; Crown Spread: 43'
i. Spanish Oak
j. Cherrybark Oak
k. Shortleaf Pine
l. Southern Magnolia (Kansas Champion Tree, recorded 7-29-2009): Circumference: 37"; Height: 40'; Crown Spread: 28'
m. Pink Dogwood
n. Southern Red Oak (Kansas Champion Tree, recorded 7-29-2009): Circumference: 111"; Height: 75'; Crown Spread: 69'
o. Common Pear (Kansas Champion Tree, recorded 7-29-2009): Circumference: 88"; Height: 40'; Crown Spread: 52'
p. River Birch (Kansas Champion Tree, recorded 7-29-2009): Circumference: 124"; Height: 72'; Crown Spread: 69'

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Bartlett Arboretum is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Entertainment/Recreation and under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture. The fifteen-acre park largely reflects the influences of professional landscape architect and horticulturist Glenn Bartlett, his wife and floral expert Margaret Bartlett, and Glenn's father who first purchased the property in 1910 to be used as a public athletic field for the small community and as a natural reserve complete with water fowl and non-indigenous trees.

Historic Context

The century prior to the development of Belle Plaine's Bartlett Arboretum was full of botanical exploration, classification, and experimentation throughout the United States. As the scientific study of plants gained momentum in the U.S. and Europe in the early nineteenth century, the U.S. government sponsored several explorations as part of boundary surveys. According to author Patricia Tice, "As early as 1819, the federal government also played an important role in gathering foreign flora by instructing diplomats to collect plants and seeds." It also "distributed free seeds and plants through the Office of Patents and later, the Department of Agriculture."[7]

Horticultural societies emerged, particularly between 1810 and 1840, as a way to share this expanding knowledge and to promote agriculture and horticulture. An important legacy of horticultural societies is rural cemeteries, "or landscaped burying grounds, which functioned as public gardens in a time when few such spaces existed in the United States. Rural cemeteries, such as Mt. Auburn, which was established outside of Boston by Dr. Jacob Bigelow and the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1831, afforded large tracts of land that could be landscaped according to current taste."[8] Of course, the rural cemetery movement was also in response to other societal factors including problems with increasingly dense city cemeteries, urbanization, and industrialization, but it is an important theme within the development of landscape architecture. Rural or park cemeteries, which also included Philadelphia's Laurel Hill and Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery, served as America's first parks and attracted many visitors. Guidebooks for some of the biggest rural cemeteries were published to accommodate visitors in their tours.[9]

The increasing availability of magazines and periodicals helped spread the tenets of horticulture and promote the practice of gardening. Even the most popular national publications, such as *Harper's Weekly* and *Godey's Lady's Book*, produced images of and articles about gardens. Nurseryman, landscape gardener, and writer Andrew Jackson Downing promoted residential gardening ideals to the growing, suburban middle

[7] Patricia M. Tice, *Gardening in America, 1830-1910* (Rochester, NY: The Strong Museum, 1984),27-28.
[8] Ibid., 28-29.
[9] Ibid., 29.

class through articles, images, and plan books. Some of his well-known titles include *Treatise on Landscape Gardening* (1841); *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850); *Cottage Residences: A Series of Designs for Rural Cottages and Cottage Villas, and Their Gardens and Grounds Adapted to North America* (1853, posthumous). Like those within the rural cemetery movement, "Downing realized that the social effects of the Industrial Revolution were far-reaching and campaigned for public parks in American cities."[10]

With the rural cemetery movement in full stride and Downing's books widely circulating, Frederick Law Olmstead was just returning from Liverpool, England, where he had "observed first-hand the novel idea of a public garden serving the factory workers of the Industrial Revolution..." A few years later in 1858, Olmstead partnered with Calvert Vaux to prepare a plan for a new park in New York City.[11] Their plan "anticipated the city's future growth and made allowances for it." It "separated pedestrians and vehicles by grade changes, provided playgrounds, parade grounds, and a mall for strolling and socializing, bridle paths, lakes for boating, and great expanses of woods and lawns."[12] Vaux's and Olmstead's park plan completed the transition from landscape gardening to landscape architecture.

Many of the societal and landscape tenets developed over the nineteenth century by Downing, Vaux, Olmstead, and their contemporaries reemerged during the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago as the City Beautiful movement. Simply put, the movement "worked through politics to achieve a congeries of socioenvironmental reforms related to urban design." Reformers sought "the centralization of urban functions," "the protection of property and property values," "the development of a city bureaucracy dedicated to municipal cleanliness, order, and the pursuit of legitimate business goals, and the recruitment of the experts to deal with large-scale problems of public health, transportation, and the like."[13] Aesthetic beauty was a major part of the movement, and reformers often labeled cities as ugly and dirty. Unpaved streets and a lack of green, open, and recreational spaces were targets of the reformers, who sought general municipal improvements and solutions to urban problems.

Advocates of both the picturesque park movement of the mid-1800s and the City Beautiful Movement in the early twentieth century sought to provide an escape from the ills of urban industrialized life, but it is important to note the important aesthetic difference between the two types of landscapes. Picturesque parks were contrived natural settings with informal organic forms and elements, open spaces, meandering paths, forests, and bodies of water that were intended for passive recreation. Simple open spaces were not enough to satisfy the later City Beautiful advocates whose parks utilized formal, often classically inspired elements, and emphasized active recreation and organized activities by constructing sporting fields and swimming pools.

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[10] Baker H. Morrow, *A Dictionary of Landscape Architecture* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1987), 90-91.
[11] Ibid., 224.
[12] Ibid.
[13] William H. Wilson, *The City Beautiful Movement* (Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 75-76.

With the principles of landscape gardening and architecture firmly established in the mid nineteenth century, the practice of home gardening increased with the availability of mail-order seeds and the development of urban water supplies, which provided a reliable water source. As a result, many of the major seed companies and nurseries, such as Landreth Nurseries and Burpee Seeds in Philadelphia; Henderson and Company and the Hogg Nursery in New York City; D. M. Ferr and Company in Detroit, Michigan) developed near urban areas.[14]

The catalogs and publications generally promoted two types of gardens: formal and informal. Both styles were "derived from the gardening traditions of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Europe, and each was practiced simultaneously in the United States throughout the nineteenth century."[15] The formal style was often found at the home of wealthy or in public parks and usually involved labor-intensive maintenance, Formal gardens typically included symmetrical walkways, various types of flower beds often intricately arranged, a hedge or boxwood border, and sometimes a lily pond or water feature. In stark contrast, the informal (or landscape) garden was less structured. Trees, shrubs, and flowers were planted in such a manner as to suggest a natural landscape. The focal point of a landscape garden was often a pond or an ornamental tree like a weeping willow.[16]

Kansas was still in its infancy after the American Civil War, and newcomers to this "Great American Desert" landscape were experimenting with crops, fruit trees, and all kinds of plant varieties. The Missouri and Kansas River Valleys in eastern Kansas proved especially fertile and successful for farmers growing fruit trees and potatoes, in particular. The Kansas State Agricultural College opened its doors in September of 1863 and began its long association with Kansas farmers and ranchers through experimental stations and extension offices. The Hatch Act of 1887 provided federal land grants to states in order to create agricultural experiment stations. Agricultural stations were usually associated with land-grant state colleges founded under the Morrill Act of 1862. The Kansas State Agricultural College opened its first agricultural experiment station at Fort Hays in 1901. Although both the Bartletts welcomed university classes to their property for study – particularly from Southwestern College in Winfield – there is no evidence of any sort of partnership between the Bartletts and Kansas State University.

Early Kansas nurseries and tree stations provided a valuable service to Kansans and the government through experimentation and documentation. John W. Riggs, a school teacher, botanist, and nurseryman, opened one of the earliest commercial nurseries and experimental plant stations in Kansas in 1887. Under Riggs' direction, the Waterloo Nursery in Kingman County focused early efforts on experimentation and testing. Having recently moved from Indiana to Kansas, Riggs had a "deep love of forest trees" and "had begun to experiment with plant introductions from these regions even before the establishment of the nursery."[17] The

[14] Tice, 68.
[15] Ibid., 68.
[16] Ibid.
[17] John W. Riggs, *J. W. Riggs - Pioneer Kansas Botanist and Nurseryman: A History of the Waterloo Tree Station* (Lindsborg, KS: Barbo/Carlson Enterprises, 1998), 25.

property also included an important commercial component as it was "concerned with the usual supplying of fruiting trees, shrubs and vines, but had also become concerned with plant materials for ornament and climate abatement."[18] Long known for his research, the federal government partnered with Riggs to establish an experimental forestry station on his property. Riggs focused on experimentation until his death in 1930.[19] To what degree the Bartlett and Riggs families collaborated has not been fully researched.

The extent of what influenced Walter Bartlett and his development of the park in Belle Plaine will never be fully known, but was likely a combination of his past experiences, local circumstances, and popular trends. In newspaper articles from the 1920s and 1930s, Dr. Walter Bartlett credits his love of trees and wild waterfowl with his days spent at Shaw's Gardens in St. Louis in the 1890s. Founded by Henry Shaw in 1859, this National Historic Landmark is now known as the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Having traveled extensively in Europe, Shaw was particularly influenced by the picturesque landscapes of rural England. He opened his botanical garden to the public during the same period Andrew Jackson Downing, Frederick Law Olmstead, and others were developing and promoting picturesque parks, estates, and rural cemeteries for the public's enjoyment.

Property History

An August 8, 1926, article in the *Kansas City Star* suggests, "the story of the founding of … Bartlett Arboretum … can be traced to the Sundays that a young medical student used to spend in Shaw's Gardens in St. Louis in the days of the early '90s." Born January 28, 1870, in Louisiana, Missouri, Walter E. Bartlett, by his own description, spent his childhood exploring the natural world. When he traveled to St. Louis to pursue a medical degree, he continued his outdoor explorations – often at Shaw's Gardens.[20]

Completing his medical education in the early 1890s, Bartlett returned to south-central Kansas, where he had spent his childhood, seeking a location for his medical practice. A family friend and physician in Wellington, Kansas, suggested that young Walter consider Belle Plaine, despite the fact that several doctors already were operating in the small town of only about 1,000 people. The Wellington physician, according to various reports, was convinced that the other doctors in Belle Plaine were unlikely to remain long, creating a niche for Dr. Bartlett.[21]

It is not known why Bartlett followed this advice, but he did and subsequently lived and practiced in Belle Plaine for the rest of his life. Among his other contributions, Bartlett served on the Belle Plaine school board for 25 years. Sumner County records indicate that in 1910 Bartlett paid $2,240 for a 15-acre treeless landscape at the southwest edge of town that had been used as a local dumping ground. As a plant and waterfowl enthusiast, his intention was to improve the landscape while providing the community with

[18] Riggs, 27.
[19] The Waterloo Tree Station property is still extant and remains in the Riggs family, however, it no longer servers as a nursery.
[20] "This Kansas Doctor's Hobby Has Given Town a Beautiful Arboretum," *Kansas City Star*, 8 August 1926.
[21] Ibid.

athletic fields – including a baseball diamond and a running track. He liked the terrain and thought its soil and water flow would be ideal for growing trees even though not much more than a slough ran through the property.

Bartlett began his transformation of the property by damming the creek, planting trees, and introducing waterfowl and fish. He dredged dirt from the slough, Euphrates Creek, to build four islands. He constructed bridges connecting the east and west sides of the property.

As the following newspaper article illustrates, he immediately set about transforming it from an unremarkable slough into a place worthy of its new name, Bartlett's Park.

> It is a busy place these days just southwest of the city limits where Dr. Bartlett is fixing up an amusement park. The slough has been filled up and a canal is being dug just south of the road to carry the water and also make a boating place. ... The Dr. is having a bridge put in connecting the east side of the park to the ball ground and shooting ground. He has set out some forest trees but more will be set out at a more seasonable time. This park will be of great benefit to the town and no better man for the place could be behind it than Dr. Bartlett.[22]

He saw the property's potential to serve the community's need for a public park and athletic facilities. He built a baseball diamond complete with a grandstand. He also offered an athletic field, a quarter-mile running track and facilities for trap shooting. The athletic fields were already in use in 1910, as suggested by a printed program that survives from the Sixth Annual Track and Field Meet that took place on April 28, 1916.[23] The athletic facilities served the city for a dozen years or so until the town built a new school with its own athletic field. Dr. Bartlett's granddaughter, Mary Bartlett Gourlay, said, "The baseball park was a great center of attraction for the town as this was in that era when baseball was the all-American pastime in small towns."[24]

Bartlett held a keen interest in waterfowl, among his many passions, so as he began to plant trees on his new acreage, he introduced geese, ducks and pelicans. The plot included federally registered wild fowl such as wild geese, ducks, and pelicans.[25] It endured until neighborhood dogs and local hunters no longer made it feasible.

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[22] *Belle Plaine News*, April 28, 1910.
[23] Program, Sixth Annual Track and Field Meet, Bartlett's Park, 28 April 1916. In the possession of the property owner.
[24] Mary Bartlett Gourlay, Discussion with Robin Macy, 15 December 2009.
[25] References to Bartlett's federally registered wild fowl were made in at least one newspaper article – *Wichita Eagle Sunday Magazine*, May 2, 1926 . No federal records have been found to verify this, but it is believed the fowl would have been licensed federally by the USDA. Prior to 1918, they would have been licensed under the Lacy Act, which controlled interstate commerce in migratory waterfowl. After 1918, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act controlled trade, hunting, and habitat restrictions for migratory wild fowl. Source: Mark Madison (Historian, National Conservation Training Center), e-mail correspondence with Sarah Martin, 7 January 2010.

Although Dr. Bartlett had been planting trees and developing the property continuously since his purchase, it wasn't until the early 1920s that he began in earnest to create a garden landscape. Records in the form of receipts of orders filled by the Plant Introduction Garden in Chico, California, that date to 1927 and 1932 document some of Dr. Bartlett's foreign plantings.[26]

By this time Bartlett's son Glenn – who had an equal or even greater interest in gardens and landscaping – had served in Europe during World War I, exploring as he could the grand formal gardens of the continent and the more naturalistic gardens of England. Growing up, Glenn shared his father's passion for trees and helped him create the park. He eventually became a professional landscape architect and horticulturist. As a company commander in the 1st Division in France during World War I, Glenn was introduced to French gardens and landscapes, particularly as he studied aerial photographs for tactical operations. He later became a student at France's Toulouse University where he grew acquainted with certain trees common to French gardens. He also studied the Palace of Versailles gardens outside Paris. What impressed Glenn was that the gardens grew out of an area that once was filled with sand dunes and marshes. He compared the transformation to the much smaller transformation in his hometown. It inspired him to create something of greater beauty and horticultural significance.

While completing post-graduate work at Columbia University in New York, Glenn encountered Belle Plaine native Margaret Meyers. The two became reacquainted and married in 1924. Margaret was an artist, a fashion designer for magazines and a university instructor. She also was a noted flower arranger and garden-club organizer. Their daughter, Mary Bartlett Gourlay, says what is most important about her mother is "she was as enthusiastic, devoted and accomplished as was her husband in what became their common goal. It can be said that only through the unusual combination of their many necessary talents and attributes and unrelenting pursuance of purpose could such a jewel as the Bartlett Arboretum ever have been created in this region."[27]

Glenn and Margaret settled in the New York area, but they returned frequently to Belle Plaine and had a hand in the design, ongoing development and renaming of the property to Bartlett Arboretum in 1926. With Dr. Bartlett they forested their growing tree museum with many varieties of trees that could not be found anywhere else in Kansas. Together they created a formal garden reminiscent of the symmetric European gardens. In the 1920s, they began what is now a celebrated community tradition known as Tulip Time, when they showed off some 40,000 bulbs. The Bartletts opened the grounds for everyone from school groups and gardening enthusiasts to brides who made memories and came to regard the Arboretum as their own.

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[26] These records are in the possession of the current property owner. For a bit of background, Chico is in the Sacramento Valley of northern California…the U.S. Department of Agriculture began importation of economically important plants for possible cultivation and utilization in the United States in 1898. For a history of plant introduction and study in the United States, see W. H. Hodge and C. O. Erlanson, "Federal Plant Introduction: A Review," In *Economic Botany*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (Oct. - Dec., 1956), 299-334.

[27] Mary Bartlett Gourlay, Discussion with Robin Macy, 15 December 2009.

Through the 1920s and 1930s, while continuing to increase the number and variety of trees in the Arboretum, the Bartletts planted thousands of tulips and irises, among other flowers. They held an annual spring opening when the tulips were in full bloom, an event that came to be anticipated and well attended by people from a wide region, including Wichita for many years. The tradition continues and the grounds will open again in April 2010 for Tulip Time.

When Dr. Bartlett died on June 7, 1937, at age 67, title and responsibility for the Arboretum passed to Glenn and Margaret. They returned from the New York area with their two young daughters and began to put their mark on the property. Though Dr. Bartlett had continued to develop the park until his death in 1937, the project never was more than an avocation for the busy doctor. For his son and daughter-in-law, however, it became a way of life.

By the spring of 1938, they had produced a map and brochure claiming, among other things, 300 varieties of iris. The map demonstrates that, already by the late 1930s, the Arboretum's infrastructure was well established. The paths, bridges, office, formal garden, alcove, and other features were essentially in place where they exist today. The brochure, which credits Glenn and Margaret with much of the landscape design, includes a mission statement that clarifies how the property was being used in the late 1930s:

> The purpose of the Arboretum is to discover all the ornamental plant material that will adapt itself to our climatic conditions, to impart sound horticultural education, to widen the appreciation for that type of beauty which the home owner can create with plants and flowers and to supply the materials where needed.

At this time, admission into the Arboretum was 25 cents or 50 cents for a season ticket. Estimates of the Tulip Time attendance in 1938 have not been found, but the 1939 festival was well attended. The Tulip Time festival of 1939 was especially well publicized across the state in newspapers and tourism publications. Promoting its plantings from around the world, the Bartlett's employed a "World's Fair" theme that promised "a pageantry reminiscent of Holland..." and "pretty girls in Dutch costumes...as guides to visitors." The event earned a two-page article in the Kansas Chamber of Commerce's March 1939 edition of *Progress in Kansas*:

> ...Everyone should see the gorgeous Tulip Festival at the Bartlett Arboretum in Belle Plaine, Kansas, just one-half hours [sic] ride south of Wichita. Although this has been an annual event for a number of years and is attended by thousands of people who come from all states of the union and many foreign countries, there are many Kansans who are yet unaware of this veritable fairyland in their own state. The Bartlett Arboretum is a combination of lavishly landscaped gardens and sylvan retreats, surrounding a beautiful lake. It is unbelievable to those who still think Kansas a vast parairie [sic] and non-existent to many who think such exotic beauty could not happen in Kansas. Classes from schools, colleges and universities come each season to witness the spectacle and to study the many varieties of trees and shrubs of which there are more than 500 kinds. These have been collected and introduced

from all parts of the world and so arranged as to give a perfect landscape setting for the largest floral display of its kind in the country.[28]

Spring issues of the *Wichita Beacon*, *Wichita Eagle*, and *Kansas City Star* printed similar articles and advertisements prior to the event. Newspaper articles printed after the opening weekend indicate that thousands came calling that year:

"The Bartlett Arboretum Opening Well Attended"
"Sunday was a lovely summer day and a large crowd, estimated near 1,000, passed through the gates of the Bartlett Arboretum during the day." – *Belle Plaine News,* Thursday, April 13, 1939

"Record Breaking Crowd Visited Arboretum Sunday"
"Sunday was a historical event in the record of the Bartlett Arboretum. On that day around 2000 people, children not counted, passed through the gate. We have no figures on previous attendance, but this seems to be a record breaker." – *Belle Plaine News,* Thursday, April 27, 1939

The flood of visitors did not carry into the 1940s. Due to the difficulty of obtaining bulbs and plant specimens during World War II, the Bartlett's closed the gates to formal events and took on the enormous task of maintaining the property while also working – Glenn as a regional landscaper and Margaret as an instructor at what is now Wichita State University. After the war, the Arboretum was open in limited fashion, but it still appeared in regional newspapers and statewide tourism publications.[29]

As the Kansas Statehood Centennial approached in 1961, the Bartletts determined to return the Arboretum to its former glory. Glenn and Margaret Bartlett once again began promoting the Arboretum to clubs, tourists, university classes, and plant enthusiasts. Again, a pair of local newspaper articles helps tell the story:

> ... the official opening of the Tulip Festival is set for Sunday, April 23. ... The Bartletts are planning to continue the flower exhibition this year beyond the tulip season and on through the summer, with displays of roses, peonies and others. ...Considerable work has been done by the Bartletts this spring in adding improvements to the arboretum. New fencing has been installed from the canal to the gate on the north side of the arboretum and from the gate southward along the east side to the southern edge of the grounds. ... Some small shelterhouses for the convenience of visitors have been added and a new office and tool shed have been constructed. New terracing has been done and many new plantings added. – *Belle Plaine News, Thursday,* April 16, 1961

The arboretum was viewed by 725 persons on the opening day of the Centennial Year event Sunday.

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[28] Earel E. McMunn, *Progress in Kansas* (Topeka: Kansas State Chamber of Commerce, March 1939), 130-131.
[29] An example of statewide publicity in the late 1940s and early 1950s included articles in *To the Stars,* a bi-monthly (and later monthly) publication produced by the Kansas Industrial Development Commission. See "Bartlett Arboretum is a Botanical Paradise," p. 6, August 1948 and pp. 49-50 of the May-June 1952 issue.

– *Belle Plaine News, Thursday,* April 27, 1961

From 1961 continuously through the early 1990s, the Arboretum was open each spring, hosting its annual Tulip Time, through the summer and into the fall while serving as the backdrop for countless weddings and providing a memorable outdoor laboratory for untold numbers of class field trips.

Among the highlights of this period, on May 13, 1971, the Arboretum welcomed the National and International Convention of the American Iris Society. According to Margaret Bartlett, writing for an Arboretum brochure that was never published, the Wichita Iris Club earned the right to host the convention that year and selected the Arboretum as the setting to display new iris hybrids created by members of the club.

> "The day was favored by perfect weather and the blooms were at their peak," Margaret wrote. "Over 600 members and hybridizers from 49 states and five foreign countries were vociferous in their praise of the condition and layout of the iris beds and the beautiful settings which surrounded them."

Glenn Bartlett died on July 7, 1976. Margaret Bartlett continued to play an active role in the property until her death on July 12, 1990, at age 95. Their daughters, Glenna and Mary, along with Mary's husband, Bob Gourlay, continued operating the Arboretum until Glenna died in 1994. Finally, in 1997, they decided to sell it.

By the mid-1990s, the once-thriving park required too much backbreaking work for Mr. and Mrs. Gourlay who were nearing retirement. In 1997, a Texas teacher traveling across Kansas happened upon a for-sale sign and seeing hope instead of need, felt compelled and determined to restore a once-proud forest. Robin Macy did not know Bartlett Arboretum in its glory days, but she saw something in it that locals had become blind to – its unique promise and towering soul. In Macy's twelve years as the arboretum's Steward, eco-systems have been reclaimed and defined, bridges, buildings, pergolas, gazebos restored and rebuilt as needed. The near century-old forest is going through a hundred-year renaissance. Diseased trees and plants have been removed as reforestation is a hallmark for its future. New, unique and important trees are being introduced and a small army of volunteers (the Soil Sisters and others) are ensuring that the historic property continues to enjoy its grand tradition.

In addition to reinstating weddings at the arboretum, Macy has added a concert series among the trees. This year, the Arboretum will host the third annual Tree House Concert Series, made possible in part by the Kansas Arts Commission. As an annual fundraiser, Macy hosts a Great Gatsby-esque croquet benefit as well as corporate events, weddings, garden clubs and environmental science education days. Recently, Sunflower Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area, Inc., adopted Bartlett Arboretum as a deserving project; under its 501(c)3 umbrella, patrons are now able to make tax-deductible contributions through the organization that help enable the continued restoration of the historic property.

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Photograph. Children Glenna and Mary Bartlett standing on the alcove wall. Circa 1937.

Photograph. Cars along street and "pretty girls in Dutch costume." April 1939.

Photograph. A wedding in the Formal Garden. Early 1940s.

Photograph. Tour group with bus in front of gate. Circa 1940s.

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UTM COORDINATES, CONT'D

5. 14: 651730 E / 4139410 N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The 15.2-acre Bartlett Arboretum is located in Sumner County just outside the city limits of Belle Plaine in Section 2, Township 31, Range 1E. Tract Description: BEG 35'S & 30'W NE COR NW4 TH S855',W38.5', NWLY324', W766', N280',NELY330',E951' TO POB.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the parcels historically associated with the Bartlett Arboretum.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Property: Bartlett Arboretum
Location: SW Corner of HWY 55 and Line Street, Belle Plaine, Sumner County, KS
Photographer: Sarah Martin

Location of Digital Negatives: On File at the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office, Topeka

Photo 1: Gated entrance into Bartlett Arboretum, located at the SW corner of Line Street and HWY 55, facing W. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.
Photo 2: Walking paths and stone features just inside the main entrance, facing S. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.
Photo 3: Gravel path flanked by stone and brick features, facing W toward the North Bridge. Photograph taken: 8-11-2007.
Photo 4: Gravel path with plantings on either side, facing N toward the main entrance. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.
Photo 5: Historic Biltmore Ash located alongside the formal garden. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.
Photo 6: Central axis of the formal garden, facing N. Photograph taken: 8-11-2007.
Photo 7: Central axis of the formal garden, facing S. Photograph taken: 8-11-2007.
Photo 8: Sunken area at south end of formal garden where a lily pond once was, facing SE. Photograph taken: 8-11-2007.

Photo 9: Terraced landscape adjacent to the formal garden leading down to Euphrates Creek, facing NW. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 10: Standing along the east bank of Euphrates Creek, facing S toward the south bridges and islands. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 11: Standing along the east bank of Euphrates Creek, facing NW toward an island (center) and the north bridge (far right). Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 12: Landing with concrete steps and stone wingwalls, located along the east bank, facing N toward the north bridge. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 13: West elevation of the tool shed, facing E. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 14: Residence and stone and brick elements built into the terraced landscape, photo taken along the east bank facing E. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 15: North bridge, gazebo, and alcove (in foreground), facing N. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 16: Alcove, situated along the east bank, facing W. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 17: Bum Boat Dock along north side of property (HWY 55 at far right), facing W. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 18: View of Euphrates Creek from the north bridge with the residence at the far left, facing S. Photograph taken: 8-11-2007.

Photo 19: View of the east bank from the west bank. Note the gazebo (left), terraces, alcove set within the brick wall, residence, and tool shed (right). Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 20: Stone bridge, which spans an inlet, located on the west side of the property, facing N. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 21: Grand lawn on the west side of the property surrounded by historic towering loblolly pines, facing S. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 22: Grand lawn, facing N. Photograph taken: 8-11-2007.

Photo 23: Towering loblolly pines near grand lawn, facing W. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

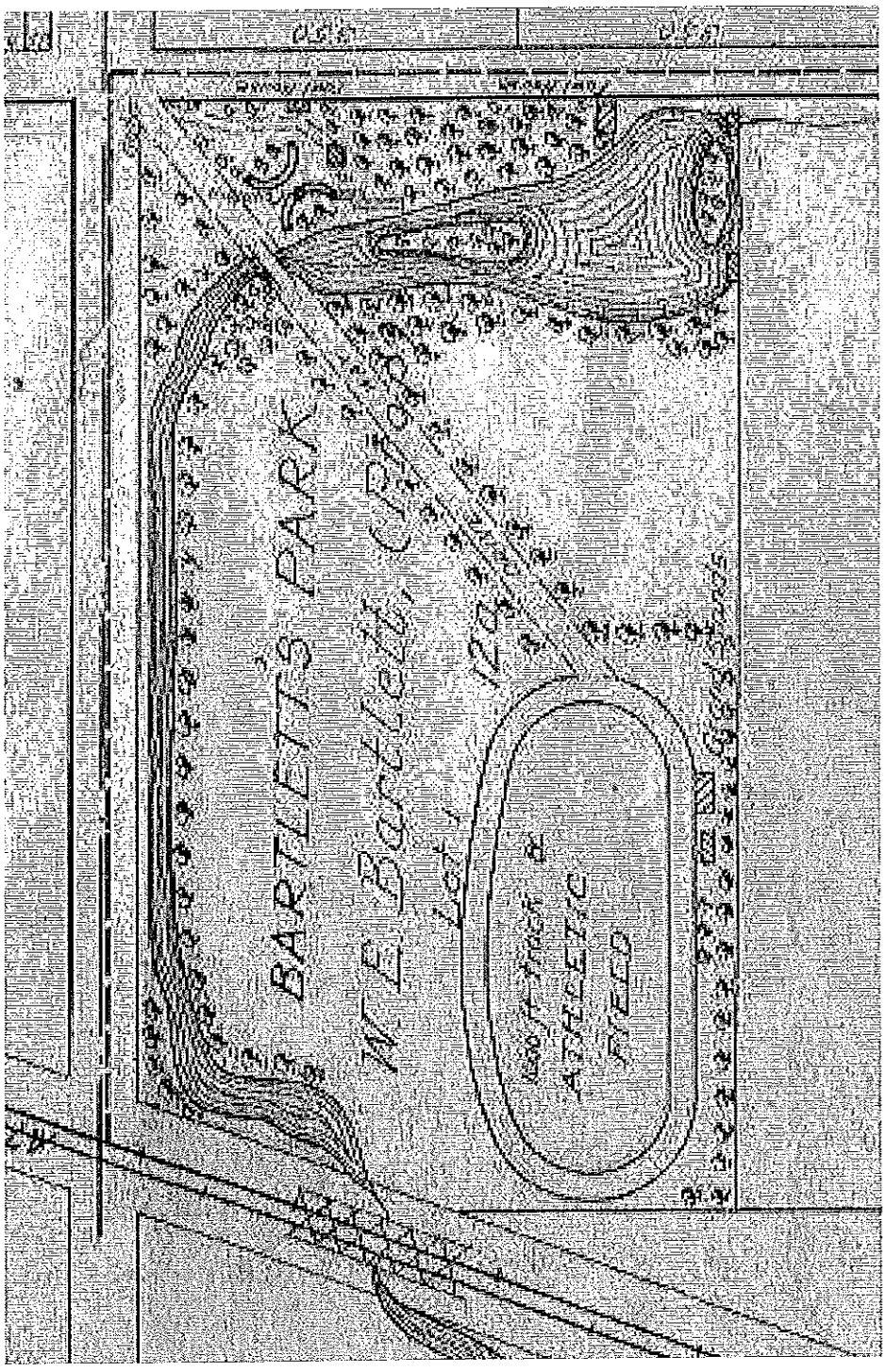
Photo 24: Back meadow at the far west edge of the property; the trees follow the creek; note the windmill (right) and the large compost area with scarecrow (left). Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 25: North-facing elevation of Garaj Mahal, facing S. Photograph taken: 8-11-2007.

Photo 26: South-facing elevation of Hex House, facing N. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Photo 27: Two outbuildings and shed, facing N. Photograph taken: 12-15-2009.

Belle Plaine Township Map. George A. Ogle and Company, 1918.



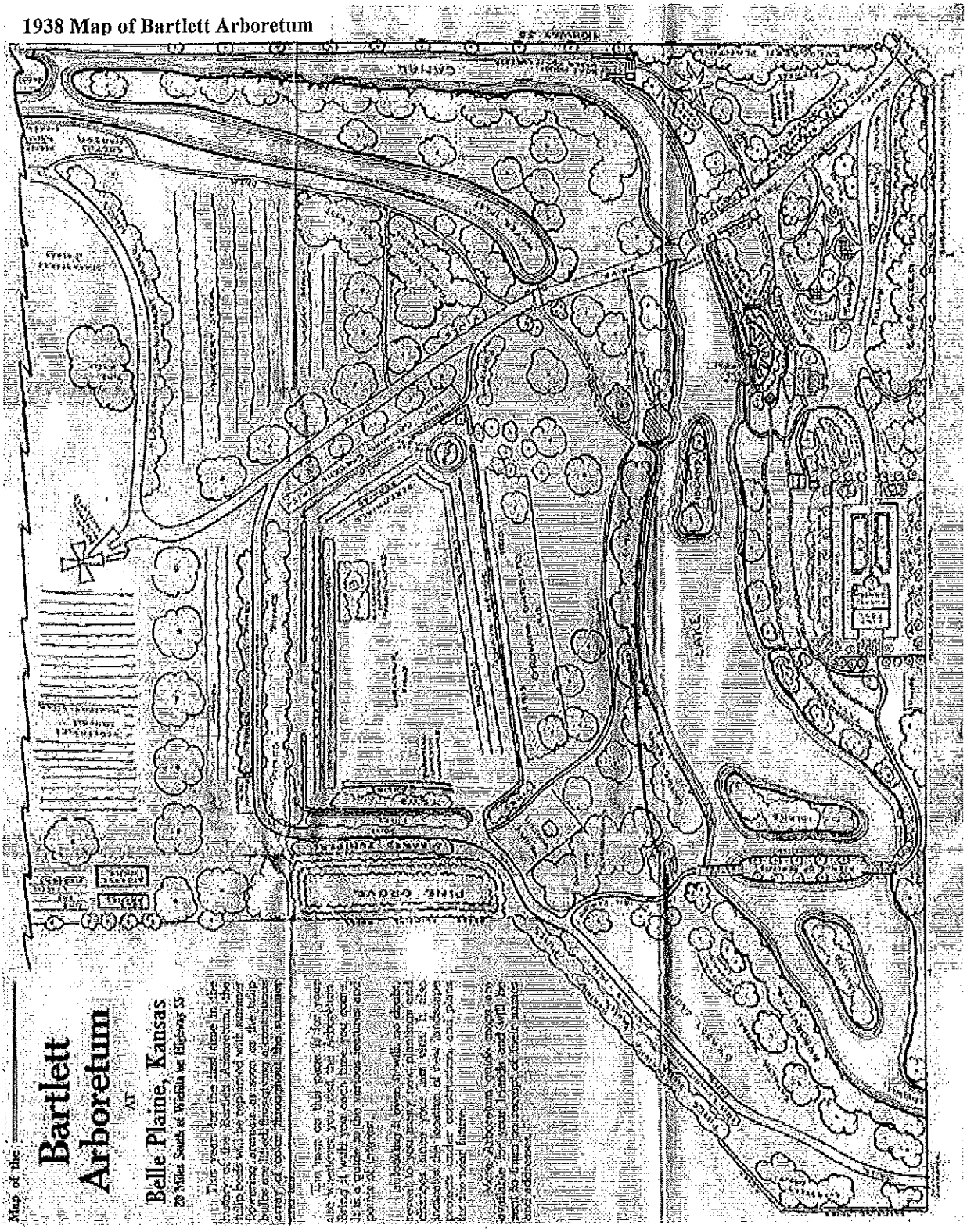
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Add'l Documentation Page 22

Bartlett Arboretum
Belle Plaine, Sumner County, KS

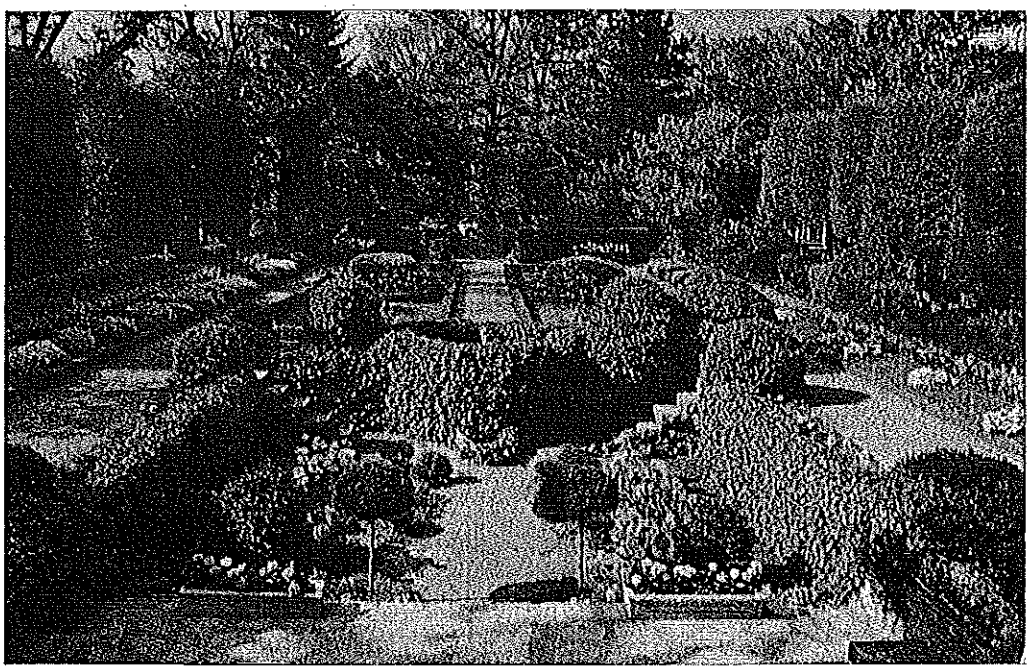
1938 Map of Bartlett Arboretum



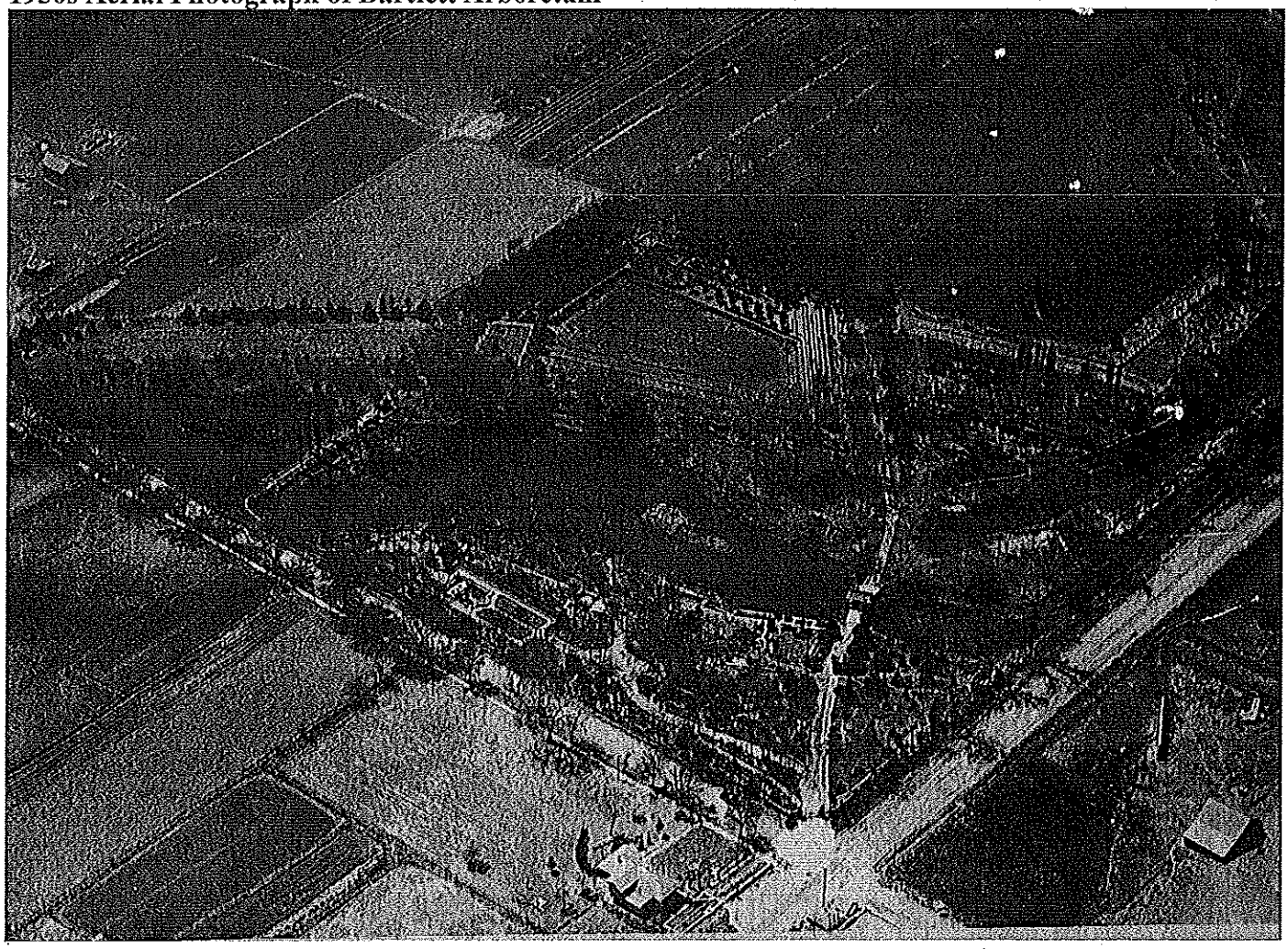
Undated Historic Photograph of Main Entrance to Bartlett Arboretum

Undated Historic Photograph of Typical Gravel Path

Undated Historic Photographs of Formal Garden



1930s Aerial Photograph of Bartlett Arboretum

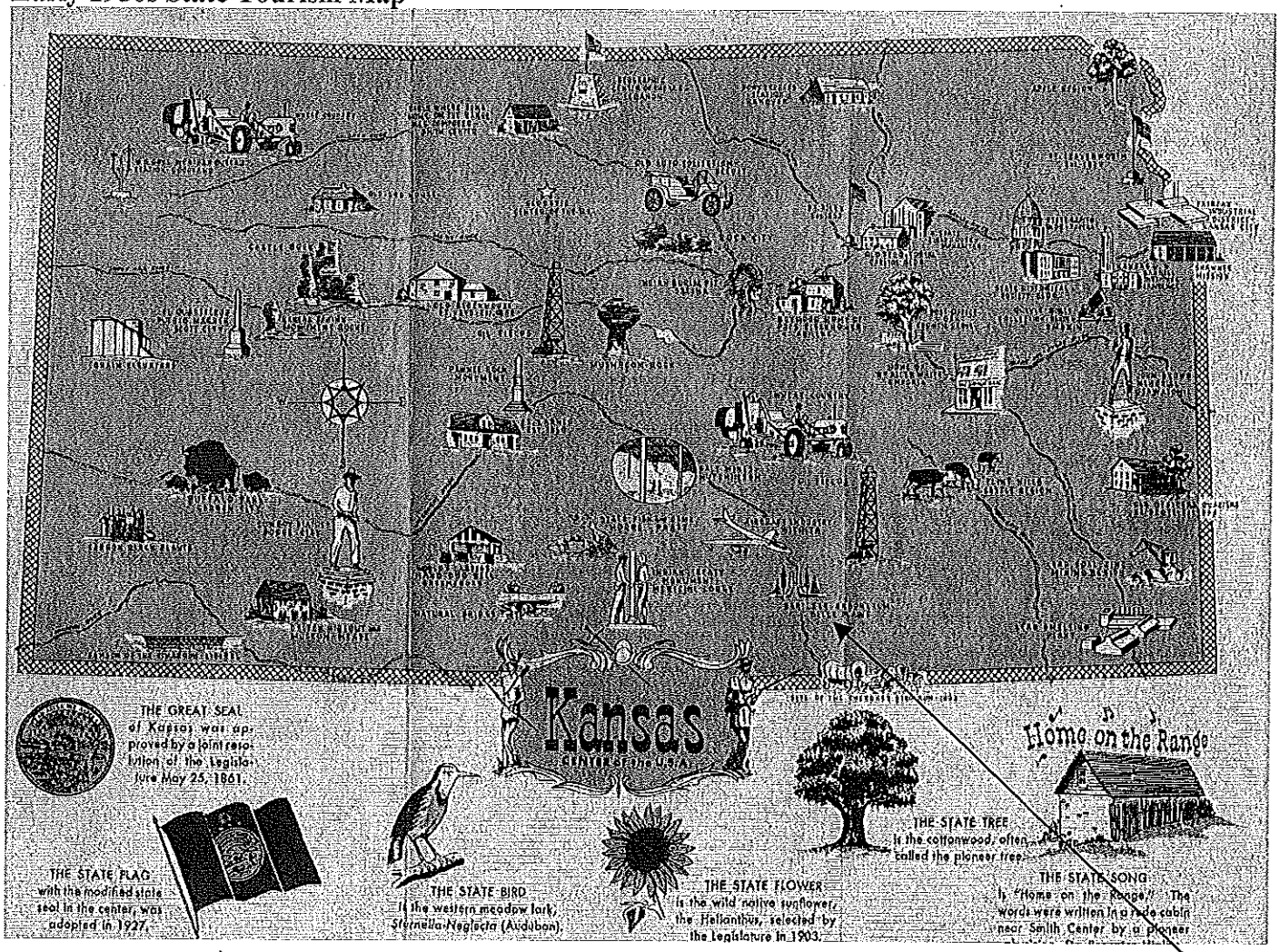


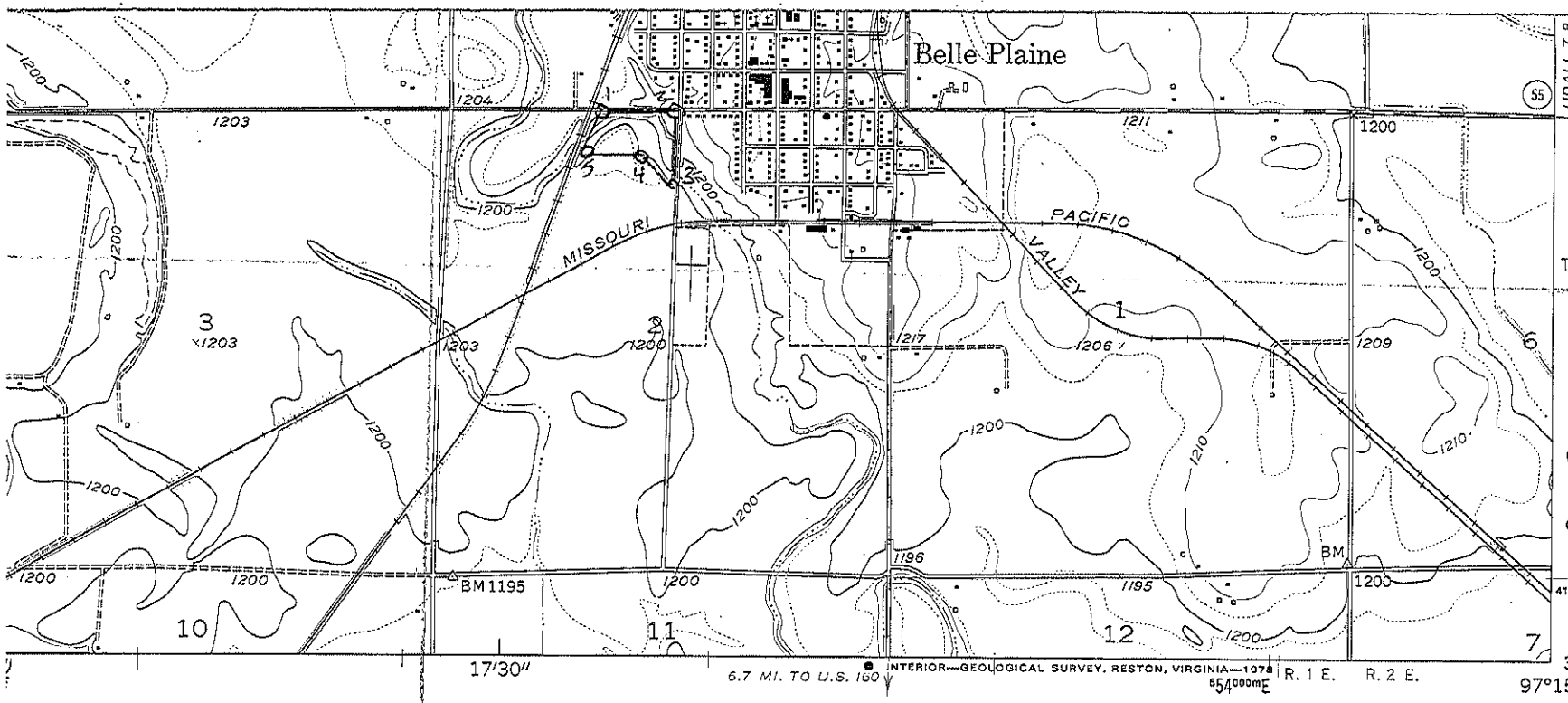
Undated Historic Photograph at Bartlett Arboretum

Water Scene, THE BARTLETT ARBORETUM, Belle Plaine, Kansas

Glenna and Mary Bartlett (Children of Glenn and Margaret Bartlett) at Alcove – 1930s

Early 1950s State Tourism Map





Bartlett Arboretum
Belle Plaine,
Sumner Co., KS
ZONE 14:

1. 651580E 4139550N
2. 651850E 4139550N
3. 651850E 4139300N
4. 651730E 4139390N
5. 651540E 4139410N

1 000

1 MILE

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

AL 10 FEET
5-FOOT CONTOURS
CAL DATUM OF 1929

. MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
LORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
O SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

(OXFORD) 6558 I SW

KANSAS

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

BELLE PLAINE, KANS.

N3722.5—W9715/7.5

1955

AMS 6558 IV NE—SERIES V878