NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED
JUN 06 2002

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name MARION COUNTY PARK AND LAKE

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number ONE MILE WEST OF JCT US-256 & US-77, 2 MILES SOUTH ON UPLAND ROAD ☐ not for publication

city or town MARION ☒ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county MARION code 115 zip code 66861

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.)

Richard D. Rankin 3-11-02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
State of 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 hereby 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:)

MARION COUNTY PARK AND E
Name of Property

MAR 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	
13		buildings
1		sites
4		structures
68		objects
86		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)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: OUTDOOR RECREATION

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: OUTDOOR RECREATION

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: WPA PARK STYLE

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: LIMESTONE
walls STONE: LIMESTONE
roof OTHER: COMPOSITION
other WOOD: FIELDSTONE

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

- [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 is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1936 - 1939

Significant Dates

1936 - 1939

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

KANSAS STATE FISH & GAME COMMISSION
JAMES MEISNER

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] 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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

MARION HISTORICAL MUSEUM, MARION, KS

MARION COUNTY PARK AND L.
Name of Property

M. ON COUNTY, KS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 302.5 ACRES

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	675900	4242910
2	14	676240	4243470
3	14	676560	4243950
4	14	676780	4244100

XX 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 DWIGHT AND HELEN BECKHAM

organization _____ date _____

street & number 48 LAKESHORE DR. telephone 620-382-2671

city or town MARION state KS zip code 66861

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 MARION COUNTY COMMISSION

street & number 200 S 3RD STREET telephone 620-382-2185

city or town MARION state KS zip code 66861

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.

US GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1993 O - 350-416 QL 3

MARION COUNTY
PARK and Lake
Lincolnville SW
Quad
UTM Coordinates

1) 14 675900
4242910

2) 14 676240
4243470

3) 14 676560
4243950

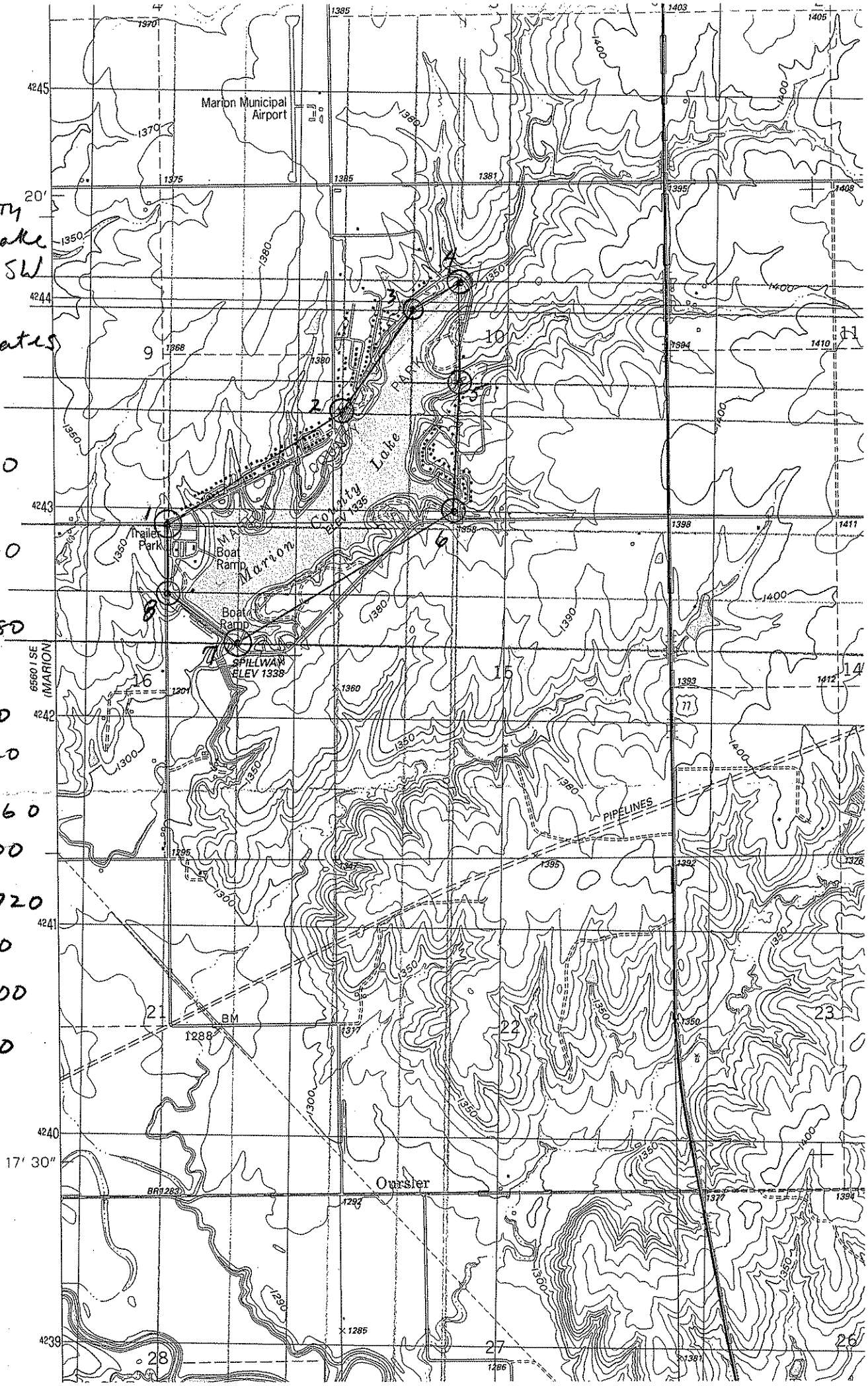
4) 14 676780
4244100

5) 14 676780
4243620

6) 14 676760
4243000

7) 14 675720
4242350

8) 14 675900
4242600



Marion County Park and Lake
Marion County, Kansas

Description:

The Marion County Park and Lake (c. 1936- 1939) is located one mile west of junction US 256 and US 77 and 2 miles south on Upland Road. Construction began in 1936 and was completed in 1939. The earthen dam and spillway were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps #4755 Soil Conservation Service #27 which was composed of African American veterans of war and junior CCC members, who were also African American. The park was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee (KERC). In 1936 Washington approved the plans of Marion County Engineer James Meisner for converting the 302.5 acres of agricultural land into a park. His plans included the designs and placements of stone structures, roads, and landscaping. All of the materials used for the structures would come from the site. Limestone and field stone were abundant; therefore the structures would be outgrowths of the environment. He stressed permanency and timeless, simple designs. Each structure reflects the artistry and ingenuity of the WPA and KERC men who built them.

The plans included numerous limestone structures that were to create a vacation spot for the citizens of the county and surrounding areas. When the lake was dedicated in 1940 the completed stone structures included: 39 picnic tables, half with ovens and incinerators, two covered shelter houses, skeet and trap shooting grounds with concession house, six separate toilet buildings (one designed like the others but constructed with cement blocks and a smaller cupola), four observation seats, stone guard posts, parapet wall bordering the roadway atop the dam, a bait and license office, two arched bridges, and an entrance way.

There were other recreational facilities which included: croquet and roquet fields, a tennis court, golf course, outdoor checkers, horse shoes, shuffleboard, skating course, ball diamond, and cement bordered sand boxes. All of the structures still remain, with the exception of nine ovens, fifteen incinerators, the golf course and one of the arched bridges. The remaining ovens and incinerators are in disrepair due to use and lack of maintenance. At least three ovens were bulldozed and pushed into the lake according to John Waner, lake superintendent, 1956-1964. The ovens are being replaced with charcoal circular grills which in some cases have been placed on the old fireplace foundations.

The toilets are 12 ft. x18 ft. and were built with double stone walls. The stone on the exterior was hand-hewn, pitch faced stone while the stone on the interior walls was smooth. The buildings are symmetrical and rectangular with standard gabled roofs and clapboard cupolas. The roof material was originally wooden shingles but is now composition. On each long side there are two small rectangular windows under the roof with a slanted stone as the sash. A wooden hinged door and a stone privacy screen, 6 ft. x 8 ft., is attached to the building at each end. The architectural design for these buildings can best be described as "the standard stone one room schoolhouse."

The picnic tables vary in size from 15 ft. to 20 ft. in length and all are 3 feet wide. The cement tops are supported with hand hewn limestone pedestals. The supports for the unattached but stationary benches are two to four single stones under bridge plank seats. One picnic area on the west side of the lake contains two picnic tables close to each other with benches and an observation seat that are made with hard brown, irregular shaped fieldstones. These rocks are embedded in cement for the supports. There is also a 20 foot picnic table and a seat on the eastside of the lake with this same type of stone. It is not as prevalent as the limestone and these are the only objects that were made of this rock.

The south and the east shelter houses are architecturally identical except that the east house has partial walls on each side for counter tops. The south house is opened on three sides. They are 16 ft. x 33 ft. with 18 ft. picnic tables with cement tops, limestone supports, and bridge plank seats. The fireplaces have grills for cooking and each house is wired for electricity. The chimneys are smooth limestone and one is capped with rocks to form a crown. The outside bases are six feet wide and are between a partial wall topped with limestone to be used as a counter. The limestone floors are made in a patio style. The roofs are composition shingles and the gables on each end are covered with painted green 6' vertical boards. There are eight-6 foot layered stone pillars that support the roof beams. A grassed tennis court is next to the south house and it is used for volley ball, parking, and games. The horse shoe area is still visible, but is no longer used. The east house has an oval cement skating rink and a croquet court nearby. These units are used quite often for social gatherings and family reunions.

The combination trap and skeet shooting grounds are no longer used but still sit on a small knoll that is covered with wild flowers, spring and summer. The area contains the high and low houses, a unique building used for the selling of concessions, and a dugout for loading clay pigeons. The concession stand has all the sides opened with half stone walls capped with cement for use as a counter top. Inside it is divided by a half stone wall counter that divides the unit into two small rooms. The building is 11 ft. x 13 ft. and the small room jets out facing north and is 5 ft. x5 ft. The roof has three gables, one on the north, one on the east and one on the west. The eaves are shingled with painted wood and the roof is now composition. The low house used for skeet is 7 ft. x 7 ft. x 7 ft. with a small missing door, two small windows, and a dirt floor. The high house is two storied with a small door opening on the lower level. Its ceiling is the floor of the upper level which has 2 small windows and the remains of an attached wooden ladder. Both houses have cement roofs. This area still shows evidence of its intended use, littered with pieces of clay pigeons, shell casings and pop tabs. The area was closed in the early 1950s when homes were built nearby.

One of the CCC barracks remained standing after the park was turned over to the county and it was remodeled to be used as a social hall. In 1976 it was torn down and a metal building was erected. The original stone office was used for selling fishing licenses, bait, and goods, however through the years it has been home for pigeons, raccoons and peacocks. It is made of stone and has bars on the windows. Its design, like all of the other buildings, has the gabled roof and green shingles on the eaves.

The dam is an earthen dam 1200 ft. in length; height 44 ft.; and width at base 250 ft. and width on top 30 feet. There are masonry guard posts and a parapet wall bordering the roadway atop the dam.

The other structures or objects like the stone seats, arched bridge, and entrance gate were planned and designed with great detail, but kept the simple clean look to match the surroundings. The arched bridge connects a cove to the lake that extends beyond Lakeshore Drive. Mr. Meisner chose the most scenic views for the placement of the rock seats. They are in fair shape and could easily be repaired. They are 7 ft. x 32 inches. All of the stone is hand-hewn as is the entrance gate.

A caretaker's house was built circa 1940. It has been the home of all four caretakers; Jerry Mullikin, 1939- 1956, Verona Mullikin, 1956, John Waner, 1956-1964, and Dale Snelling 1964- to present. A heated dock that is used every day of the year was constructed in 1963. The county owns land on the west side of the park for permanent mobile homes and the owners are limited to the amount of consecutive days they can stay.

The area surrounding the park and lake is a very desirable place to live and property sells quickly. There are approximately 250 homes, many of them were originally summer retreats that have been remodeled through the years. A new housing addition contains approximately 15 homes.

Inventory

Buildings: 5 toilets, 1 bait and license office, 1 high house at skeet shoot, 1 low house at skeet shoot, 2 shelter houses, 1 trap pull house (underground), 1 concession house.

Structures: 1 spillway, 1 stone arched bridge, 1 dam, 1 entranceway.

Objects: 8 sandboxes, 1 shuffleboard, 1 tennis court, 1 parapet across dam, 1 croquet court, 1 roquet court, 1 skating rink, 4 benches, 34 tables, 11 ovens, 5 incinerators.

Marion County Park and Lake
Marion County, Kansas

Statement of Significance:

The Marion County Park and Lake (c. 1936- 1939) is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its historical association with the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Kansas Emergency Relief Committee (KERC). The nomination is part of the New Deal-era Resources of Kansas Multiple Property Submission National Register nomination.

The nomination includes the dam constructed by the CCC and the park style stone structures built by the KERC and the WPA. The CCC Company #4755 consisting of African American veterans of war and junior African American CCC members was organized under the command of Major James Weede at Camp Whiteside, Fort Riley, Kansas, November 7, 1935. They left Ft. Riley on February 3, 1936 by train for Marion KS, to build a dam identified as Soil Conservation Project #27. On September 21, 1936 the juniors were transferred to other projects and the company was redesignated a veteran company and it remained as such until the project was completed in 1939. It was the only black veteran company in the Seventh Corps Area. This area included Kansas, Missouri, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Arkansas, and Minnesota.

In 1934 Marion County was designated as a drought area which made it eligible to receive funds from the federal government's lake and pond project work plan. The plan was to serve two worthwhile purposes, to provide work and to fit into the water conservation projects. The county sent out petitions asking for a public expression on the project. The rationale from the officials told the electors that the government would spend approximately $70,000 for labor and materials in the county and the project would give employment to about 300 men and 150 teams. They also were told that the expenditure for land would not really be an expenditure because the county was going to have a great amount of direct relief work that winter and with a large project under construction in the county, the problem of direct relief would be largely solved. The proposal passed: Yes 5,261. No 2,061.

The location for the lake was chosen by the state engineers and it was believed to be the best of all of those proposed in the county. It was in a natural location with mostly pasture watershed, and where a lake of close to 100 acres of fine, deep water would be impounded. The county acquired 302.5 acres for $14,335.50 from Dr. C. C. Jones, Wm. Summervill, Elmer Shubert, Jacob W. Schlotthauer and the Zeller estate . The location had the center of population, the adaptability to construction, and possibilities for improvements.

On February, 1935 the county was notified that the Civilian Conservation Corps labor would do the construction work on the dam, the spillway, overflow crossing at the head of the lake, a baseball field and a road around the northwest boundary of the park and the KERC (Kansas Emergency Relief Committee) labor was to construct the county park. James Meisner, county engineer, believed the entire park could be built from materials close at hand, native rock with which roads could be surfaced, picturesque bridges constructed and the whole park improved with no cost except labor.

The City of Marion, just 3 miles from the construction site, felt the economic impact immediately. On October 30, 1935, Major John L. Rice, Major 2nd Cavalry, Executive CCC Kansas District of Ft. Riley, and Lieut. Robert L. Harris, Ft. Riley were in Marion to inform the commissioners what was needed for the construction of the CCC camp facilities. Local bids were to be submitted for lumber, hardware, building materials, plumbing, electrical supplies, sheet metal works, and well drillers. All workmen who wished to work on the project needed to register at the county reemployment office. It was expected $18,000 would be spent by the government on materials.

In November of 1935 eight carloads of materials for the construction of the CCC camp arrived and local trucks were used to transport the materials to the site of the camp. The barracks were constructed with sectional panels, with insulated interiors made to fit together quickly and closely together. Local officials made plans to rock the road to the camp which was constructed on the high plateau on the Wm. Summervill land. The camp, when finished, had bunk houses, a mess hall, officers' quarters, a sewer system, bath house, waterworks, pump house, and water tower. Reading and lecture rooms and a woodworking shop were added later.

The plans for the earth type dam were drawn by the Kansas State Fish and Game Commission and approved by the Division of Water Resources of the State Department of Agriculture. The construction started on March 21, 1936 under the supervision of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The men worked 40 hours a week under the supervision of E. C. McBurney of the SCS. Mules under contract with Moore Construction of Newton were credited with playing an important part in the primary construction of the dam and were withdrawn in July, 1936. The steam shovel was the work horse for the project. By July 1, 1937 the 204,000 cubic yard earth fill dam was completed, 14,000 cubic yards of puddle trench had been excavated and backfilled, the concrete outlet box was finished, and work on the riprap was well under way. Immediately after the earth work on the dam was completed, construction of the masonry guard posts and the parapet well bordering the roadway atop the dam was begun. This work was finished by March, 1938. Except for surfacing the road over the dam the structure was complete.

The construction of the spillway to carry water in excess of the capacity of the lake involved the excavation of 110,000 cubic yards of rock and the laying of 36 square yards of riprap. Leakage of the spillway was discovered in September, 1938 and many methods were tried to find the leak and repair it. The gravel stratum was drilled full of holes and filled with cement, oats, wheat, sand, sawdust, and hay which was unsuccessful. The leak was stopped when the water level of the lake was lowered to relieve the pressure of the water and that allowed a mud cement

mixture to set. County Engineer James Meisner supervised this project.

After working 8 hours a day on the dam the men were under command of Lieut. Horsley who had the responsibility for the general camp improvements. The men planted vegetable gardens, flowers, worked on the improvements of the barracks, planted hundreds of trees, built a baseball field, and bathing beach. In this camp 93% of the men were involved in educational classes.

The camp was under constant scrutiny by federal agencies and the army. General Breese of Ft. Leavenworth, Major Neville, district quartermaster, Capt. Jones sub district commander, C. C. Martin, Administrator of the Emergency Conservation Work (E C W), General Ford 7th camp area, National Director of the CCC, Mr. Fechner's, representatives to name just a few that came to inspect the project. Receptions were provided for Secretary of War Woodring, Senator McGill; Congressman William Randolph Carpenter; Dr. N. E . Winters, Regional Conservator of ECW.

When the CCC arrived in Marion, the town had a population of 2,000 with approximately eight blacks. The 1937 yearbook of the Missouri and Kansas CCC District stated: "Ushered into a community unfamiliar with colored people, proved a colossal achievement for the company, their race and the CCC. The surrounding populace soon realized these men were well disciplined and unusually civil." The civic relationship between the camp and Marion was prominent and quite successful according to what was printed in The Marion County Record newspaper for the three years the CCC was at the site. The articles praised all of the commanders, Major James Weede, Capt. Paul Egbert, and Lieut. Robert Horsley, for their success of achieving a high standard for the men.

The black veterans gave their time and talents to the community by participating in many events. They organized a ball team that played games throughout the area and at one time was undefeated. On August 27, 1936 The Marion Record stated that, "Isolated from colored communities, sports and recreation play a prominent part in maintaining the high standards of morale and the enviable respect this company has earned within the community." September 10, 1936 a truck load of men was dispatched when a farm house caught fire east of the camp. They participated in all national and local festivities. They marched in the Emancipation Day Parade in Hutchinson, Memorial Day and Old Settlers' Day Parades in Marion, and Labor Day Parade in Florence. They celebrated CCC anniversaries by giving programs and serving refreshments.

One impromptu reception for President Franklin Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt was a huge success. The newspaper gave the following account: Oct. 15, 1936, " In spite of the short time Lt. Robt. Horsley, commandant, secured the approval of McBurney, project superintendent, to withdraw his company of colored veterans from the project and dispatched the entire company in trucks to Florence. Dismounting several blocks from the station they marched to the tune of the company's bugle corps and took their stations on either side of the tracks, led by Lt. Horsley. This unexpected welcome to the President was conducted in a manner comparable to an elaborate prearranged program.

Mrs. Horsley presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a bouquet of flowers in behalf of Vet. Company 4755. The President was interested to learn the nature of the work done by this company and very pleased to know it was a lake project".

It was intended that Norma Jean, the commandant's four year old daughter would present the bouquet but it was too high from the platform for her to reach so Mrs. Horsley made the presentation. Little Norma Jean tried to get up to the platform, but the guard kept her off. Finally, getting impatient, she told the guard, "I wish that man president would get through his piece so I can say mine." Mrs. Roosevelt sent the CCC camp a thank you note.

The enrollees were very involved in entertaining schools and clubs with singing, dancing, comics, and orchestral presentations. The company cooks were providing meals for the Kiwanis Club quite often at the camp mess hall and the CCC would provide the entertainment. The men were frequent visitors in El Dorado, attending the black Methodist Church, along with organizing their own services at the camp.

It was evident that the community from the very beginning wanted to establish a good relationship with the officers and their families that would be living in Marion. The paper encouraged everyone to give a warm welcome to the officers, technical personnel and families as they became members of the community. When the enrollees arrived on February 3, 1936 on a bitter cold day the townspeople met them at the train and provided free transportation to the camp. A benefit baseball game was played to purchase uniforms for the CCC camp team. The Tabor College student body held a one week revival for the men during Christmas of 1936.

The newspaper reported bantering between the camp and the town: Feb. 18, 1937, "Tuesday several CCC boys were granted permission to visit Marion before retreat, providing they returned in time for assembly. After retreat the Commandant noticed several men plastered with mud and proceeded to read the riot act about cleanliness. When asked if they had fallen into the lake, they meekly replied, 'No Sir, we had to cross the Main Street in Marion.' Orders were immediately posted that all men on returning from Marion would report at the Camp Fire Hose Brigade and have the dirt sprayed off, before engaging in any camp activities. Due to the shortage of water in the camp it is hoped the City Fathers of Marion will put the city owned water plant in operation and exercise the fire hydrant and possibly a few stable brooms. If action is delayed much longer a steam shovel will probably be needed to make the business thoroughfares safe and healthy for shoppers."

When the CCC men were transferred to Meade, Kansas in late January, 1939 a "side camp" came to finish some of the clean up work and removed all the barracks except for one that was converted into a social hall. The WPA undertook the construction and development with county supervision. On March 30, 1939 the county commissioners J. G. Bartel, C. M. Buell and D. H. Mehl accepted the lake project from Benjamin F. Parsons, the project superintendent, on behalf of the Soil Conservation Service.

The day of dedication was May 26, 1940 with 9,599 registered visitors, 1,985 fishermen and cars from 35 counties

and eight states. Due to the lake being stocked for three years the day was a huge success. The project is considered to be the only one of its kind in the state that is under the operation of a county. It has not been the source of water supply for any community and the lake has only two sources for impounding its water, the small spring at the head of the lake and run off. At the time it was being built the county was suffering from a severe drought, but the construction crew called it a blessing because it allowed the construction to be on schedule. When the dam was near completion the area began to receive record rainfalls, one of over 6 inches and the lake began to fill rapidly. On opening day the lake was 35 feet deep at the dam.

The construction of the park and lake created much interest and the local people soon realized it was going to be a great asset for the county. The park and lake did not officially open until 1940, but the picnic facilities were in use by 1938. The park area includes 302.5 acres, with water depth in the 153 acre lake ranging up to 40 feet. It is still a popular recreational area with approximately 6,000 campers, fishers, and picnickers on a holiday weekend and about 100,000 people per year visit the park, according to Dale Snelling, superintendent. The Boy and Girl Scouts from Marion County and area counties use the facilities every year for badge work and camping. In 1998 the International Prairie Wind Girl Scout Jamboree was held for a week with scouts from England, Japan and the states. The social hall's schedule is full with family reunions, wedding anniversaries, and organizational meetings. The same RV clubs have come to the park for many years.

The attractive facilities and the thousands of trees that were planted in the 1930s have made the area an ideal place. James Meisner, County Engineer and planner of the park wrote to the first superintendent in 1939 stating that the site could become "another white elephant or a monument to posterity." The Marion County Park and Lake is not a white elephant, it continues to serve the recreation needs of the surrounding population as it stands as a monument to those who helped build it.

Bibliography

Amber, Cathy. Ahead of the Game or Just Holding the Public's Head Above Water? Kansas State Historical Society.

Civilian Conservation Corps Material List in the National Park Service History Collection. Civil Records. Eugene Morris. College Park, MD.

Marion County Record: 27 September 1934, 1 November 1934, 8 November 1934, 14 February 1935, 7 March 1935, 5 September 1935, 31 October 1935, 14 November 1935, 30 January 1936, 6 February 1936, 16 April 1936, 18 June 1936, 30 July 1936, 27 August 1936, 10 September 1936, 24 September 1936, 15 October 1936, 22 October 1936, 18 February 1937, 29 April 1937, 31 March 1938, 5 May 1938, 9 June 1938, 29 September 1938, 10 November 1938, 24 November 1938, 26 January 1939, 2 March 1939, 30 March 1939, 30 May 1940.

Marion County Register of Deeds: Jacob Schlotthauer, Nov. 7, 1935, page 131, book 207. Elmer and Ethel Schubert, Nov. 6, 1935, page 130, book 207. William and Maggie Summervill, Oct. 4, 1935, page 301, book 195. Charles and Ina Jones, Oct. 29, 1935, page 263, book 195. Dannie Zeller, et al, Nov. 7, 1935, page 132, book 207

Missouri - Kansas CCC Annual, 1937 National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni; Research and Museum, St. Louis, MO.

Snelling, Dale; interviews, July 2001

Summervill Millie; interview tape, June 14, 2001

Torre, David. "The Fish and Game Stamps of Marion County, Kansas," The American Revenuer, 47:152-172 (June, 1993).

Waner, John; interviews, 2000-2001.

Verbal Boundary Description

The Marion County Park and Lake is located on the NE corner of the NE 1/4 of Section 16, Township 20, Range 4E. NW corner of Section 15, Township 20 Range 4E. SW corner of the SW 1/4, Section 10, Township 20, Range 4. Beginning at the SW corner or the SE 1/4, Section 9, Township 20 South, Range 4E, in Marion County, Kansas. It is one mile west of junction US 256 and US 77 and 1 ½ miles south on Upland Road.

Beginning at the stone main entrance gate located at the northwest corner of Marion Park and Lake, the boundary is established by going east on Lakeshore Drive. Continue around the lake on Lakeshore Drive in a clockwise manner. After crossing Tin Whistle Cove leave Lakeshore Drive to the left in order to encompass the stone work setting in that area (picnic table, incinerator and oven) and return to Lakeshore Drive at Rock Road. Continue around lake on Lakeshore Drive, cross dam clockwise around spillway and overflow tube to Heated Dock Road, turn right. After crossing the dam, turn right on Heated Dock Road, circle the heated dock counterclockwise, return to Heated Dock Road continuing northwest to Pine Tree Drive. Go a short distance north on Pine Tree Drive to Office Drive. Turn east on Office Drive, include the original old stone lake office within the boundary. Go counterclockwise around superintendent's home/office to dirt road that leads east to boat ramp, including the four stone picnic tables within the boundary. Follow boat ramp road to beach. Continue north along beach to old country road. Continue west on old county road along back side of mobile homes to the stone entrance gate. Circle gate clockwise to starting point.

The following resources are excluded from the district: Residence and Office Combination (c. 1936- 1938); Shower Facility (c. 1967); Recreation Hall (c. 1976); Maintenance Building (c. 1936- 1938); Heated Dock (c. 1964); Sewer Maintenance Building (c. 1990); Metal Storage Shed (c. 2001); Cement Dressing Room (c. 1957). These resources are all located in the northwest corner of the park property.

Boundary Justification

Lakeshore Drive establishes the entire boundary of the site except for a small western edge established by Turkey Creek and a small northeastern boundary established by Hill Road. The boundaries contain 302.5 acres historically associated with the property.

UTM Coordinates (continued)

5) 14 676780 4243620

6) 14 676760 4243000

7) 14 675720 4242350

8) 14 675900 4242600