

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Riverview Park

other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 2000 Harrison Hill [ N/A ] not for publication

city or town Hannibal [ N/A ] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Marion code 127 zip code 63401

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

*Mark A. Miles*  
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO

22 July 05  
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register.
- removed from the  
National Register
- other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Riverview Park  
Marion County, Missouri

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>        </u> objects
		<u>10</u>	<u>6</u> Total

<p><b>Name of related multiple property listing.</b></p> <p>N/A</p>	<p><b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.</b></p> <p>N/A</p>
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**6. Function or Use**

Historic Function	Current Functions
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation	RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation
LANDSCAPE/park	LANDSCAPE/park

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification	Materials
OTHER/Prairie Style Landscape Design	foundation N/A
	walls N/A
	roof N/A
	other N/A

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

Riverview Park  
Marion County, Missouri

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

**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**

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**D** a cemetery.

**E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

**F** a commemorative property.

**G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

CONSERVATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**Periods of Significance**

1909-1929

**Significant Dates**

1909

1913

1929

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Simonds, Ossian Cole/Landscape Architect

Simonds and West/Landscape Architects

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography**

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

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

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

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local Government

University

Other:

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Riverview Park  
Marion County, Missouri

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 465 acres

**UTM References**

A. Zone          Easting          Northing

B. Zone          Easting          Northing

C. Zone          Easting          Northing

D. Zone          Easting          Northing

[X] 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 Karen Bode Baxter, Architectural Historian; Matthew Cerny and Mandy K. Ford, Research Associates

organization Karen Bode Baxter, Preservation Specialist          date July 8, 2005

street & number 5811 Delor Street          telephone (314) 353-0593

city or town St. Louis          state Missouri          zip code 63109-3108

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

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

**Additional Items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name City of Hannibal, c/o Hannibal Parks and Recreation Department

street & number 320 Broadway          telephone (573) 221-1503

city or town Hannibal          state Missouri          zip code 63401

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Description

#### SUMMARY

Established in 1909 and completed by 1929, Riverview Park is a large wooded park on the northern edge of Hannibal (Marion County), Missouri. A leading landscape designer, Ossian C. Simonds, designed the park in the prairie style for passive enjoyment rather than for active recreation, which explains the deliberate omission of playgrounds, picnic shelters, and playing fields. Located on one of the numerous hilltops that characterize Hannibal's topography, the 465 acre park extends across the tops of the bluffs that rise more than 100 feet above the railroad tracks paralleling the Mississippi River as it flows southeast toward Hannibal's central business district. At its peak, the hilltop in the center of the park is nearly 160 feet above river level. The park can be accessed at its southwestern corner via the graded and oiled road that enters the property off of Harrison Hill, a roadway that exits off U. S. Highway 36 at the south end of the park. The natural colored gravel drive winds through the park, with the scenic overlooks built along the bluff. A statue commemorating Mark Twain and an old farmhouse that was retained as the park caretaker's house are the only other man-made objects on official park land, and contributing resources. In recent years, the woods have been marked as a nature trail, although the markers are really the only manmade improvements along the foot-worn paths. The use of the hilltop for the city's water department pre-dates Riverview Park's creation by eighteen years. It is on land separately owned by the city's water department and historically separated from the park's land and jurisdiction. Because the water department's property is located in the middle of the park, it is within the boundaries of this nominated property, but its facilities (the water tank, filter plant building, and water treatment ponds) are noncontributing resources in this nomination. The south side of the park extends nearly to Zeigler Street, although small residential subdivisions at the base of this hillside and a commercial strip along Zeigler separate the park from access to Zeigler Road and Harrison Hill. To the west of the park, the land has now been developed as Riverpoint Subdivision that backs up to the park and extends north from Harrison Hill to the north end of the park where it abuts the Mississippi River.

#### OVERVIEW

Riverview Park looks much today as it was originally conceived and planned in 1909. Landscape architect Ossian C. Simonds developed the park on what had previously been farmland and oversaw the landscaping of the subsequent additions to park lands until it was completed in 1929. Simonds' plans for the park included a 16-foot wide curvilinear roadway, three scenic overlooks, and a landscaping plan based on natural topography and native plants. As part of the original landscaping plans, trees and shrubs were added to the few existing native trees, since most of the land had been farmed extensively prior to its purchase by Wilson B. Pettibone, the park's benefactor. These plantings were positioned to follow the natural topography, utilizing mostly species native to the area, and maturing today into the natural looking landscaping and arboretum that Simonds and Pettibone had planned. Simonds incorporated existing topographical features into the design, including:

- the Old River Road that parallels the Burlington Northern Railway Company's tracks along the Mississippi River, originally the only access into the park,
- the old logging road that has recently been resurfaced with oiled gravel as a nature trail winding from the west end of the park and along the river to meet up with the Old River Road,
- the old Wabash Railway (now the Norfolk and Western Railway Company) which enters a tunnel under the park at the end of its bridge and loops along the southeastern edge of the park,
- the remains of an abandoned quarry at the south end of the park, 17 acres of which was removed from the park to build a highway ramp to Harrison Hill.

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Description (continued)

As agreed upon by Pettibone and the park's governing board, one of the old farmhouses, located south of the Harrison Hill entry and the water department's land, was retained to serve as the caretaker's cottage. As the park grew and developed, Simonds also created the plans for the installation of the Mark Twain monument in 1913 and for the grading and landscaping of the new driveway from Harrison Hill in 1929. Though some of the paving material on the driving path has changed, the road still conforms to Simonds' original plans and maintains its natural colored gravel appearance. The road crosses the hilly park and has driving loops at three strategic scenic points. The scenic overlooks are marked by loops in the road as well as low stone retaining walls. The retaining walls are 2 to 3 feet in height and are built using coursed, rough cut limestone. A memorial to Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) marks the most commanding of these views of the Mississippi River. The bronze statue, installed in 1913, stands on a tall pedestal with the figure of Mark Twain looking out across the river. Serving as the original entrance into the park, where the Old River Road used to intersect Zeigler Street, the concrete stairway designed by Simonds still climbs the bluff up into the park.

The 10 contributing resources in the nominated property, include the following:

- 1 site: Riverview Park
- 1 building: the caretaker's house
- 6 structures: 3 scenic overlooks with retaining walls, the concrete stairway, the driving path, the logging road
- 2 objects: the statue of Mark Twain, the memorial stone and plaque
- 

The 6 noncontributing resources, identified as those not related to the areas of significance (conservation and landscape architecture), all of which are officially on Water Department property, not part of the surrounding Riverview Park land, include the following:

- 2 buildings: the picnic shelter, the filter plant building
- 4 structures: 2 water tanks, the water treatment pond, the playground

### PATHWAYS

The original development of the park began in 1909 under the direction of landscape architect, O. C. Simonds and its tree-lined, natural gravel roadway winds its way through the heavily wooded park. The park is irregularly shaped, with a narrow right-of-way on either side of the entry road that leads past the city's water department's facilities. This entire roadway was laid out, graded, graveled and oiled, as well as planted, under the direction of Simonds, with most of the work completed in 1909. Land acquired in 1924 allowed for the creation of the driveway entry at Harrison Hill. This 600 foot long wooded path leads past the water treatment facilities, a much shallower approach than from the Old River Road below the bluff. This too was part of the 1924 donation by Pettibone and was landscaped and graded in 1929 based upon additional plans by Simonds.

In addition to the driving path which is approximately 16 feet wide, there is a 12-foot wide old logging road that predated the park's construction. But it has recently been re-graded with gravel since it had deteriorated due to erosion. This old logging road was one of the pre-existing features that Simonds incorporated into his plans and it has always extended from the northeast end of the property to the edge of the river bluff and ultimately down to the Old River Road that parallels the railroad tracks and the Mississippi River. Approximately at the juncture of this logging road/nature trail and the driving path, there is a large piece of Vermont granite that has been positioned on the west side of the road as a memorial to the park's creator, Wilson B. Pettibone. The stone is carved to read "Riverview Park, a gift from Wilson B. Pettibone to the City of Hannibal, whose grateful citizens have placed this tablet here. 1926." The road itself winds through the park, looping at the river bluff where it provides magnificent vistas of the river. There are 3 shallow stone retaining walls positioned along the drive at these scenic points, each part of Simonds' designs. The middle retaining wall and drive loop surrounds a shallow knoll where the statue of Mark Twain faces the river. At this point, the view up and down the river opens up with Quincy, Illinois visible 15 miles upriver beyond the locks and dam and Turtle Island. To the south, the railroad bridge, the

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Description (continued)

Mark Twain Memorial Bridge, and the islands in the river near downtown Hannibal are visible. The drive extends over the top of the railroad tunnel at the southeastern corner of the property. Other scenic loops in the drive provide views of the valley to the south, looking at the hills that form the older residential areas in Hannibal.

### TREES

Most of the park is heavily wooded, having developed into a mature arboretum based upon the plantings installed when the park was created in 1909. A wide variety of tree and shrub species abound in the park, many of them native to the region but primarily planted under Simonds direction when the former farmland was being developed as Riverview Park. A partial inventory of current trees includes: black cherry, American elm, white ash, black walnut, at least two varieties of hackberry, both black and sugar maples, basswood, shag bark hickory, Kentucky coffee tree, paw paw, and sassafras, as well as several varieties of oak (black, white, Chinquapin, and Northern red oak). In a tree survey completed 5 years ago, these trees as well as snag and den trees were identified. The latter apparently includes a locally famous and extremely old black walnut tree that is now used as a den for wild animals.

### STATUE OF MARK TWAIN

The statue to Mark Twain is situated in a knoll and surrounded by a small loop in the drive that was landscaped, graded, and planted according to a plan commissioned by O. C. Simonds in 1912-1913 to specifically accommodate the statue (see page 6). There are a series of steps leading up to the 20-foot square base of the statue. The 9-foot standing bronze figure of Mark Twain sculpted by Frederick C. Hibbard was commissioned by the State of Missouri and positioned in 1913 on an 8-foot high pyramidal stone pedestal. The statue faces what is considered to be the most magnificent view both up and down the river. A shallow stone retaining wall forms a seat for spectators. This outlook extends nearly 40 feet along the top of the river bluff. The 1913 landscaping plan executed by Simonds for the installation of the Mark Twain statue was completed during Pettibone's lifetime and likely met with his approval since he served on the governing board for the park at the time. Recently, the Parks Department re-landscaped the small area around the statue, within the roadway loop, reworking the original landscaping materials designed by Simonds for the site.

### CARETAKER'S HOUSE

Prior to the Pettibone's acquisition of the land for the park, there were several small farmhouses on the site and one was retained in the south end of the park, south of the roadway, to serve as the caretaker's house. It is well hidden from the flow of traffic and view points along the bluff above the Mississippi River and near the edge of the hilltop behind and below the Water Department's facilities. This frame, two-story house appears to date to the 1880s and has been updated over the years. It is currently covered with siding which diminishes its architectural integrity. However, it is still considered a contributing building within the nominated property, because of its historical significance in the development of the park, as the one remaining building that predates the creation of the park and as the one park-related building that has been in continuous use since the park was created.

### ALTERATIONS AND INTEGRITY ISSUES

There have been few alterations to the original park after its completion in 1929, which marked the end of the additional donations of land by W. B. Pettibone as well as the last design modification by O. C. Simonds for the new entry road. Since then, the landscape has simply matured, based upon their original conception to become what appears to be natural woodlands with a winding path through it. While disease and storms have resulted in the loss of some trees, community leaders have carefully guarded the integrity of this arboretum and there have been few additional plantings. Seedlings from original plants provide most of the additional plant materials, as occurs in natural forests, and in keeping with Simonds' and Pettibone's shared aspirations for this park. The only major alteration has been the addition of white gravel around the Pettibone memorial stone and the alterations to the landscaping around the Mark Twain statue, done by a recent Parks Department administration before the significance of Simonds' design and the prairie style was understood.

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Description (continued)

The park itself encircles the 17 acres that form the city's Water Department's facilities. By 1892, the Water Department already owned land on the crest of the hill at the time that Pettibone began acquiring the farmland that forms the irregularly shaped park. Since that time, the city has constructed its brick filter plant building, the treatment pond and water storage tank on the crest of the hill on department-owned land. The facility, except for a narrow access road, is separate from, but surrounded by park land. The filter plant has a plaque on the building dating it to 1924 and the original tank and water treatment pond appear to date from the same time period while the newer tank was just finished in 2004. In addition, there is a picnic shelter and playground on the Water Department's land that appear to date that were finished within the last generation, probably during the 1980s. As a consequence, all of these resources are within the boundary of the nominated property, but are noncontributing elements since they are not part of the park's design and have always been viewed as separate from Riverview Park and its goals. However, the original filter plant facilities may have historic significance and may be eligible for National Register listing as one of the few remaining historic water treatment facilities in Missouri, but this was not within the scope of the significance of the current nomination.

Currently, there is an ongoing dispute between the Park Board and the Water Department in the City of Hannibal over the exact boundaries of the water treatment facilities property. At the heart of this dispute is the endowment of the park which precludes the construction of any new structures within the park and the appearance as well as location for the construction of a much needed new water tower for the City of Hannibal. The current concrete tank has been the town's only water storage facility for generations and its roof is in serious need of repair. In theory, the brick filter plant building which faces the entry drive and the water tower, as well as the large covered concrete treatment area are supposedly outside the boundaries of Riverview Park, as is the playground area. These features are specifically prohibited by Pettibone's endowment to the city in 1909. However, a preliminary survey, brought about because of this dispute and to provide an accurate map for this nomination, seems to indicate that a portion of the filter plant building as well as the water tower may actually be on official park land. Although the boundary dispute is not likely to be resolved in the near future, an additional water storage tank was completed last year in preparation for repairs to the old tank. The new tank is located behind the filter plant building on Water Department land (near the picnic shelter). At least the discussion generated about the historic significance of the park resulted in an increased public awareness of the city's responsibility in maintaining this significant historic landscape.



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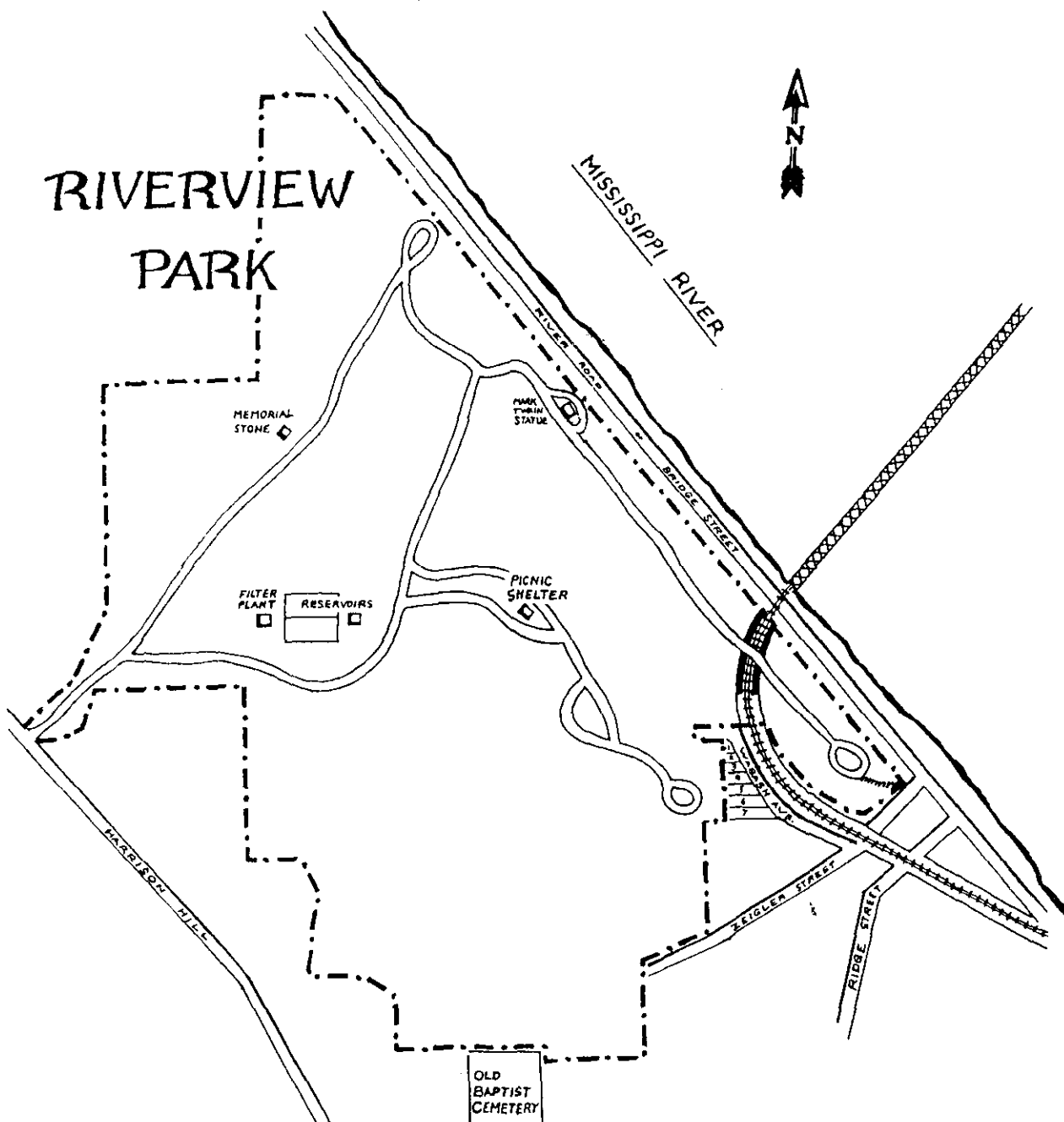
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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

From *Hannibal, Too* by J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood

Map of Riverview Park  
Locating Property



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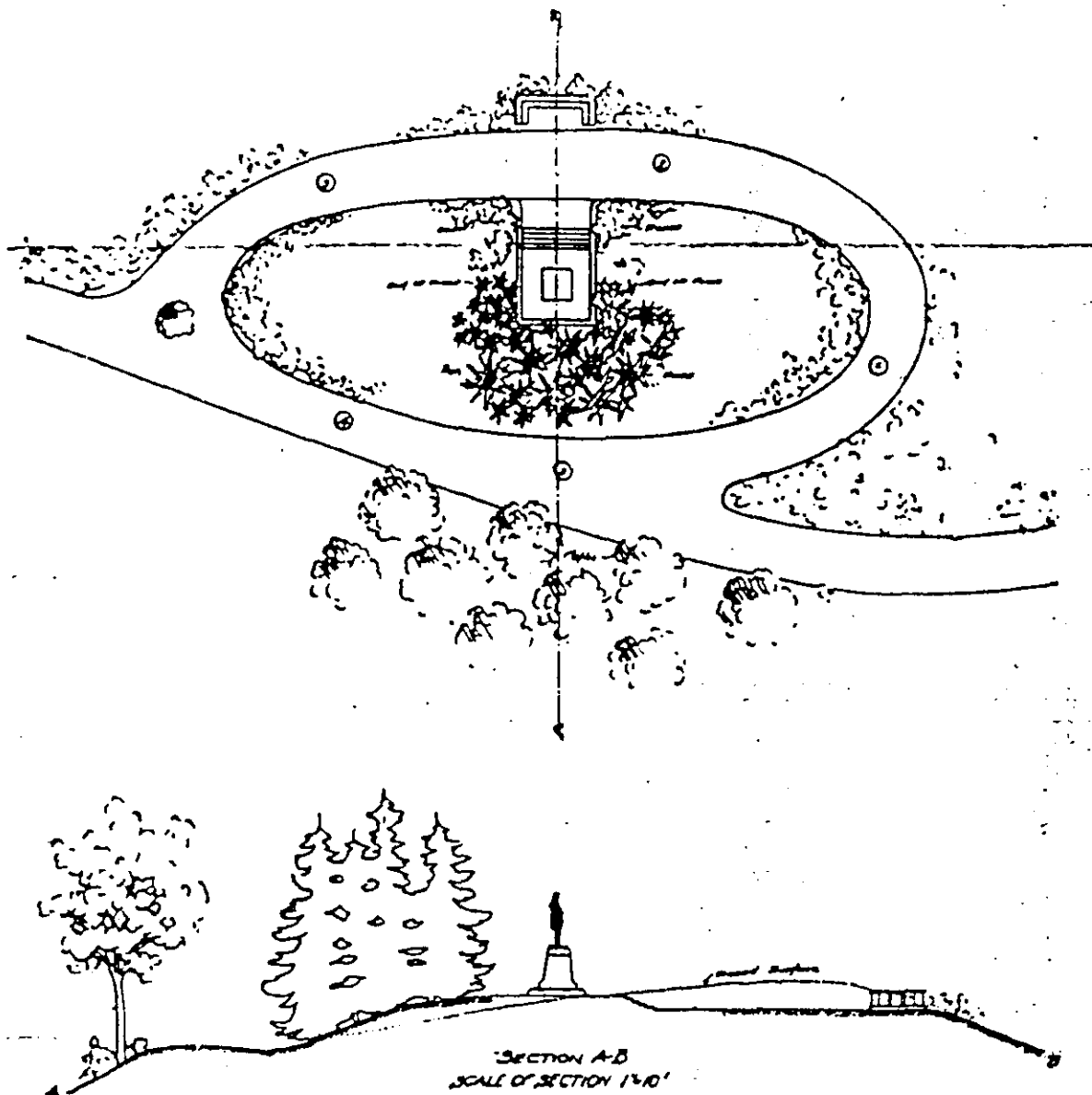
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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

"Mark Twain Memorial and its Setting"  
From Park and Cemetery Magazine

O.C. Simonds 1912 Plans  
for Mark Twain Memorial in the Park



PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT OF SITE OF MARK TWAIN MEMORIAL AND SECTION THROUGH THE SITE ON CENTER LINE OF MONUMENT.  
Scale: Plan, one inch=20 feet; section, one inch=10 feet.  
O. C. Simonds, Landscape Architect.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

"Traces of Stairway Lead to History of Park"  
From *Hannibal Courier-Post*

Photo of road to park  
circa 1909



River Road, looking North, Hannibal, Mo.

A STAIRWAY from North River Road to Riverview Park was constructed to make the park more accessible from

the downtown area. The stairway is visible above the roof of the house at left.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

"Strolling was a Pleasant Pastime" by Mary Lou Montgomery  
From *Hannibal Courier-Post*

Photo of park  
circa 1909



STROLLING ALONG the north River Road during the early 1900s was an enjoyable way to spend an

idle afternoon, and a popular destination was to Riverview Park. Steps, barely seen today, served as

an entrance to the once-baren park. This photo was supplied by J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood.

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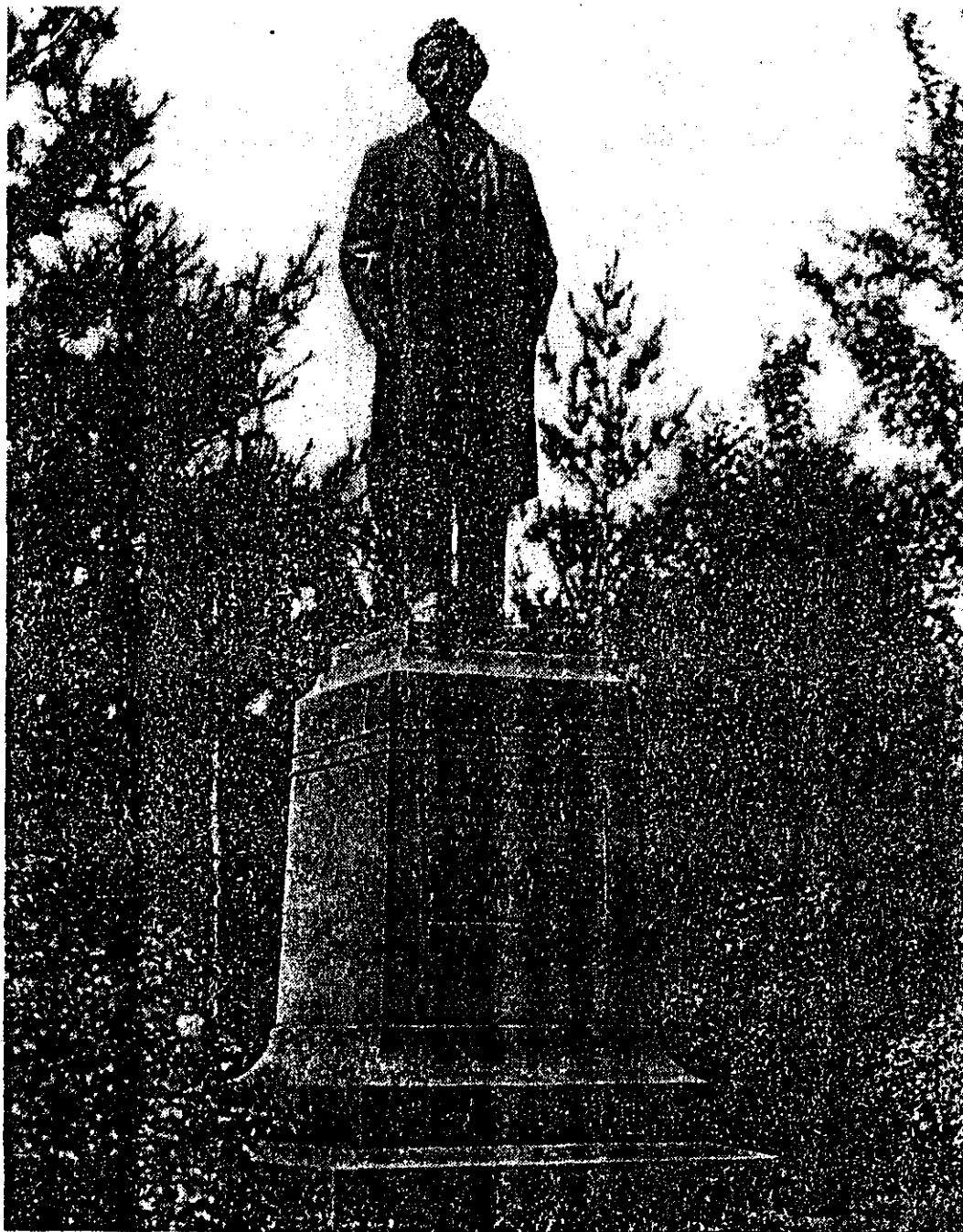
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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

"Riverview Park: Lumber Magnate W. B. Pettibone Leaves Beautiful Legacy to City"  
From *Hannibal Courier-Post*

Photo of statue in park  
circa 1981



**MARK TWAIN** statue oversees the Mississippi River from one of the many lookout points in Riverview Park.

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

From the private collection of J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood  
Hannibal, MO

Photo of park under development  
circa 1909



## Park scene

Henrietta Oliman Hill of Hannibal looking east. The date of the photo is unknown. Submitted this photo of Riverview Park.

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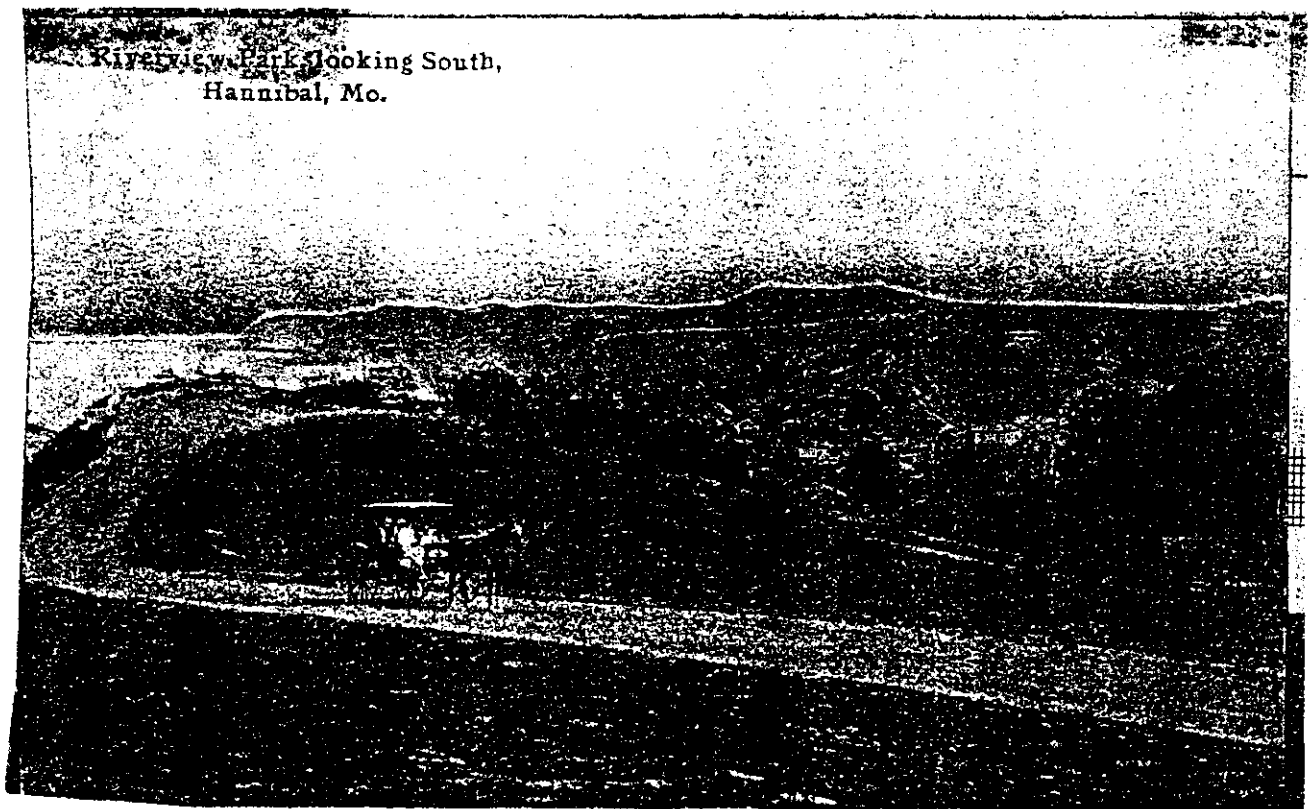
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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

From private collection of J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood  
Hannibal, MO

Early Photo of Park  
circa 1910



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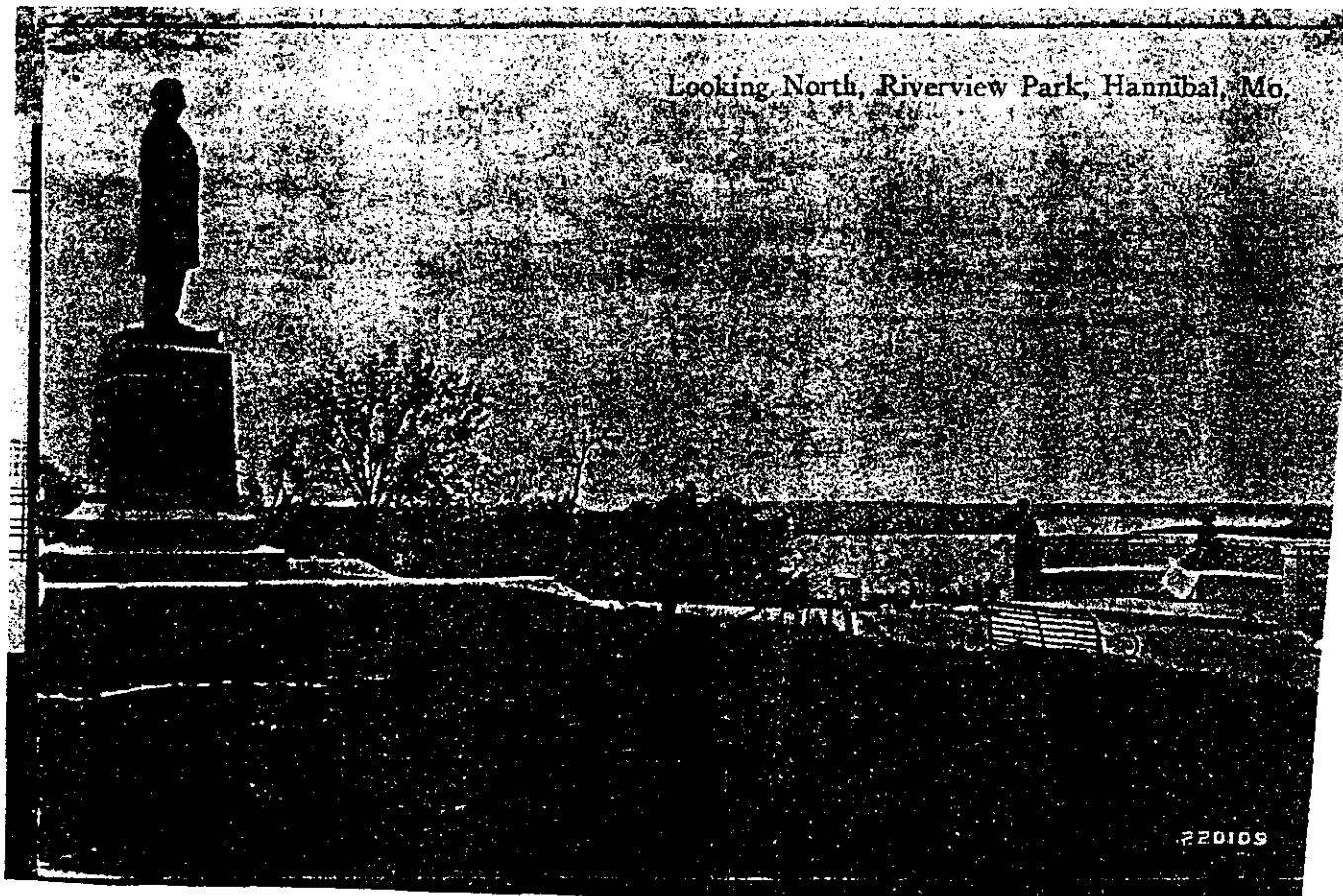
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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

From private collection of J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood  
Hannibal, MO

Historic Photo of Park  
Looking North from Mark Twain's Statue/Overlook  
circa 1913





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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

"W.B. Pettibone Dies, Funeral to Be Tuesday."  
From *Hannibal Courier-Post*

Wilson B. Pettibone  
Riverview Park Benefactor  
Date of photo unknown



WILSON B. PETTIBONE

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Statement of Significance

#### SUMMARY

Riverview Park is located on the northern edge of the City of Hannibal, Marion County, Missouri. The park, after all parcels were eventually acquired, contains a total of 465 acres today. The park is significant under Criterion A: Conservation for Wilson B. Pettibone's contribution to the conservation movement, providing a naturalistic setting along the Mississippi River where citizens could refresh themselves. The park owes its existence to the generosity of Pettibone, who began a philanthropic vision in 1908, creating and opening the park by 1909. Pettibone sought to strictly respect the naturalness of the land and avoid traces of artificiality.<sup>1</sup> The park owes its creation to a late nineteenth and early twentieth century conservation movement designed to preserve natural areas of the United States. As a mature arboretum, the park illustrates examples of forage that make it a significant contribution to the development of the prairie style of landscape design, which emphasized the natural appearance of the planned landscape. Thus the park is also significant under Criterion C: Landscape Architecture as a mature example of the prairie style of landscape design as envisioned by the originator and one of the movement's leading proponents, Ossian Cole Simonds, based in Chicago.<sup>2</sup> Its period of significance extends from 1909 through 1929, the year that the new entry was built, the last improvement commissioned by Pettibone and designed by Simonds.

#### CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The origins of Wilson B. Pettibone's wishes for a park of "unsubdued beauty" have a substantial genealogy. Writings in the nineteenth century laid the philosophical foundation for parks like Riverview Park. Linda Flint McClelland, writing for the National Register of Historic Places in *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service*, traced the design legacy that created an ethic of naturalism in park construction. McClelland credits writer Andrew Jackson Downing for "stimulating an appreciation for [American] indigenous vegetation and rockwork" by "urging American [designers] to heed the beauty and potential of American plants for landscape gardening."<sup>3</sup> Beginning in 1841 with the periodical, *The Horticulturalist*, Downing's writing served as the principles for "translating the idea of wilderness. . . into design terms." Downing's principles sought a rustic ambiance and his work focused on curvilinear footpaths, open meadows, and enframed vistas. He encouraged the use of actual natural objects, like rocks, ornamental shrubs, and trees. He produced workable instructions for transplanting, with notable contributions to successfully transplanting large trees.<sup>4</sup> A century later, work at Riverview Park involved the transplanting of many local wild trees and shrubs.<sup>5</sup>

During the second half of the nineteenth century, designers refined Downing's principles and practices, emerging as uniquely American styles of landscape architecture. These styles drew heavily from English gardening, but there is also a unique tone in the development, as if the power of the natural environment in America demanded recognition. This spirit found an articulation in the prairie style of gardening. Wilhelm Miller, horticultural writer and editor, sought to develop a complete analysis of an American style of gardening, "promoting a style of landscape gardening that drew inspiration from the native landscape of the Midwest, its landforms, waterways, and vegetation."<sup>6</sup> Miller wrote a circular entitled, *The Prairie Spirit in Landscape Design* for the University of Illinois's Agricultural Experiment Station that described the principles of the prairie style,

The prairie style of gardening is an American mode of design based upon the practical needs of the middle-western people and characteristics by preservation of the typical western scenery, by restoration of local color, and by repetition of the horizontal line of land and sky, which is the strongest feature of prairie scenery.<sup>7</sup>

Miller goes on in this circular to credit O. C. Simonds and Jens Jensen as initiators of the prairie style. At the end of his career, the self-effacing Simonds stated that he was only attempting to create the most beautiful and natural effect everywhere that he worked and was not concerned with adhering or promoting a particular movement. However, beginning in 1880 with work at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago, O. C. Simonds contribution to the prairie style was seminal,<sup>8</sup> and his creation of Riverview Park is one of the few known intact examples of his vision.

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

### DEVELOPMENT OF RIVERVIEW PARK

Wilson B. Pettibone's own vision for Riverview Park developed within the national milieu of the Progressive era. Much activity for the national parks movement took place during Theodore Roosevelt's administration, under the leadership of pioneering landscape designers of the era, including O. C. Simonds. Even so, many states, like Missouri, did not have a state park recognized until the 1920s. At the turn of the twentieth century, the creation of public park space in places like Missouri still often came from individual stewardship, with men like Pettibone having the spirit of the conservation movement in mind. Pettibone was perhaps the first Missouri philanthropist to recognize the need to preserve a naturalistic environment, while early benefactors in other Missouri towns, such as St. Louis, St. Joseph, and Kansas City, provided parks for more urban settings with amenities such as picnic grounds, shelters, fountains, playgrounds and zoos.

Pettibone's wishes for the Riverview Park, recorded in the legal deeds and in print media, reflected his appreciation for the natural environment. Like many endowments, Pettibone created legal safeguards that ensured his vision for the park would be maintained. The original 1909 Deed of Gift outlined several conditions under which the park would remain under the control of a governing board composed of nine resident citizens of Hannibal, the basis for the Park Board that continues to operate today. The park would remain under the auspices of this council as long as it adhered to Pettibone's original intents and uses, otherwise the estate would revert to Pettibone or his heirs. The park was "for the benefit of the inhabitants of Hannibal" and should "forever be free from all political, religious, social or other bias, without prejudice, preference, or discrimination."<sup>9</sup> These conditions prevented the park from becoming a venue for partisanship, activities which Pettibone was certain would compromise the integrity of the park's natural beauty. Pettibone continued to make acquisitions for the park in the 1920s, in order to insulate it from the encroachment of development. In the trust fund of \$200,000 that Pettibone left for the park, he prohibited "anything that would encroach upon its natural beauty" such as artificial construction "whether for utilitarian purposes or for purposes of amusement."<sup>10</sup> In this will, Pettibone described his intent to provide "provisions. . . to protect and preserve its most striking and distinctive feature, that is, the wild and unsubdued beauty with which nature has so bounteously endowed it."<sup>11</sup>

Pettibone began acquiring property on the northern end of Hannibal in 1908 with the intention of making a scenic park for Hannibal's citizens.<sup>12</sup> He accumulated the land in several parcels, including areas that had been farms and even an apple orchard. He focused his purchases on land along the Mississippi River that afforded a scenic view from the high bluffs. It took several years to acquire all of the property and the process was complicated by land disputes. At one point, to avoid further delay and to clear up disputes, Pettibone deeded lots on Wabash Street to several squatters who had built small homes on land he had purchased for the park. In 1909, when the Burlington Railroad needed to lay more tracks along the river's edge to reach downtown Hannibal, the city gave permission since the railroad agreed to pave the riverfront below with cobble stones and to pay the city \$10,000. The funds were turned over to the new governing board of Riverview Park to use for additional landscaping.<sup>13</sup>

Pettibone maintained his interest in the park throughout his life, even after it was formally presented to the city in 1909.<sup>14</sup> His initial donation included about 240 acres, but over the years he purchased additional land to add to his creation, approaching 465 acres before he was finished.<sup>15</sup> Pettibone continued to add acreage to the park through the 1920s with at least four separate purchases noted in the newspaper in 1917, 1924 and 1928.<sup>16</sup> These extensions were intended to insulate the park from surrounding developments, a maneuver with which the park's landscape designer, O. C. Simonds, had his own ample experience and concern in Chicago. While Pettibone's own concern about encroachment may have seemed excessive at the time, the community was already developing in that direction and in recent years his concerns have proven to be justified since the area is now surrounded by residential developments, a new federal highway interchange that took the southern edge of the park through eminent domain, and now the current turmoil revolving around the need to update the water storage facility in the midst of the park land. Only his foresight in making the stipulations in his bequest to Hannibal has protected the integrity of the original park design for nearly one hundred years.

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His original tract bordered and even surrounded the seventeen acres of land already owned by the Hannibal Water Company. Later, the city's water reservoir was located on this site, which had quickly become known as Reservoir Park, since most of the area around the reservoir was used by local citizens for picnics. Pettibone's subsequent purchases further encircled the water company's land. By 1924, Reservoir Park had the large concrete storage tank, brick filtration building and a water tower erected on about 4 acres of their property. The Water Company's property later had a picnic shelter, restrooms, and playgrounds constructed for the use of local citizens. Because Pettibone did not want such amenities in Riverview Park to affect his vision of a more natural setting, the proximity to the waterworks' facilities was a convenience for local citizens during the excursions to the park.<sup>17</sup> Unfortunately, because of lack of accurate surveys at the time, it appears that portions of these pre-existing water treatment facilities (part of the filtration building and the water tank) may actually be in Riverview Park. This is an important issue in the current discussions about repairing and expanding the existing water treatment facility, as well as locating a new storage tank. After nearly a century, this facility still provides all of the water for the town of Hannibal.<sup>18</sup>

In a 1908 letter to Captain C. J. Lewis and Mr. George D. Clayton, two of the leading men of Hannibal, Wilson B. Pettibone outlined his plans to secure a location for a public park for Hannibal's people, having already acquired land to the north, south, east, and southeast of the new water reservoir grounds and extending east to the river road. The letter outlined his purpose of:

having it converted into a public park with the usual boulevards, drives, walks and places of resort, recreation and rest, and with the expectation that the title to it without valuable consideration, will ultimately pass to the City of Hannibal . . . for the perpetual use by the people for that purpose.<sup>19</sup>

Even at this point he had suggested the name, Riverview Park, and was urging the creation of a park association to which he could deed the grounds without compensation, with expectations that work begin on improving the park early the next spring. He already recognized that conveyances were needed to require that it continue to be used as a public park.<sup>20</sup> On January 12, 1909, Pettibone made the formal presentation of Riverview Park to the City of Hannibal<sup>21</sup> that fulfilled these very stipulations:

- The park was to be called Riverview Park.
- He provided a gift of \$5,000 for the use of the governing board to construct driveways, footways, and other improvements.
- A nine citizen governing board would control and supervise the park, but the option would remain for the transfer of the park to the city, if the City of Hannibal created a park board of its own that would assume that role, and if the city would provide proper management and sufficient funds for the upkeep of the park.
- The park was to be kept free of man-made construction, even those seen as useful to a park (such as picnic tables) since the park was to be developed and maintained as a naturalistic setting.
- The management of the park was to be free of political, religious, and social issues that would generate bias or discrimination.<sup>22</sup>

The original park board consisted of many of Hannibal's leading citizens: Captain J. C. Lewis, George D. Clayton, J. J. Cruikshank, George A. Mahan, J. P. Richards, John E. Jones, J. P. Hinton, and H. A. Lowe, as well as W. B. Pettibone.<sup>23</sup> Upon his death, Pettibone left a trust of \$100,000 in a St. Louis bank for the purpose of maintaining the park and by the time the Riverview Park Board turned over the trust fund to the City of Hannibal in 1980, it had increased to \$200,000. It was also in 1980 that the governing board of Riverview Park relinquished control to the City of Hannibal's Parks and Recreation Department, charging it with carrying out the wishes of Wilson B. Pettibone for the future.<sup>24</sup>

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By May 1909, Pettibone hired renowned landscape gardener O. C. Simonds of Chicago to lay out the park.<sup>25</sup> They quickly agreed on plans for the development of the park. On May 13, 1909, Simonds made a trip to Hannibal to take "further measurements and notes of the grounds under improvement"<sup>26</sup> so that he could complete his topographical map and suggest the plan of improvement to the park board. Given the park board's eagerness to begin the actual work of building the road and transplanting trees and shrubbery,<sup>27</sup> Simonds returned to Hannibal on June 17, 1909 to outline "the improvements there and inspect the construction of the new roads being built."<sup>28</sup> Direct correspondence between the men is hard to find, but Roberta Hagood, local Hannibal historian, reports that the two visited Hannibal's "newly purchased country club" on June 17, 1909 before going out to inspect the park site.<sup>29</sup>

Two associates from Simonds and West, W. T. League from Hannibal and a Mr. Cohan of Chicago, worked in Hannibal throughout 1909, overseeing the park's development. By July 1909, the *Hannibal Courier Post* printed a long story glorifying the emerging beauty of the park, with old fences removed, the road complete, the old orchard re-landscaped, and a gentle incline created down past the old quarry to the river road. Throughout 1909, a large force of men was engaged in planting the trees and shrubbery in Riverview Park, with eighteen men reportedly working into mid-November to finish the plantings before the ground froze.<sup>30</sup> Pettibone himself was intensely interested in the layout of the park and spent much of his time with the work crews in the park.<sup>31</sup> That same year, the roadway through the park was laid out and graded with a combination of oil and red sand (believed to be the first such oil road in or near Hannibal), based upon Simonds' drawings.<sup>32</sup> At the same time, another group of men constructed cement steps and walks from the river road up to the top of Tunnel Hill (the railroad tunnel under the park), to make the park "within easy walking distance of the business center."<sup>33</sup> A series of switchbacks provided resting platforms with benches to enjoy the views.<sup>34</sup>

Pettibone had definite ideas about the appearance of the park he envisioned and hoped it could avoid any trace of artificiality.<sup>35</sup> Simonds was inspired by the Progressive era in Chicago, working to preserve undeveloped rural land with leading conservationists.<sup>36</sup> Working in Quincy, less than fifteen miles up and across the Mississippi River, Simonds was surely aware of Pettibone's philanthropic efforts. In turn, Pettibone's vision to create a naturalistic environment for the enjoyment of local citizens melded well with Simonds own view about landscaping. The oversight of the Simonds and West firm continued as the park grew with Pettibone's additional land acquisitions over the next twenty years. The relationship of the firm with Riverview Park continued for many years and Simonds was contracted to draw up the plans in 1912 for the scenic overlook and layout for the Mark Twain statue competition.<sup>37</sup> Again, in 1929, he was contracted to prepare the plans for grading and planting the new entrance drive, which still serves as the only vehicular entrance into the park. In one of the rare extant documents between the two visionaries, Simonds corresponded with Pettibone in October of 1929, sending a sketch for the wooded border along the entrance drive and writing that he "wished to secure an attractive wooded border that will be specially attractive in autumn from the rich coloring of its foliage." Simonds enclosed a list of 1500 seedlings that he ordered from Naperville Nurseries, including such species as *Rhus typhina*, Red, Pin, and White Oak, Tulip Poplar, and Sweet Gum.<sup>38</sup>

When first developed, Riverview Park featured young trees and other greenery since much of the land had been acquired from farmers who had previously cultivated the land. The vision shared by Simonds and Pettibone has matured well, with its winding driving and footpaths that allow the visitor to experience what is now a mature arboretum. In a tree survey compiled five years ago by the current park supervisor and forester, Doug S. Reinert noted many of the same trees species found in Simonds' original order. Given the age of the trees, Reinert also listed a number of others clearly planted at that time or transplanted as larger specimens of native tree species, another characteristic of Simonds' and Pettibone's vision for Riverview Park. Others may be younger trees, seeded by the original plantings or spread naturally into the maturing arboretum. Although he admitted the list was probably not a complete inventory, Reinert found: black cherry,

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American elm, white ash, black walnut, at least two varieties of hackberry, black oak, sugar maple, snag, den tree, black maple, white oak, chinquapin oak, shag bark hickory, basswood, northern red oak, Kentucky coffee tree, paw paw, and sassafras.<sup>39</sup> The abundance of hawthorn trees that can be seen blooming early each spring throughout Riverview Park has a special significance both as Missouri's state flower and as the transplanted location of the original hawthorn tree developed by the local botanist, Rev. John Davis (the rector of the local Trinity Episcopal Church). Davis developed a variety of the hawthorn, garnering national recognition by the Smithsonian Institution, the Missouri Botanical Garden (in St. Louis) and the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University.<sup>40</sup>

In 1913, State of Missouri paid for the \$10,000 cost and erected a statue of Mark Twain at the highest point in the park, surrounded by a viewing platform. The statue was designed by Frederick Hibbard, the same sculptor who created the William Henry Hatch statue in Hannibal's Central Park and later sculpted the Tom and Huck statue that is visible on the north end of the downtown.<sup>41</sup> As reported in *Park and Cemetery* in December 1912, the site for this memorial to Mark Twain was especially appropriate, given that it overlooks the Mississippi River, the focal point of many of his most famous works. The report describes the site in detail:

The memorial is to stand on a knoll in Riverview Park on the edge of a high bluff overlooking the Mississippi, where the broad winding current of the river gives a view up and down the stream and over into Illinois for many miles. Tom Sawyer's Island and Mark Twain's cave, visible down the river from the big bluff overlooking the city of Hannibal are the scenes of some of the most interesting adventures of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn.<sup>42</sup>

The commission charged with erecting the monument engaged landscape architect, O. C. Simonds, the original designer of the park, to select the location for the memorial with the guidance of the competing sculptors. They recognized that it should form "an integral part of its surroundings, and preparations were made at the start to have the memorial in harmony with its immediate environment."<sup>43</sup> The national competition for sculptors ultimately led to the selection of Frederick C. Hibbard of Chicago, whose model was designed to fit the exact location on which it now stands, rather than being designed without consideration to its setting. He had visited the site and made sketches on the ground after careful study of the plan, the problem and the site. Unlike other competitors, Hibbard's design did not exaggerate Mark Twain's accoutrements (such as those proposals by other sculptors which included loose slippers, a large cigar, or Twain seated with rolled manuscripts); rather it was selected because it showed him as a plain, simple man, standing erect and dressed plainly, with his head turned to gaze down the mighty river that he loved. The figure stands on a pyramidal pedestal, set in a wide platform terraced from a winding road that encircles the statue and the terraced knoll. Across from the statue is one of the majestic overlooks on the edge of the bluff, providing a magnificent view both up and down the river, a view that Mark Twain himself said was the best of the Mississippi River. The landscaping details, including the loop in the road, the terraced knoll, the plantings and the overlook were finished according to Simonds' design.<sup>44</sup>

For years, grateful citizens of Hannibal tried to convince W. B. Pettibone to let them erect a memorial to him in Riverview Park, but he wished to avoid publicity and honors for himself. After many years, his friends finally succeeded by approaching him with a different slant on the proposition. His second love, after Missouri, was the state of Vermont where he had a summer home. When it was suggested that a large, natural piece of granite be brought from Vermont to Hannibal and placed in the park, he finally consented after some hesitation to an inscription on the stone in his honor. Today it sits about 200 feet beyond the water treatment plant, along the entrance road and it reads: "Riverview Park, a gift from Wilson B. Pettibone to the City of Hannibal, whose grateful citizens have placed this tablet here. 1926."<sup>45</sup>

Since the grading of the land, the completion of the paths and road, and the plantings installed under Simonds direction and design, the park has maintained the original vision of its benefactor, W. B. Pettibone, as a natural environment unencumbered by manmade objects, not even picnic tables, for nearly one hundred years. As one of the few designs by Simonds that is still intact today, Riverview Park provides a mature example of the natural beauty that he had envisioned.

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Besides the retention of one of the old farmhouses that predated the park and continued in use as a caretaker's cottage, only two exceptions to the dictates of preserving nature's beauty without man-made objects were ever allowed to intrude upon this natural vista. Both occurred during Pettibone's lifetime: a statue honoring local son, Mark Twain and the commemorative stone and plaque to honor Pettibone. For nearly seventeen years, local citizens had beseeched Pettibone to allow them to erect a monument in the park in his honor before he agreed. While it is not clear that he approved of erecting the statue of Mark Twain in the park, the selection of Simonds to provide the landscaping for the statue and Pettibone's continued tenure (at least in name) on the Parks Board seems to indicate that he at least acquiesced to this monument as well.

Envisioned as a natural, scenic park designed for passive enjoyment of the natural landscape rather than for active recreation, Riverview Park did not encourage many organized activities. The Lions Club was given permission to hold Easter egg hunts in the park, beginning with 1923 and by the following year there were nearly 10,000 people there to watch the children scramble for the 12,000 hidden eggs. In 1925, President Coolidge even sent eggs for the event and one year the Fox News Service filmed the event, claiming 22,000 onlookers with 9,000 children participating in the event. However, interest eventually waned and the event was discontinued. During World War II, sunrise services were held in the park for Easter.<sup>46</sup> In more recent years, the activities have suited the natural environment, with many from Hannibal remembering their hikes through the parks as part of their Boy Scouts' activities and young couples using the park as a romantic setting. Today, the park sees frequent daily visits by the tour buses that take the tourists around Hannibal to visit the many sites associated with Mark Twain, especially enjoying both the scenic views of the river and the statue of Twain himself.

### OSSIAN COLE SIMONDS

When retrospectives were published in Hannibal newspapers looking back on the creation of Riverview Park, they often stated that Ossian Cole Simonds was an Englishman. In fact, Simonds was born near Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1855 on his father's farm and went on to study engineering at the University of Michigan. Other references to O. C. Simonds by history have also suffered from vagueness and misconception. Julia Sniderman Bachrach, Simonds' biographer in *Midwestern Landscape Architecture*, laments that often historical "references to his projects tend to be too vague to be useful in documenting his work."<sup>47</sup> Bachrach's chapter on Simonds is able to highlight the rich legacy that he bestowed on his profession. However, she also keenly points out that Simonds is often overlooked by historians, while contemporaries such as Jens Jensen receive considerable scholarly attention. While Jensen was an able promoter who wrote manifestos for prairie-inspired designs, Simonds was self-effacing and wrote books, such as *Landscape-Gardening*, which were practical and instructive but were not highly publicized philosophical treatises on landscape style.

Simonds professional training began as a student of civil engineering at the University of Michigan in 1874. He studied architecture under William Le Baron Jenney for two years until the program closed. Upon graduating in 1878 with an engineering degree, Simonds moved to Chicago to work in Jenney's firm. This firm was commissioned to work on drainage of a low-lying marsh at Graceland Cemetery on the north side of Chicago. Jenney assigned Simonds the actual responsibility for draining the lake, because of Simonds' considerable background in civil engineering.<sup>48</sup>

By 1879 the final parcels of land were acquired for Graceland Cemetery, and Jenney's firm was retained to design the remaining property. Bryan Lathrop oversaw the hiring and nurtured a lasting friendship with Simonds. Lathrop, a prominent speculator and philanthropist, became an influential colleague and patron of Simonds. Simonds accorded his work with Lathrop as providing his real education in landscape gardening.<sup>49</sup> Lathrop inspired Simonds to approach his career with the humility of a philanthropist, convincing Simonds that landscape gardening was the "rarest and greatest" although "least understood and appreciated" of the fine arts.<sup>50</sup> Simonds, at his mentor's suggestion, voraciously read Downing's *The Horticulturalist*, works by Frederick Law Olmsted Sr., and writings from the English landscape school.<sup>51</sup> Coincidentally, this early friendship may be one of the reasons that Simonds' relationship with the benefactor of Riverview Park worked well, since Wilson B. Pettibone was also a philanthropist and visionary yet very humble.

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Lanthrop afforded Simonds great artistic freedom while working at Graceland Cemetery, allowing Simonds the opportunity to undertake significant experiments. In 1880, Simonds began transplanting indigenous plants such as oak, maple, and ash hornbeam. Bachrach notes Simonds' unique vision, for at that time the popular enthusiasms involved exotic foreign flora and "most people considered native plants invasive weeds."<sup>52</sup> From 1883 to 1888 he worked full-time as superintendent of the grounds, with Lanthrop again in the background providing inspiration. Simonds crafted a cemetery that closely resembled nature, incorporating elements of the native prairie, such as the clustering of trees and allowing grasses to grow untrimmed.<sup>53</sup> During the 1890s and 1900s, Simonds published many articles in journals such as *Park and Cemetery* and *Modern Cemetery*. Simonds gained a reputation as the "dean of cemetery design."<sup>54</sup> Eventually, Graceland Cemetery was recognized in the National Register of Historic Places because of Simonds contribution to landscape gardening.

Following his work at Graceland Cemetery, Simonds worked as an independent consultant designing the military installation north of Chicago, Fort Sheridan, which has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark. Simonds plan included a parade ground for military drills. However, instead of designing a formal roadway, he created a "meadow that extended back from the wooded bluff with a natural ravine as its border."<sup>55</sup> One can imagine that Simonds had to be steadfast in his plans to promote a naturalistic design for a military outpost that normally called for formality and stiffness.

By the 1890s Simonds was very much in demand and was able to form O.C. Simonds and Company, that later became O. C. Simonds and West, the firm that constructed Riverview Park. The company was located in the Lakeview area of Chicago on Buena Avenue. The tragedy of this office is that most of his documents were destroyed in a fire and few of Simonds plans have survived to the present. During the 1900s, Simonds worked on the extraordinary Lincoln Park in Chicago, constructing the famous lagoons. He worked with his old friend Lanthrop to acquire extensions of the park to Devon Avenue. Simonds concern was with encroaching buildings. He worked to keep buildings low and dark in color, encouraged the large park restaurant to be built by Prairie School architect Dwight H. Perkins, and included a naturalistic lagoon as well as low-lying loggias in his design.<sup>56</sup>

Simonds was working on the Lincoln Park project during the same period as the construction of Riverview Park. Like Riverview, many details about Lincoln Park are not known precisely because the plans were destroyed in the fire on Buena Avenue. However, a *Chicago Evening Post* writer remarked that Simonds was evidently inspired by creating views and vistas of Lake Michigan.<sup>57</sup> This characteristic is evident in Riverview as well, where he created equally dramatic views of the Mississippi River from the bluffs in the park.

In many ways, Simonds seemed to feel hemmed in by Chicago. He was able to work with adequate monetary resources, with the powerful Chicago Park District purchasing lands, but they were always constrained by the looming metropolis. While working simultaneously in Chicago, Simonds worked from 1895 until 1912 for the Boulevard and Park Association of Quincy, Illinois (across the Mississippi River and less than fifteen miles upriver from Hannibal). There he oversaw landscape management and designed eight parks. Bachrach notes that Simonds preferred the design opportunities of this area to Chicago because of "the expansive landscapes where natural attributes could be preserved and existing vegetation could be retained and enhanced with masses of indigenous plants."<sup>58</sup> In Quincy, Simonds had ample time to become an expert on the local terrain, appreciating the way that meadows and ravines could provide vistas. He was well prepared to develop plans for Riverview Park in 1908.

### WILSON B. PETTIBONE

Wilson B. Pettibone joined the community of Hannibal in 1876 at the age of 26 to begin directing his father's local lumber operations. The Pettibone lumber interests made Wilson B. Pettibone one of the most prominent entrepreneurs in the development of lumber industry in the Mississippi River Valley at the very time that the entire mid-section of the nation was being developed. Pettibone quickly organized several local lumber companies. His yards operating along the Mississippi,



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logging northern pine throughout the river valley, and drawing lumber from the interior of Kansas and Missouri. His local companies included the Hannibal Saw Mill and Hannibal Door and Sash Company, two of the community's largest industries in the late nineteenth century (both no longer standing). His business endeavors followed the evolution of the lumber industry to the Northwest. Yards were operated by various associations and companies such as Missouri Lumber, Louisiana Long Leaf Company, Lambert Lumber Company of Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and Pettibone Timber of Washington. The Pettibone lumber operations became the linchpin of Hannibal's economy, making it a major lumbering center in the Mississippi River Valley.<sup>59</sup>

Pettibone was also an outstanding banking leader and served on local boards and committees such as the Hannibal Chamber of Commerce, giving his time to promote the commercial advancement of Hannibal. In his lifetime he owned three different homes in Hannibal, each progressively more grand, indicative of his success as a businessman and of his stature as one of Hannibal's most prominent citizens. First, around 1882 he moved into an existing Italianate house at 1128 Broadway (Maple Avenue Historic District, NR listed 11/21/02). Then, in 1890 he commissioned his second home, a three story Queen Anne house, at 313 N. Fifth (Central Park Historic District, NR listed 10/82). Finally, in 1913 he moved into the palatial Georgian Revival mansion, Cliffside, at 8 Stillwell Place (Maple Avenue Historic District, NR listed 11/21/02). It was during his tenure in both his second and third home in Hannibal that he began to formulate his philanthropic vision for his adopted hometown. As part of this vision, he began accumulating the property and developing what ultimately became Riverview Park.<sup>60</sup>

Pettibone had made his fortune in the lumber industry, but he is best remembered as Hannibal's greatest philanthropist. He gave many generous gifts to the citizens of Hannibal during his lifetime, not just bequests in his will, notably the: 465 acres of land for the scenic Riverview Park; land and substantial financial support for the old Levering Hospital; furnishings for a new orphans' home; over \$200,000 to build a new school to replace the North School (which had burned in a fire); 80 acres of land that still serves as a community youth camp on the Mississippi River; playgrounds for a number of the schools; funds for improving and paving a number of Hannibal streets; and improvements to the local public library. Although not his most monetarily generous donation, one of Pettibone's most appreciated contributions was his personal guarantee of the Christmas savings accounts of 3,000 Hannibal school children after their savings bank failed at the beginning of the Great Depression. When Wilson B. Pettibone passed away on Sunday, October 20, 1946, the local news media lauded his beneficence to the City of Hannibal. Like many philanthropists, these proclamations not only remembered the generous endowments of Pettibone, but also illustrated his drive and vision for the community he called home.<sup>61</sup>

One can imagine a lumber baron like Pettibone traveling through the country's forests with a sense of awe towards nature, a sensibility that motivated his vision of Riverview Park as well as many of his other bequests to the citizens of Hannibal. Pettibone's philanthropic interests included schools and hospitals, and his projects provided not only for the improvement of buildings for these sites, but also transformed the grounds by undertaking landscape projects that enhanced the beauty of the sites. Pettibone purchased \$15,000 dollars worth of property and created a park in front of the Eugene Field School that improved the appearance of the neighborhood and gave children an area for recreation. Pettibone's concern for the well being of Hannibal's citizens also led him to purchase property surrounding the Levering Hospital and transform the site into a park. Pettibone's contributions also included the construction of a sun porch at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the construction of a playground site at Mark Twain School.<sup>62</sup> The common thread through each of these projects seems to be a concern for having public spaces where citizens of Hannibal could refresh themselves and enjoy the nature. In these early projects at schools and hospitals, Pettibone was motivated to create and preserve public spaces with a naturalistic setting. This philosophy culminated in his creation of Riverview Park, beginning with his initial purchase of land and hiring of a nationally recognized landscape architect, O. C. Simonds to fulfill his vision. Throughout that process, Pettibone maintained an active role in the park's development, helping direct its design decisions, even to the selection of trees, to ensure that it fulfilled his vision of a naturalistic setting for the enjoyment of both his own generation and many future generations of Hannibal's citizens.<sup>63</sup>

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### CONCLUSION

As the mature expression of the vision of Hannibal's greatest philanthropist, Wilson B. Pettibone, as well as the work of nationally recognized landscape designer O. C. Simonds, Riverview Park is significant under Criterion C: Landscape Design. Simonds was a leading proponent of a naturalistic landscape, a movement that developed in the late nineteenth century and came to be known as the prairie style of landscape design. Given the strict constraints placed upon the park board by the park's creator and benefactor, Wilson B. Pettibone, to preserve Riverview Park as a naturalistic environment for future generations, Riverview Park has successfully survived nearly a hundred years and provided numerous generations of Hannibal's citizens with the opportunity to experience the magnificent beauty of this maturing arboretum, fulfilling the vision of both Pettibone and Simonds. As such, the property is also significant under Criterion A: Conservation for its role in the conservation movement. Since so little has been altered in the park, other than the changes brought by the maturation of the original plantings (with only minor changes to the plantings around the statue and the loss of some of the wooded areas at the south end of the park for a highway interchange) and given that so few of the landscape designs from this period have survived into the twenty first century, especially with their original design intact, Riverview Park has even greater significance to the legacy of efforts to retain what today is valued as one of our few remaining green spaces.

### ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1986), pp. 227-230.

<sup>2</sup> Linda Flint McClelland, *Preserving Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1993), p. 35.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 19, 34.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 12.

<sup>5</sup> "Park Artist Here," *Hannibal Courier Post*, May 13, 1909 in A. Wells Pettibone, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>6</sup> McClelland, *Presenting Nature*, p. 35.

<sup>7</sup> Wilhelm Miller, *The Prairie Spirit in Landscape Gardening*, University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station, Circular No. 184 (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1915), n.p., cited in Julia Sniderman Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds: Conservation Ethic in the Prairie Style." *Midwestern Landscape Architecture*, n.p.:n.d., pp. 80-98.

<sup>8</sup> Miller, *Prairie Spirit*, n.p.; McClelland, *Presenting Nature*, p. 35.

<sup>9</sup> Deed of Gift, 16 January 1909, Book 197, p. 402, A. Wells Pettibone, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>10</sup> "Biography," Vertical File, Missouri Room, Hannibal Free Public Library. Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>11</sup> "Will of Wilson B. Pettibone." 16 October 1946, pp. 5-6, *Deed Books*, Book 13, p. 452, Circuit Clerk & Recorder Office, Marion County (Palmyra), Missouri.

<sup>12</sup> Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 228; Marge Deline, "An Interview with Wells Pettibone," 5 July 1985, in Parks: Riverview, Private Collection of Roberta and J. Hurley Hagood, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>13</sup> Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, pp. 228-229.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Deline, "Interview with Wells Pettibone."

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

<sup>16</sup> Miscellaneous Notes, HCP 8/1/17, HCP5/27/24, HCP6/3/24 in J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri; "Riverview Park Timeline," Parks Riverview, in J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>17</sup> Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 229.

<sup>18</sup> Great River Engineering, Inc., "Preliminary Boundary Survey. Riverview Park-Hannibal, MO," Hannibal, Mo.: Great River Engineering, Inc., 5 May 2004.

<sup>19</sup> Wilson B. Pettibone to Captain C. J. Lewis and Mr. George D. Clayton, 1908, typescript of letter in Parks: Riverview, Private Collection of J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Deline, "Interview with Wells Pettibone."

<sup>22</sup> Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 228.

<sup>23</sup> Miscellaneous Notes, HCP 6-6-09 in J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>24</sup> Deline, "Interview with Wells Pettibone."

<sup>25</sup> "Park Artist Here."

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> "Pettibone Was Kept on Go." *Hannibal Courier Post*, June 17, 1909, in A. Wells Pettibone, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>28</sup> Roberta Hagood to Esley Hamilton, 1 September 1981, Parks: Riverview, J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.; "Riverview Park Timeline," Parks Riverview, in J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri; "Hurry Park Tree Planting," November 17, 1909 clipping in A. Wells Pettibone, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.; Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 229.

<sup>31</sup> Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 229.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., pp. 228-229; Miscellaneous Notes, HCP June 22, 1909 in J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>33</sup> "Hurry Park Tree Planting."

<sup>34</sup> Miscellaneous Notes, HCP 11/16/09 in J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>35</sup> Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 229.

<sup>36</sup> Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds," p. 89.

<sup>37</sup> "Mark Twain Memorial and Its Setting," *Park and Cemetery Magazine*, 22 (December 1912): 236, in A. Wells Pettibone, Private Collection, Hannibal, Mo.

<sup>38</sup> O. C. Simonds to W. B. Pettibone, 31, October 1929, in A. Wells Pettibone, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

<sup>39</sup> Doug S. Reinert. Survey of Tree Species in Riverview Park. Hannibal, circa 1998, transmitted in e-mail to Karen Bode Baxter, 29 April 2004.

<sup>40</sup> Haygood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 229.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., p. 229; "Mark Twain Never Forgot Hannibal," *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post*, 28 March 1925, 1, in A. Wells Pettibone, Private Collection, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>42</sup> "Mark Twain Memorial," p. 236.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> "Mark Twain Memorial," pp. 236-238.

<sup>45</sup> Hagood, *Hannibal Too*, p. 230.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds," p. 95.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ossian Cole Simonds, "Graceland at Chicago," *American Landscape Architecture* 6 (January 1932), 12 cited in Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds."

<sup>50</sup> Ossian Cole Simonds, *Landscape Gardening*. New York: Macmillan, 1920 cited in Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds."

<sup>51</sup> Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds," p. 83.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid, p. 84.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Robert E. Grese, "Ossian Cole Simonds," *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*, ed. W.H. Tishler (Washington, D. C.: Preservation Press, 1989), p. 74.

<sup>55</sup> Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds," p. 85.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid., p. 86.

<sup>57</sup> Clark, Edward B. "Formality Ousted in Improvements in Northern Park," *Chicago Evening Post*, 6 April 1907, 1-2, Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds."

<sup>58</sup> Bachrach, "Ossian Cole Simonds," p. 89).

<sup>59</sup> Pettibone, Vertical File, Missouri Room, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>60</sup> "Buildings: Broadway," in J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, comps. *Hannibal History Index*. 1976-present. Joint Collection of the University of Missouri Western Historical Manuscript Collection and the State Historical Society of Missouri Manuscripts. State Historical Society of Missouri. Columbia, Missouri. (Microfilm, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Mo.); J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, *The Story of Hannibal* (Hannibal, Mo.: Hannibal Free Public Library, 1976), pp. 69, 77, 104, 108, 110-111, 118, 127, 136, 141, 146, 147, 158, 166, 170, 179, 198, 218, 238, 303; and Esley Hamilton, "Historic Survey of Hannibal, Missouri," prepared for Landmarks Commission, June 1979, updated for Hannibal Arts Council, August 1982, stored at the Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Missouri Historic Preservation Program, Jefferson City, Missouri.

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)

<sup>61</sup> F. J. Bloom, "Other Public Benefactions Made in Will," in "W. B. Pettibone Dies, Funeral to Be Tuesday," *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post* (22 October 1946), in Missouri Room, Pettibone, Wilson B., Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri; "1890 Account Glows," in "1838 Anniversary Edition 1998, 150 Years, *The Hannibal Courier-Post*," Section III: Business & Industry, *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post*, 25 August 1988, p. 7, Missouri Room, Hannibal History Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri; "Gave Hannibal Riverview Park, Other Benefactions," in "W. B. Pettibone Dies, Funeral to Be Tuesday," *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post*, (22 October 1946), Missouri Room, Pettibone, Wilson B., Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri; J. Hurley and Roberta Hagood, "Cliffside Mansion: A House of History," *Hannibal Courier-Post* (9 January 1993), 9, Missouri Room, Pettibone, Wilson B., Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri; Hagood, *Hannibal History Index*, "Pettibone, W. B.", "Stillwell Family", "Stillwell, Richard H.", and "Streets: Hill"; Hagood, *The Story of Hannibal*, pp. 45, 69, 77, 102, 103, 104, 107, 108, 110-111, 118, 127, 136, 141, 146, 147, 158, 166, 170, 179, 198, 218, 238, 303; Hamilton, "Historic Survey"; "Mr. Pettibone's Trust for Riverview," n.d., clipping in Missouri Room, Pettibone, Wilson B., Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri; "W. B. Pettibone Dies, Funeral to Be Tuesday," *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post*, 22 October 1946, Missouri Room, Pettibone, Wilson B., Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri; Linda Whelan, "Pettibone Home Has Fine Woods," *Hannibal (Missouri) Courier-Post*, 5 May 1979, p. 11, Missouri Room, Pettibone, Wilson B., Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri.; and "Wilson B. Pettibone," clipping Missouri Room, Pettibone, Wilson B., Vertical File, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>62</sup> Pettibone, Vertical File, Missouri Room, Hannibal Free Public Library, Hannibal, Missouri.

<sup>63</sup> *Ibid.*

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Marion County, MO

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Marion County, MO

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Marion County, MO

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Marion County, MO

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A: 15 640340 4398010  
B: 15 639520 4397600  
C: 15 639120 4397855  
D: 15 639040 4398380  
E: 15 639040 4398740  
F: 15 639540 4398975

### Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries of the park as drawn with the heavy black line on the attached survey map "Preliminary Boundary Survey, Riverview Park-Hannibal, MO" provided by Great River Engineering Inc., dated May 30, 2004.

### Boundary Justification

As best as can be determined based upon field survey and deed research, these boundaries incorporate all of the property that has been historically associated with Riverview Park and the property's legal descriptions.

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Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO

### Photo Log

Photographer: Butch Anderson

March 2003

Negatives with photographer: River City Photo, 320 N. 3<sup>rd</sup>, Hannibal, MO 63401

Photo #1: View of park from Illinois side of Mississippi River, close up of one overlook, Mark Twain statue viewable, looking southwest

Photo #2: Park entrance at Harrison Road, looking east

Photo #3: Pettibone plaque at juncture of park road and walking trail (old logging road), looking east

Photo #4: Looking north down walking trail (old logging road)

Photo #5: First scenic overlook, looking northeast across Mississippi River

Photo #6: Roadway between first and second overlook, looking east

Photo #7: Mark Twain statue at second overlook, looking west

Photo #8: Looking southeast down Mississippi River from third scenic overlook

Photo #9: Looking north at trees at crest of hilltop, behind water filtration plant

Photo #10: Scenic road in central part of park, looking south

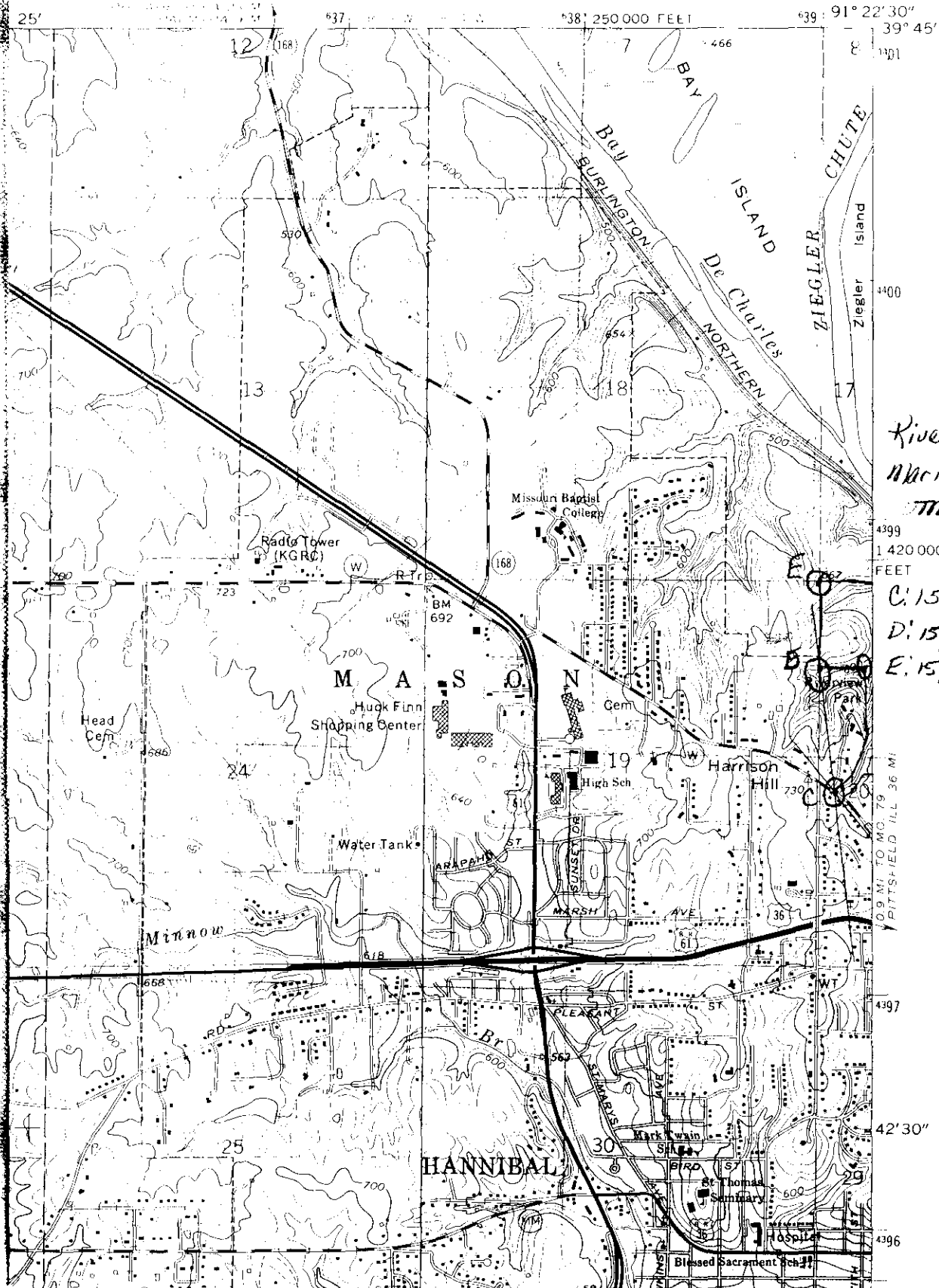
Photo #11: Area behind water filtration plant, looking east at area used as playground (Water Department land)

Photo #12: View of water filtration plan (filtration building, water storage tank, and concrete treatment tank), facing east

HANNIBAL WEST QUADRANGLE  
MISSOURI  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

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(MARBLEHEAD)

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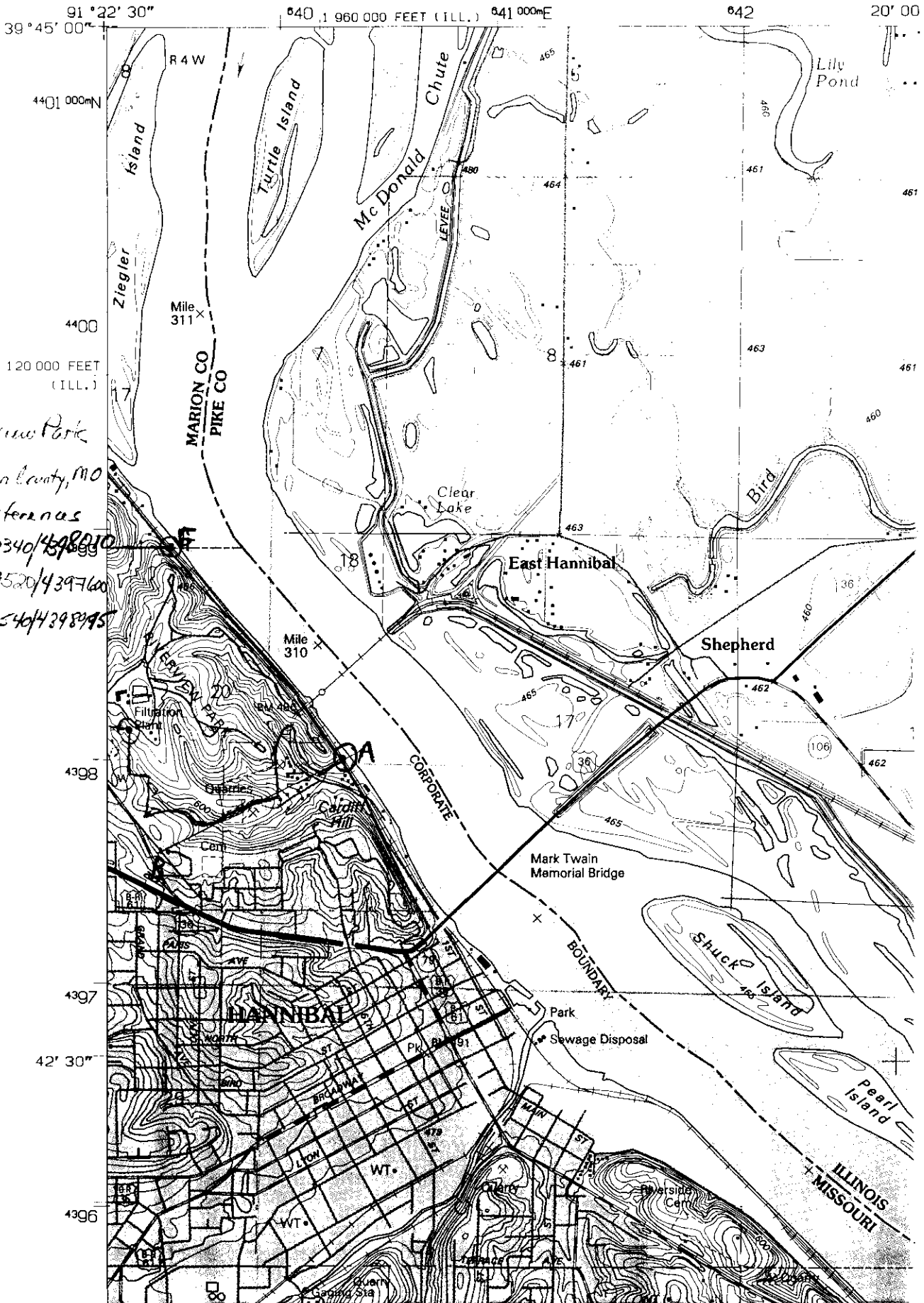
Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO  
TM References:

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FEET

C: 15/639120/4397855  
D: 15/639040/4392380  
E: 15/639040/4398740

10.9 MI. TO MO. 79  
PITTSFIELD ILL. 36 MI

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO  
UTM References  
A: 15/640340/439800  
B: 15/639520/439760  
File: 15/639540/439895



Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo #1



River View Park  
Marion County, MO.  
Photo #2



RIVERVIEW PARK  
A GIFT FROM  
WILSON B. PETTIBONE  
TO THE  
CITY OF HAMILTON  
THOSE GRATEFUL CITIZENS HAVE  
PLACED THIS TABLET HERE  
1929

River View Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo #3

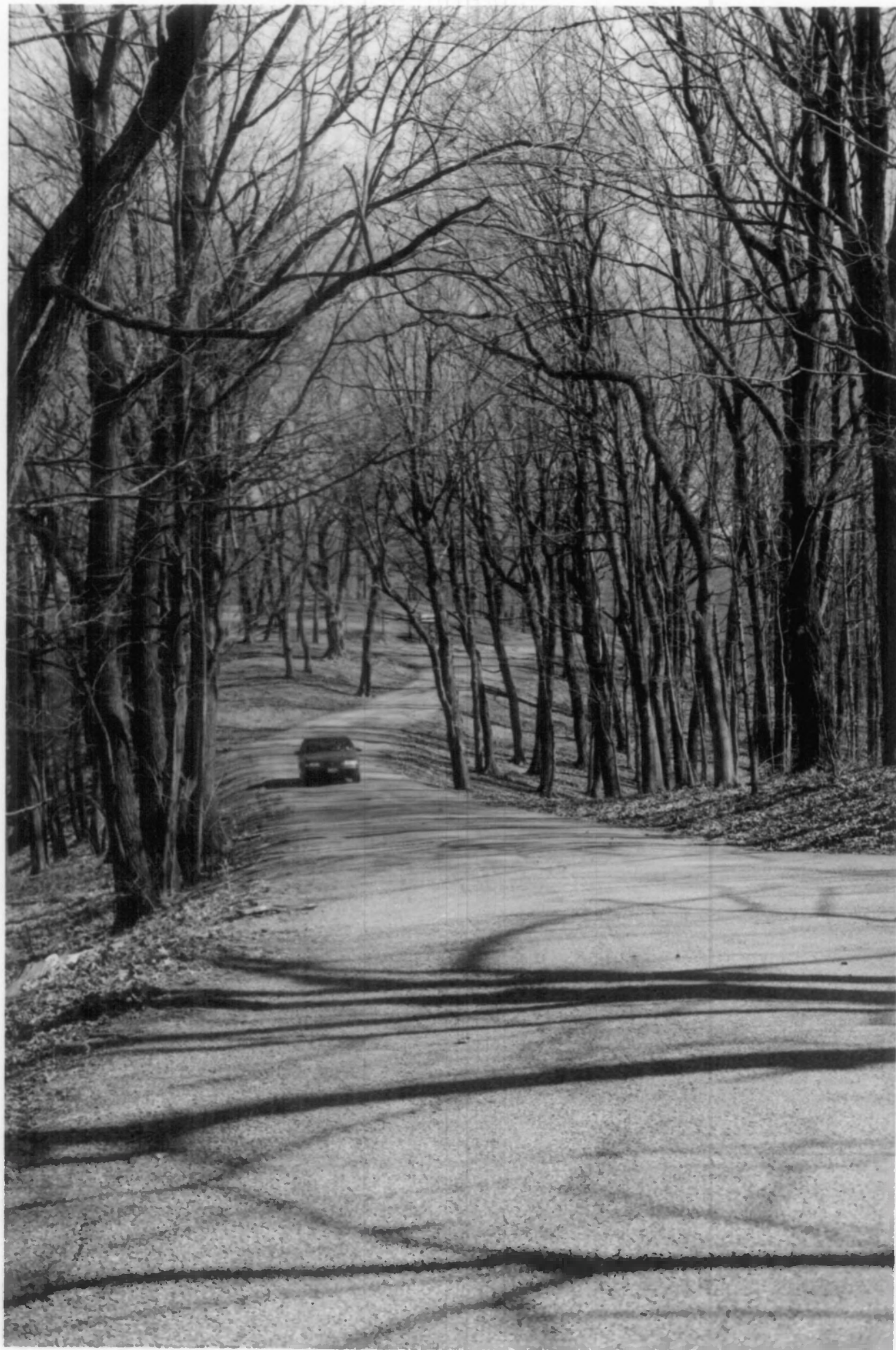




Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo # 4



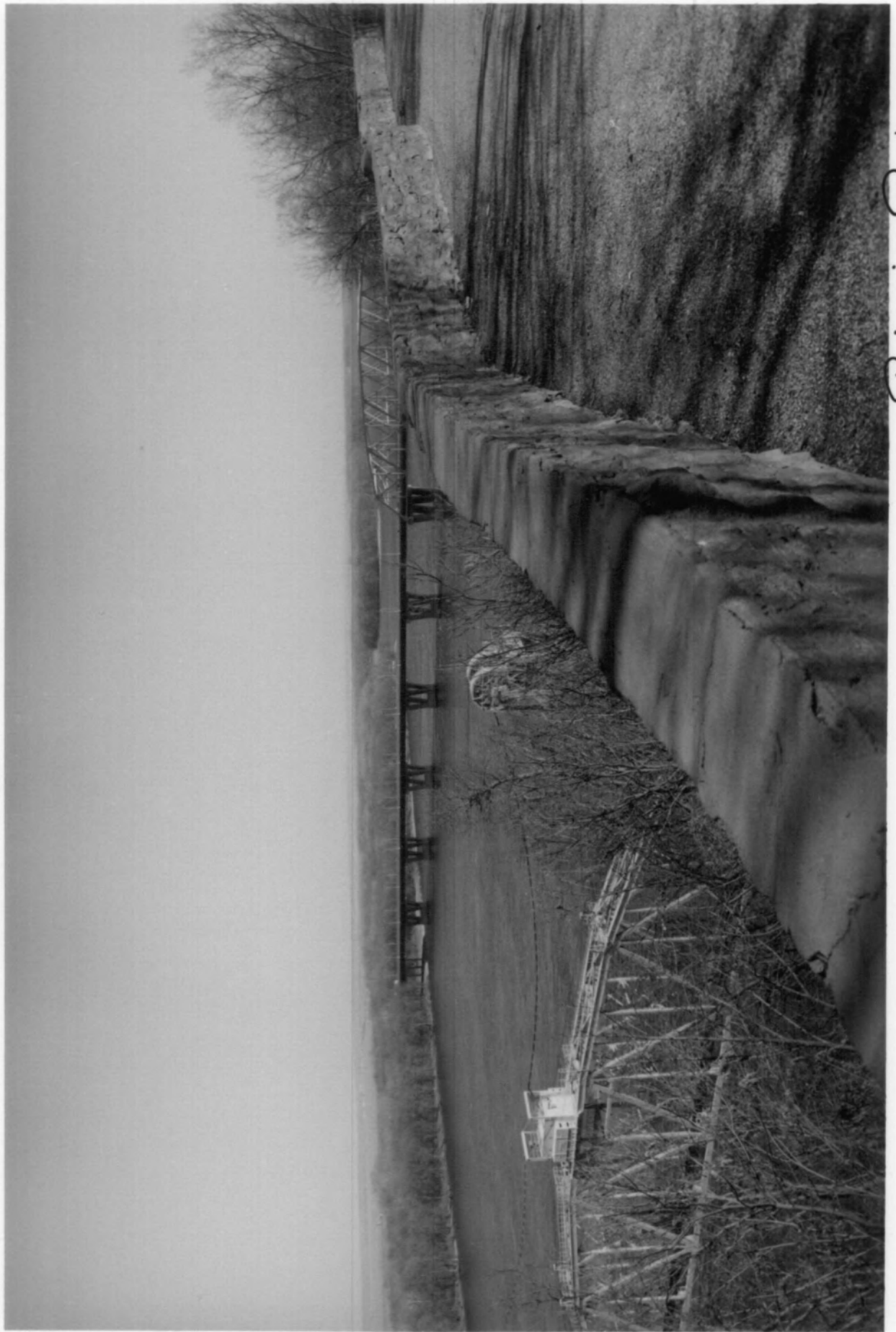
Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo #5



Riverview Park  
Marion County, MO.  
Photo #6



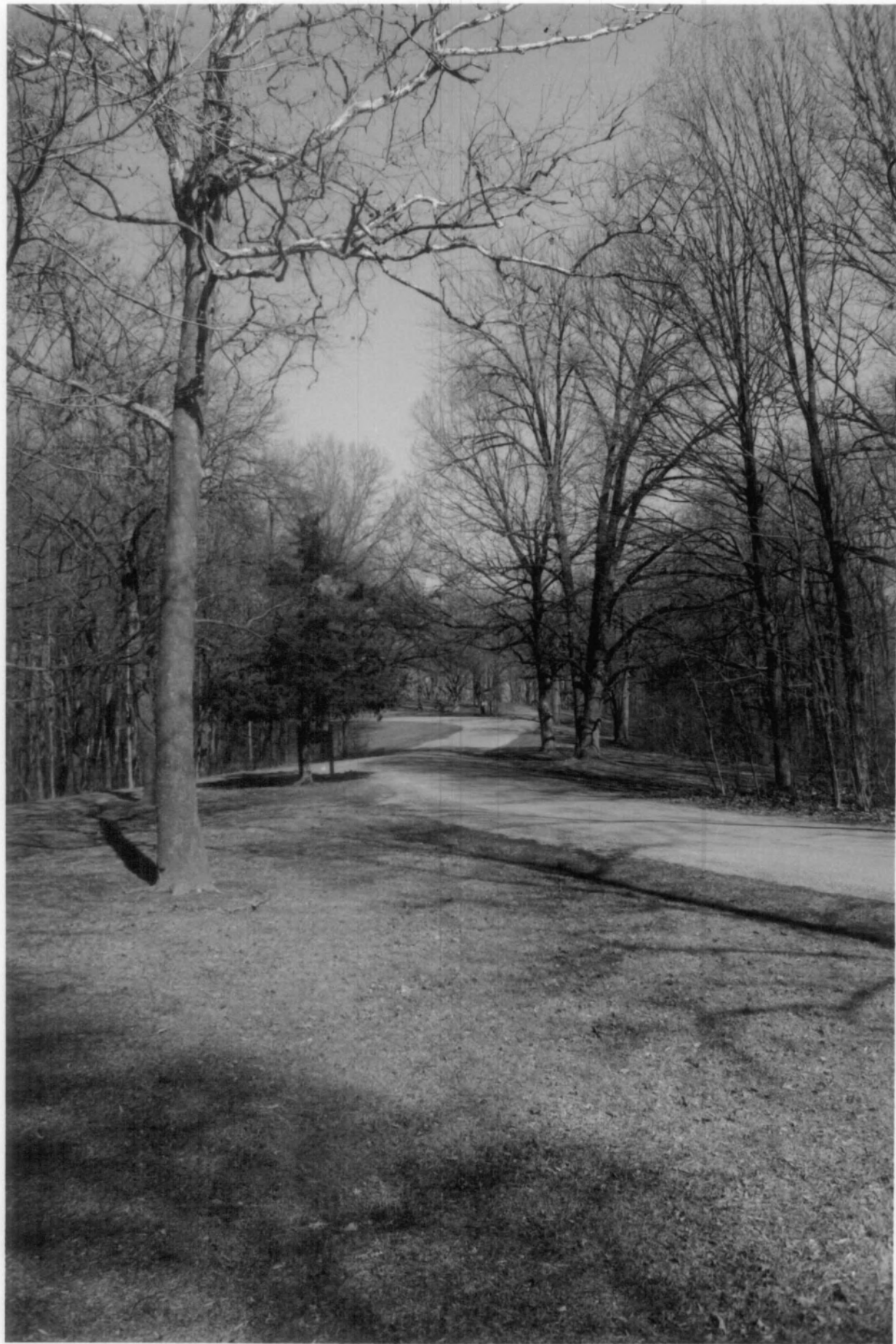
Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo #7



Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo # 8



Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo #9



Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo  
Photo # 10



Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo #11





Riverview Park  
Marion County, Mo.  
Photo # 12