NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

JUL 1 0 2008

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name St. Francis City Park

Other name/site number Howard T. Sawhill City Park (preferred)

2. Location

Street & number 300 Block of East Washington Street ☐ not for publication

City or town St. Francis ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Cheyenne Code 023 Zip code 67756

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.)

Patrick Zollner 5/23/08

Patrick Zollner, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action

☐ 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:)

Howard T. Sawhill Park
Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Kansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
1		sites
1		structures
2		objects
5		total

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

New Deal-era Resources of Kansas

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE / Park
RECREATION & CULTURE / Theater & Music Facility
SOCIAL / Civic

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE / Park
RECREATION & CULTURE / Theater & Music Facility
SOCIAL / Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT / Art Deco

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: CONCRETE
Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT

Other:

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

Howard T. Sawhill Park
Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Kansas
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

- [x] **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 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 it 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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT / RECREATION

PERFORMING ARTS

Period of Significance

1934-1958

Significant Dates

July 26, 1936

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sawhill, Howard T.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] 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:

Cheyenne County Historical Museum

Howard T. Sawhill Park
Name of Property

Cheyenne County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	260330	4406340
2	14	260425	4406340
3	14	260425	4406330
4	14	260420	4406250

☐ 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 J. Greg Kite, President

Organization HISTORC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE Date February 22, 2008

Street & number 230 North Market, Suite 201 Telephone (316) 269-9432

City or town Wichita State KS Zip code 67202-2006

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name Cheyenne County (Terry Miller, County Clerk) - see continuation sheet

Street & number 212 East Washington Street Telephone (785) 332-8800

City or town St. Francis State KS Zip code 67756

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

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Dedicated on July 26, 1934, the Howard T. Sawhill Park, originally known as the St. Francis City Park, is centrally located in the 300 Block of East Washington Street in St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas. It is situated on the main street downtown immediately to the east of the city's most prominent building, the Cheyenne County Courthouse. Completed at a cost of approximately $7,000.00, the city park was designed by Howard T. Sawhill (1887-1960), who also supervised its construction. The most important features of the park are the band shell, amphitheatre, center fountain and memorial American flag. The park is significant because the band shell, in particular, along with the amphitheatre, is representative of the very few remaining structures built at the time, such as the Wolf Park Band Shell (1930) in Ellinwood, Kansas and the Central Park Band Shell (1910) in Conway Springs, Kansas.

Park

The entire park is laid out around a central fountain. There are four entrances to the park – the main entrance on the southwest corner and three smaller entrances on the north, south and west sides. The main entrance is bordered by two large brick pillars, inlaid with rough granite, each surmounted by concrete urns, supporting 5-globe torcheres. The entrances on the north, south and west are bordered by smaller pillars, constructed of native sandstone from Cherry Creek, again surmounted by concrete urns, but without torcheres. The entrances on the south and west are original, while the entrance on the north was added later. Sidewalks from all four entrances join at an outer circle of sidewalk, which surrounds the fountain.

The band shell and amphitheatre are situated on the east side. At the southeast corner is an American flag painted on a concrete slab. The north, west and most of the south side are composed of grass plots. An edging of rock terraces the level grass plot on the northwest. Six stone benches with wooden seats are placed to the west and south of the amphitheatre. Originally, there were also artistic stone drinking fountains throughout the park, including one inside the center entrance to the amphitheatre and one in front of the painted concrete flag. In addition, there were bird baths and a little sundial on the fountain, upon which was inscribed the motto: "I count none but the sunny hours."

Band Shell

Built of cement bricks from the interior walls of the old jail and finished in cream colored stucco, the band shell reflects the Art Deco architectural style that was so popular in the 1930's. The band shell presents a quarter sphere interior, filled with rows of lights, facing to the west toward the amphitheatre. It is well known for its unique and wonderful acoustics. There are two accesses to the front of the band shell – one on either side, which mount steps to the stage. The band shell's façade is ornamented with a raised triangular application on each side and a raised harp application at the top of the structure. Originally, the outer edge above the stage was framed by a decorative rainbow, the harp was painted gold and below the stage, in regular bars and notes, was written the music of "America," lighted to be visible to the audience.

The building measures approximately 36 feet 2 inches in width and 33 feet 4 inches in depth with a stage that extends forward 3 feet 7 inches. It contains two rooms and three bathrooms. A door in the back of the stage leads into a large rehearsal room, which also has a rear access door on the east near the southeast corner. This upper room measures approximately 34 feet 8 inches in length and 14 feet 8 inches in width with lath and plaster walls and a wooden floor. It has four windows, two on the east side and one on the north and south sides, each measuring approximately 4 feet 3 inches in length and 3 feet 2 inches in height. It also contains two small bathrooms in the triangular space formed by the back of the round stage and the rectangular room behind. These bathrooms have one tall, narrow window, each measuring approximately 3 feet 3 inches in height and 1 foot in width. The bathroom for "Ladies" is in the corner on the north and the bathroom for "Men" is in the corner on the south. Each of these bathrooms has the original, pull-chain toilet with an elevated, wall-mount, cylindrical, galvanized metal tank, as well as a small oval porcelain sink. There are two rows of coat hangers in the bathroom for "Ladies" and one row of coat hangers in the bathroom for "Men." An inside staircase, measuring approximately 3 feet 4 inches wide, leads to a full basement, which has been used for meetings. This lower room measures approximately 30 feet 6 inches in length and 14 feet 3 inches in width with lath and plaster walls and a concrete floor. It has four windows, two on the north and south sides, each measuring approximately 2 feet 10 inches in length and 1 foot 11 inches in height. It also contains one very small bathroom in the southeast corner. It has the original, pull-chain toilet with an elevated, wall-mount, rectangular, wooden tank. However, unlike the two upstairs bathrooms, there is no sink. The band shell also features four beautifully hand-painted murals depicting the growth and development of Cheyenne County. They are "The Westward Trail," "The Price of the West," "The Spirit of Cheyenne," and "The Hope of Tomorrow."

Amphitheater

Constructed in a horseshoe design that faces the band shell, the oval-shaped amphitheatre is built of cement with four rows of seats and measures approximately 97 feet 4 inches in length and 62 feet 2 inches in width. Originally, it had an upper row of seats constructed of hedge poles to harmonize with seats in other parts of the park. It will still seat comfortably 700, but has held as many as 2,500. It is crowned by a railing made of painted metal pipe. Originally, the railing was rustic in appearance and made of native wood. There are three entrances to the amphitheatre – one through the center of the back, which passes under the steps of an archway, and two side entrances, which approach by sidewalks from the street and mount steps to the top row of seats. Originally, rustic wood arched over the three entrances and supported copper lamps for lighting. The center of the amphitheatre is carpeted with grass. Today, a flag pole stands on the north edge of the sidewalk just outside of the center entrance.

The amphitheatre has also been known as the "Rose Bowl" because the intention was to have roses growing in profusion around it. The sloped outsides of the back of the amphitheatre are surrounded by a rock garden composed of native boulders from Cherry Creek. Originally, it was planted with a variety of flowers. In addition, a special niche was built on the southwest side, near a shaded bench. A verse calligraphically lettered by the designer, Mr. Sawhill, was set behind plate glass, surrounded by ivy growing among the stones. His wife, Vivian, selected lines from Tennyson's poem, "Flower in the Crannied Wall" for the sanctuary.

Fountain

Located at the center, the entire park is laid out around the fountain. Made of cement, the fountain was poured on location in a mold of earth patted in by hand. The fountain has stone supports on four sides and measures approximately 14 feet 6 inches in diameter. It is edged by an inner circle of sidewalk, which has in it formed the date of completion of "1934," as well as the name "ST FRANCIS CHEYENNE CO." Originally, there was a rock column in the center of the fountain from which rose an illuminated spray of water. In addition, the bowl of the fountain served as a pool for goldfish brought from a farm and cattails grew from its center. Originally, benches of rustic design were placed at intervals around the outer circle of sidewalk facing the fountain and a large bed of cannas and zinnias was planted around a flag pole erected by the Boy Scouts west of the fountain. Also, three hundred pansy plants were set out around the fountain circle. Originally, stepping-stones instead of sidewalks approached the fountain.

Flag

Painted on a concrete slab facing main street, the memorial American flag is situated on a grassy mound at the southeast corner of the park. The flag measures approximately 10 feet 8 inches in length, 6 feet 9 inches in height and ranges from 3 feet 7 inches at the base to 6 inches at the top in thickness. The concrete floor of the old jail was left to form its base. A floodlight illuminates it at night. Originally, there was a fringe of red poppies along the sides and a rock garden with evergreens behind. It had been hoped that the flag would be guarded by two large canons.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard T. Sawhill Park is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historical significance because of its association with the growth and development of the City of St. Francis. The park was created shortly after the Great Depression and was the result of the City Council arranging for the Civil Works Administration (CWA) to employ workmen and provide federal funds to help finance the project. It was an oasis in the downtown during the Dust Bowl era and it has been a centerpiece in the community for nearly seventy-five (75) years. This nomination is part of the "New Deal-Era Resources of Kansas" MPS.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND DEVELOPMENT

The decade of the 1930's opened in the wake of the stock market crash in October, 1929. During the Great Depression that followed, the nation's financial markets collapsed and industrial production was paralyzed. Millions were thrown into unemployment lines at a time of little governmental interest in economic planning or comprehensive relief programs. Catastrophes of nature added to this bleak picture and parts of the country became known as the Dust Bowl.

In an effort to ease massive unemployment, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs marked the U.S. government's first big, direct investment in cultural development. Under the National Recovery Act, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) was managed by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and provided jobs for more than twenty million men and women during 1933 and 1934. The CWA (Civil Works Administration) should not be confused with the WPA (Works Progress Administration, later Work Projects Administration), which was not launched until the spring of 1935, the beginning of FDR's "Second New Deal," as his second term came to be known. The Civil Works plans were put into operation to bridge the interval of time necessary to get the Public Works program into effect. The Civil Works plans were a sort of "first aid treatment" intended to provide only temporary relief, while the Public Works program was the "medicine" intended to heal the sickness and enable people to take care of their own needs.

Cheyenne County received a total allotment of $38,200.00 from the federal government for work on nine (9) CWA projects. Of these, two (2) were sponsored by the City of St. Francis. One of these was to create a park on a block of land just east of the courthouse and the other one was to rebuild the light and power line from the plant to the business district. These projects fulfilled the administration's goal that "a certain number of people should be put to work doing something worthwhile on full time pay for thirty hours per week." In Cheyenne County, the payroll for one particular week amounted to $2,853.96 for 209 workers, which for a 30-hour week, averaged 46¢ per hour per worker.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

With the idea of a city park in mind, work commenced on a plot of ground comprising an entire block just east of the new Courthouse, a Classical Revival style, 4-story, masonry structure, built in 1924. Trees were already there and furnished wonderful shade, so the groundwork was established for the park. They had been planted years earlier when the block still held the old Courthouse, an Italianate style, 2-story, wood frame structure, built in 1889.

Originally, it had been intended for the park to be located on the ground where the Courthouse now stands. That was the purpose for which the block had been purchased. However, before anything more than the planting of trees could be done, it was decided to build the present Courthouse there. Thoughts of a park were then dropped for nearly ten (10) years. Thereafter, in the summer of 1933, city officials decided to build "a comfortable little park," using a five year program. However, by the winter of 1933, the City of St. Francis began drawing CWA funds from the federal government to pay men who needed work. As a potential project, a much grander park was proposed.

A member of the City Council said, "But we need someone to make the plans. There's no use in spending [money] until we know what we're going to do." "I know just the man," another replied," i.e. Howard T. Sawhill. "From then on . . . it seemed that the park . . . under the guidance of the planner they chose . . . was just like so many parts to a jig-saw puzzle, each piece to be put in place until the whole thing was completed . . ."

In the southeast corner of the block was a square red brick building, once the county jail, then a Boy Scout hut. West of it were the remains of a foundation where the first Courthouse stood in St. Francis. First, the old jail was torn down. Men blew warm breath on their fingers and cleaned every brick for further use. Next, fertilizer was brought in and spaded under. Thereafter, water pipes were laid and spray that ran all day turned to ice. Finally, the newly poured sidewalks were covered with straw and dirt.

As it grew warmer, the real construction began. The cement bricks of the interior walls of the old jail were used for the band shell. The concrete floor of the old jail was left to form a base for the concrete slab upon which the flag would be painted. An oval-shaped amphitheatre of cement was built in front of the band shell, forms were made for the fountain in the center and pillars of brick and stone were erected at each of the three entrances.

Rich black dirt was spread around to transform the barren ground into fertile topsoil. Grass was planted initially on the mound below the flag, around the fountain and in the center of the amphitheatre. Then the rock garden was begun. 150 tons of native boulders from Cherry Creek were hauled in. Most of these were used on the sloped outsides of the Rose Bowl, but some edged the inner circle around the fountain.

THE VISIONARY: HOWARD T. SAWHILL

Planner, designer, landscaper, artist, sculptor, construction supervisor and dreamer were among the many labels used to describe the visionary of the St. Francis City Park: Howard T. Sawhill. The respect the community held for him was expressed in an article in the Thursday, April 26, 1934 issue of *The Saint Francis Herald* newspaper, which stated: "H.T. Sawhill, who we will put up against any landscaper in the universe, consented to work out a set of plans and to sort of oversee the work of construction." With his wife Vivian at his side, Mr. Sawhill volunteered to plan the design for and supervise the construction of the park, including the Art Deco band shell, oval-shaped amphitheatre, center fountain and memorial American flag, as well as laying out the trees, shrubs, shaded green lawns and colorful gardens.

In creating the city park, Howard T. Sawhill did not limit himself to simply supervising the construction; he was personally involved in the construction. One at a time, Mr. Sawhill poured wet cement into a bowl-shaped mold, which he had devised, and formed planters and lamp posts for the gates and entryways. The center fountain was poured on location in a mold of earth he patted in by hand. It was really a triumph of homemade ingenuity. He laid stepping stones toward the fountain from four directions and placed benches along the paths, each with a planned view.

Howard Thomas Sawhill was born in Concordia, Kansas on March 25, 1887. He was the son of Thomas A. and Nora (Whitmarsh), who came to Concordia from Ohio in 1878. His father was the first superintendent of Schools and later Editor of the Concordia Empire newspaper. Howard spent his boyhood in Concordia. He attended Washington & Jefferson College in Pennsylvania for one year, the College of Emporia in Kansas for two years and received his B.A. degree from Colorado College in 1912. He then studied at the Chicago Art Institute and the Academy of Fine Arts for two years, planning a career in commercial art. While in Chicago, he contracted tuberculosis and was forced to go to Colorado until he was cured. Doctors told him that a life in the eastern states, the only market at that time for commercial art, would be too severe a risk to his health. Art had to become his hobby.

On June 20, 1916, Howard married Vivian Perkins, whom he had met at the College of Emporia. They were wed at her mother's Colorado Springs home. Filling in for her deceased father, his cousin Dr. James Perkins gave the bride away. He was Mayor of Denver, an honorary position in those days. The following year, the young couple moved to St. Francis, where Howard's father had purchased an interest in the Cheyenne County State Bank. Howard was Treasurer and Cashier, and was described as "the red-headed kid at the bank." In 1918, he became the President of the Bank, working there a total of 38 years. Howard and Vivian raised three children, the eldest of whom was adopted.

Howard gave away his artistic talent to the community. For many years, he designed and built city Christmas decorations for the town's main intersection. He landscaped the High School and designed and painted gates to the cemetery. After the City Park was completed, he oversaw its care and upkeep, repainting the flag regularly, and looking after every detail as he would his own backyard. Several churches requested murals, which remained for years. During World War II, he designed and built a large Roster that stood outside west of the Courthouse and listed the name of every Cheyenne County serviceman. He hand-lettered individual boards so that he could continue to add and rearrange them all in alphabetical order. When the war ended and the Roster was dismantled, he made a small hand-painted replica to hang inside the Courthouse.

In 1955, he sold his interest in the bank and bought a home in Denver, where he and Vivian continued to grow roses and enjoy hobbies together. Howard died in August, 1960 and Vivian, with increasingly frail health, died in August, 1975. While Howard T. Sawhill is gone, his legacy lives on in the hearts and minds of the citizens of the City of St. Francis and Cheyenne County for his many contributions to the community, among those, the St. Francis City Park.

ENTERTAINMENT, RECREATION AND PERFORMING ARTS

The Howard T. Sawhill Park is of particular historical significance because of its contribution to the entertainment, recreation and performing arts of the community. Even before the park was formally dedicated, the first of a series of concerts by the City Band, made up of farmers and townspeople, was held at the band shell, beginning on June 15, 1934. Thereafter, director Harley Bruce Doak of the City Band arranged for a concert to be given on July 13, 1934, which included both the local band and the Benkelman band, bringing together some fifty musicians.

During the years that followed, the St. Francis City Park was the setting for outdoor concerts by the City Band, Boy Scout meetings in the basement of the band shell, special functions, public gatherings and family picnics. Today, the Howard T. Sawhill Park is the setting for many special events, including the annual Cheyenne County Car Show, the Relay for Life and the Farmers' Market, as well as for productions in the amphitheatre, concerts in the band shell and community functions, such as the annual High School Reunion Banquet.

There are a number of significant dates/events in the history of the city park, among those: July 26, 1934, when the park was formally dedicated; June 16, 1966, when the name was officially changed; and April 29, 1978, when the park was rededicated after renovation. On July 26, 1934, with a crowd in attendance estimated at five to seven thousand, the St. Francis City Park was formally dedicated. The celebration involved an all day program, including band concerts, a dedication service, ball games, swimming and diving exhibitions, and Indian tribal dances and songs.

Then, at a dedication ceremony held on June 16, 1966, six years after Howard T. Sawhill's death, the name of the city park was changed. The official resolution of the city council declaring the name to be the Howard T. Sawhill Park was read by Mayor Owen Watkins. In response to the dedication of the park, Mr. Sawhill's wife, Vivian, stated, among other things: "I feel sure that Howard is here in spirit today. This was one of his favorite spots on earth." A tribute to Howard T. Sawhill was given by "an old friend," Rev. B.W. Thomas.

Subsequently, on April 29, 1978 – after 4,600 man hours of volunteer labor and $20,500.00 in donations – Sawhill Park, which had won top honors in the State PRIDE program – was rededicated. Kansas Governor Robert F. Bennett was the guest speaker. Virginia Sawhill Galloway (daughter of Howard and Vivian), along with her husband and children, were in attendance to represent the family. The extensive renovation included removing dead trees, stumps and undesirable vegetation; replacing the deteriorated wood railing around the amphitheatre with metal; rebuilding the native rock and wood benches; restoring the various urns; pouring yard after yard of new sidewalk; installing an automatic underground sprinkler system; seeding grass; and planting trees.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Newspapers

The Saint Francis Herald, January 11, 1934; March 22, 1934; April 26, 1934; May 24, 1934; May 31, 1934; June 14, 1934; June 28, 1934; July 12, 1934; July 19, 1934; July 26, 1934; August 2, 1934; April 27, 1978; May 9, 1985.

Books

Farming the Dust Bowl: A First-Hand Account from Kansas by Lawrence Svobida. University of Kansas Press, 1986.

Rooted in Dust: Surviving Drought and Depression in Southwestern Kansas by Pamela Riney-Kehrberg. University of Kansas Press, 1994.

The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas, Compiled and Written by the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Projects Administration for the State of Kansas. University of Kansas Press, 1984.

The History of Cheyenne County, Kansas by The Cheyenne County Historical Society. Curtis Media Corporation, 1987.

Publications

WPA Kansas by Susan S. Novak. *Kansas Heritage,* Autumn 2003 (Vol. 11, No. 3).

Essays

New Deal Cultural Programs: Experiments in Cultural Democracy by Don Adams and Arlene Goldbard. Adams and Goldbard, 1986, 1995.

Interviews

Virginia Sawhill Galloway (daughter) on 02-08-06 (written/letter) [Maintained at the Cheyenne County Historical Museum]

Josephine Churchill (friend) on 08-14-82 (oral/transcription) [Maintained at the Cheyenne County Historical Museum]

Herman and Garnet Miller (friends) on 08-06-82 (oral/transcription) [Maintained at the Cheyenne County Historical Museum]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is located in the 300 Block of East Washington Street. The legal description is all of Block Twenty-three (23) of the Original Town, now City of St. Francis, Cheyenne County, Kansas, according to the recorded plat thereof. The property is bounded to the south by Washington Street, to the west by Denison Street, to the north by Jackson Street and to the east by Frances Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nomination contains all the property historically associated with the Howard T. Sawhill Park, specifically including the Art Deco-style band shell, oval-shaped amphitheatre, center fountain, and memorial American flag.

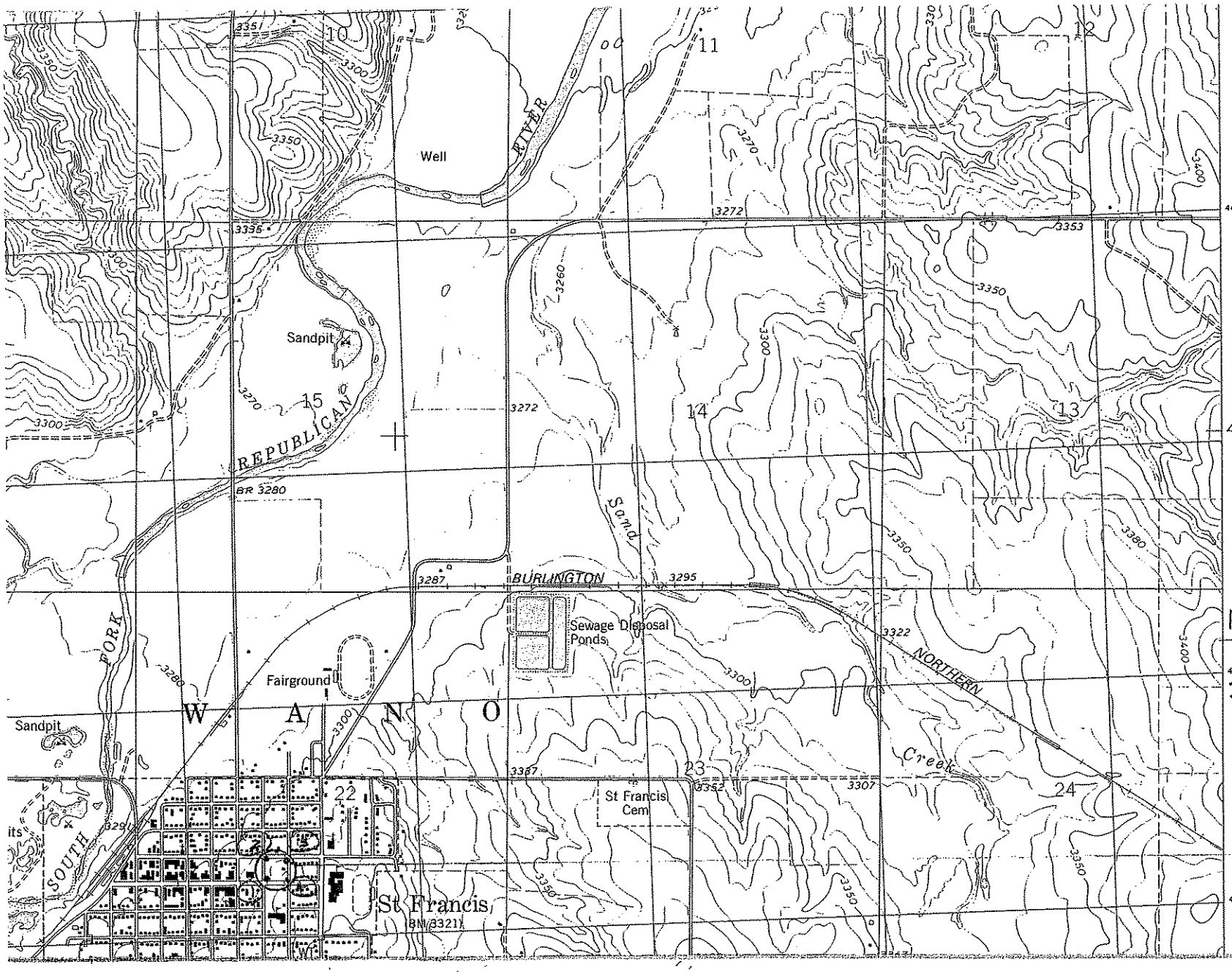
PROPERTY OWNER, CONT'D

The property is owned by Cheyenne County, but is subject to a long-term, 50-year lease, dated 6-01-1977, where by the City is to "assume full responsibility for the care of said real property and shall continue to cultivate, improve and beautify said real property as a public park…"

PHOTOGRAPIC INFORMATION

Property Name: Howard T. Sawhill Park
Location: 300 Block of East Washington Street, St. Francis
Photographer: Kristen Johnston
Date: July 9, 2007

Photo 1: Stone and brick columns at entrance, facing NE
Photo 2: Concrete fountain, facing E
Photo 3: Band shell with rock garden in foreground, facing E
Photo 4: Amphitheater, facing NW
Photo 5: Band shell, facing SW
Photo 6: Band shell, rear elevation, facing N
Photo 7: Interior, band shell mural
Photo 8: Interior, band shell mural close-up
Photo 9: Concrete American flag, facing N
Photo 10: Overall view of park, facing E



St. Francis City Park/
Howard Sawhill Park

1. 14/260330 E
4406250 N

2. 14/260335 E
4406340 N

3. 14/260425 E
4406330 N

4. 14/260420 E
4406250 N