

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in 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 listed in 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 Anderson Park

other names/site number Montclair Park

2. Location

street & number SE corner of Bellevue and North Mountain Avenues

☐ not for publication

city or town Montclair Township

☐ vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Essex code 013 zip code 07043

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date 9/9/09

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 this 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

Edson H. Beall

12.11.09

**Anderson Park**

Name of Property

**Essex County, NJ**

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation N/A

walls

roof

other

**Narrative Description**

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

**Attached.**



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Essex County, NJSection number 7 Page 1DESCRIPTION

Anderson Park is in the suburban Upper Montclair neighborhood of the Township of Montclair, Essex County, New Jersey, and lies in the valley of the Watchung Mountains, immediately to the east of First Mountain. The park is 14.85 acres, and basically trapezoidal in plan. Its shortest side (approximately 220 feet long) is at the north, defined by Bellevue Avenue. The south side, bounded by Parkside Road, is approximately 860 feet wide. The west side, defined by North Mountain Avenue, is about 1,140 feet long. The train tracks to the east define its longest side (approximately 1,330 feet), and these tracks are paralleled by Toneys Brook, which runs between the park and the tracks and is barely visible from the park (**Site Map, 1912 General Plan**). These three roads and the train tracks define the general geographic existing boundaries of the park.

The surrounding area is mainly single-family homes to the south and west, a train station to the north, and a central business district to the east (**Photos 0001, 0002**). The business district is not visible from the park because the New Jersey Transit Railroad Montclair-Boonton Line tracks are elevated above the park along this side (**Photos 0003 and historic H-1, H-2**). Anderson Park is one of the smallest parks in the Essex County park system (**Site Map**). It is unstructured and informal, which is in character with its quiet suburban neighborhood.

The park retains all the key design elements and design intent of the Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, plans (**1903 Revised Preliminary Plan, 1904 Planting Plan, 1912 General Plan**), including the original walkway alignment, grading, spatial quality and relationships and views from within the park, as well as of the park from the outside. Plantings have changed, but the general arrangement of tree and shrub groupings clearly maintains the informal picturesque intent of the **1904 Planting Plan**.

Charles W. Anderson, an insurance executive and prominent Montclair resident, donated land for the park. The site was originally named Montclair Park, and its undeveloped land was transferred to the Essex County Park Commission from the Township of Montclair in 1903. The Essex County Park Commission retained the services of the pre-eminent landscape architecture firm, Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, of Brookline, Massachusetts. Preliminary plans were prepared in 1903 and the park opened in 1905, with minor revisions to the pathways as reflected in the **1912 General Plan**. The park was renamed Anderson Park in 1909 to honor its donor, Charles Anderson, at the request of a friend and other citizens, and with the support of the Township and Essex County.

The park's layout includes curvilinear paths following the perimeter with informal groupings of randomly placed deciduous and evergreen trees (**Photos 0004, 0005 and historic H-3**). The paths are typically paved with bituminous concrete/asphalt, except for a small entry area at the park's northeast corner, which has modern pavers. The paths were originally gravel covered (**Photos 0004, 0015 and historic H-13**).

The older, more mature deciduous trees are mainly pin oak (*Quercus palustris*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), tulip (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), and flowering Japanese cherry (*Prunus serrulata* 'Kwanzan'). The evergreens are mainly white pine (*Pinus strobus*), Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*) and American holly (*Ilex opaca*). Numerous century-old oaks remain at locations specified in the **1904 Planting Plan**. Younger trees

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have been added during the last few years and have been planted in similar random, informal groupings in keeping with the original Olmsted design concept. The recently planted deciduous trees are mainly flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), paper birch (*Betula papyrifera*), river birch (*Betula nigra*), pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) and red oak (*Quercus rubra*). The recently planted evergreens are mainly white pine (*Pinus strobus*) and weeping Alaska cedar (*Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* 'Pendula'). Park plantings are not limited to the deciduous and evergreen trees described earlier. A great number of shrubs have also been planted recently with the intent of being true to the 1904 Olmsted Planting Plan.

The existing quantity and variety of shrub species is not as generous as specified on the 1904 Olmsted Planting Plan. However, it is the goal of the Friends of Anderson Park to replant the park and recreate the full integrity of the 1904 Olmsted Planting Plan. A review of early postcards and historic photographs of the park, and the 1904 Olmsted Planting Plan, clearly indicates extensive shrub beds mass-planted with diverse ornamental species (**Historic Photos H-4, H-5, H-6**).

Within the interior space defined by the path system is a greensward used for informal open play and field sports, including soccer, lacrosse and field hockey. In the park's earliest years tennis courts occupied this area. An annual outdoor art show is also held here (**Photos 0006, 0007 and historic H-7**). Seven large boulders dot the edge of this interior lawn near the adjacent path system; six of them are erratics – large, smooth rocks transported by glacial ice. These are strategically placed throughout Anderson Park, with a triangulation of three at the northeast entrance (**Photos 0003, 0009**).

The park has seven entrances, all for pedestrian use only. Four entrances have a similar landscape treatment; three of these are at corners of the park, including the northeast, northwest and southwest corners, and a fourth is along North Mountain Avenue near the southwest corner. These entrance paths are aligned on the center of triangular-shaped landscaped beds. At the apex of the triangular bed the path system divides in two directions with gently curved paths joining the main interior path system (**Photos 0004 and historic H-8, H-11**). Another entrance is at the park's southeast corner, where a Tudor-style restroom building stands (**Photo 0016**). Two more entrances are along Parkside Road; these two entrances appear on the 1903 Revised Preliminary Plan even though Parkside Road and the adjacent residential neighborhood did not yet exist. The southern boundary was in flux until 1907, but residential development was anticipated, and the 1903 Revised Preliminary Plan prepared for it by including these entrances. By the time the 1912 General Plan was drawn and the adjacent neighborhood was well underway, the two Parkside Road entrances were aligned to link to the sidewalks of the streets perpendicular to Parkside Road: Princeton Place and Edgemont Road (**Photo 0018**).

Two more entrances along North Mountain Avenue that appear on the **1903 Revised Preliminary Plan** and **1912 General Plan** have been eliminated. Remnants of these entrances were visible during recent road resurfacing and curb replacement. These entrances may have been removed to avoid pedestrian-car conflicts, as these entrances were midblock and might have encouraged jaywalking.

The 1903 Revised Preliminary Plan also indicates a "Proposed Subway" under the elevated railroad bed that connects the park to a proposed road east of the railroad. This feature was never realized (**1903 Revised Preliminary Plan**). There are no sidewalks parallel to two of the three adjacent streets, Bellevue Avenue being

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the exception. Along Parkside Road and North Mountain Avenue pedestrians traveling the edges of the park are afforded a more picturesque walking experience along the curvilinear paths. This design element forces pedestrians to experience the park by the omission of traditional perimeter sidewalks.

The park's topography slopes mainly from west to east, with the northwest corner the highest point of the site and the southeast corner at the lowest point. In this low-lying area the 1903 Revised Preliminary Plan and the 1912 General Plan called for a depressed lawn area to be flooded for skating and encircled by a pedestrian loop. Skating took place here for a few years until the venue was superseded by a larger pond at a new nearby park, Edgemont Memorial Park, also an Olmsted design (**1903 Revised Preliminary Plan, 1912 General Plan**). Drainage work, as reflected in the Irrigation Plan by Remington & Vernick Engineers (signed and dated 8-22-05), improved surface and subsurface drainage in this area. This same Irrigation Plan also included new irrigation for the multi-purpose sports field within the greensward (**2005 Anderson Park Improvement, Phase II**). It is interesting to note that the initial construction of the park also required extensive drainage work and imported fill to transform the site's swampy ground into the naturalistic park design found today.

Anderson Park is maintained by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, which is the successor to the Essex County Park Commission, builder of the park. Over the years it has updated the site furniture, most recently in 2005-06. Site furniture includes period metal light poles that are a gray-green color and are similar in character to gas lamps found in older sections of the county. The poles and fixtures are provided by PSE&G, the local utility company. The electric light poles are located to provide general walkway lighting; they each have one 100-watt bulb and side and top shield plates that cast a soft white light downward onto the pathways. These light poles are at least the third design to stand in the park. Twenty-two electric lights -- with opalescent globes, 100-candlepower lamps, and ornamental reinforced concrete posts resembling granite -- were installed in 1922 (**Photos 0010, 0032 and historic H-6, H-10**).

All benches, except one, are the Essex County Parks Department's new standard bench with green cast-iron end brackets embossed with the park name, and plastic slats (**Photos 0011, 0012**). These were installed in 2005, replacing concrete benches with painted wooden slats. The original benches featured more ornate cast-iron end brackets and wooden slats (**Historic photos H-4, H-5, H-8, H-13**). A single contemporary bench, which appears to more closely match this original design, sits along the eastern path with a memorial tablet. This bench has black cast-iron end brackets and wood slats. The new benches are placed on concrete pads and recessed into the paths' outside edges. The original benches typically sat along both edges of the paths and were not recessed (**Historic photo H-11**).

The park has a metal flag pole near the walkway in the southeast section, slightly inside the pedestrian loop. The first flag pole was wooden, and erected in 1912 in the north-central section, flying a flag 15 feet by 24 feet. Sometime after the late-1940s the flag-pole site was moved to its current location (**Photos 0013 and historic H-12**).

Two drinking fountains replaced one in 2006. Both are concrete barrier-free pedestal-style fountains with a ground-level pet fountain (**Photo 0014**). One stands next to the restrooms and the other is in the southwest



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section near North Mountain Avenue. A “bubbling fountain,” presumably for drinking, was placed in the park in 1909, but no photographs document it.

Four plaques are scattered throughout the park. A memorial tablet (mentioned earlier) lies at the base of a bench along the east side of the park. A small round seal mounted near the base of a Princeton elm (*Ulmus Americana* ‘Princeton’) recognizes the Essex County Park System Centennial Celebration in 1995. Two larger plaques are attached to boulders: one, placed in 2008, honors the achievements of the lacrosse coaches Gilbert J. Gibbs Jr. and Homer C. Robinson. The other, placed in 1928, recognizes the contributions of Charles W. Anderson (**Photo 0008**).

The Anderson plaque sits at the main park entrance, at the northeast corner along Bellevue Avenue. Erected in 1928, the year Charles W. Anderson died, it is inscribed with 63 words that honor his role in the park’s creation. The bronze tablet is 36 inches wide and 24 inches tall, bordered on both sides by a bas-relief tree whose upper boughs arch toward the center, framing the text below. At the bottom, sinuous roots create the composition’s base. The plaque is naturalistic and romantic with Art Nouveau influences. It was cast by the General Bronze Corporation of Long Island City, N.Y., the foundry that made the low-relief panels on the bronze doors of the U.S. Supreme Court building. Although it is unsigned, credit is probably due to Maxfield H. Keck, an architectural sculptor who lived in Montclair, N.J. He designed architectural ornamentation for buildings around the country, many now designated landmarks, including Cincinnati Union Terminal, Riverside Church in Manhattan, and Childs Restaurant on the Coney Island boardwalk in New York. The transportation-themed medallions in the waiting room of Penn Station in Newark, N.J., have also been attributed to him.

The Tudor Revival restroom, built in 2006, stands in the far southeast corner of the park (**Photos 0013, 0016**). It faces north toward the park’s center, and provides a picturesque element in the landscape. Approximately 32 feet by 18 feet in plan, the single-story stucco structure has a peaked roof with two cross-gabled sections, half-timbering, and brick-faced walls. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed in simulated slate. Although not built within the period of significance, this building’s Tudor Revival style is linked to the park through Charles W. Anderson and his son Robert, who, as developers, established Tudor Revival as a key design element for the adjacent Upper Montclair business district (**Photo 0017**). Several Tudor Revival homes also overlook the park (**Photo 0019**). The restroom occupies a similar footprint to a utility shed demolished in 2005 to make way for the new construction. Neither this shed nor the entrance path beside it appear on the early Olmsted plans, although a shed did occupy the spot in 1906 (**1906 Atlas of Essex County, N.J., Vol. 3**).

For over a century, Anderson Park has remained essentially as it was designed by Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, continuing to provide its neighborhood with a naturalistically landscaped public park. The Olmsted vision remains highly evident more than a century after Anderson Park’s creation. The park has maintained its integrity of location, setting, design and feeling, and has still has its most character-defining features, including curvilinear pathways, a playfield within a greensward, and informal plantings.

**Anderson Park**

Name of Property

**Essex County, NJ**

County and State

**8 Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria considerations**

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

Property is:

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

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape ArchitectureCommunity Planning & Development**Period of Significance**1903 to 1928**Significant Dates**1903 – 190519121928**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**N/A**Architect/Builder**Olmsted Brothers – Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass.Essex County Park Commission – Builder, Newark, NJ**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography - Attached**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data**

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☒ Local government – Essex County, NJ \*
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other – Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

Name of repository:

\*Essex County Park System Archives, Newark, NJ 07104

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Anderson Park  
Essex County, NJ

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## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

### Summary Paragraph

Anderson Park, in the Township of Montclair, Essex County, New Jersey, was designed as one of the earliest additions to the Essex County Park System – the first county park system in the nation. It represents the pioneering countywide planning effort to provide open public green spaces, and the foresight to anticipate urban growth and plan parks in advance of it. Anderson Park exemplifies the small neighborhood park advocated by its designer, John Charles Olmsted, the pre-eminent landscape architect and an early figure in the emerging field of urban planning. The park also served as a catalyst for a system of municipal parks throughout Montclair, a town that stood at the vanguard of town planning in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when citizens hired the planner and landscape architect John Nolen to prepare a report for the town. Nolen, an Olmsted disciple and later peer, arrived in Montclair three years after Anderson Park opened, but expanded on the urban planning tenets embodied in the park and applied them to the entire town in his report. Anderson Park meets **Criteria A and C** of the National and New Jersey Registers of Historic Places. It meets **Criteria A** because of its significance in the area of Community Planning and Development. It also meets **Criteria C** for the historic integrity of its landscape architecture, which has maintained its original layout and landscape elements as designed more than a century ago.

### Historical Background

#### **Overview**

Charles W. Anderson, a New York insurance executive who lived in Montclair, donated most of the 14.85 acres that are now Anderson Park to the Township of Montclair in 1903 with the intent that they would be given over to the Essex County Park Commission for development as a park. At the time of Anderson Park's design, Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. (son of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.) and John Charles Olmsted (nephew and stepson of Olmsted Sr.) were partners in Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts. The Olmsted Brothers were the successor firm to that of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., who designed Central Park in Manhattan with Calvert Vaux and is considered the father of landscape architecture. Together these two firms designed almost 6,000 landscapes across the country. Although the Olmsted Brothers embraced the design philosophy of the elder Olmsted, they also went beyond it to incorporate the new discipline of urban planning, in which the creation of parks was a significant element.

#### **Roots of the Olmsted Design Tenets as Applied to Essex County, N.J.**

The touchstone for all public park development in America was the creation of Central Park in New York City. In 1856 the City of New York took title to the land that would become Central Park and in 1857 a competition was held to design that 778-acre expanse. Calvert Vaux, an English architect working in the area as an assistant



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to Andrew Jackson Downing, approached Frederick Law Olmsted and requested that Olmsted join him as a partner in this competition. Theirs was the "Greensward Plan," and on April 25, 1858 it was chosen as the winning entry. Thus began their collaboration as Olmsted, Vaux & Company. Frederick Law Olmsted was named Architect-in-Chief and Calvert Vaux was named Assistant to the Architect-in-Chief for the construction of Central Park. They also designed Prospect Park in Brooklyn and eventually the planned community of Riverside near Chicago, the University of California at Berkeley campus and other major projects.

The work of Olmsted and Vaux on Central Park and Prospect Park caught the attention of public-spirited citizens eager to create a park for Newark, New Jersey. In April 1867, the Newark Board of Trade created a preliminary commission to select a "Park at Newark." That year the Newark Park Commissioners chose Olmsted, Vaux & Company to lay the groundwork for what would later become the Essex County Park Commission and its first county park, Branch Brook Park. At that time the Newark Park Commissioners were concerned with establishing only the one "Park at Newark." As visionary as they were, they could never have anticipated that retaining Olmsted, Vaux & Company would become a significant influence in establishing the first county park system in America, one that would embrace Anderson Park early on.<sup>1</sup>

On October 4, 1867, the principals of Olmsted, Vaux & Company visited Newark to identify the best spot for the Newark park. The next day they submitted their "Report on a Site for a Park at Newark" to the Board of Commissioners of the Newark Park. That report discussed how the design intent behind the great public parks of Europe, such as Hyde Park, the Phoenix, the Bois de Boulogne and the Prater, influenced the work of Olmsted and Vaux. This inspiration provided the framework desired by the citizens of Newark to create "a noble Park." Elements of this report became key to forming the Essex County Park System and siting its many parks.<sup>2</sup>

The report set forth considerations for location: whether it would be feasible to establish scenery that would allow for "combinations of trees standing singly or in groups and casting their shadows over broad stretches of turf"; whether it would be economically feasible to create the desired scenery on a particular site; and whether the site was accessible – could citizens get to it? These factors explain why John Charles Olmsted visited the proposed site for Anderson Park in August 1902 before the Essex County Park Commission agreed to accept Charles W. Anderson's land for this park. Olmsted visited to assess its suitability for the type of park envisioned by the Essex County Park Commission. He endorsed this site, and the adjacent train station and the burgeoning population nearby probably assured him that park users could easily reach the site.

Further in the report, in discussing the borders surrounding the "Park at Newark," Olmsted and Vaux referenced factors that have become evident in the neighborhood adjacent to Anderson Park. They theorized that residential lots bordering a park would appreciate in value and that their salability would be enhanced by such proximity. This has proven true for the property near Anderson Park.

<sup>1</sup> Kathleen P. Galop and Catharine Longendyck, Images of America: Branch Brook Park. Arcadia Publishing, Charleston, S.C., 2007, pp. 7-8.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

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The 1867 report proposed almost 700 acres in the northern section of Newark for the park, property that could be easily reached by many urban residents. Newark's business leaders recommended purchasing that land for over \$1 million. Such an expenditure required approval of the New Jersey Legislature, but it was not forthcoming. Rival claims from the southern sections of Newark thwarted further action by the Legislature or city authorities. Acquiring land for a public park was such a new idea in the late 1860s that it took another 28 years before the Essex County Park Commission would be created.

The county park movement ultimately succeeded in 1895. On May 8, 1894, a state law (Chapter CLVI, Laws of 1894) provided for a temporary commission to report on a comprehensive plan for laying out, acquiring and maintaining ample public open space. One of this commission's first acts was to hire Olmsted, Olmsted & Eliot, with the goal of obtaining the personal services of Frederick Law Olmsted Sr. (In 1893 the landscape architect Charles Eliot had become a partner with the firm.) This turned out to be the last job for Olmsted, Sr., who retired shortly thereafter.

The temporary commission assessed locations for the first county parks, decided how commissioners should be appointed and grappled with financing issues and park expenditures. Its report recommending the establishment of a County Park Commission was submitted within one year. The New Jersey Legislature then enacted precedent-setting legislation that provided for the creation of County Park Commissions and empowered such Commissions to create a countywide park system. The Park Act became law on March 5, 1895 (Chapter XCL, Laws of 1895).

The Park Act required voter approval, and on April 8, 1895, Essex County voters endorsed it by large margins: in Newark, for example, the vote was 11,853 in favor and 9,330 against; in Montclair it was 871 in favor and 121 against – a margin of almost 8 to 1. Approval provided authorization to spend \$2.5 million in county funds to develop the park system. A permanent Essex County Park Commission was appointed on April 18, 1895. One of its first steps was to plan the groundbreaking for a "Park at Newark" (Branch Brook Park) on June 15, 1895, and to begin developing a park system to serve all of Essex County. This pioneering action was widely lauded and today Essex County's creation enjoys the distinction of being the first county park system in America.

This system has become a national model in the development of large-scale park systems throughout the country. Previously, park systems were developed only along municipal boundaries. The Essex County Park System changed that practice and enabled park developers nationwide to think and plan on a broader scale. They would now have the ability to include land based on its geography and landscape characteristics without being restricted by city limits. The advantages of the Essex County Park System are particularly evident in properties like the 2,047-acre South Mountain Reservation and the 408-acre Eagle Rock Reservation, which both span several municipalities and have preserved the Watchungs' First Mountain and its spectacular views.

**Anderson Park Filled a Need for a Neighborhood Park in Essex County System**

Anderson Park was the first Essex County Park built for the growing population in the northern and northwestern section of the county, filling an important need to provide parks accessible to all county residents.

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During its earliest years and before Anderson Park's creation, between 1895 and 1901, the Essex County Park Commission acquired significant acreage that was immediately developed into parks and reservations following a plan to serve citizens countywide. This was done under the guidance of the Olmsted Brothers. Essex County acquired land for six parks totaling more than 830 acres. Also as one of its first acts in 1895, the Park Commission secured the views and the land on First Mountain with acquisition of South Mountain Reservation (1895) in West Orange, Millburn and Maplewood; and Eagle Rock Reservation (1895) in West Orange and Montclair.

Once conceived, beginning with John C. Olmsted's initial visit in 1902, Anderson Park played a crucial role by providing a small neighborhood park within a residential and commercial area. It is one of the oldest suburban neighborhood parks in the Essex County park system, completed during the system's first decade. At 14.85 acres, it is also the third smallest park in the system. The Olmsted Brothers and Essex County Park Commissioners 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 these diverse locales via scenic roadways. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. and John Nolen, the city planner, described small or "neighborhood" parks as being between 10 and 200 acres, 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."<sup>3</sup>

Anderson Park is strongly representative of the Olmsted conception of a neighborhood park in a developed area, surrounded as it is by a commuter train station, a commercial district and residential streets. The park exemplifies the small neighborhood park in the way it fully integrates public green space into the surrounding residential area and business district of Upper Montclair. The park has a strong bond with its neighborhood, providing a constant in the lives of generations of strollers, bike-riding children, dogwalkers, athletes, rushing commuters and merchants on lunch break.

As demand for open space increased in the years after Anderson Park's construction, the park's successful integration into its immediate surroundings made it an exemplar as the Park Commission planned other small neighborhood parks. Countywide planning in Essex County further demonstrated that a small neighborhood park, like Anderson Park, could play a key role in a diverse county park system. The Park Commission lauded Anderson Park as "an attractive addition to the system,"<sup>4</sup> and Alonzo Church, Secretary of the Park Commission, commended it as a "beautiful breathing space,"<sup>5</sup> a virtue to those concerned with the physical and moral welfare of citizens. Before the siting of Anderson Park in 1902, no county park existed in the northern and northwestern portions of the county. Anderson Park addressed a critical need for open space in an area rapidly transitioning from an agricultural to a suburban community.

<sup>3</sup> "The Normal Requirements of American Towns and Cities in Respect to Public Open Spaces," Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and John Nolen. *Charities and the Commons*, Vol. 16, July 7, 1906, pp. 411-26.

<sup>4</sup> *Essex County Park Commission Annual Report*, 1909, pg. 14, Essex County Park Commission, Newark, N.J.

<sup>5</sup> "A Sketch," Alonzo Church, 1913, pg. 19. Essex County Park Commission archives, Newark, N.J.



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The first three Essex County parks conceived as neighborhood parks were in densely urban areas: Independence Park (12.69 acres in Newark's Ironbound section, acquired in 1895), West Side Park (31.36 acres in the center of Newark, also acquired in 1895) and Orange Park (47.63 acres in Orange, acquired in 1897). Anderson Park, however, was situated in an area not so thickly settled, but poised to become so. The site's selection reflected the Park Commission's foresight in planning for green spaces in burgeoning areas or in locations expected to develop. The land surrounding Anderson Park fulfilled that expectation of growth, with a subdivision rising immediately south of the park just one year after it opened. A century later Anderson Park has maintained its historic integrity and Olmsted design even though Essex County is one of the most densely populated counties in the nation

Simultaneous with Anderson Park's development, the Olmsted Brothers also designed Irvington Park (1906), with 24.38 acres in Irvington, and Riverbank Park (1907), with 10.77 acres in Newark, both in densely urban areas. After Anderson Park's completion, the firm designed another eight parks from 1910 to 1928, totaling nearly 350 acres. In all, the Olmsted Brothers designed 20 landscapes for the Essex County Park System, with the last one being in 1954, the 157.19-acre Mills Reservation in Cedar Grove.

As of April 2009, Essex County was preparing to add to its system the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens in Upper Montclair. This garden is 8/10<sup>ths</sup> of a mile north of Anderson Park, and although it is not designed by the Olmsted Brothers, it is on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (listed in 1980 on both registers). Several Olmsted-designed parks in the Essex County Park System are also on the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places: Branch Brook Park (listed 1980, 1981); Riverbank Park (1998, 1999); and Weequahic Park in Newark, as a contributing element in the Weequahic Park Historic District (2002, 2003). Glenfield Park, in Montclair and Glen Ridge, received an Opinion of Eligibility from the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office in 2005.

**Geology and Early History of Anderson Park Site**

Six boulders from the Ice Age dot the landscape of Anderson Park. These are known as erratics, large rocks ground smooth while being dragged along with glacial ice. Anderson Park is within the Piedmont Physiographic Province, where the earliest rocks date to the Late Triassic and Early Jurassic ages, almost 200 million years ago. The park's boulders are more recent, from about 20,000 years ago. Evidence of an Ice Age was newly understood and being discussed around the same time that Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux were designing Central Park. Olmsted may have been aware of this new evidence and thus may have taken a special interest in erratics.<sup>6</sup> Olmsted Sr. certainly used erratics as a design element in Central Park and Prospect Park. When John Charles Olmsted worked on Anderson Park, he also incorporated erratics into his design. Today erratics are distinguishing features of the park, and one in the northeast corner is the base for the plaque dedicating this park to Charles W. Anderson.

Thousands of years after the Ice Age, the Lenni Lenape Indians traveled through the future Montclair, and Europeans began arriving in the 1660s. In 1666, Robert Treat and his followers settled in what is now Newark.

<sup>6</sup> Lisanne Renner, "The Olmsted Legacy: Anderson Park in Montclair, N.J., Partial Draft," typescript, January 2009. Prepared for Friends of Anderson Park. On file at Montclair Public Library, Local History Room.

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As Newark grew, the settlement spread westward toward First Mountain into what is today Montclair. One of Treat's followers was Jasper Crane, who settled in what became Montclair. Around 1702 Abraham Van Gieson bought over 1,000 acres that stretched roughly between Watchung and Bellevue Avenues in the northern section of Montclair, land that included the future Anderson Park. A succession of owners purchased parts of this terrain until Charles W. Anderson set his sights on it in the late-19<sup>th</sup>-century.

**Charles W. Anderson Acquired Land for a Park**

Charles W. Anderson, a New York insurance executive who lived in Montclair, began buying tracts of the future Anderson Park in 1883, when a third of the land was marshy meadow. In August 1902 John Charles Olmsted surveyed the site at the behest of the Essex County Park Commission, following a request from the Township of Montclair for advice on the land's suitability for a park. In March 1903 Charles Anderson and his wife, Annie, deeded most of the current acreage of Anderson Park to the Township on the condition that Montclair, in turn, deed the land over to the Essex County Park Commission, which then took ownership in June 1903. Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, designed Anderson Park for the Essex County Park Commission.

The impetus for a park came in 1870 when construction began on the New York & Greenwood Lake Railway, which ran along what would become the eastern edge of Anderson Park. With the advent of the railroad, this farming community was transformed into a bustling suburban commuter village. Charles W. Anderson counted among its new citizens, moving to Montclair from Brooklyn in 1870 and commuting on the train to work in Manhattan. The Upper Montclair train station opened in the early 1870s and the Upper Montclair business district gained many new stores and houses. From 1890 to 1900, Montclair's population grew by a third.

By 1895 Montclair began feeling the need for open space, and formally began lobbying for land in Upper Montclair to join the Essex County Park System. The Township appointed a special park committee, of which Charles Anderson – businessman, philanthropist, developer, civic leader -- was a member. By March 1896, the committee had chosen about 100 acres that included the present-day Anderson Park, but also land stretching farther south to Watchung Avenue. Virtues cited for this location were its low price, its proximity to athletic and golf clubs and, particularly, its proximity to the Upper Montclair train station, which would afford people stepping off the train a fine first impression of Montclair.

The committee tried to raise enough money to buy at least two-thirds of the land, "so as to induce the Park Commission to consider the proposition favorably," The New York Times reported. But ultimately Montclair's special park committee members failed to raise the necessary funds. Simultaneously, strained negotiations between the Essex County Park Commission and a different set of Montclair property owners over purchases for Eagle Rock Reservation began souring Essex County on Montclair locales. Efforts by town citizens to create an Upper Montclair park withered in the late 1890s and lay dormant until Charles Anderson revived them.

Charles Anderson spent 20 years accumulating the land that would become the park. After his initial purchase in 1883, he bought three more parcels: in 1889, 1890, and finally, just before deeding it all to the Township of Montclair, in 1903. As early as 1895 he was thinking about creating a park out of this land, and by November

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1896 he had begun corresponding with the Essex County Park Commission. He formally announced his intentions to the community in a letter to The Montclair Times in July 1902. In the letter he offered to donate to the township his 13 acres lying largely within the boundaries of present-day Anderson Park, with the plan being to then deed the property to Essex County for a park. Before giving the land to the county, the Township was to make improvements, since three houses and a tiny fire station stood on the site. The Montclair town council heartily endorsed the concept, feeling that Montclair was due some largess from the Essex County Park Commission.

The same year that Anderson offered to donate his land, he hired Downing Vaux, the landscape architect, to design a subdivision for that very same site. (Vaux was the son of Calvert Vaux, who designed Central Park with Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.) Downing Vaux's 1902 "Study for Subdivision" envisioned 62 residential lots, nearly all identically sized rectangles with 50-foot street frontage. A particularly marshy area was set aside for a triangular park, and three roads ran through the plot. Because of their fathers' shared endeavor, Downing Vaux and John C. Olmsted were childhood friends. As young men they collaborated on finalizing Downing Memorial Park in Newburgh, N.Y., completed in 1897. Two years later they were founding fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects. In 1906 John C. Olmsted recommended Vaux to a Montclair resident planning a luxury subdivision, so it is quite possible that Olmsted also suggested to Charles Anderson that he hire Vaux to draw up a subdivision plan for the park site. Conveniently, Vaux lived in Montclair.

Despite his stellar credentials designing parks and park structures, cemeteries, subdivisions, and institutional grounds, Vaux's subdivision for Charles Anderson appears oddly slapdash and, with its small lots, downmarket compared with his other projects. This suggests that Anderson never intended to carry out the subdivision plan, but instead commissioned it as leverage. The plan might have been intended to hasten Essex County's consideration of the site; it might have been drawn to pressure a recalcitrant homeowner to budge; it might have been designed to increase property values; or maybe Anderson was hedging his bets in case the park idea fell through. Whatever the motivation, the concept appeared short-lived and the park plan quickly advanced.<sup>7</sup>

Just weeks after Anderson's public offer of donated land, the Essex County Park Commission dispatched John C. Olmsted to evaluate the site. He visited on Aug. 13, 1902, reporting back that the property could be developed at a reasonable cost and would make a successful park. That day the Park Commission unanimously resolved to accept the land for an Olmsted-designed park, but on two conditions: three residential lots on the site that were not owned by Anderson had to be purchased and the houses removed, and in the next election voters had to pass a maintenance bill and a bond appropriation for the Essex County Park System. Both bills passed in November 1902. On June 8, 1903, the Township of Montclair transferred the land to Essex County.

In 1909 the county changed the park's name from Montclair Park to Anderson Park at the behest of grateful town leaders and friends of Charles Anderson, a rarity because the Park Commission had a policy of not naming parks after individuals. In 1928, after Anderson's death, a plaque attached to a boulder was erected at the northeast entrance of the park honoring his contribution.

<sup>7</sup> Lisanne Renner, "The Olmsted Legacy: Anderson Park in Montclair, N.J., Partial Draft," typescript, January 2009. Prepared for Friends of Anderson Park. On file at Montclair Public Library, Local History Room.



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**Designing and Building the Olmsted Plan**

John Charles Olmsted (1852-1920) served as Anderson Park's primary landscape architect, but James Frederick Dawson, an associate partner at Olmsted Brothers, was also involved, making at least one site visit. John C. Olmsted began work on Anderson Park at age 49, when he was a major national figure in landscape architecture and a senior partner in Olmsted Brothers, the nation's most prominent landscape architecture firm. By the time he came to the Anderson Park project, he had continued many projects undertaken by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., and had already wielded a strong hand in work including the U.S. Capitol grounds, the Boston Park System, Golden Gate Park, and Essex County's Branch Brook Park in Newark. He was a founding member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, becoming its first president. Later in his career, he developed park systems nationwide in cities like Seattle; Charleston, S.C.; Portland, Me.; and Portland, Ore. He designed many individual parks, as well as institutional grounds and subdivisions, and oversaw comprehensive planning for communities around industrial plants, such as in Vandergrift, Pa., and the area near the National Cash Register factory in Dayton, Ohio. Anderson Park, in the hands of John C. Olmsted, was the work of a master.

Design and construction of Anderson Park proceeded quickly, with a "Revised Preliminary Plan" completed by October 1903 and an extensive "Planting Plan" by April 1904. To transform a field of scrubby, shin-high brush and swampy, cattail-covered terrain into a picturesque pleasure ground, workers installed underdrainage and hauled in 8,000 cubic yards of fill to improve the grade. Teams of horses and immigrant muscle aided in the effort, helping to plant 17,500 trees and shrubs. Although the park appeared almost "natural," its pastoral look was actually achieved through significant engineering. This same effect is evident in Central Park, Prospect Park and other Olmsted designs. The Olmsted imprint on Anderson Park is as clear today as it was when Anderson Park was first designed. The curvilinear paths, informal plantings, and broad greensward epitomize Olmsted design tenets.

The greensward center of Anderson Park included grass tennis courts (an area now used for field sports), and benches lined gravel paths. During a wave of immigration, a flagpole was erected in 1912 to inspire patriotism in children while they played sports. Electric lights were installed in 1922.

A utility shed stood in the far southeast corner of the park as early as 1906. A century later its footprint was replaced by a Tudor Revival restroom building. The new structure's architectural style reflects the mark left on the Upper Montclair business district by Charles W. Anderson and his son Robert, who owned Anderson Realty Company. They were instrumental in the early development of the Upper Montclair business district and in establishing Tudor Revival as the dominant style. They built two Tudor Revival structures on Bellevue Avenue in the block immediately east of Anderson Park: the Bellevue Theater, and the Upper Montclair Post Office (placed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1986 and 1988 respectively).

Anderson Park's boundaries were largely established by the borders of Charles Anderson's property, although the southern boundary was a point of contention in the early planning stage. The 1903 "Revised Preliminary

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Plan” envisioned the southern end being defined by a road dipping southward near the eastern corner, creating a larger park than was ultimately built. Residential developers who owned land at the southern end of the park refused to sell, forcing Olmsted Brothers to devise two alignments, “Alternative Plan for Revision of Southerly Boundary,” versions A and B. By 1906, however, those landowners sold to Aaron W. Godfrey, a developer willing to work with the Olmsted Brothers and the Township, and by early 1907 Parkside Road had been delineated, solidifying the park’s southern boundary.

**Anderson Park Helps Shape a Neighborhood**

Anderson Park provided the impetus for a new multi-block, 80-home suburban neighborhood named Oakcroft, just south of its borders. A symbiotic relationship existed between the developer and the Essex County Park Commission: Aaron W. Godfrey ensured worthy surroundings for the park, promising to build “fairly good dwellings” facing it,<sup>8</sup> and in return the Park Commission and John C. Olmsted agreed to give up a sliver of park property for the creation of Parkside Road, which allowed construction of houses overlooking the park.

Situating Anderson Park near a train station enhanced and fostered this neighborhood. Such an arrangement was representative of the nationwide transformation of open land to suburban development, which began after the Civil War and continued into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as railroad service expanded rapidly. Train lines radiating from large metropolitan areas made it possible for middle-class, white-collar workers in congested cities to afford outlying homes in more pastoral settings. Anderson Park had become part of the overall ambiance of a neighborhood that afforded not only good housing, but also provided its residents with a welcome outdoor public space.

The park’s creation also helped solidify a trend toward residential development in the area, by fostering Oakcroft, curtailing commercial development on the west end of the Upper Montclair business district, and halting the spread of industrial uses, which immediately abutted the eastern park boundary along the train tracks at the Osborne and Marsellis lumberyard.

In 1912 the Olmsted Brothers’ “General Plan for Anderson Park” reflected the designed connection between the park and Oakcroft: pathways at the south end were aligned to link directly to Oakcroft sidewalks. More than a century later, this bond continues to maintain the residential character of an area just a block or two from a commercial district.

**Anderson Park as an Impetus for Olmsted Projects Throughout Montclair**

Anderson Park served as a catalyst for numerous other Olmsted Brothers projects in Montclair, helping to establish a pattern of well-considered landscapes amid the emerging suburban development. The beauty of Anderson Park generated interest in the firm’s work among civic leaders and wealthy estate owners. One potential Olmsted Brothers client in Montclair sent an exploratory letter to the firm in 1916 explaining that he

<sup>8</sup> Correspondence to Alonzo Church, Secretary, Essex County Park Commission, from Olmsted Associates, Dec. 6, 1906. Reel 82, Box B113, Job 2125. Records of the Olmsted Associates, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

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knew of the Olmsteds' work with the Essex County park system. The Olmsted influence on Montclair stretched over three decades -- from Eagle Rock Reservation in 1895, then Anderson Park in 1902, and into the 1930s -- and included 22 job files. The firm opened more files in Montclair than in any other New Jersey city except Newark, and all but one came *after* Anderson Park.<sup>9</sup> A bit more than half these files developed into fully realized projects, and several still endure in a condition close to their original design.

These projects represent a wide spectrum, from a city-owned park to a parking lot. They include the 70-acre Brookwood subdivision (1906), still one of the most exclusive in town and an example of the Olmsted Brothers' role as subdivision designers applying the emerging tools of city planning; the town-owned Edgemont Memorial Park, a civic and geographical centerpiece of Montclair (1907); grounds for the estate of Solomon Wright (1905); the county-owned Glenfield Park (1910); an Upper Montclair parking plaza just north of Anderson Park (1919); gardens for Stone Eagles (1929), a mansion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places (1986 and 1988 respectively); landscaping for Montclair Congregational Church (1925); and even a rose garden for the Montclair home of A.M. Reynolds, chief engineer and superintendent of the Essex County Park Commission (1925).

**The Nolen Plan for Montclair and Its Olmsted Connection**

The Olmsted Brothers firm nearly left an even broader mark on Montclair when it was asked to prepare a town plan by a City Beautiful-influenced citizens' organization called the Municipal Art Commission. This group pursued the Olmsted Brothers firm for that undertaking in 1908, citing its familiarity with the town from previous projects such as Anderson Park. The Municipal Art Commission initially selected Olmsted Brothers, but then decided that the firm was too busy with other projects and that its fees were prohibitive. Two weeks after choosing Olmsted Brothers, the commission announced its selection of John Nolen, a landscape architect and "civic engineer" who was only a few years into his planning career but already nationally known.

Nolen and the Olmsteds -- and by turn Montclair -- stood at the vanguard of the new city-planning profession, moving beyond the Gilded Age's infatuation with the City Beautiful in favor of the Progressive Era's insistence on methodical procedure and the continuous oversight of experts coordinating discrete changes within a city. Only in 1907 had the first planning commission been established in the United States (in Hartford, Conn.), and two years later Daniel Burnham published the Plan of Chicago, the first metropolitan plan in the United States. Not until 1922 did Los Angeles create the first regional planning commission, to guide the big picture, and by 1925 Cincinnati would become the first major American city to officially endorse a comprehensive plan.

Nolen had been a student of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. in the landscape architecture program at Harvard, which he entered in 1903. By the summer of 1908, Nolen was already a prominent planner, and by the end of his career he had completed 450 projects, including comprehensive plans for 29 cities and 27 new towns. His early views on planning were expressed in a 1906 article written with Olmsted, Jr. titled "The Normal Requirements of American Towns and Cities in Respect to Public Open Spaces," published in Charities and the Commons.

<sup>9</sup> Lucy Lawliss, Caroline Loughlin and Lauren Meier, editors. The Master List of Design Projects of the Olmsted Firm, 1857:1979. Washington, D.C.: National Association for Olmsted Parks, 2008.



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They stressed the importance of city acquisition and control of parkland, mentioning neighborhood parks specifically, and echoed an early call for an end to a laissez-faire approach to urban growth.

In his 1909 Montclair report, Montclair: The Preservation of Its Natural Beauty and Its Improvement as a Residence Town, Nolen commended the Essex County Park Commission for its networks of open space "all carefully developed under expert advice and liberal, well-directed expenditure," and featured several photographs of Anderson Park and its surroundings. Nolen argued that parks and playgrounds were indispensable amenities fostering not just happiness and health for children, but moral health and instruction in citizenship. The Olmsted Brothers' planting of a row of poplar trees to screen Anderson Park from the railroad tracks along its eastern border is commended in the report, and Nolen included a full-page photograph of Anderson Park, which he described as "a very pretty neighborhood park and playfield."<sup>10</sup>

Nolen sought information from the Olmsted Brothers about contemplated Essex County plans affecting Montclair as he embarked on the Montclair job. The extent of the cross-pollination between Olmsted and Nolen is evident in Nolen's report, which opens with a 1905 quotation from Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. that concludes, "Wise forethought as to purpose and tendencies may so shape the simplest utilitarian necessities of a village as to give it the beauty of consistency, harmony and truth."<sup>11</sup> Although Montclair never formally adopted the recommendations made in the Nolen report, his suggestions did have a lingering influence on future town plans.

### The City Beautiful Movement's Influence on Anderson Park

While the Essex County Park Commission formed, the county was growing rapidly after the Civil War, and urbanization and the crowded housing that came along with it raised concerns about loss of natural landscapes and threats to public health throughout urban America. In the early 1900s the nation felt tension between the 19<sup>th</sup>-century agrarian model on which it was founded and the 20<sup>th</sup>-century reality of growing cities and industries, a dichotomy evident in Montclair, a community making its own transition from bucolic settlement to railroad suburb. Just 12 miles east, in New York City, Progressive reformers were advocating for improvements in tenement houses and urban sanitation, a concern in Newark as well, and even in less dense Montclair. This led to a newly recognized need for playgrounds, neighborhood parks and preserved natural lands. Simultaneously, the emerging City Beautiful movement gained influence, spurred on by the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

The City Beautiful movement emphasized the integration of the architectural aspects of city planning with the provisions of parkland and open space to achieve beauty and civic betterment. In this spirit, the architects of the Essex County Park Commission stated their mission this way in 1894: "It is an unquestioned fact that public parks and playgrounds are one of the most important factors in the real practical development of cities. Communion with nature is always elevating, and the good done to the overworked denizens of crowded city streets in wandering through green pastures and beside still waters is incalculable. The mind is purified, the eye

<sup>10</sup> John Nolen, Montclair: The Preservation of Its Natural Beauty and Its Improvement as a Residence Town. Styles & Cash, New York, 1909, pp. 24, 65, and 68.

<sup>11</sup> Nolen, Montclair, unnumbered opening page.

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is educated, the heart delighted and the tired body refreshed. Innocent pleasure and healthful exercise are combined in a pure and bracing air, and it can be truly said that a park is the heart free beating, the lungs free breathing of a great city.”<sup>12</sup>

“A very important factor” in selecting the Anderson Park site, about a third of which was low-lying and marshy, was the opportunity to transform “an unsanitary swamp into a healthful pleasure ground,” the Park Commission said.<sup>13</sup> Anderson Park was a direct manifestation of the City Beautiful movement’s efforts to beautify and improve public health by providing parks as “breathing spaces.”

### Anderson Park Spurred a Townwide Park System

Another expression of the City Beautiful movement appeared in a Montclair initiative to establish a townwide park system. Anderson Park, the first designed neighborhood park in town, served as a direct inspiration and model for this town park system. Just one year after Anderson Park opened, the town held a referendum in 1906 that created its own network of parks and approved purchase of four parcels. (Two of these would be designed by the Olmsted Brothers: Edgemont Memorial Park and Glenfield Park.) In a history of the town’s parks, William B. Dickson wrote: “To Mr. Charles Anderson is due the honor of inaugurating the movement for securing open spaces for parks, by presenting the tract in Upper Montclair, known as Anderson Park. Inspired by his action, in the latter part of 1904, a committee of Montclair citizens was formed to consider the question of acquiring some open space for parks and playgrounds.”<sup>14</sup>

Montclair had less than 7 acres of parks before Anderson Park opened, and none of that land had yet been designed as anything more than simple open space. In existence was four-acre Rand Park, donated in 1903; Crane Park, less than a half-acre near the Lackawanna train station, also created in 1903; and soon to come would be Porter Park, a bit more than two acres, acquired in 1905. (Eagle Rock, though established in 1895, is a reservation, not a neighborhood park.) Town residents had few places where the general public could participate in outdoor reflection or recreation. Golf and athletic clubs were for members only, schoolboys had to pay \$125 annually to use an athletic field, and there was only one playground for Montclair’s 3,000 schoolchildren.

Concern about growth brought on by the railroad led the newly formed town parks committee to set a goal of preserving 75 acres for parks. The tracts proposed to voters were what are now Nishuane Park (13 acres), Edgemont Memorial Park (13 acres), Glenfield Park (20 acres), and Woodman Field/Essex Park (22 acres). Eight of the committee’s members, many of them wealthy businessmen, agreed to underwrite the bond issue required to buy these properties, up to \$100,000. Based on this, the Town Council decided to hold a special election on the issue on April 10, 1906.

<sup>12</sup> “Report of the Board of Commissioners Appointed Under the Act Approved May 8, 1894,” Essex County Department of Parks, Advertiser Printing House, 1895, pg. 5.

<sup>13</sup> Essex County Park Commission Annual Report, 1904-05, pg. 21, Essex County Park Commission, Newark, N.J.

<sup>14</sup> History of Montclair Parks, undated typescript, pg. 1, boxed file A9/7, Township of Montclair, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Correspondence of William B. Dickson (1904-06), Local History Room, Montclair Public Library, Montclair, N.J.

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A strong theme among park advocates during the vociferous campaign leading to Election Day was the need for "breathing spaces" and the social responsibility to ensure this. Fresh air, sunlight and beauty for its own sake were values drawn from both the City Beautiful and the Progressive social reform movements. Jacob Riis, the social reformer who disturbed the American conscience with shocking documentation of wretched slum conditions in his 1890 book How the Other Half Lives, had spoken to Montclair's Outdoor Club in 1904. Two years later, just days before the election, he visited town to endorse the park proposal.

Some civic leaders had hoped that all the tracts would be transferred to Essex County to become "integral parts of the great and splendid county park system,"<sup>15</sup> even though the Essex County Park Commission made clear that it lacked the money to acquire and maintain parks in Montclair unless the town purchased the land. This hope of handing land over to the county largely did not come to fruition, although Essex County did agree to acquire the land for Glenfield Park in 1906 and formally did so in 1910. Montclair Township inaugurated its own park system, which now includes 142 acres of parkland, playgrounds and athletic fields.

**Changes to Anderson Park in Recent Decades**

Since June 1903, when the land for Anderson Park was transferred to the Essex County Park Commission, the park has continuously been owned and maintained by Essex County. During the park's 106-year history, Essex County has been responsible for the construction of Anderson Park and all its maintenance. The park has continuously functioned as an integral component of the Essex County Park System, providing the amenities of a neighborhood park surrounded by houses, the railroad line and the Upper Montclair business district.

Over the decades much of the abundant shrubbery has been lost and many mature, majestic trees are nearing the end of their lifespan. Since 2006, Essex County and Friends of Anderson Park, a conservancy, have planted nearly 190 trees and 100 shrubs. Most, though not all, of these plantings have been guided by the Olmsted Brothers' 1904 Planting Plan.

In 2004, Essex County, New Jersey Transit and the Township of Montclair joined forces to reduce flooding on the east side of Anderson Park by improving the flow of Toney's Brook. In 2005-06, Essex County carried out \$1.3 million in work on the park, which included replacing the old drainage system, adding irrigation to the athletic field, laying sod on the athletic field, planting trees, and removing a wooden utility shed and building a Tudor Revival restroom building in its place. The asphalt walkways were also resurfaced, utilitarian wooden light poles were replaced by decorative metal ones, and benches were updated.

These changes have not significantly diminished the historic integrity of Anderson Park. The park is in extraordinarily good condition and continues to fully carry out the original function of a planned suburban neighborhood park as first set forth by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. as a visionary in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and furthered by the Olmsted Brothers as landscape architects and pioneering urban planners in the early-20<sup>th</sup>-century.

<sup>15</sup> "All Park Sites Carried by Substantial Majorities," The Montclair Times, April 14, 1906, Vol. XXX, No. 1566, pg. 1.



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Map 16, Block D, Lot 70

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**Anderson Park**

Name of Property

**Essex County, NJ**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data****Acreage of property** 14.85**UTM References**(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) **USGS Map Attached.**1 18 566602 4521531  
Zone Easting Northing

2 18 566439 4521129

3 18 566709 4521033  
Zone Easting Northing

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☐ 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 Lisanne Renner and Kathleen P. Galop, Esq. (continuation sheet for other contributors)organization Friends of Anderson Park date April 9, 2009street & number P.O. Box 43712 telephone 973-744-8433city or town Montclair state NJ zip code 07043**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name County of Essex, Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairsstreet & number 115 Clifton Avenue telephone 973-268-3500city or town Newark state NJ zip code 07104**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.470 *et seq.*)**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Anderson Park, in the Upper Montclair neighborhood of the Township of Montclair, N.J., is bounded by Bellevue Avenue on the north, North Mountain Avenue on the west, Parkside Road on the south, and on the east by the New Jersey Transit Montclair-Boonton Railroad line. Also immediately to the east of the park's boundary, between the parkland and the train tracks, lies Toney's Brook.

**Boundary Justification Statement**

Anderson Park has retained the same boundaries since February 1907, when Parkside Road, at the southern boundary, was delineated. The boundaries along all other sides of the park have remained the same as shown on the Olmsted Brothers' 1903 "Revised Preliminary Plan."

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**MAP ATTACHMENT**

**Location map:** U.S. Geological Survey, United States Department of the Interior, 7.5-minute series topographical map, Orange quadrangle, New Jersey, 1995. Includes Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J.

**Site Map:** "Anderson Park," Montclair, N.J. Drawn by Joe Lanzara, August 1972, revised mid-1990s. Revised by Lisanne Renner, August 2007. Essex County Park System Archives, Essex County Park Commission Archives, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Newark, N.J.

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**Anderson Park**  
Essex Co., NJ

Section \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1  
number \_\_\_\_\_  
Olmsted Plans Attachment \_\_\_\_\_

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**OLMSTED PLANS ATTACHMENT**

**Oct. 12, 1903, Revised Preliminary Plan,** Job 2125, Plan 16. By Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass. Drawn by W.D. Cook Jr. Prepared for the Essex County Park Commission. On file at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

**Dec. 30, 1903, Alternative Plan for Revision of Southerly Boundary, Map 20A,** Job 2125. Prepared for the Essex County Park Commission by Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass. On file at Essex County Park System Archives, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Newark, N.J.

**Dec. 30, 1903, Alternative Plan for Revision of Southerly Boundary, Map 20B,** Job 2125. Prepared for the Essex County Park Commission by Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass. On file at Essex County Park System Archives, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Newark, N.J.

**April 13, 1904, Planting Plan,** Job 2125, Plan 28. By Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass. Prepared for the Essex County Park Commission. On file at Essex County Park System Archives, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Newark, N.J., and Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

**1912, General Plan for Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J.,** Job 2125, Plan 35. Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, Brookline, Mass. Drawn by R.E. Sawyer. Prepared for the Essex County Park Commission. On file at Essex County Park System Archives, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Newark, N.J., and Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Anderson Park**  
**Essex County, NJ**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1  
Photograph Attachments (Historic) \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORIC IMAGES**

**H-1** Aug. 13, 1902. Site of Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. From railroad bed along eastern boundary looking north toward Upper Montclair train station. Photograph by John Charles Olmsted. Job 2125, Image 5. At Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

- **H-2** 1907. Illustration of the Osborne & Marsellis lumberyard immediately east of Anderson Park in Montclair, N.J. From "American Suburbs: Illustrated: Embracing Montclair, Upper Montclair, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Nutley, Caldwell, Verona and Essex Fells, N.J." July 1907. Montclair Historical Society collection.

**H-3** 1907. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. "A Pleasant Path, Montclair Park," probably from a North Mountain Avenue entrance looking east. From 1907 annual "Report of the Park Commission of Essex County, N.J.," pg. 23. On file at Essex County Park System Archives, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Newark, N.J.

**H-4** Circa 1908. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Probably from the southeast section looking west-northwest. Planting beds were numerous throughout the park. Courtesy of John Colando, Kearny, N.J.

**H-5** 1906. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Postcard view probably taken near a North Mountain Avenue midpoint entrance, looking north-northeast.

**H-6** Circa 1935. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Probably on the western side of the park, looking north. The pathway is enveloped with shrubbery. By Guy Clark Jr., grandson of the parkland's donor. Courtesy of his sister, Jean Clark of Montclair, N.J.

**H-7** Sept. 13, 1906. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Looking south-southwest from the train tracks. Postcard published by F.W. Poecker, Stationer. Montclair Historical Society collection.

**H-8** Circa 1907. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Bellevue Avenue entrance, looking south-southwest. Postcard, "Essex County Park, Upper Montclair, N.J." F.W. Poecker, Stationer. Friends of Anderson Park collection.

**H-9** Sept. 27, 1904. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Construction at the north end near Bellevue Avenue, looking west toward North Mountain Avenue. By John Charles Olmsted. Job 2125, Image 17. Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

**H-10** 1939. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Probably southwest section looking north-northeast. This lamp post is probably one of the 22 installed in 1922. The posts were ornamental reinforced concrete with a color and texture resembling gray granite. The park's lights have been replaced several times, most recently in 2006. Photo by Frank F. Brown. From "Montclair, Glen Ridge, Verona: A Story in Pictures," pg. 24. The Montclair Times Company, Montclair, N.J. On file at Montclair Historical Society and Montclair Public Library.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Anderson Park  
Essex County, NJ

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2  
Photograph Attachments (Historic) \_\_\_\_\_

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**H-11** Circa 1906. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. North end near Bellevue Avenue, looking west toward North Mountain Avenue. Undated and uncredited postcard. Montclair Historical Society collection.

**H-12** 1924. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Northern end of the park, looking north. "Scene in Anderson Park. Upper Montclair, N.J." Brooklyn Postcard Co., New York, N.Y. Montclair Historical Society collection.

**H-13** 1908. Anderson Park. Montclair, N.J. Probably northwest entrance near intersection of North Mountain and Bellevue Avenues, looking south-southeast. Postcard, "Public Park, Upper Montclair, N.J." Montclair Public Library collection.

**H-14** Circa 1887. Charles W. Anderson and Annie Maguire Anderson, his wife, donors of the land for Anderson Park, on a road in Upper Montclair, N.J. Courtesy of their granddaughter Jean Clark of Montclair, N.J. Photographer uncredited.

**H-15** Undated. Circa 1907. John Charles Olmsted, designer of Anderson Park, at the drafting table. Photographer unknown. From Olmsted family photographs, Job 2913. On file at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

**H-16** Aug. 13, 1902. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J., before development. From northeast corner of the site looking west-southwest toward Cliffside Avenue (now North Mountain Avenue) and First Mountain. Photo by John Charles Olmsted, Job 2125, Image 3. On file at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

**H-17** Sept. 27, 1904. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Under construction, with horses and an electric car. From near southwest corner looking east-northeast. Photo by John Charles Olmsted, Job 2125, Image 14. On file at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, Mass.

**H-18** 1916. Postcard, "Princeton Place, Upper Montclair, N.J., " Oakcroft subdivision. From Godfrey Road, looking north along Princeton Place toward Anderson Park. Interstate Publishing Company, New York, N.Y. Montclair Historical Society collection.

**H-19** Circa early-1900s. Upper Montclair train station at Bellevue Avenue, just north of Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Looking north. Montclair Historical Society collection.

**H-20** 1907. "Game Fields, Montclair Park," Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J., from southern end looking west-northwest. From 1907 annual report, "Report of the Essex County Park Commission," Essex County, N.J. On file at Essex County Park System Archives, Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs, Newark, N.J.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

**Anderson Park**  
**Essex County, NJ**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1  
Photograph Attachments (Contemporary)

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**CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHS**

Photographs 0001 through 0019 were taken by Scot Surbeck.

**0001** Aug. 29, 2007. Aerial view of Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. The narrowest part of the park is the northern end along Bellevue Avenue (at upper lefthand corner in photo). The circulation of the curvilinear pathways remains nearly identical to the original Olmsted design.

**0002** Aug. 29, 2007. Aerial view of Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. The narrowest part of the park is the northern end along Bellevue Avenue. To the east (to the left in photo) is the Upper Montclair business district, and homes are to the south and west. The Upper Montclair train station is to the north.

**0003** March 15, 2007. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. The north end, looking east. A commuter rail line demarcates the entire eastern boundary of the park.

**0004** Oct. 13, 2006. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. The north end near Bellevue Avenue, looking west-southwest toward North Mountain Avenue.

**0005** Nov. 11, 2006. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. South end, looking west-northwest. Curvilinear pathways are a hallmark of the naturalistic Olmsted landscape design.

**0006** Dec. 7, 2006. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. North end looking south across the playing field and greensward. The park was designed for both sports and passive recreation.

**0007** November 2006. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Sports field in the center of the park looking east. Athletic use of the park includes organized team sports such as lacrosse and soccer, as well as pickup football, field hockey and even kite-flying.

**0008** Feb. 14, 2007. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Main entrance at north end, near Bellevue Avenue. Looking south-southwest. The plaque, erected in 1928, gives a brief history of the park. It was cast by the General Bronze Corporation, the same foundry that made the low-relief panels on the bronze doors of the U.S. Supreme Court. Its designer is probably Maxfield Keck, who did architectural ornamentation for buildings around the country, many now designated landmarks.

**0009** Feb. 14, 2007. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Northeast entrance near Bellevue Avenue, looking south. Of the seven boulders scattered throughout the park, six are smooth erratics from the Ice Age. The erratics in this photo are in roughly the same location as they appear in a 1904 picture taken by John Charles Olmsted while the park was under construction.

**0010** March 3, 2007. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Near Bellevue Avenue entrance at the north end, looking south. The park is a strong example of the suburban parks designed by Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects, for Essex County and is heavily used by nearby residents.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetAnderson Park  
Essex County, NJSection number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2  
Photograph Attachments (Contemporary)

**0011** Feb. 19, 2007. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. East side of park near railroad. The words "Anderson Park" are embossed in the cast-iron supports.

**0012** Nov. 11, 2006. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Eastern side of the park looking east. These benches were installed in the park in the fall of 2005.

**0013** Nov. 11, 2006. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. From the central playing field and meadow looking southeast. A flag pole was first erected in 1912 near the north end. Sometime after the late 1940s it was moved to this location.

**0014** Feb. 13, 2009. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Scott Kevelson and Cody at the dog-friendly (and wheelchair accessible) water fountain on the southwest side near North Mountain Avenue, looking south-southeast.

**0015** March 15, 2007. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Southern end, looking south toward Parkside Road. Gravel, the original surface for walkways, was replaced by asphalt decades ago.

**0016** Jan. 19, 2009. Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. Southeast corner looking south. The Tudor Revival public restrooms were built in 2006, replacing a wooden utility shed occupying the spot since soon after the park's opening. As developers, Charles W. Anderson, donor of the parkland, and his son Robert established Tudor Revival as a key design element for the adjacent Upper Montclair business district, and several Tudor Revival homes overlook the park.

**0017** Feb. 11, 2009. Former Upper Montclair Post Office, 242-44 Bellevue Avenue, Montclair, N.J. This structure and two others were built by Charles W. Anderson and his son Robert. These commercial buildings helped establish the Tudor Revival style prevalent in the Upper Montclair Historic Business District, just east of Anderson Park, and are key buildings in the district. The former Post Office became part of the National Register of Historic Places on July 1, 1988.

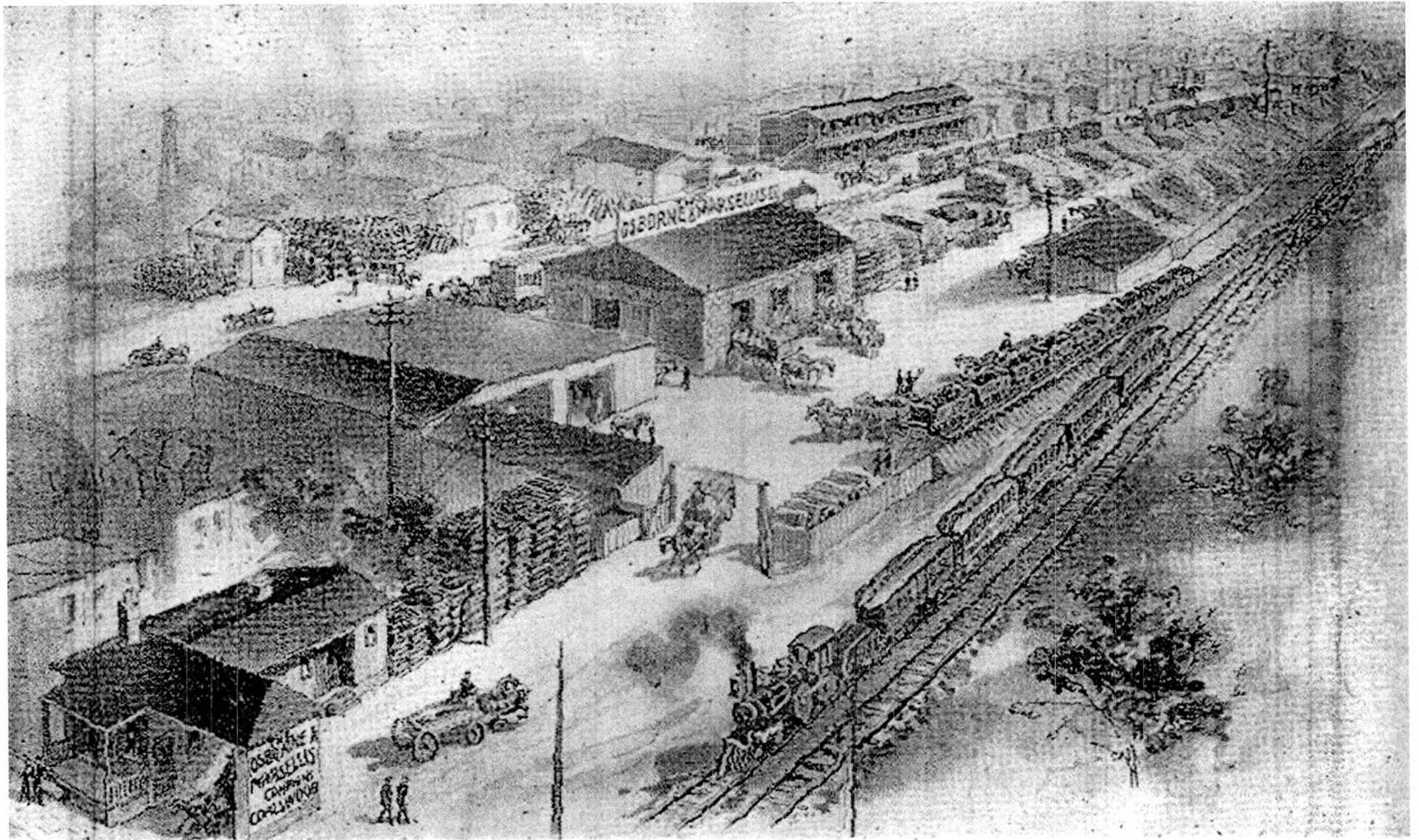
**0018** Feb. 11, 2009. A view from Princeton Place looking north across Parkside Road to the south end of Anderson Park, Montclair, N.J. The house, former home of the Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, is part of the Oakcroft subdivision immediately south of the park. Neighborhood sidewalks link directly to park pathways.

**0019** Feb. 11, 2009. Parkside Road looking west, with Anderson Park to the right and the Oakcroft subdivision to the left. Montclair, N.J. Olmsted Associates coordinated with Oakcroft's developer to ensure quality homes overlooking the park.



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-1





OFFICE, LUMBER, COAL AND MASONS' MATERIAL YARD.





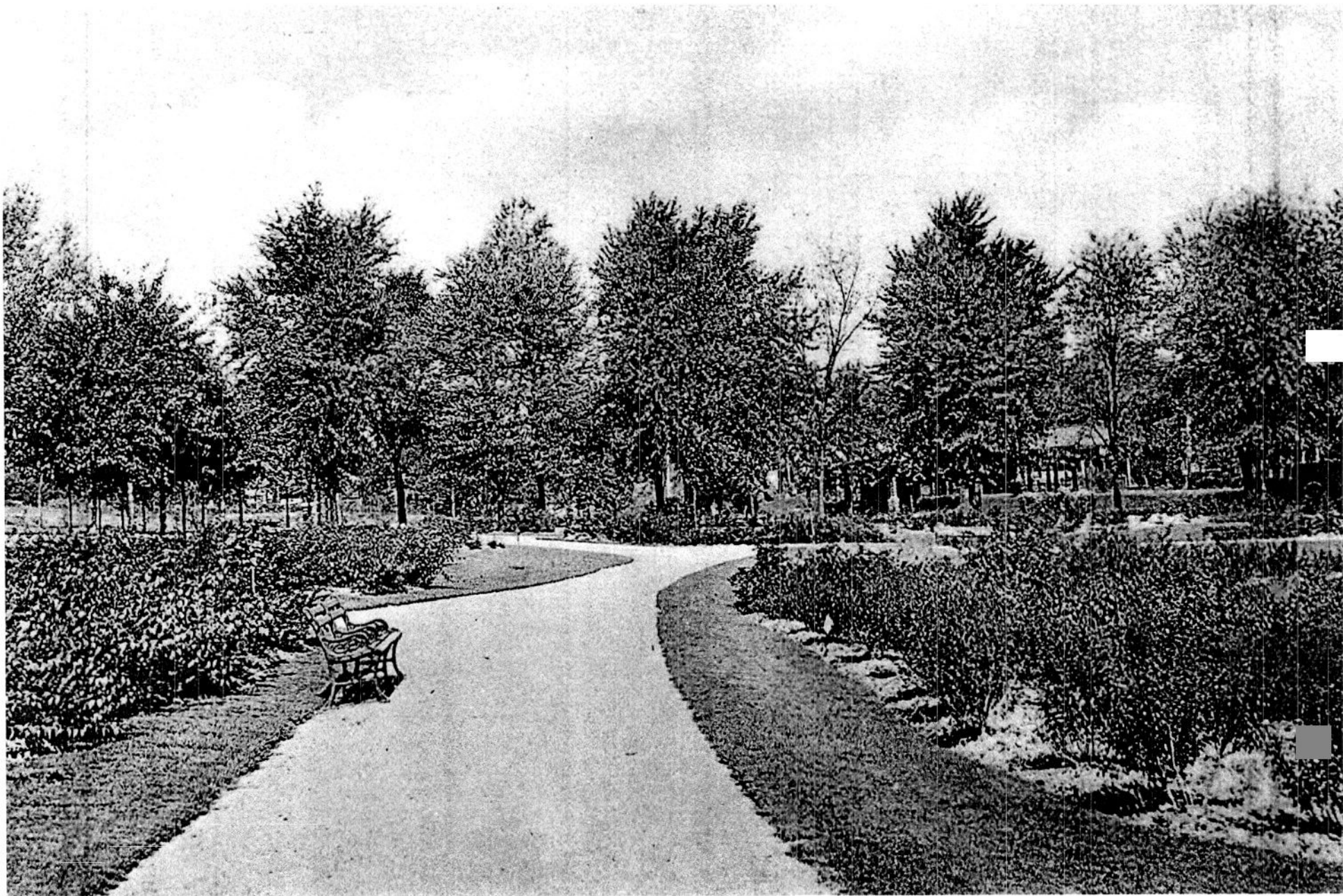
A PLEASANT  
PATH,  
MONTCLAIR  
PARK

Essex Co. Park, Upper Montclair, N. J.



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-4



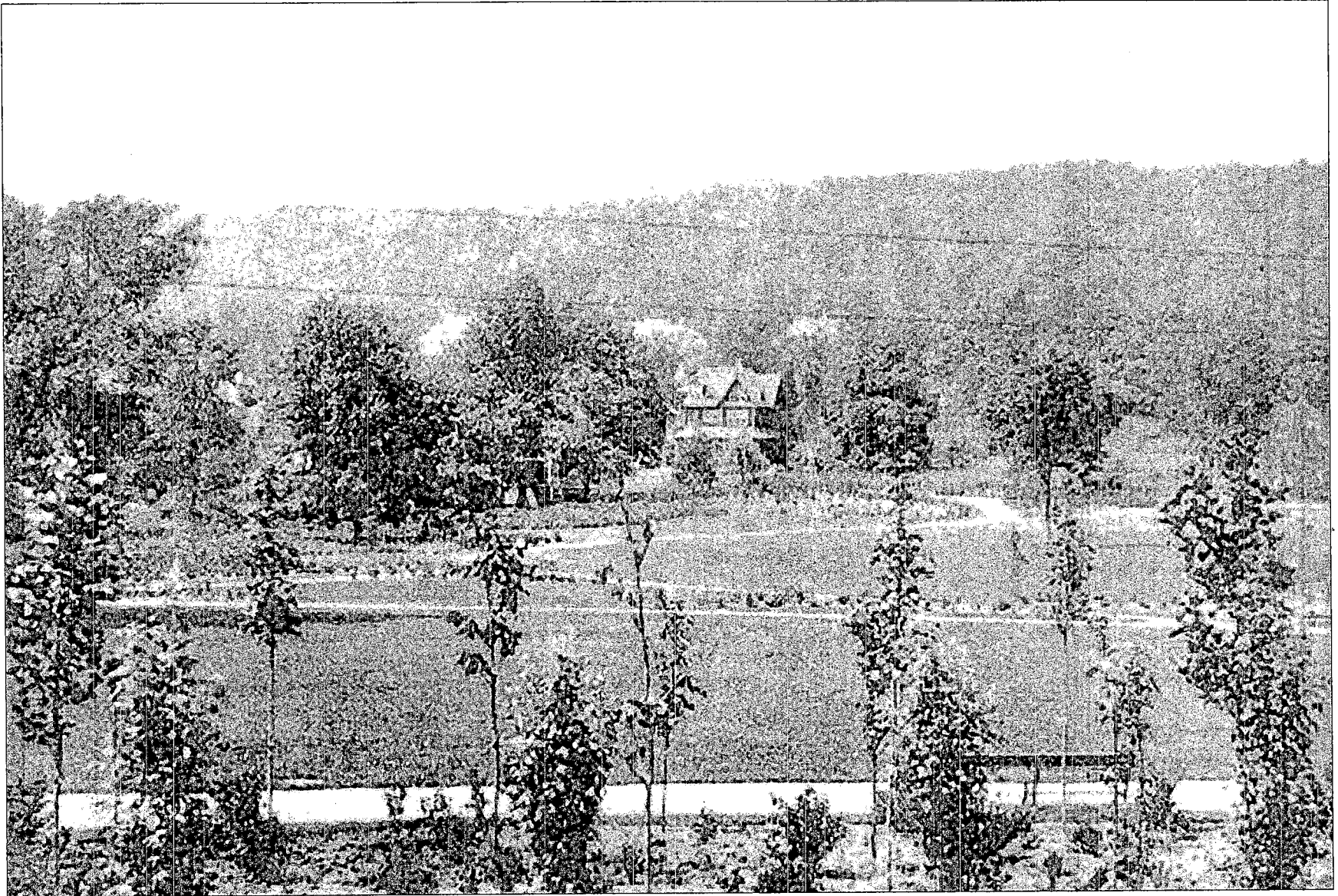


NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-5



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-6

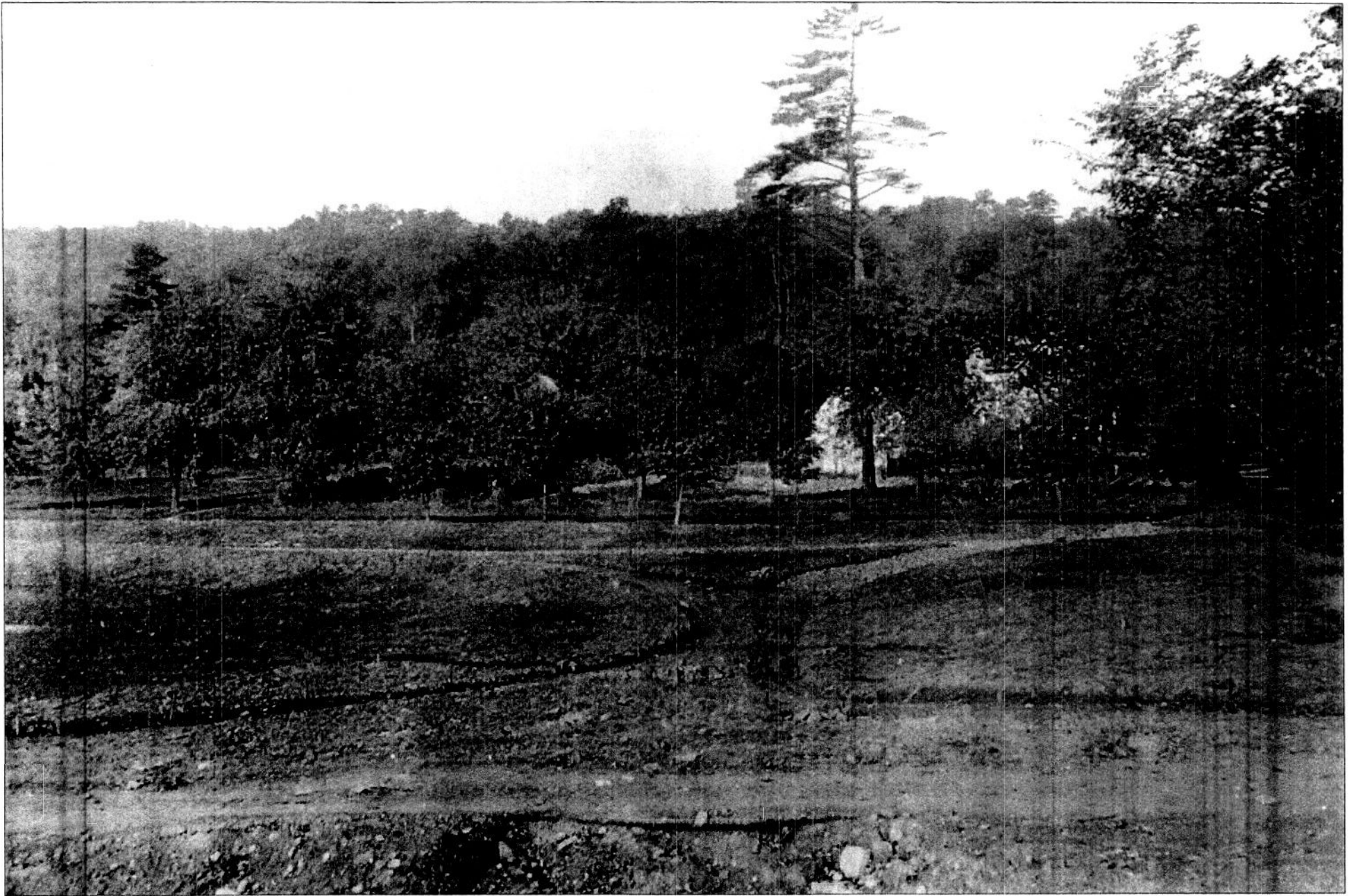




NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-7



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-8



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-9



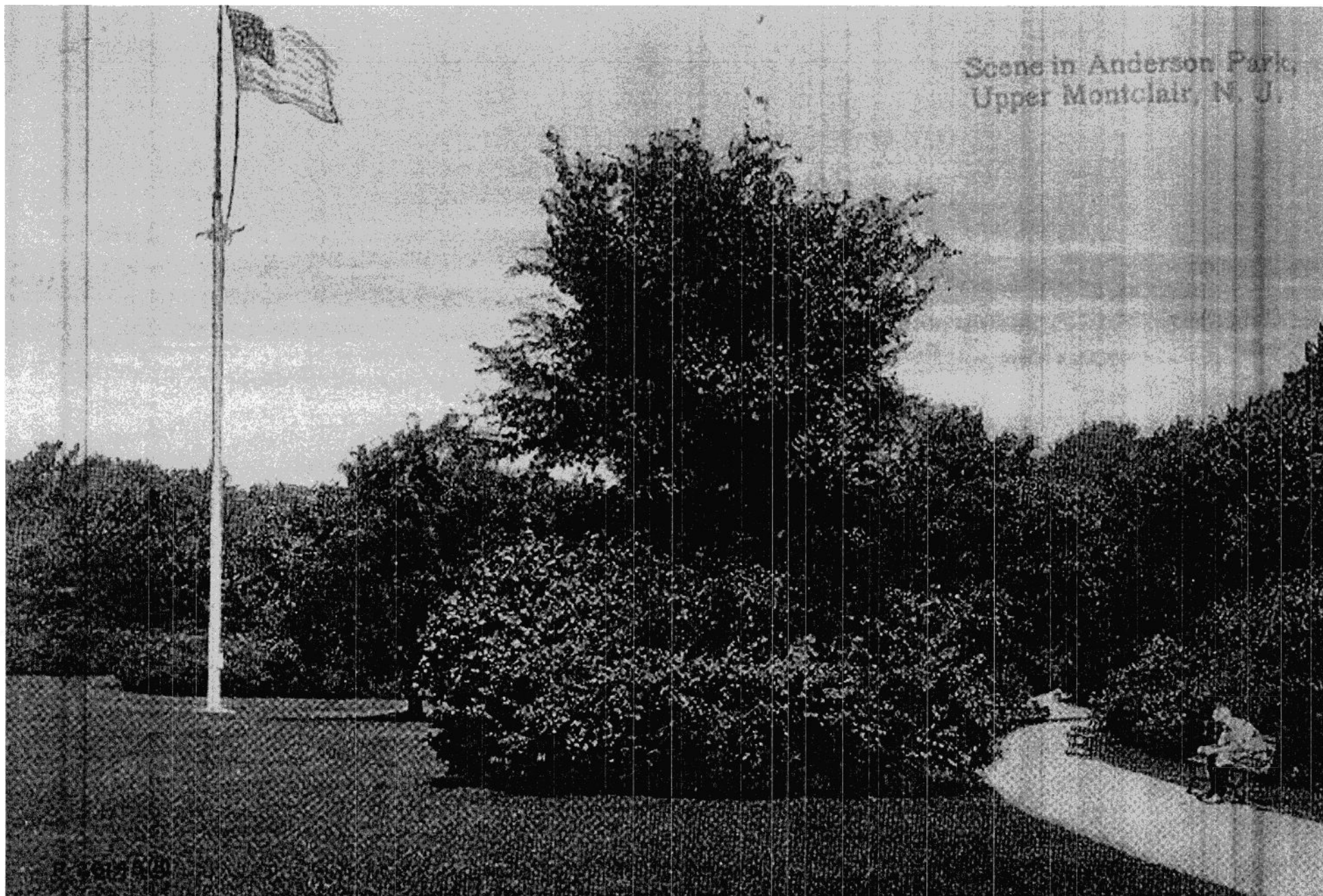


NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-10





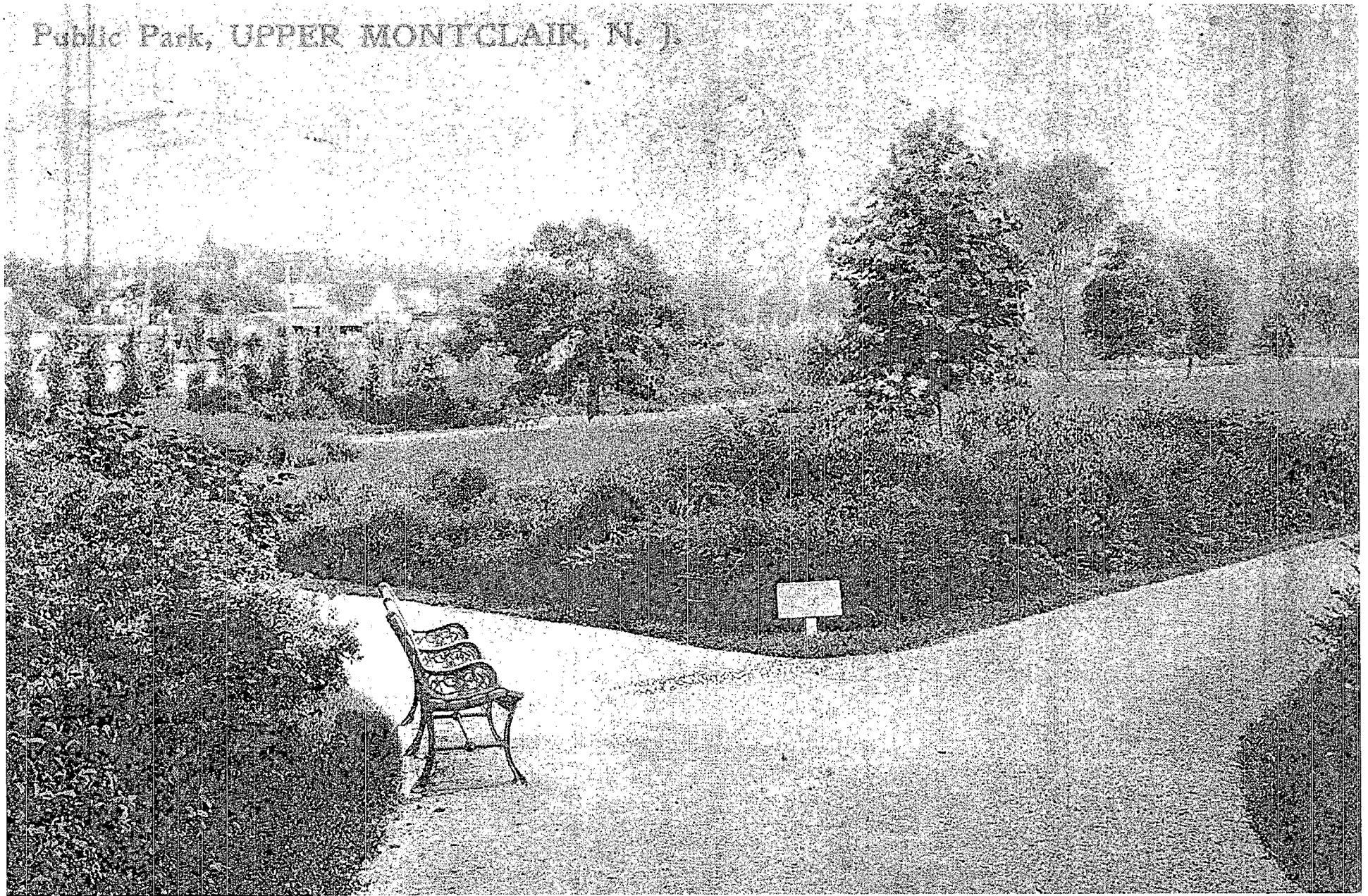
NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-11

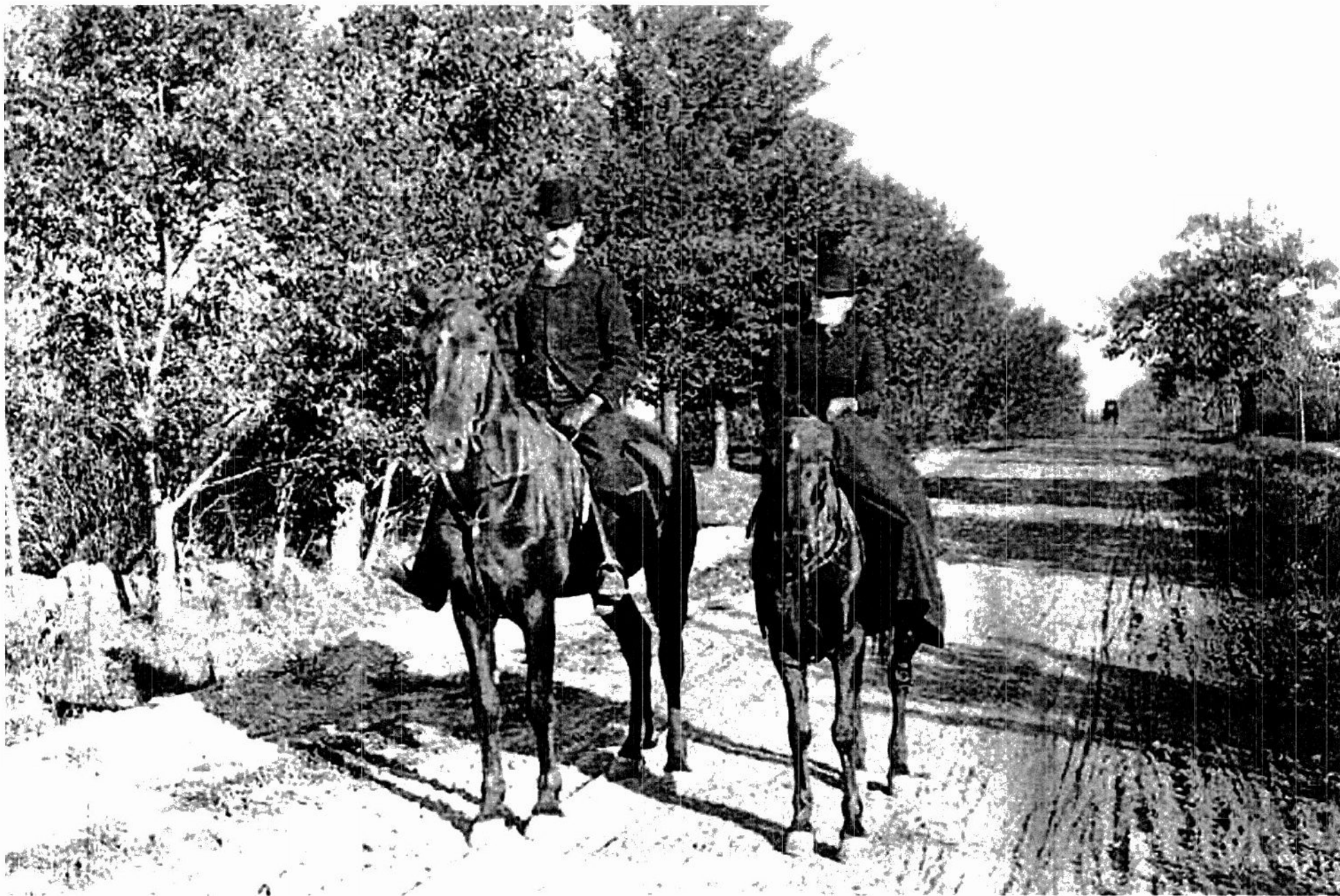


NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-12



Public Park, UPPER MONTCLAIR, N. J.





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-14





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-15



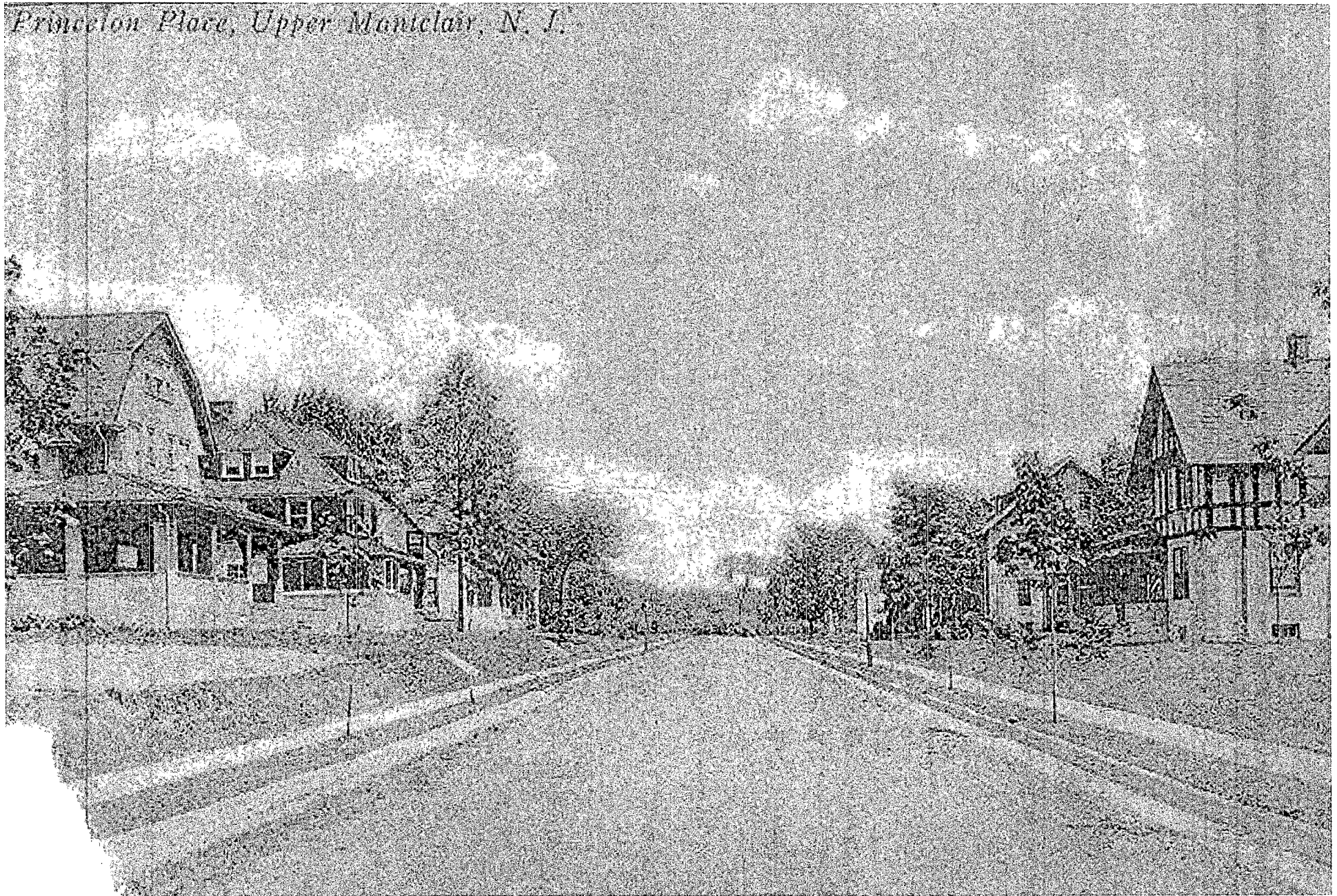
NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-16





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-17

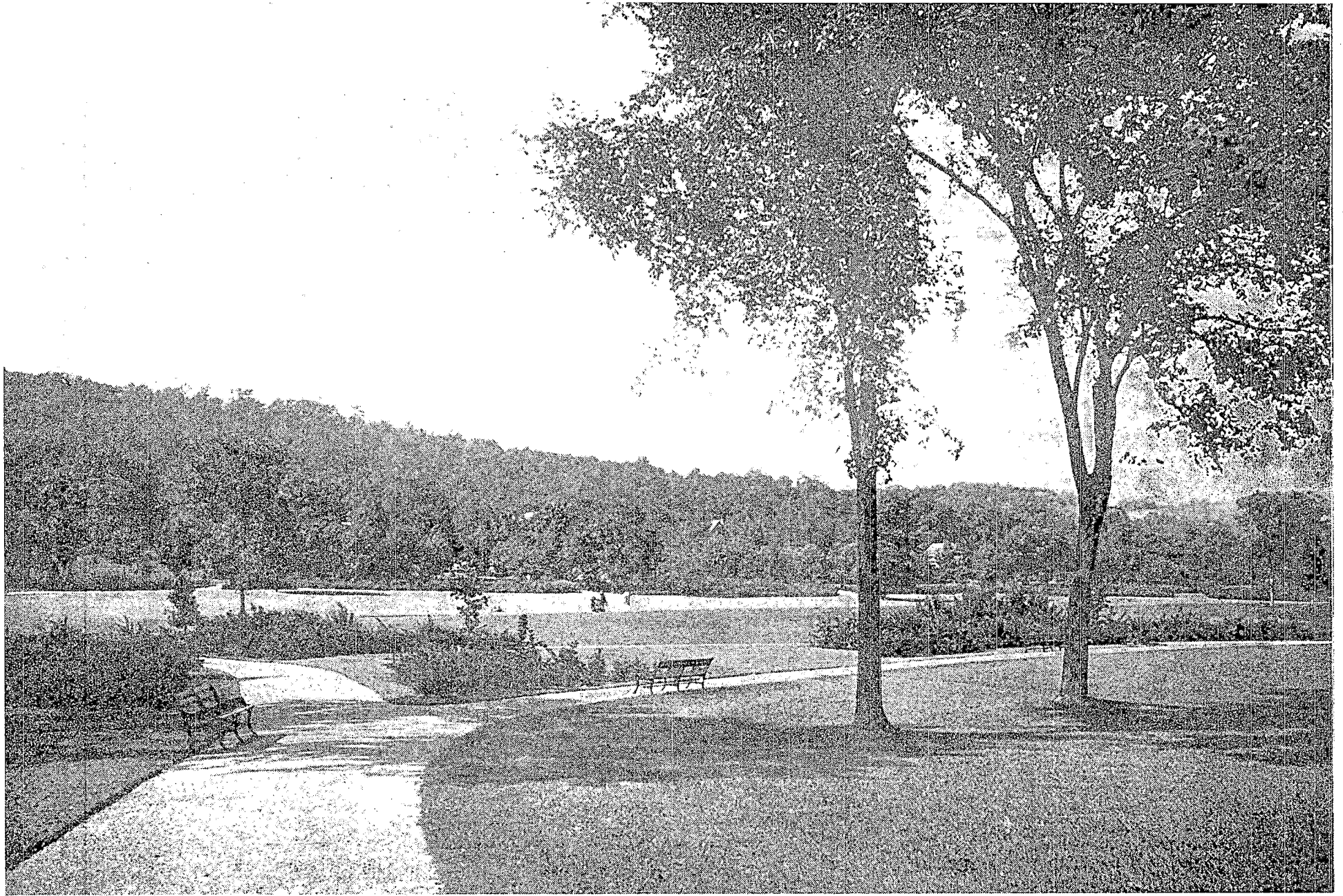
*Princeton Place, Upper Montclair, N. J.*







NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park , H-19



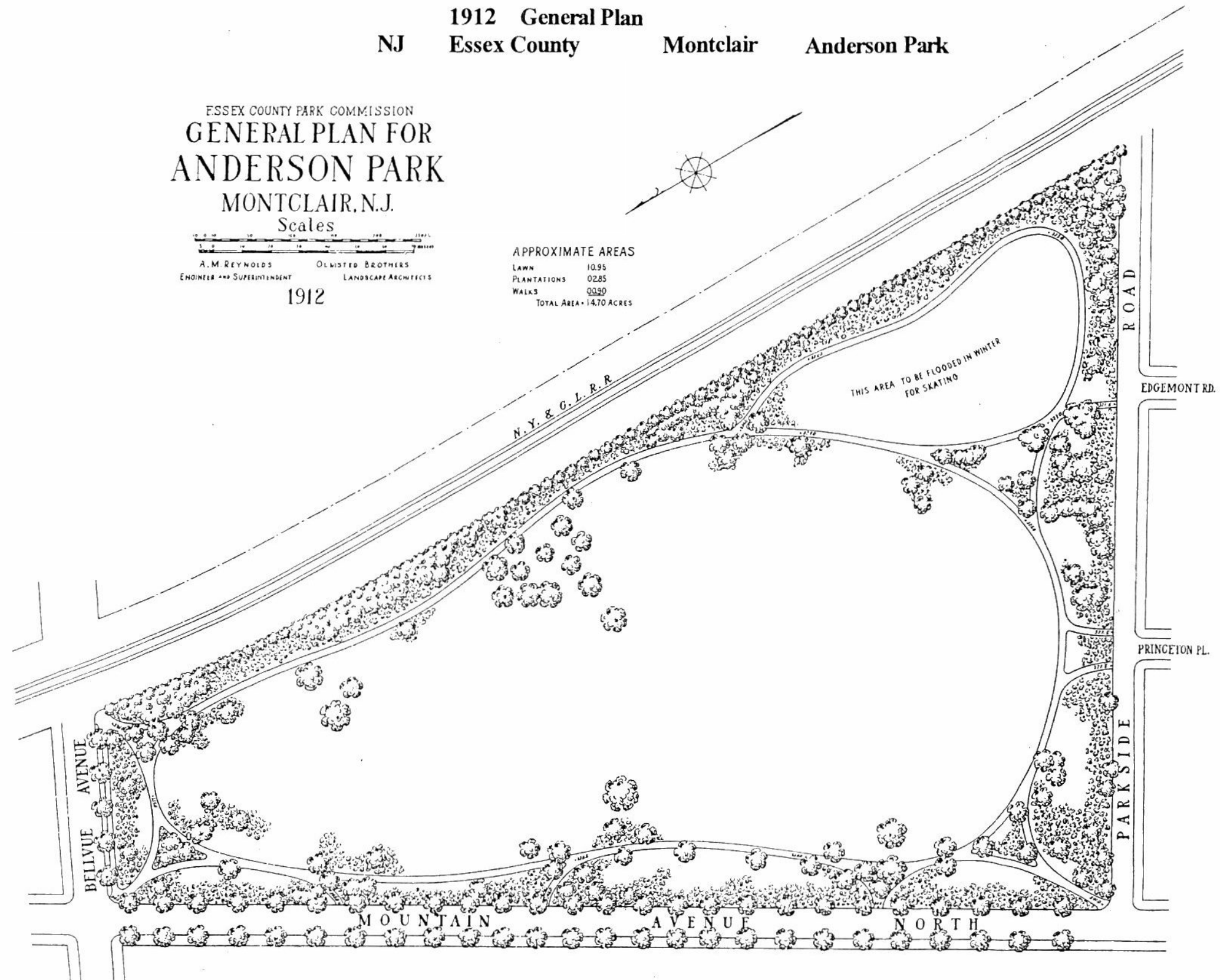
NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park H-20

ESSEX COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
GENERAL PLAN FOR  
ANDERSON PARK  
MONTCLAIR, N.J.

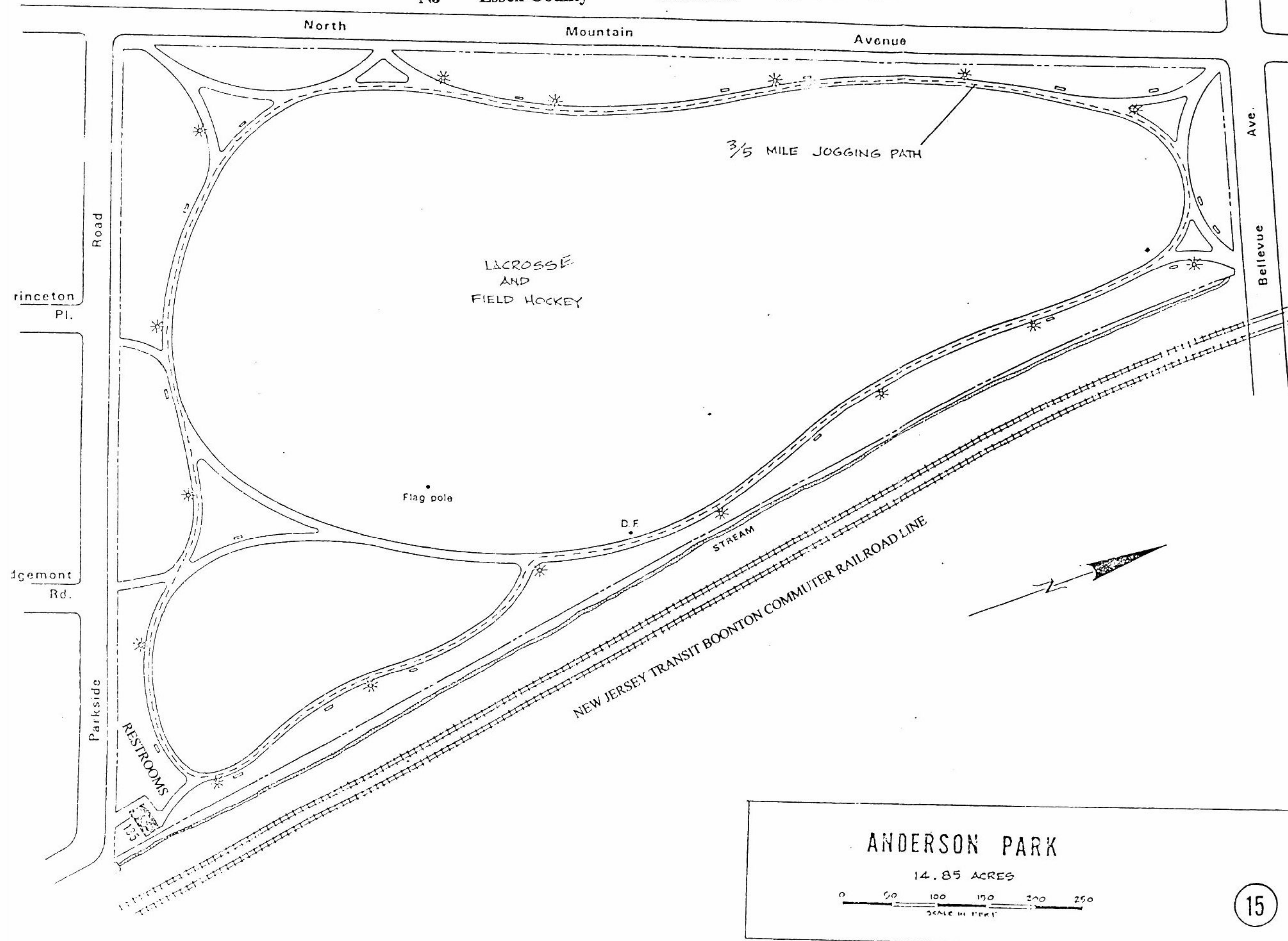
Scales  
0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100  
A.M. REYNOLDS OLIVIST BROTHERS  
ENGINEER AND SUPERINTENDENT LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

1912

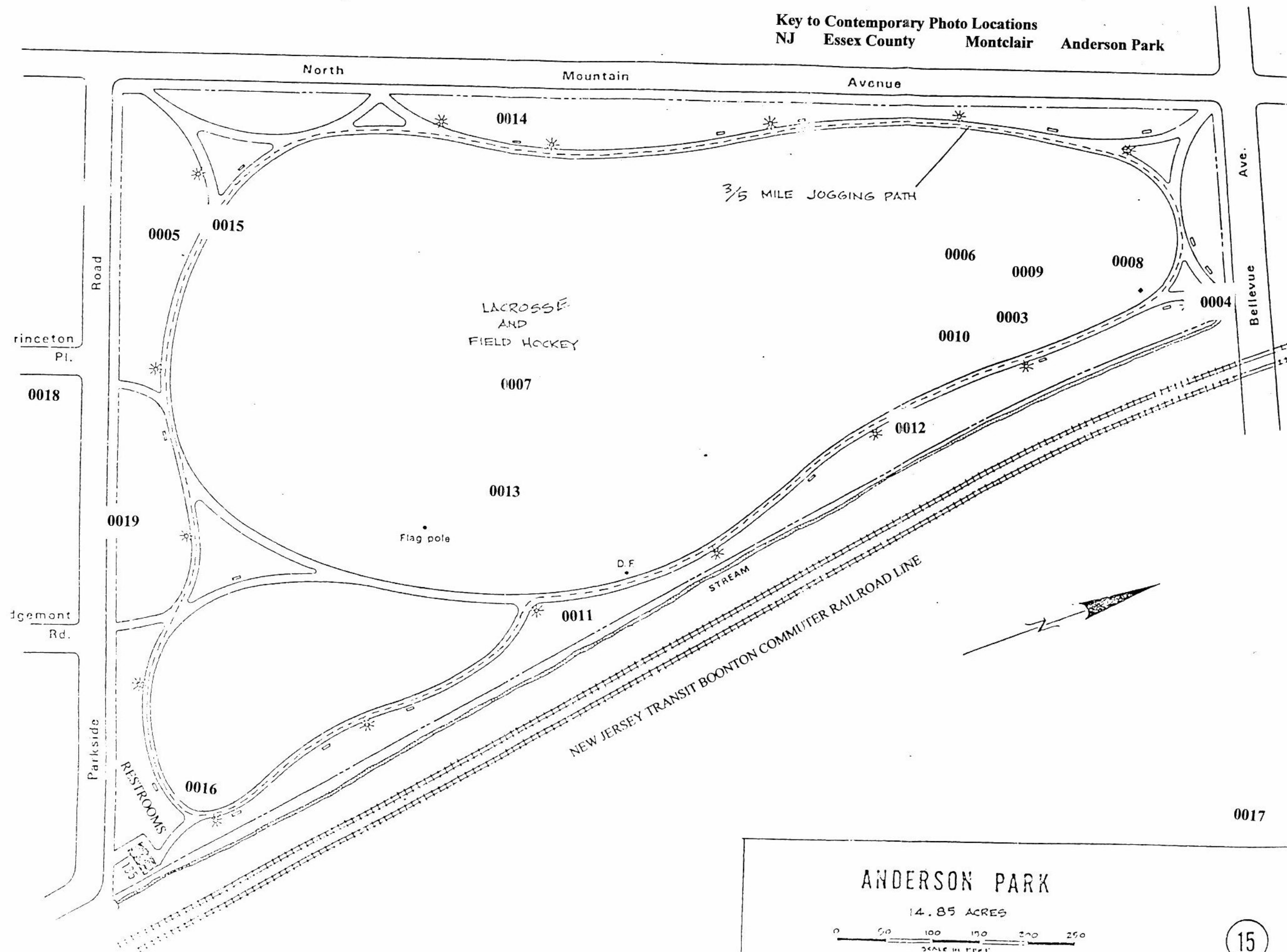
APPROXIMATE AREAS  
LAWN 10.95  
PLANTATIONS 0285  
WALKS 0050  
TOTAL AREA - 14.70 ACRES







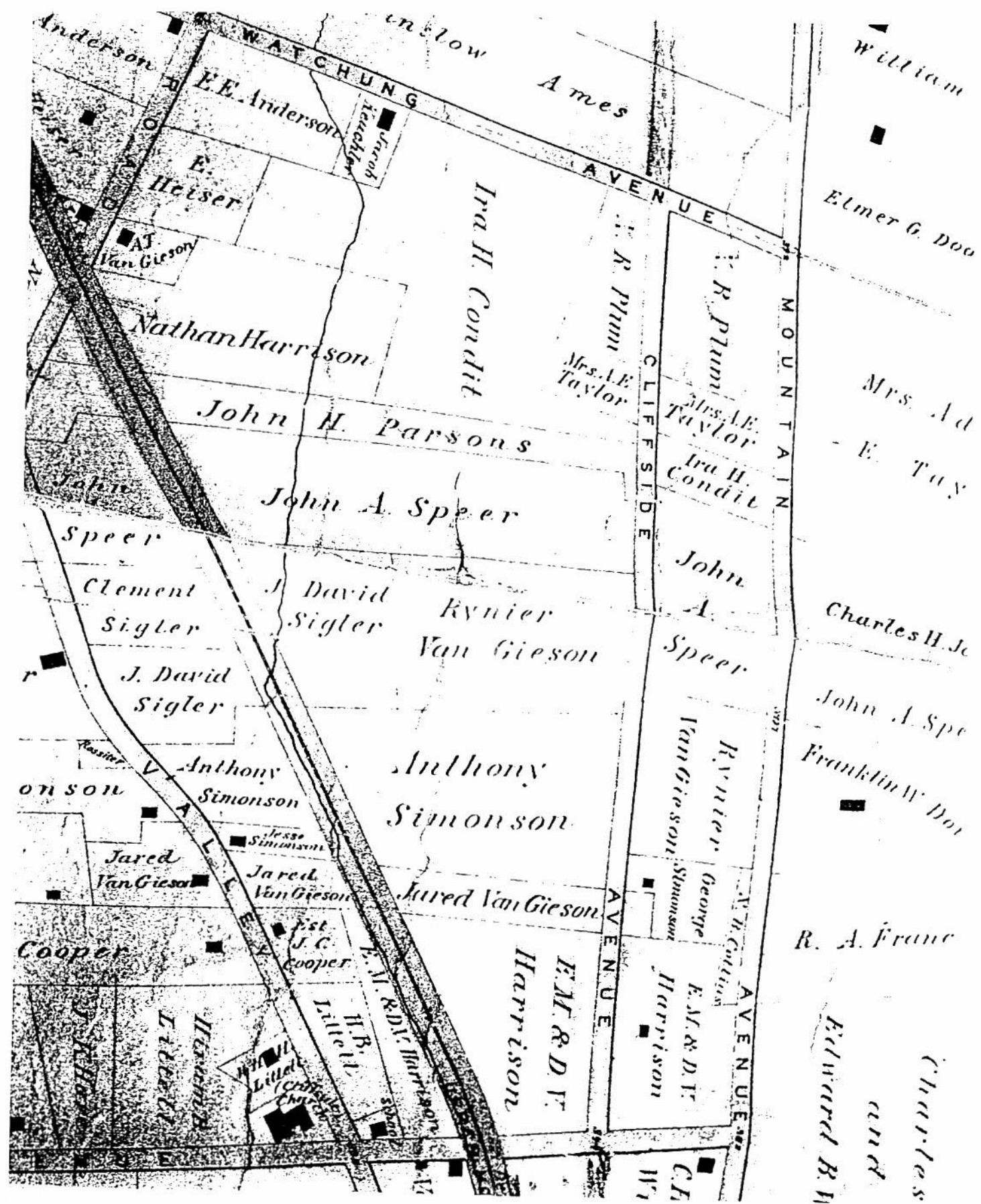




0001 Aerial View

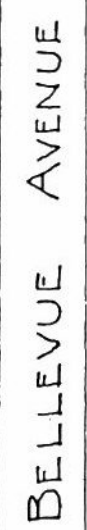
0002 Aerial View

1878	Detail of Map of Township of Montclair, Essex County, N.J.	NJ
	Essex County	
	Montclair	
	Anderson Park	

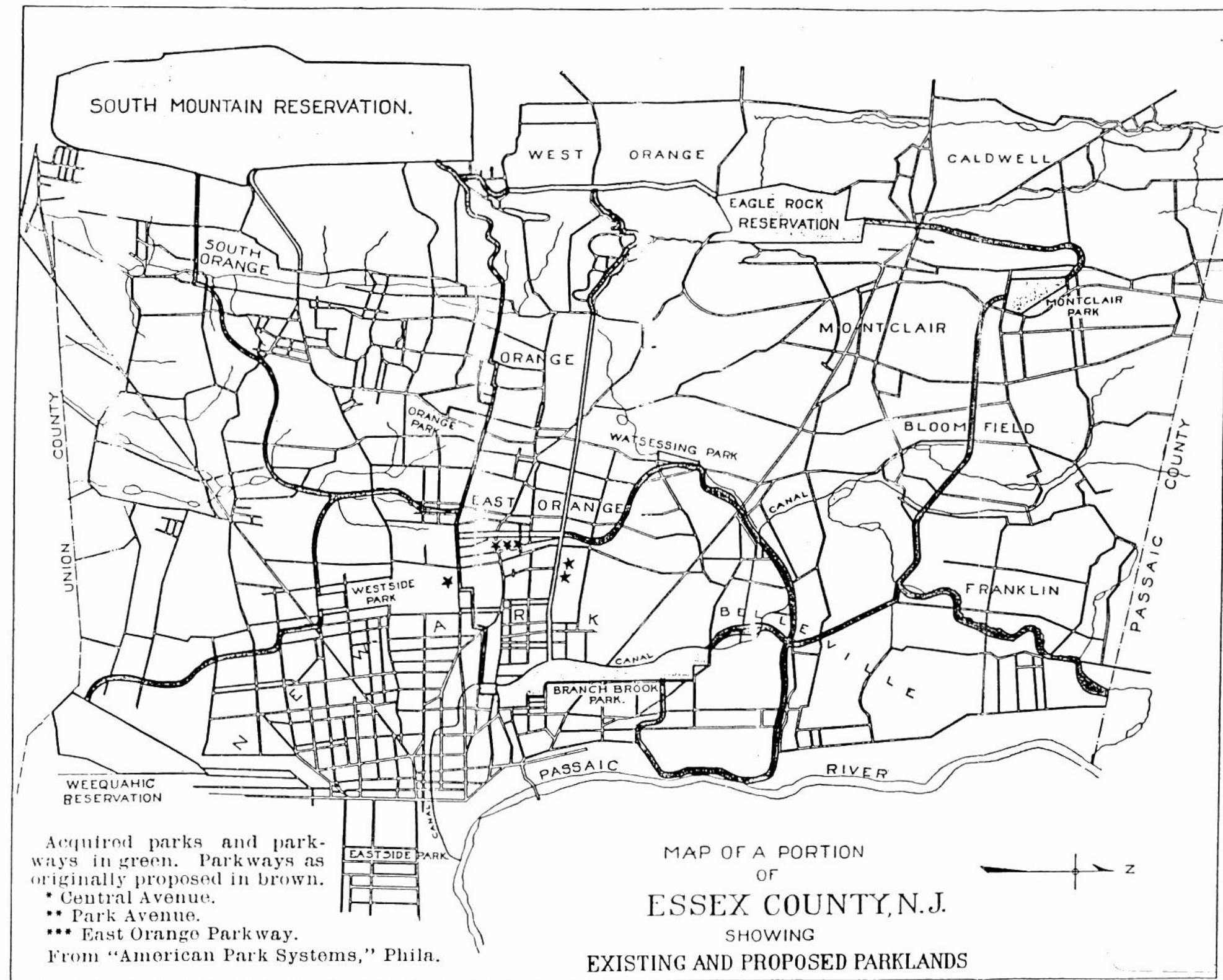


Mobile  
33.1  
3.66  
N. Allen District.

SCALE 100 FEET TO 1 INCH.



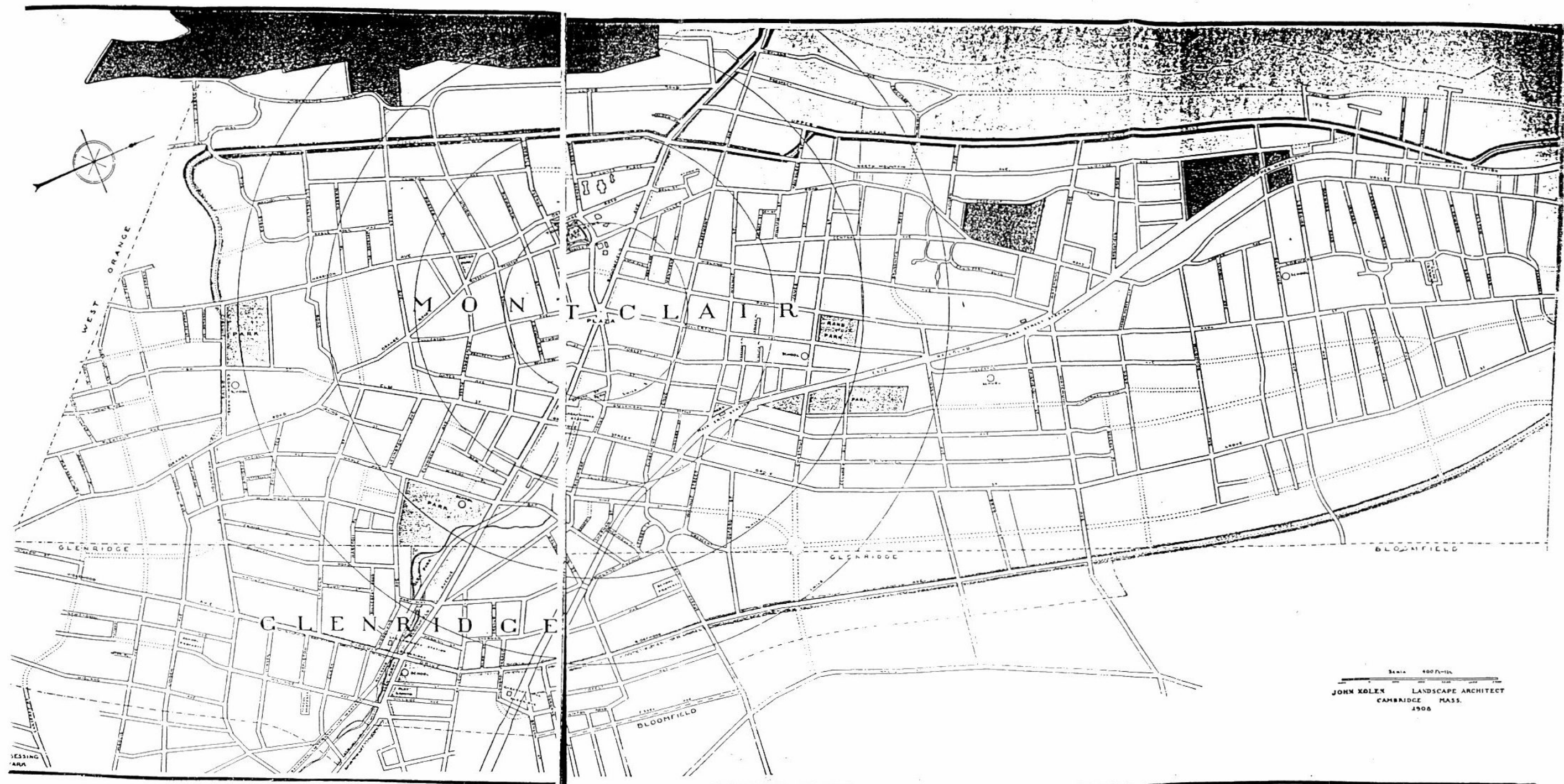
1905 Proposed Parklands for Essex County, N.J.  
 NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park







1906 Detail of Atlas of Essex County, N.J., Vol. 3  
 NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park

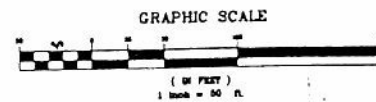


1908-9  
NJ Essex County

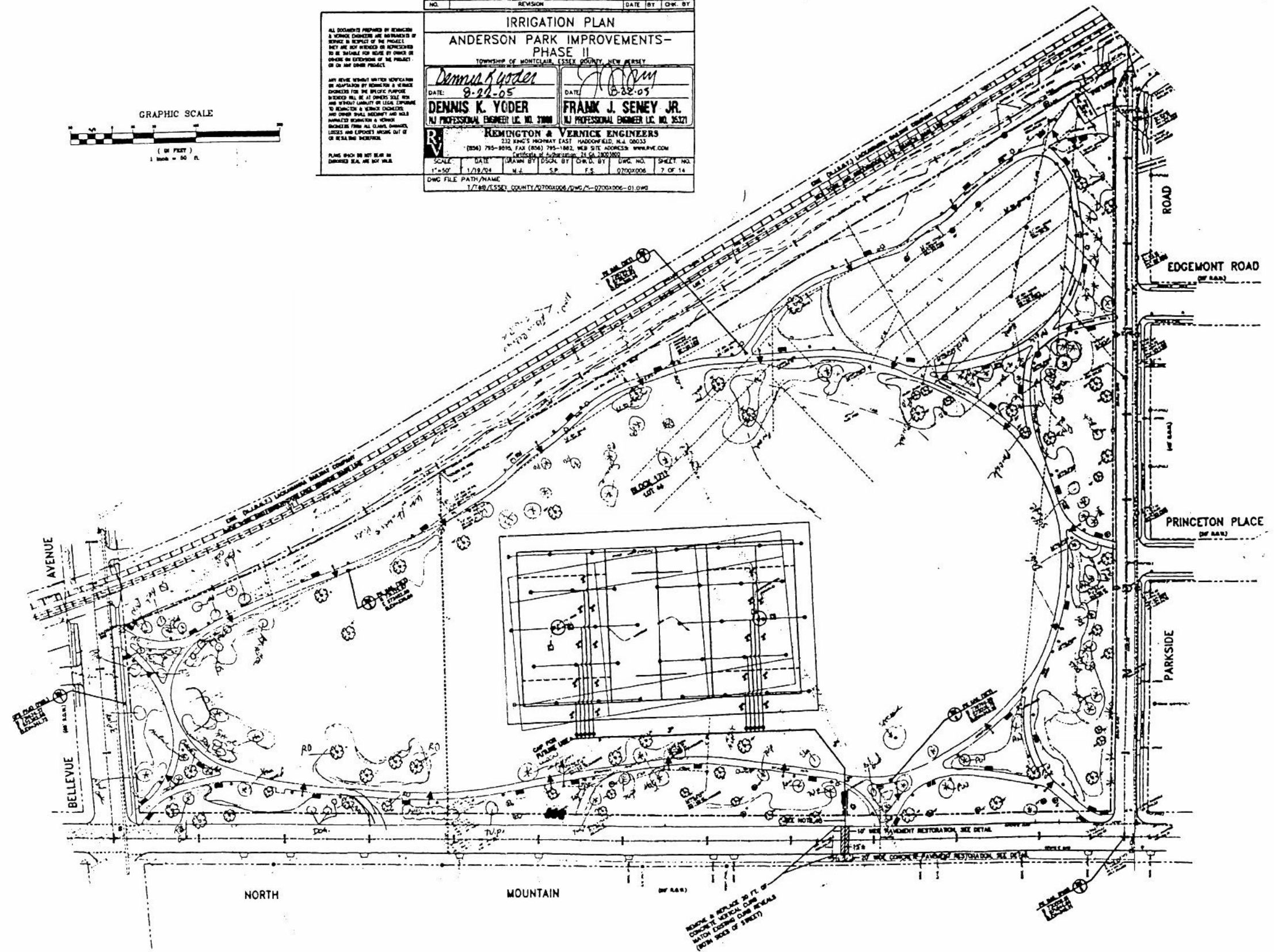
John Nolen Plan for the Improvement of Montclair and Glen Ridge, N.J.  
Montclair Anderson Park



2005 Anderson Park Improvements, Phase II  
NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park



NO.		REVISION		DATE		CHK. BY	
IRRIGATION PLAN							
ANDERSON PARK IMPROVEMENTS- PHASE II							
TOWNSHIP OF MONTCLAIR, ESSEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY							
Dennis K. Yoder				Frank J. Seney Jr.			
DATE: 9-22-05				DATE: 10-22-05			
DENNIS K. YODER				FRANK J. SENEY JR.			
NJ PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER L.C. NO. 37000				NJ PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER L.C. NO. 36321			
REMINGTON & VERNICK ENGINEERS							
232 KING'S HIGHWAY EAST, HADDONFIELD, N.J. 08033							
(204) 795-8010, FAX (204) 795-1802, WEB SITE ADDRESS: WWW.RVE.COM							
LICENSED AS A PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER SINCE 1980							
SCALE:		DATE:		DRAWN BY:		CHK. BY:	
1"=50'		1/18/04		N.E.		S.P.	
DWG. NO.		SHEET NO.		DATE:		CHK. BY:	
070000006		7 OF 14		9/22/05		F.J.S.	
DWG. FILE PATH/NAME							
T:\7449\ESSEX COUNTY\070000006\DWG\7-07000006-01.DWG							





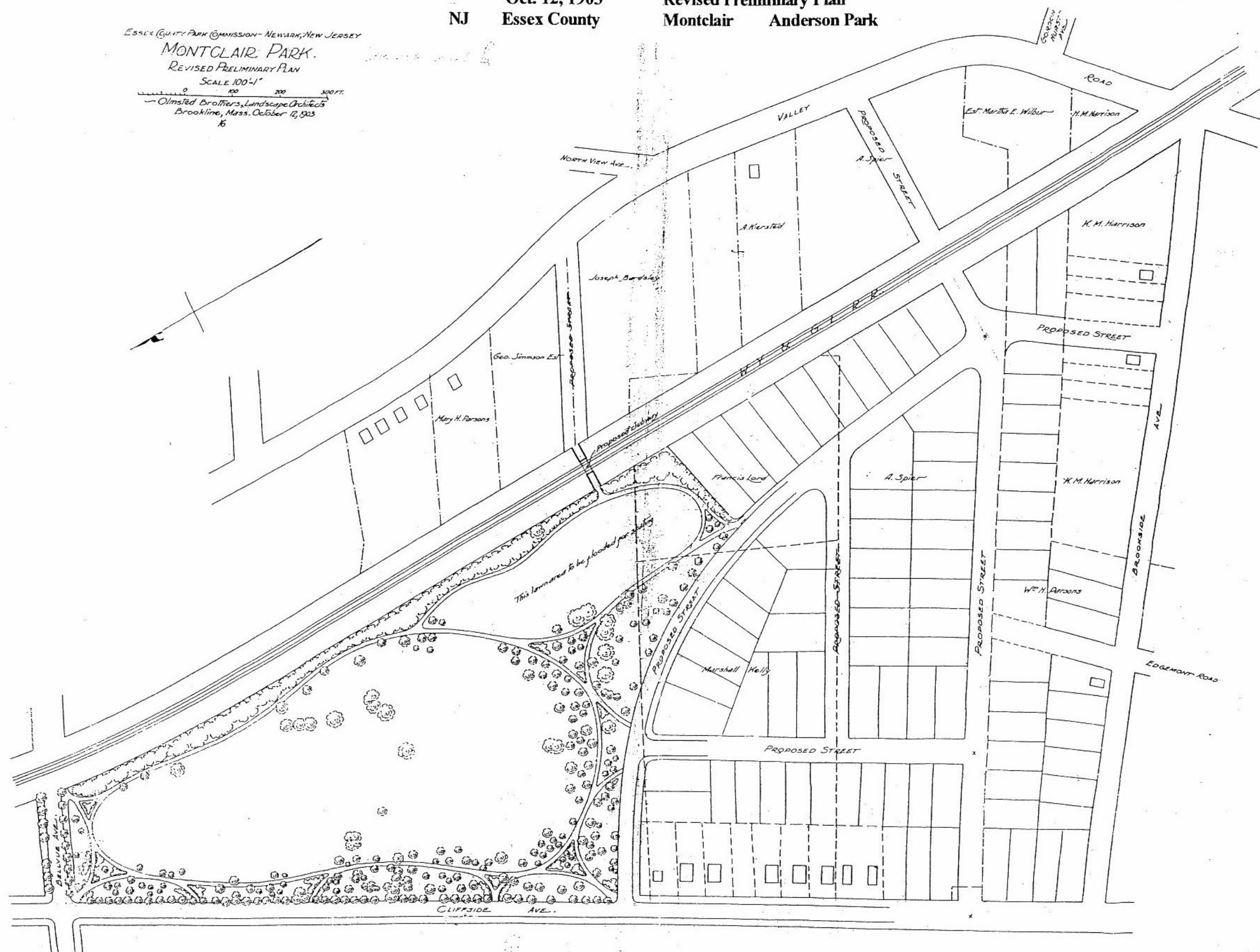
**Revised Preliminary Plan**  
**Montclair      Anderson Park**

MONTCLAIR PARK.  
REVISED PRELIMINARY PLAN

SCALE 100'-1"

0 100 200 300 FT.  
Olmsted Brothers, Landscape Architects  
Brookline, Mass. October 12, 1903

1



Dec. 30, 1903  
NJ Essex County

Alternative Plan for Revision of Southern Boundary, No. 20A  
Montclair Anderson Park

ESSEX COUNTY PARK COMMISSION - NEWARK, N. J.

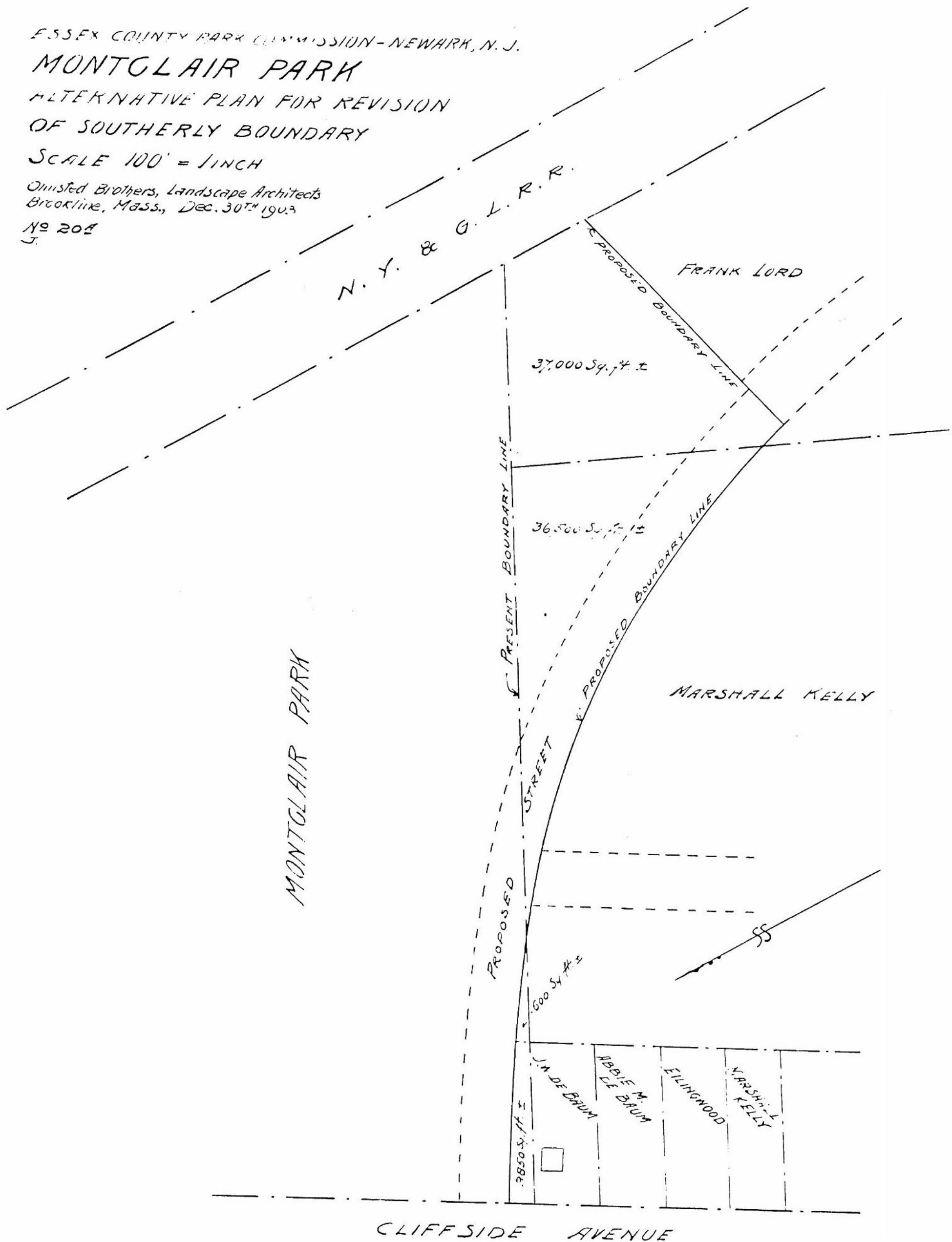
# MONTCLAIR PARK

ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR REVISION  
OF SOUTHERLY BOUNDARY

SCALE 100' = 1 INCH

Oliver Brothers, Landscape Architects  
Brookline, Mass., Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> 1903

No 20A  
J.



Dec. 30, 1903  
NJ Essex County

Alternative Plan for Revision of Southern Boundary, No. 20B  
Montclair Anderson Park

ESSEX COUNTY PARK COMMISSION - NEWARK, N. J.

# MONTCLAIR PARK

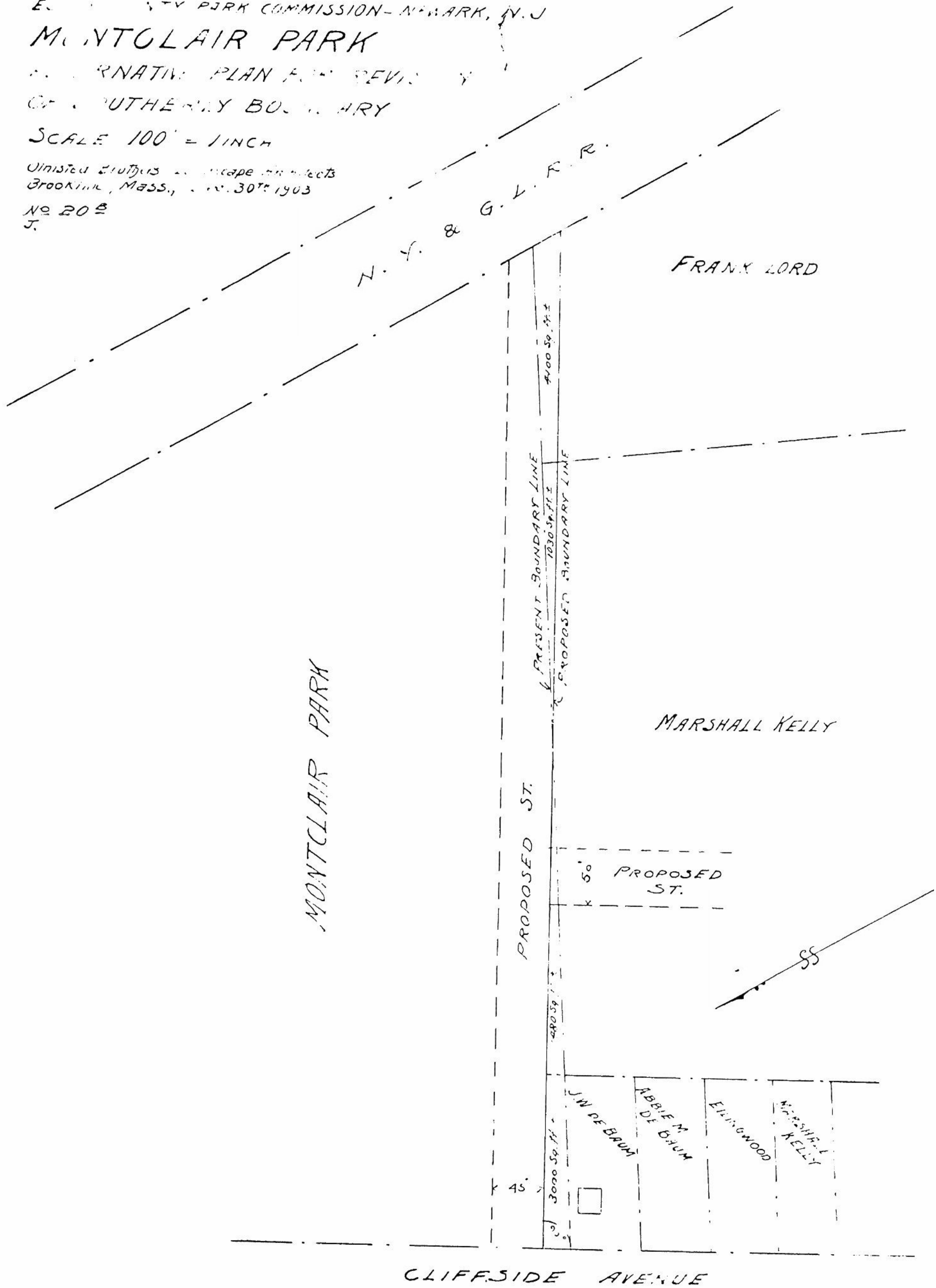
ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR REVISION

OF SOUTHERN BOUNDARY

SCALE 100' = 1 INCH

Unisted Brothers & Co. Landscape Architects  
Brookline, Mass., Dec. 30th 1903

No. 20B  
J.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Anderson Park  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW JERSEY, Essex

DATE RECEIVED: 10/30/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/18/09  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/03/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/13/09  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001073

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 12.11.09 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.



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0001



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0002





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0003



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0004





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0005





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0006



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0007





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0008





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0009

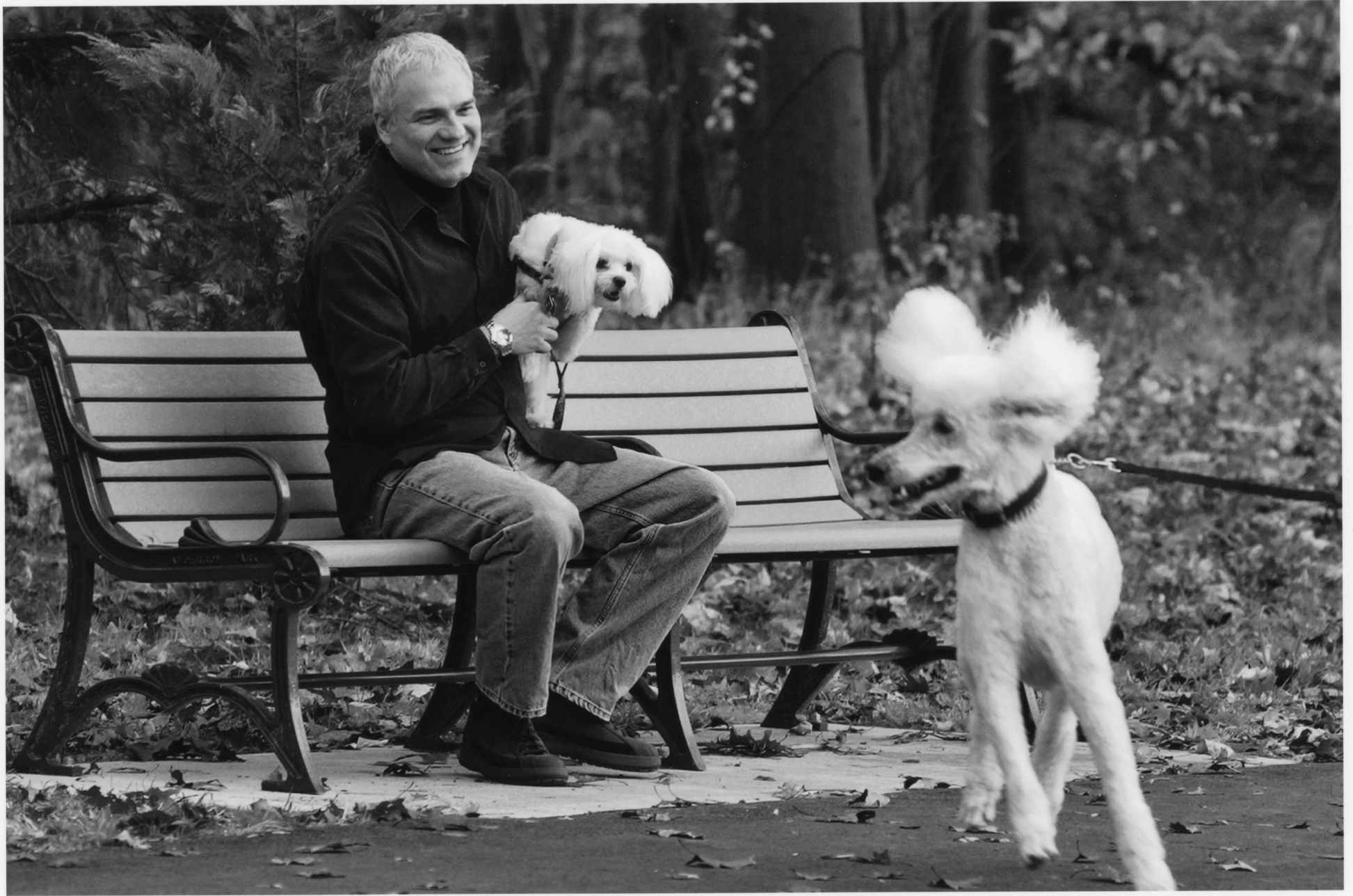


NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0010



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0011





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0012



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0013





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0014





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0015



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0016





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0016





NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0017



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0018



NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park 0019



# NJ Essex County Montclair Anderson Park

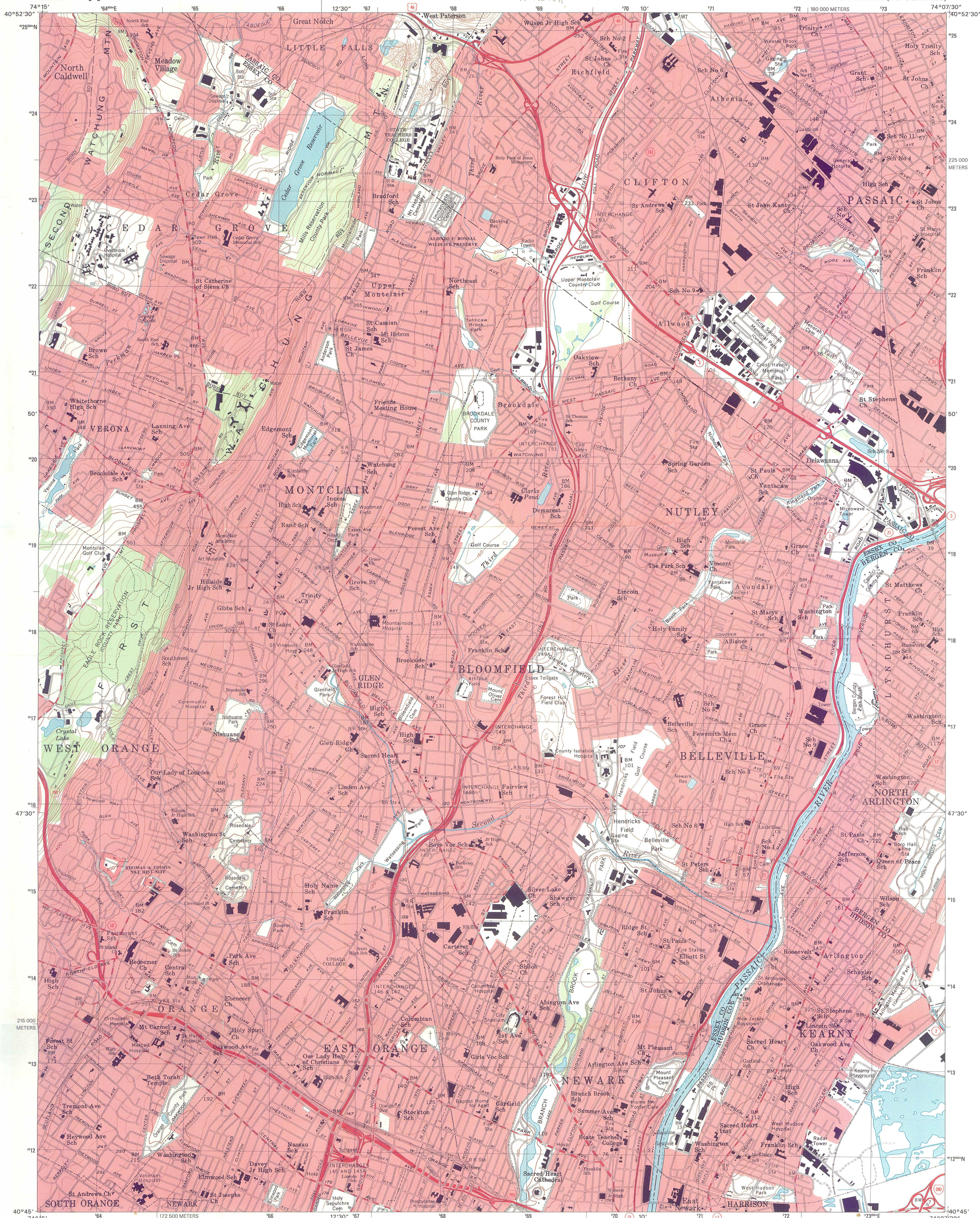


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

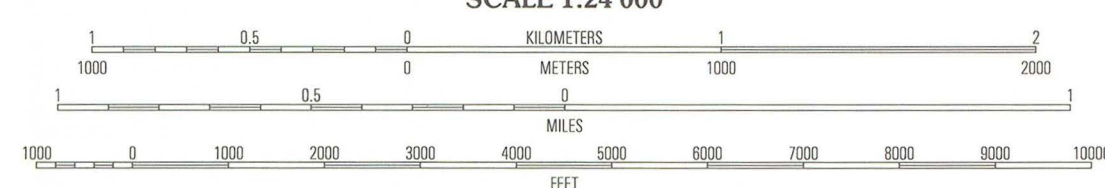
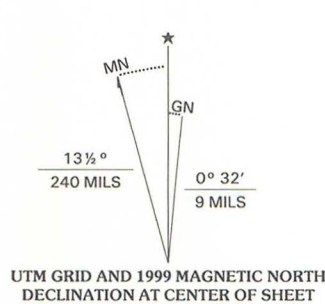
## Location Map

Anderson Park  
Essex County, NJ  
Zone 18  
NE 566002 27E 566139 37E 566709  
N 4521531 N 4521109 N 4521093

ORANGE QUADRANGLE  
NEW JERSEY  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1942. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1995 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1955  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS Chart 287 (1954)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18  
2 500-meter ticks: New Jersey Coordinate System of 1983  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Landmark buildings verified 1955



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



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

1	2	3	1 Pompton Plains
4	5	2 Paterson	
6	7	3 Hackensack	
		4 Caldwell	
		5 Weehawken	
		6 Roselle	
		7 Elizabeth	
		8 Jersey City	

ORANGE, NJ  
1995

NIMA 6165 1 SW-SERIES V822

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST







HPO-I2009-008

Log # 07-1947

## State of New Jersey

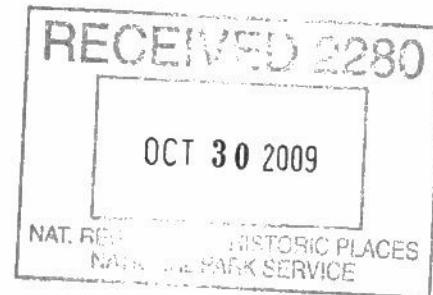
### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JON S. CORZINE  
*Governor*

NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES  
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PO Box 404  
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MARK N. MAURIELLO  
*Acting Commissioner*

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



Dear Mr. Loether:

I am pleased to submit Anderson Park, Essex County, New Jersey for National Register consideration.

This application has received majority 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, Acting Administrator, New Jersey Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 404, Trenton, New Jersey 08625 or call him at (609) 633-2397.

Sincerely,

Amy Cradic  
Deputy State Historic  
Preservation Officer