
National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory
2007



Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

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Inventory Summary

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

CLI General Information:

Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

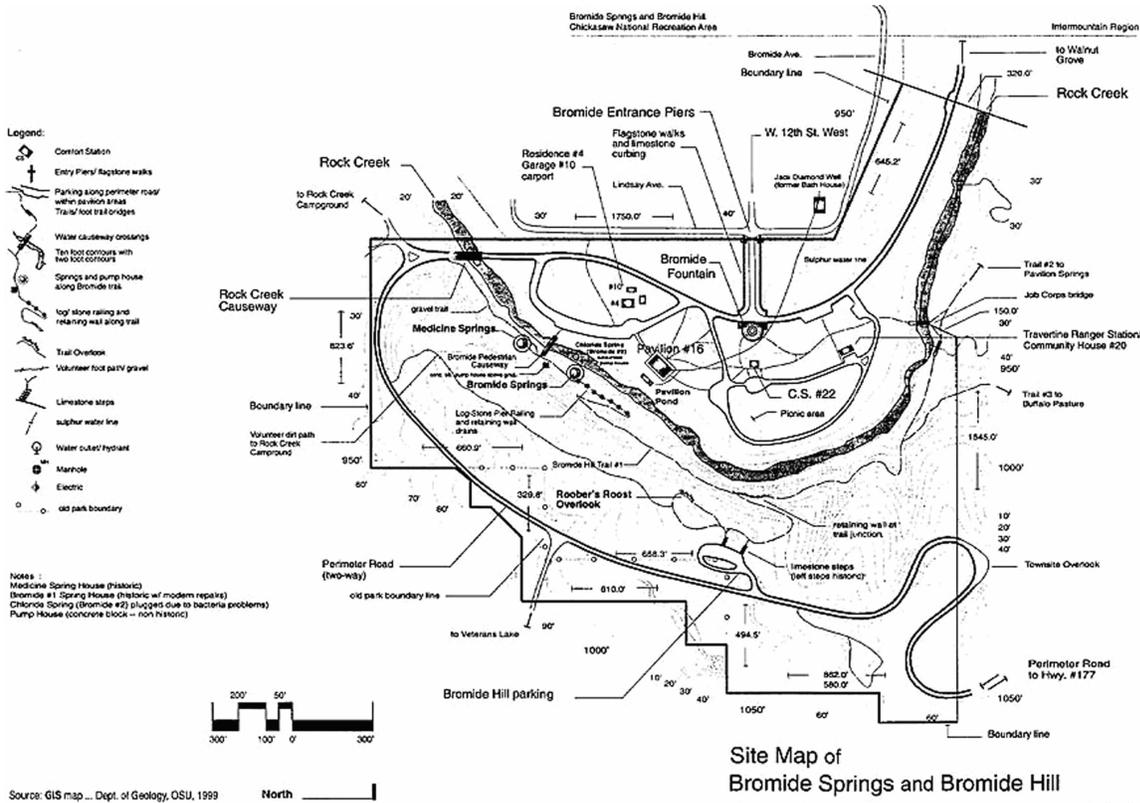
Inventory Unit Description:

The component area of Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill is located in the western edge of the Platt Historic District along the park's perimeter road, just east of Rock Creek Campground and west of Walnut Grove, in the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Murray County, Oklahoma. The area received its name because of two springs that historically, but no longer, provided medicinal waters for public consumption. The area is located on axis with 12th Street and is bounded to the north by Lindsay Avenue and a residential area of Sulphur. The southern loop of the perimeter road bounds the area to the south and west. The component landscape contains a large picnic area and entry landscape located on a flat terrace to the north of Rock Creek as well as the steep bluff to the south, where the Bromide Hill overlook and associated parking area are located. These two portions of the component landscape are divided by Rock Creek running through the area, but are connected by a trail, which crosses the creek via a low-water crossing and runs up the bluff to the overlook.

Formerly used as a campground and gathering area, the level area south of the creek is today a park-like landscape of grass and canopy trees, used primarily for picnicking today. This zone contains an entry landscape of piers and fountains, as well as a number of structures including a pavilion and comfort station. There are a number of roads crossing the level area below the bluff, including the perimeter road, which then circles south to provide access to the bluff overlooking the picnic area. The overlook area includes a small parking lot and trails leading to the overlook. The trails further connect with the Pavilion Springs, Buffalo Pasture and Bromide or Cliffside Trails, which provide access to the component landscape from many other areas of the district. The component landscape is approximately 59 acres in size, with Bromide Springs containing approximately 27.5 acres and Bromide Hill, 31.5 acres.

The Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill cultural landscape retains integrity, and is in good condition. The period of significance is 1933-1940. For a complete discussion of the landscape characteristics, contributing features, and integrity evaluation please refer to the Analysis and Evaluation Section.

Site Plan



Site plan for Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill. Source: GIS base map obtained from Department of Geology, Oklahoma State University (1999), augmented by Iowa State University.

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Identification Number:	850138
Parent Landscape:	850137

Park Information

Park Name and Alpha Code:	Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District -CHIC
Park Organization Code:	7516
Subunit/District Name Alpha Code:	Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District - CHIC
Park Administrative Unit:	Chickasaw National Recreation Area

CLI Hierarchy Description

The Platt Historic District of Chickasaw National Recreation Area (CNRA) is the parent landscape for Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill. The Platt Historic District is a historic designed landscape containing ten component landscapes, each with unique and individual landscape features. A study of these numerous component landscapes contributes to our understanding and appreciation of the district's entire cultural landscape.

The Platt Historic District is an irregularly shaped area extending for about three miles along both sides of two small streams, which flow through it in a generally east to west direction. The width of the district varies from 4,800 feet near the center to about 6,400 feet near the western edge and 2,300 feet along its eastern edge. Connecting the district's component landscapes is a six-mile (once eight-mile) perimeter road. This road provides both access to and opportunities for viewing the district's features.

The ten component landscapes are:

- Rock Creek Campground (not part of Historic District)
- Flower Park and Black Sulphur Springs
- Antelope Springs and Buffalo Springs/ Nature Center
- Bromide Springs/ Bromide Hill
- Central Campground
- Cold Springs Campground
- Pavilion Springs / Hillside Springs/ Headquarters and Maintenance Area
- Walnut Grove
- Travertine Island and Little Niagara Falls
- Buffalo Pasture and Prairie Uplands

Concurrence Status

Inventory Status: Complete

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI was completed by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University. Previous cultural landscape documentation for the Platt District was completed in 1997 by Kay Sallee et al., UT Arlington. CLI database entry was completed by Michele Curran, CLI Coordinator.

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence:	Yes
Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:	09/21/2007
National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Date of Concurrence Determination:	07/06/2007

National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Oklahoma SHPO concurred with the findings of the CLI on 7/6/2007.

Concurrence Graphic Information:



Oklahoma Historical Society

Founded May 27, 1893

State Historic Preservation Office

Oklahoma History Center • 2401 North Laird Ave. • Oklahoma City, OK 73105-7914
(405) 521-6249 • Fax (405) 522-0816 • www.okhistory.org/shpo/shpom.htm

July 6, 2007

Mr. Bruce Noble, Superintendent
Chickasaw National Recreation Area
1008 West 2nd Street
Sulphur, OK 73086

Dear Mr. Noble:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Platt District at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The Platt District is a significant landscape to both Oklahoma and to the National Park Service.

We concur with the opinion that the Platt District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance. We concur with the findings of the CLR as well, specifically that the period of national significance for the Platt District is 1933-1940, and with the CLR's definition of the boundary for the district.

Additionally, we believe that the treatments outlined in the CLR for the overall landscape are generally consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. We look forward to reviewing projects on a case-by-case basis, using the treatments outlined in the CLR as a baseline plan. Should you wish to discuss the creation of a Programmatic Agreement based on the findings of the CLR, we will be happy to work with you.

Please feel free to contact me at (405)522-4484 (or e-mail at mheisch@okhistory.org). Thank you for your interest in Oklahoma's historic and architectural heritage.

Sincerely,

Melvina Heisch
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

✓ cc: Jill Cowley, IMR Santa Fe

OK SHPO concurrence on the Platt Historic District CLR, including the Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill component landscape, 7/6/2007.

MEMORANDUM

To: Deputy Associate Regional Director
Cultural Resources
12795 W. Alameda Pkwy.
Lakewood, CO 80228

From: Superintendent
Chickasaw National Recreation Area, 1008
W. 2nd
Sulphur, OK 73086-4814

Subject: Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

I concur with the content and the assessment of the Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill cultural landscape for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

The CLI has identified the Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill component landscape as a "Historic Designed Landscape."

- 1. The CLI rates the condition as "GOOD" (pg. 70) and the Management Category is listed as "Must be Preserved and Maintained" (pg. 8).*
- 2. The period of significance for the Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill component landscape is 1933-1940 (pg. 10).*
- 3. The Statement of Significance is located on pgs. 10-11.*
- 4. The contributing features are discussed and listed in the "Analysis and Evaluation" section (pg. 36-78).*

Prince Noble
Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

9/21/07
Date

Cc: Michele Curran, IMR, Landscape Historian, CLI Coordinator

CHIC Superintendent concurrence on the Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill CLI, 9/21/2007.

Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:

Other

Revision Narrative:

Uploaded CLR to Landscape Documents section and edited text to correct typos, May 2012.

Geographic Information & Location Map

Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area is located in the western edge of the Platt District. The area is bounded to the north by Lindsay Avenue. The perimeter road forms area's western and southern boundary, while Rock Creek establishes the eastern boundary. These boundaries are shown on the Site Plan.

State and County:

State: OK

County: Murray County

Size (Acres): 59.00

Boundary UTMS:

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 14

UTM Easting: 685,320

UTM Northing: 3,818,840

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 14

UTM Easting: 685,310

UTM Northing: 3,818,875

Source: USGS Map 1:24,000

Type of Point: Point

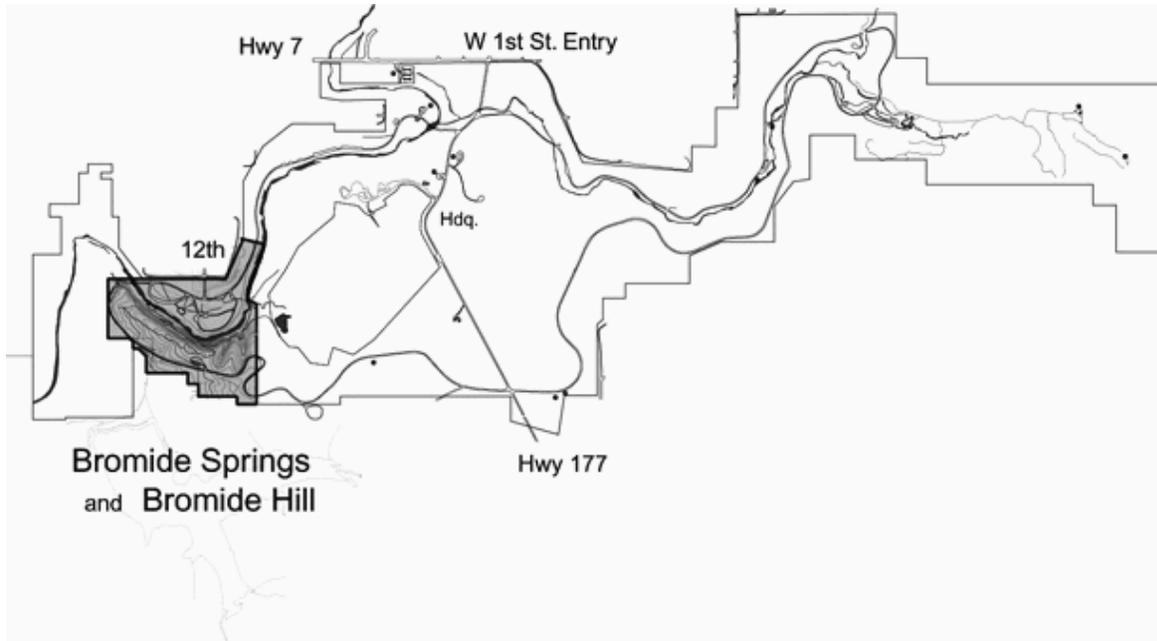
Datum: NAD 83

UTM Zone: 14

UTM Easting: 685,200

UTM Northing: 3,818,845

Location Map:



Location of Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill in the Platt District of CNRA, Murray County, Oklahoma. Source: GIS base map data obtained from Department of Geology, Oklahoma State University (1999), augmented by Iowa State University.

Regional Context:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

The Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area is located just south of the major residential section of Sulphur, on axis with 12th Street, which was once a significant street containing bathhouses and other commercial establishments. In addition, the Bromide area once contained one of the district's most important medicinal springs. Because of this, the Bromide area was once important culturally as a major focus of the park and town's activities, as both a campground for out-of-town visitors, a meeting place for those seeking recreation and healing, and a park for local residents. The Bromide Hill area had another historic cultural significance as a hiding place for local outlaws in the late 19th century.

Due to its close proximity to adjacent residential areas, the Bromide area continues to serve many of these same day-to-day functions as a city or town park. These activities include strolling, jogging, picnicking and dog walking. Some wading and bathing in the creek and in the large circular fountain near 12th Street also occurs. The Bromide Hill overlook area can be a place where local teenagers "hang out." These local cultural uses are in addition to the area's historic and current function as a national park for out-of-state visitors.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

The study area is divided into two natural topographically and physiographically defined areas by Rock Creek. To the north of the Creek is a moderately flat, wooded floodplain. To the south are steep north-facing stone bluffs rising 150 feet above the creek. The vegetation of this area is characteristic of the lowland forest association of the Eastern deciduous forest, including elm species (*Ulmus* spp.), oak species (*Quercus* spp.), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), and hackberry (*Celtis* spp.). The principal forest type on the slopes and overlook of Bromide Hill is short-lobed oak with understory planting absent due to the xeric setting. The principal forest type along the creek adjacent to the park-like Bromide Springs is American Elm-Southern Hackberry type, which is typically adjacent to streams.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Since 1902, when lands for Sulphur Springs Reservation were taken by the government, the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area has been under the jurisdiction of the federal government. Since 1916, the park has been under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, first as Platt National Park and since as Chickasaw NRA.

Management Unit: Chickasaw NRA

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 07/02/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Platt Historic District, which includes Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill, was listed as a National Historic Landmark on 7/7/2011. As a result, the landscape must be preserved and maintained. Superintendent concurred on 9/21/2007, prior to the formal NHL listing.

NPS Legal Interest:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Public Access:

Type of Access: Unrestricted

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Description:

The larger landscape of the Platt Historic District contributes to the integrity of the Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill component landscape.

National Register Information

Existing National Register Status

National Register Landscape Documentation:

SHPO Documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Based on the findings of the CLR, the Platt Historic District, the parent landscape of the Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill component landscape, has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Oklahoma SHPO. Furthermore, the Platt Historic District was listed as an NHL on 7/7/2011.

Existing NRIS Information:

Other Names:	Platt Historic District DOE
Primary Certification Date:	12/03/2001
Other Certifications and Date:	Platt Historic District DOE - 7/6/2007
Other Names:	Platt Historic District DOE
Primary Certification Date:	12/03/2001
	Platt Historic District NHL Nomination - 7/7/2011

National Register Eligibility

National Register Concurrence:	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
Contributing/Individual:	Contributing
National Register Classification:	District
Significance Level:	National
Significance Criteria:	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
Significance Criteria:	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Period of Significance:

Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1940
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Architecture
Facet:	Rustic Architecture
Time Period:	AD 1933 - 1940
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Facet:	The 1930's: Era Of Public Works

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category:	Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Landscape Architecture
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None
Area of Significance Category:	Entertainment - Recreation
Area of Significance Subcategory:	None

Statement of Significance:

The Platt Historic District has been determined eligible under Criteria A (association with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of history) and C (design), as an excellent example of National Park recreational design. Under Criterion A, the district is significant for its association with the development of National Park landscapes completed during the depression and funded as part of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's "New Deal" programs such as the PWA (Public Works Administration), WPA (Works Progress Administration), and CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps). Under Criterion C, the district is significant as embodying the characteristics of the type, period, and methods of construction typical of the "rustic style" of park design developed by the National Park Service in the years between World War I and World War II (1916-1942) under the leadership of Thomas Vint. In general terms, "rustic" park design limited development to preserve natural scenery and developed park architecture and landscape designs in keeping and in harmony with the natural landscape. In specific terms of constructing buildings, roads, and campgrounds, this meant using hand

craftsmanship, local architectural styles and natural materials such as stone, wood and native plants in the park designs.

The Platt Historic District exemplifies all of these aspects of National Park Service development, planning and design. Most of the district's extant features were designed and constructed between circa 1930 and 1940 (the tentative period of significance for the district, pending further research) during the depression years under the New Deal. Most of the park's construction was undertaken by Company 808 of the CCC, one of the largest CCC camps in Oklahoma. The park's architecture and landscape design also exhibit classic "rustic" style design characteristics. Park development in the 900-odd acres of the park is limited and preserves natural scenery and key features, such as the mineral springs and creeks. The buildings and landscape features constructed in the park by Company 808 of the CCC are made of local stone and wood, emphasize the horizontal lines of the landscape, and merge with their surroundings in color, scale, and appearance. It should be noted that a good number of the NPS-designed and CCC-constructed buildings in the district appeared as examples in the NPS's summary of design techniques, the "handbook" of rustic park design, *Park and Recreation Structures*, compiled by Albert H. Good in 1938.

Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill comprise one component of this larger significant district landscape, and as such, reflect and contribute to the significance of the entire district. Although the area contains elements dating to before 1930, the large majority of this component landscape was constructed in the 1930s by CCC crews. In its site planning, architectural style, landscape architectural design and small-scale features, the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill Area explicitly reflects the NPS principles of rustic design and construction. The design of the Pavilion, the area's rugged trails and stone steps, its comfort station and entry piers and fountain are all excellent examples of the CCC-era landscape engineering projects undertaken in Platt National Park and throughout the country. Because of these elements, this individual landscape contributes to the significance of the overall district and enables the district to convey its significance. In addition, because this component landscape exists in a predominantly intact state, it contributes to the integrity of the overall district.

Chronology & Physical History

Cultural Landscape Type and Use

Cultural Landscape Type: Designed

Current and Historic Use/Function:

Primary Historic Function: Recreation/Culture-Other

Primary Current Use: Recreation/Culture-Other

Current and Historic Names:

Name	Type of Name
Bromide Spring and Bromide Hil	Current
Bromide Spring Area	Historic
Bromide Medicine Spring	Both Current And Historic
Bromide Camp Area	Historic
Robbers' Roost	Historic

Ethnographic Study Conducted:

No Survey Conducted

Chronology:

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1900	Established	Beginning of picnicking, tent camping, enjoying the bromide and medicine water at Bromide Springs (then known as Bromide Camp).
AD 1901	Built	Town built open cistern to collect water at Bromide Hill (Boeger, 64). Appears to have lasted until 1906. Boeger (p. 67) describes it as approximately 3 feet deep and three feet across. Seems to be square, located above creek level on opposite bank in picture on page 69. No cover, had retaining wall against steep slope. Flat stones led from edge of creek; got covered in high water.
AD 1902	Land Transfer	Land becomes part of Sulphur Springs Reservation.
AD 1905	Built	Five comfort stations built at Bromide springs area and \$400 supplied for improvements; expenditures authorized by Department of the Interior.
AD 1906	Established	Bromide area becomes more of a focus for water-takers than Pavilion Springs (Boeger, 68). In November work began on work at the spring. Little support from Interior. Swords built "short silo" for cistern and "barn like pavilion" (Boeger, 68).

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

AD 1907	Built	In April, construction stopped on Bromide Springs after Swords resignation. Finished later in the year. In July, Superintendent Greene hired Patrick King as caretaker for the Bromide Springhouse, later replaced by George Clark (Boeger, 76). The two-room watchman's cottage was constructed. H.V. Hinckley designed the suspension bridge for the Bromide area; DOI disliked the design, and rejected the bids in September as too high (Boeger, 70).
AD 1908	Built	The suspension bridge, the "Swinging Bridge," was completed and appeared in "Scientific American" (Boeger, 70). A phone was installed at the Bromide Pavilion (Boeger, 72).
AD 1909	Established	One gallon limit on water to be removed in containers for later use from springs (Boeger, 76). Supt. Wm. J. French discovered Medicine Spring, which is about 200 feet from Bromide Spring.
AD 1912	Built	Concrete steps built up the Rock Creek side of Bromide Hill. More than 4466 feet of cement walks and stairways were built. "Special iron banister posts and a chain protected visitors hiking on the hill, but flakes of brown rust from the chain came off in people's hands" (Boeger, 86). \$10,000 was appropriated for this work and for shoring up springs. Medicine Spring developed. 6 foot concrete cistern built around it; 2 years later this water piped into Bromide Pavilion (Boeger, 86).
AD 1913	Damaged	"animals...wandered into French's corn patches near Bromide and Black Sulphur Spring." (Boeger, 90).
AD 1915	Built	A gravel road was built to connect Lincoln Bridge area to the Bromide area.
AD 1916	Built	In June, the new Bromide Pavilion became functional with water pumps, earthenware water containers. Money ran out for plaster, paint, latticework, and finished floor (Boeger, 95). Earlier in the year, in January, a flood washed out Bromide Pavilion, the Swinging Bridge, and the watchman's cottage (Boeger, 94).

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

AD 1917	Built	Iron Bridge completed across Rock Creek, on site upstream from Swinging Bridge. Constructed by the Illinois Steel Bridge Company of Jacksonville, IL. Steel truss span of 120', with 6' camber. Bridge deck was 10' wide. Had electric lights. Total cost was \$4,353 (Boeger, 95). Concrete comfort station constructed at Bromide (Boeger, 97). Also, Sodium Chloride Springs and Medicine Springs were improved, with tall concrete cisterns over the springs. Hand pump installed to carry water in pipes from Sodium Chloride Spring to the Bromide Pavilion.
AD 1919	Built	Interior of Bromide Pavilion completed. Interior had "single, sixteen foot long concrete stand which replaced earlier individual islands for dispensing water. Three country style piston pumps worked by hand pushed the water from the springs into three twenty-gallon earthenware containers which were mounted on the stand. . . . Self closing bibs kept visitors from spilling water on the floor. Park employees painted an analysis of the spring waters on the wall of the pavilion." (Boeger, 103).
AD 1920	Built	Building #4 (Residence with garage, now called Bromide Ranger Station) built.
AD 1922	Built	Community house in Bromide Springs built by the City of Sulphur and the Chamber of Commerce. Also, that year, a tornado occurred just south of Bromide Hill.
AD 1923	Established	First Easter pageant held in Bromide Springs Area (Boeger, 112), and continued to be held there until 1939.
AD 1925	Built	Electric pumps installed in Pavilion to replace hand pumps.
AD 1930	Built	Bromide Pedestrian Causeway built (connecting Bromide Springs to the footpath at the base of Bromide Mountain).
AD 1931	Built	200-foot retaining wall constructed at the base of Bromide Hill to prevent erosion from Rock Creek and to provide a trail between the Iron Bridge and Bromide Pavilion. An 80-foot retaining wall was installed under Robber's Roost (Boeger, 12).

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
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AD 1933 - 1934	Developed	Drawing "Extensions to Culverts on Rock Creek and Travertine Road" (NP-PLA 4948) shows setting of the Community House, Residence and comfort stations #1,#2,#3,#4,#5, arched bridge and the Pavilion structure on the south edge of Rock Creek. All but final grading completed (Boeger, 129). Two new comfort stations constructed by CCC crews, cliff side trail "overhauled" (Boeger, 126). In late 1933 to early 1934, 7,500 feet of perimeter road was constructed between Bromide Hill and Park's south entrance (CWA project). All but the grade was completed (Boeger, 129).
AD 1935 - 1936	Developed	A small parking area south of the overlook on Bromide Hill was constructed, in 1935. CCC crews worked on the retaining wall and hillside walk at Bromide Hill (Boeger, 145).
AD 1935	Planted	Between the end of 1935 and early 1936, 3000 cedars planted on Bromide Hill (Boeger, 144).
AD 1936	Built	Bromide Pavilion completed. Stone was quarried in Dougherty. Boeger calls it a "red limestone." Two lines were run across Rock Creek to connect the Pavilion with the springs; these often washed out in high water (Boeger, 140). One gallon limit dropped upon opening of Pavilion and watchman position discontinued. Pool and bench at Bromide Springs Pavilion constructed. Early CCC information sign at Bromide Hill Trail constructed.
AD 1937	Built	In February, the Rock Creek Low-Water Bridge (#RB7) was constructed. Temporary wooden stage constructed at Bromide Pavilion for community entertainment (Boeger, 146). The "Spring House" was removed.
AD 1936	Planted	10,000 trees and shrubs planted at Bromide and Pavilion Springs.
AD 1938	Built	In January, Building #22 (Comfort Station) constructed. This building replaced two early park comfort stations #2 and #3. In February the water levels were almost as high as in January 1916. The pipes over Rock Creek at Bromide washed out (Boeger, 149). During the summer, the weekly Wednesday night evening programs were instituted (Boeger, 146).

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
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AD 1939	Established	Fifth Easter Pageant held at Bromide on 8-foot-high wooden stage (Boeger, 148).
AD 1941	Built	Branch stopped supplying paper cups at Bromide; bubblers installed instead even though more wasteful—visitors less interested in mineral waters. City water piped into Pavilion for the first time (Boeger, 155).
AD 1942	Damaged	Section of creek bank 100' long slides into Rock Creek (Boeger, 156).
AD 1943	Removed	Iron Bridge (“Rainbow Bridge”) removed by NPS (Boeger, 95). Dismantled by Ardmore Salvage Company, cut by welders into 3' lengths and given to a scrap drive (50,000 pounds total) (Boeger, 157).
AD 1944	Built	Water pipes replaced at Bromide Pavilion and flagstones re-laid (Boeger, 159).
AD 1945 - 1946	Rehabilitated	Superintendent Miller obtained community house; converted it to museum in September 1946.
AD 1948	Established	Museum in community building opens to public (Boeger, 164). In September, the water pipes across Rock Creek were re-laid; this time under the creek bed and anchored to the low water footbridge (Boeger, 169).
AD 1952	Altered	Bromide Trail rebuilt (Boeger, 169).
AD 1964	Altered	Porch on museum enclosed; new visitor entrance from side street added (Boeger, 184).
AD 1946	Built	Backfilling done at Bromide to prevent Rock Creek from washing out roadway. (Boeger, 161).
AD 1966 - 1972	Built	Stone bridge across Rock Creek constructed by job corps. Bromide Springs stopped flowing; trickle occurred for 2 months in 1973, then nothing! (Boeger, 199).
AD 1950	Established	Camping finally prohibited in Bromide Area (Boeger, 167).
AD 1997	Developed	A draft CLI is written for the Platt District by Katherine Sallee et al, of University of Texas at Arlington.

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AD 2002	Developed	Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill CLI completed by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University.
AD 2003 - 2004	Developed	Platt Historic District CLR completed by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University.
AD 2006 - 2011	Developed	Platt Historic District NHL nomination prepared by Heidi Hohmann of Iowa State University. The NHL nomination was approved and listed on 7/7/2011.

Physical History:

I. Early Development: 1900-1935

For a full narrative history of the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill, refer to the Cultural Landscape Report for the Platt Historic District, written by Heidi Hohmann and Katarzyna Grala of Iowa State University.

The traditional names of this component landscape are perhaps the first history known about the area. Tradition has it that the first name of the area was “Council Rock,” which is what Native Americans called Bromide Hill. Prior to park development, the hill also became known as “Robber’s Roost,” because it was used as a hideout for outlaws. The area at the base of Bromide Hill also acquired its name early on, before park development. This area became known as “Salt Springs” or “Bromide Springs” because of the springs located along the banks of Rock Creek. These mineral springs had a salty taste originating from the bromide content of the water. In 1901, the town of Sulphur built the first open cistern at one of the springs to aid people “taking” the waters, which were purported to cure stomach trouble, nervousness and rheumatism.

By the early 1900s, the area was being used as a picnicking and camping area and was mostly known as Bromide Springs or Bromide Camp. Use of the area is perhaps indicated on the 1904 Sulphur Springs land survey, which shows no platting at either Bromide Hill or Bromide Springs, showing these areas were not being considered for development.

The major attraction of the area was clearly the mineral water. There appear to initially have been two springs of interest: Bromide Spring (also known as Bromide #1) located just above the banks of Rock Creek and Chloride Spring (also known as Sodium Chloride Spring or Bromide #2), which was located in the creek’s streambed. In 1907, construction began on a primitive springhouse or pavilion at Bromide Spring, above the creek. By 1908, visitation to Bromide Springs topped 106,000 and many visitors camped in the area for three days or longer, taking the waters. The discovery of Medicine Spring, just 200 feet away from Bromide Spring in 1909 surely fueled continuing interest in the springs, and in 1909 visitors were restricted to taking only one gallon of water away from the springs.

Improvements were made to the area to accommodate visitors. In addition to the pavilion, there was also a watchman’s cottage (perhaps in association with the pavilion) and a pay phone was installed in the area in 1908. In 1905, five comfort stations were added to the flat level terrace on the north side of Rock Creek. The five buildings, built in early 1905, were of cement stucco framing with metal lathing interior and of 2 x 4 wall studs and had roofs with solid sheathing and cedar shingles.

Also in 1908, a suspension bridge was constructed over Rock Creek, presumably so that visitors could more easily access the springs, which were located on the south side of the creek. The bridge, which was sometimes called the “Swinging Bridge,” was something of a local wonder and even appeared in Scientific American magazine. In 1912, a trail was begun up Bromide Hill and a concrete cistern was developed at Medicine Spring. A fourth spring named

“Iron Spring” was discovered by 1913, and a staircase and masonry housing was constructed to provide access to it.

Few documents describing the appearance of Bromide Springs between 1902 and 1930 are available. The 1913 plan of the park (NP-PLA-1040-2) shows one major road/ access into Bromide Springs and by 1915, there are verbal descriptions of a gravel road connecting the Lincoln Bridge and Central Park (now Flower Park) area to Bromide Springs. Based on later documentation of the park, this road apparently ran along the banks of Rock Creek. Camping was also being institutionalized in some fashion during the first decades of the century, but again, no plans of campsite layout exist. However, it is clear that camping was occurring, since an early town brochure entitled Sulphur: The City of Health showed Bromide Springs as “Free Campground #1.”

Unfortunately, many of these improvements were washed away in a flood on January 21, 1916. The greatest losses were the springhouse and suspension bridge. By June, however, a new pavilion was ready for use, though funds ran out for plaster, paint, latticework, and finished floors, making it quite primitive. Five new comfort stations were also built in 1917, as was a new bridge. This bridge was sited about 200 feet upstream from the suspension bridge, and was constructed by the Illinois Steel Bridge Company of Jacksonville, IL. Made of steel, it had a truss span of 120 feet with a 6 foot camber. The bridge deck was 10 feet wide and the bridge was equipped with electric lights. The entire package cost \$4,353. The curving arch of the span caused the bridge to sometimes be called the “Rainbow Bridge.”

Improvements continued into the 1920s. In early 1919, the Interior of Bromide Pavilion was completed. It had “single, sixteen foot long concrete stand which replaced earlier individual islands for dispensing water. Three country style piston pumps worked by hand pushed the water from the springs into three twenty-gallon earthenware containers which were mounted on the stand. . . . Self closing bibs kept visitors from spilling water on the floor. Park employees painted an analysis of the spring waters on the wall of the pavilion.” (Boeger, 103).

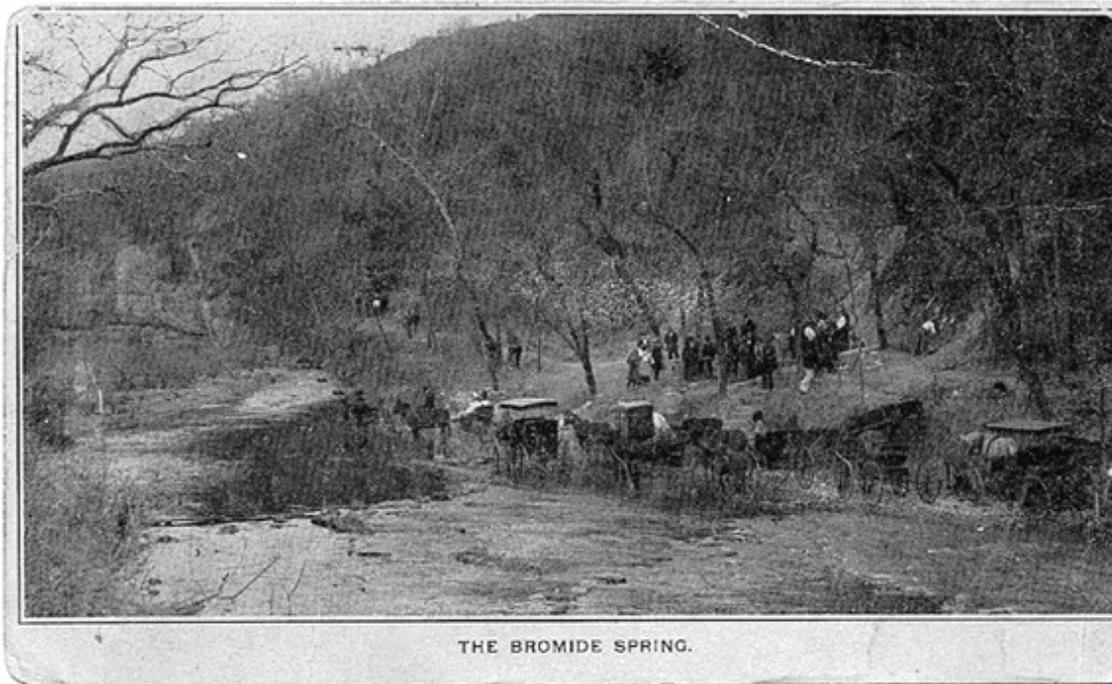
In 1922, Sulphur’s Chamber of Commerce constructed a “community house” on the flat terrace north of Rock Creek. This was one of two community houses in the park; the other constructed in the Cold Springs Campground. The Chamber of Commerce also constructed sewer lines, water lines and electricity to each community house and the estimated expenditure for both houses was between \$13,000 and \$14,000. Construction drawings for the two buildings dated April 29, 1922 (NP-PLA-5) called for rough exterior siding with 8 1/2 inch to the weather and 1 x 12 interior walls, roof shingles 4 1/2 inch to the weather —double every sixth course.

Also in the 1920s, a residence was built in the area for the spring’s caretaker. The large number of improvements may have encouraged townspeople to utilize the Bromide Springs area for an Easter pageant in 1923, an annual event which continued until 1939.

Visitation and usage of Bromide Springs continued to increase, with more and more people arriving by automobile. By the mid 1920s, the City of Sulphur had expanded along West 12th Street, with hotels and bathhouses to accommodate the increase of visitors arriving by both rail

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

and automobile. This location offered easy, short day strolls into the park for convenient access to the mineral waters. In 1923, the single day visitorship for Bromide Springs on July 4th amounted to 18,617 people. Many of these visitors stayed in the Bromide campground, which was an informally structured activity, as shown in photographs of the time. In addition, an area adjacent to Bromide Springs was used for even more informal “camping.” Known as “Squatter’s Camp,” this area was outside the park’s jurisdiction and was described as “unsatisfactory conditions [located] beyond Bromide Hill. . . [the] area is peopled by wandering people who for years were permitted to live on the park” (Report by Branch, February 1934 to September 1934). It was hoped that the property owners would close the area, so that the park could complete the cleanup of the vicinity. The camp was abandoned in 1935.



*Bromide Spring area, showing primitive spring access, circa 1900.
(CNRA archives, postcard file)*



*Open cistern at Bromide Spring, before 1907 when pavilion was built.
(CNRA archives, photograph 408)*



*Bromide Springs with 1907 Pavilion structure, stone crossing in front, circa 1907.
(CNRA archives, photograph 1907)*



*Postcard view of staircase and housing around Iron Spring at the base of Bromide Hill, circa 1913.
(CNRA archives, photograph 2421)*



*Suspension bridge, circa 1908.
(CNRA archives, postcard/ file)*



*Iron bridge or "Rainbow Bridge", date unknown.
(CNRA archives, postcard file)*



*Camping in the Bromide Springs area, circa 1929.
(CNRA archives, photograph 109)*



*Aerial photo showing Bromide Hill and Bromide Springs area and the residential area of Sulphur, circa 1934.
(CNRA archives)*



*New comfort station, 1933.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Bromide Hill Trail wall and steps (no longer extant) possibly leading to Iron Spring, circa 1934.
(CNRA archives, photograph trail 3)*



*Upper section of Bromide Hill Trail, circa 1934.
(CNRA archives, no photograph number)*



*Bromide Pavilion and Lily Pond area, with stone and wood bench, circa 1940. Note flagpoles.
(CNRA archives, photograph 985)*



*View of Bromide Pavilion, date unknown.
(CNRA archives, photograph 397)*

II. 1930-1940 CCC Era Development

The early 1930s provide some of the first good graphic documentation of the area. The Utilities Layout of the General Plan of 1931 shows the locations of the five comfort stations, residence, and community house. Also interesting to note are the roads within the Bromide Springs area, the road along Rock Creek leading to Lincoln Bridge, and the entry to the park at 14th Street. These circulation patterns are quite different from the way they exist today. Drawing NP-PLA-4948 shows similar features two years later in 1933. This drawing also shows the location of the iron bridge and the pavilion on the south side of Rock Creek.

A third useful documentation from the 1930s is an aerial photograph of the area taken circa 1934. This is a particularly interesting view it shows the general character of both the park and the town. In the photograph, the campground and the Bromide Hill cliff are shown as shady, vegetated areas, with the rest of the landscape predominately open and unvegetated. Tents are

scattered across the entire flat plain south of Bromide Creek. The steep slope of Bromide Hill encloses the south side of the campground, making it the clear termination of the sprawling residential area of Sulphur to the north. Sulphur itself is shown as an open, not particularly dense settlement.

These three documents provide the best information of what the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area looked like prior to the development of the area by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), who arrived in the park in May 1933. Work began in the area almost immediately. That summer, at least two of the old five comfort stations were removed. Two new comfort stations were constructed. The locations of the new comfort stations were shown on Drawing NP-PLA-4979.

In late 1933 and early 1934, 7,500 feet of the perimeter road between Bromide Hill and the south park entrance were constructed. The CCC also undertook the complete overhaul of Bromide Hill Trail (Cliffside Trail) from Rock Creek to the Bromide Hill Overlook. Work on Cliffside Trail was already being renovated as early as 1931, prior to the formation of the CCC Camp, and it appears that the CCC crews continued or advanced this work. The San Francisco Office provided trail plans (all E.C.W. plans), while CCC enrollees provided the labor.

By 1934 the rugged, winding trail and hugging the stone outcrops of Bromide Mountain was 7,200' in length. J. C. Miller in a report to Thomas Vint described the project as "bring[ing] to light many new and interesting features in the more secluded areas which were heretofore inaccessible to visitors" (CCC report, July to August 1934). The project was a major work, requiring construction of large retaining walls and drainage infrastructure as well as surfacing the gravel pathways. The elements, including culvert headwalls were designed in the same rustic style as the park's buildings. The stacked native limestone in a concrete mortar used in walls, steps, headwalls, and curbs helped to unify the overall design of the landscape.

In 1935, work began on the formal 12th Street entry. Stone piers located at the intersection of 12th Street and Lindsay Avenue were the first to be constructed. The piers led via a flagstone walk to a fountain located at the terminus of 12th Street. The fountain area was configured as a paved flagstone court with low walls enclosing a circular pool with a single water jet rising some 30 feet into the air. The flagstones had grass joints and a tree canopy enclosed the area overhead. In a CCC report by C. Richey and J. Miller noted that the "Bromide Camp entrance unit was completed and is indeed an attractive portal and quite in keeping with the park's scheme of architecture" (CCC report, September –October '35).

The redesign of the 12th Street entry impacted other aspects of the design of the area. One major aspect was the realignment of the perimeter road away from Rock Creek to where it would intersect the new entry. Some of the intentions of this redesign can be seen in Drawing NP-PLA-4979, above. A major goal of the redesign was the removal of all camping and camp roads within the area and the conversion of portions of these roads into walks and trails. However, the obliteration of these roads and of pre-CCC buildings did not occur. The Master Plan of 1940 (PLA- 3002-I, sheet #4) shows these roads still existing in the eastern part of the

area. It is unclear why these planned demolitions did not occur. It may be due to the reduction in the force of CCC crews in 1937 or perhaps due to the fact that the capacity of existing campgrounds was not sufficient to handle camping crowds.

In fact, existing roads were improved and changed slightly. Between May of 1933 and April of 1934, Bromide Springs Campground received .47 miles (2,500 feet) of road and circulation improvement. Major roads were 12 feet wide and minor roads were 10 feet wide. The circulation system (perimeter road and western loop road) was two-way. Early park photos show large timber members defining the parking areas along the outer edge of the loop road. Roads and parking spurs were four inches of coarse gravel laid with one inch of fine gravel topping (CCC Quarterly Report April to September 1936).

Other elements were also implemented. 1935 saw the construction of the small parking area south of the overlook on Bromide Hill (CCC Report, 1935) and 1936 saw the completion of the Bromide Springs (except for water connections, which were completed in 1937). The building was a classic NPS “Rustic” style building, constructed of massive, gray and brown limestone boulders and large, rough-sawn timbers. The boulders used were the largest of any used in other structures within the park. Within the structure, stone fountains with built-in seats dispensed three types of spring water—bromide, medicine, and sulphur waters. Near the western entrance of the pavilion, a special elevated, concrete tank system was designed for storage of the spring water. Six storage containers measuring approximately three feet by two feet and six feet tall supplied the mineral waters. The storage area was located opposite a small information booth.

The building was situated atop a flagstone patio, which in turn was surrounded by low stone walls. The flagstone patio was approximately 61 by 88 feet and the stone walls were approximately 3 feet thick. To the north, the patio met the surrounding park area more or less at grade. To the south, steps led down to a grassy lawn court, where a rectangular stone and concrete pool was set into the ground. The pool was constructed to be 12 feet by 30 feet. Its four-foot depth varied six inches from end to end to aid in drainage and maintenance. The walls and floor were of reinforced concrete, eight inches thick. A flagstone coping 2 feet 4 inches wide enclosed the sides. This so-called “Lily Pond” was surrounded on three sides by a wood and stone bench with semi-circular ends. Historic photos show this setting around the rectangular pool both with and without flagpoles.

One of the last buildings of CCC-era to be constructed at Bromide Springs was a rustic style comfort station. This comfort station replaced two existing concrete comfort stations. According to a construction report of 1934 these two buildings were of concrete, needed constant repairs and too small, poorly lighted and located too close to the main road. The rustic style comfort station was modeled after the comfort stations in Cold Spring Campground. Materials used in the construction were sawn wood timbers a rough, dark gray and brown limestone. The stone units were large and irregular in shape, and the masonry was also done in a fashion to enhance the random, natural feel of the structure.

In 1937, the perimeter road causeway across Rock Creek (just west of the Bromide Springs

area) was constructed. A Public Works project, the bridge is shown in Drawing NP-PLA-5042. In February 1937, a survey party from the San Francisco Engineering Office located and staked the final design layout at Bromide (CCC report, February to March 1937). Jeremy Miller in his CCC report of May 1937 noted that the causeway and rip-rap were built as shown on the engineering plans. One field adjustment was needed: footings had to go two feet deeper than originally planned. Miller, in a later report (August to November 1937) was not that impressed with the results, noting that the “low-water crossing at Bromide [is] complete and of mediocre quality.”

Plantings were another aspect of NPS and CCC design and construction in the Bromide area. The first record of plantings by CCC tree crews was during 1934 and 1935, when 3,000 Eastern red cedar seedlings were set out along the hillside at Bromide Springs between Rock Creek and the ridge (Quarterly Report, October 1934 to March 1935). However, approximately the same number had been planted the previous year with only 20% survival. In 1936, 25,000 cedars, deciduous trees and bare root shrubs were planted in the western section of the park, though it is not clear how many of these were planted in the Bromide area. Another planting period mentions the planting of 10,000 trees and shrubs in both Bromide Springs and Pavilion Springs.

In 1940, the Bromide Area was included in the 1940 Master Plan. Additional construction work on paths and demolition of the community house and park residence were recommended, but these projects were never implemented. In 1943 Rainbow Bridge was removed for scrap metal.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area has not changed appreciably over the years since the end of the period of significance in either function or appearance. In fact, all major designed elements and structures are extant, including the Bromide Springs Pavilion, Comfort Station, Bromide Hill Overlook, Bromide Hill Trail, and elements of the 12th Street Fountain and Entry. Major landscape features such as the open lawns, natural water course of Rock Creek, and dramatic topography of Bromide Hill are very much like their historic conditions, based on historic photographs. Minor changes over time have included the loss of the Rainbow Bridge, widening and asphaltting of roadways to accommodate increased vehicular use, small-scale feature change and loss along Bromide Hill Trail and loss of trees and plantings due to age and natural conditions. Other lost features include the bench around the Pavilion's Lily Pond, and there are a number of other small changes described in greater detail below. However, the most significant loss in the component landscape is clearly the loss of mineral water dispensing at the Pavilion, since this loss changes, to some degree, the traditional use of the area.

Happily, many of these changes are potentially reversible, given adequate research and funding. For example, the loss of the 30 foot water jet at the 12th Street fountain could be reversed by devising a new water delivery and pumping system within that fountain. Similar ideas and treatments might be applied in other areas in the landscape. As shown below, integrity of the component landscape is quite high and should aid in devising an appropriate treatment of the landscape.

Below is a list of contributing and non-contributing elements. In addition, there is a listing of LCS structures to clarify which LCS listings are located within this component landscape. Non contributing features are marked with an asterisk.

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

- Natural Systems Features (Rock Creek)
- Spatial Organization (Layout, organization)
- Cultural Traditions (picnicking, use as gathering space, collecting mineral water)
- Land Use (use as picnicking and recreational area)
- Topography (existing topography, including cliff)
- Vegetation (Eastern Deciduous Forest and understory canopy)
- Circulation: (Perimeter Road, area roads walkways, trails)
- Building Structures (Comfort Station, Bromide Springs Pavilion, Travertine Ranger Station, Bromide Ranger Station and Garage)
- Small Scale Features (Pavilion Pond, 12th St. Entrance Piers, 12th St. Fountain and flagstone court, 12th Street flagstone curbing, spring enclosures and former pumphouse, low water pedestrian crossing, Rock Creek Causeway, Bromide Hill Trail culverts, retaining walls, drainage structures)
- Views and Vistas (Vista from Bromide Hill)

NONCONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

— Small Scale Features: Modern Trailer Dump, Modern Sign at 12th Street Entrance

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its historical significance. Integrity is based on the presence of physical features dating to the historic period, and is further defined by seven aspects, which are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. A property, to convey its significance, must have integrity in several if not all of the aspects. Below is a preliminary analysis of the integrity of the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area.

Location

All buildings, structures, trails and parking areas are in the same location as during the period of significance. Integrity of location is High.

Design

Integrity of overall layout and design is preliminarily considered high, due to little change. As noted above, buildings, structures, trails and steps, watercourses and parking areas are still laid out in their original locations. Some minor changes have occurred to some of these elements, e.g., widening of paths, but most original designed elements appear to be retained. There appear to be few losses in designed elements, as well, primarily in the form of individual trees due to age and storm damage. Otherwise, vegetation remains deployed in its CCC-designed “natural manner.” Vegetation patterns do not appear to have changed significantly since 1937-38. The addition of the trailer dump and the existing old park roads/ structures has had a low impact on the overall site design. There may also be losses or changes in the location and design of small scale elements such as railings, guard rails, and flower beds. More research will determine the extent of these losses.

Setting

The area’s integrity of location and the protection of its surroundings due to its adjacency to other CNRA lands, have ensured that integrity of setting is high. The setting exists much as it did at the end of the period of significance, with native forest vegetation to the south, east, and west, and Sulphur’s residential community to the south. Views in all directions remain largely unchanged since the period of significance. The only major change in setting has been the design and construction of Rock Creek Campground in the 1950s, though this is not a major detraction to the area. Thus, integrity of setting is high at both Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill.

Materials

The integrity of materials within Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill is high, as most areas retain their original materials. The integrity of materials used to construct the park seems relatively high, as original materials of the park’s construction—grass, trees, parking area stones, paving of foot trails, low stone walls, bridges and steps —are still extant. Some minor changes in tree composition in the park-like areas and in understory areas have likely occurred and will need to be assessed. Details of some features, such as railings have been lost and Some small-scale feature materials, such as stone and wood used to construct bridges and dams have also changed over time. Materials used in the buildings and structures, however, appear to be primarily intact and continue to reflect the NPS rustic design

philosophy.

Workmanship

The integrity of masonry and craftsmanship of walkways, curbing, comfort station and Pavilion is high, since it retains its original condition. The elements of the landscape reflect a high level of skill and workmanship, as they did originally as exemplified by constructions such as the pavilion, comfort station, and fountain. Along Cliffside Trail, some replacement work along the trails does not exhibit the same qualities and attention to detail that the original CCC work showed, and this affects integrity somewhat. However, considering the large area of the component landscape, integrity of workmanship for the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area is high.

Feeling

The integrity of feeling is high. The extant natural setting contributes to the integrity of feeling. Views within this setting remain largely unchanged as designed since the period of significance and also contribute to the extant historic feeling of a natural, park like environment. The views from Bromide Hill Overlook change regularly with the seasons and sound and movement of water below and wind above remain as they did historically. Continuing traditional uses of the park as a passive recreation landscape (for picnicking, meeting, and drinking water) also contributes to the integrity of feeling, since these activities provide an animated, yet leisurely aspect to the area. The integrity of feeling is high.

Association

The integrity of association is high. Because evidence of the area's original design and development are retained, as are its use as a passive recreational landscape, integrity of association of the area with NPS recreational park development is judged, from a preliminary standpoint, to be high. Evidence of early and later park development remains prominent. The layout of Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill continues to illustrate CCC-era park development around the enclosed spring containers.

Overall Rating

Based on the above assessment of the seven aspects of integrity, overall integrity for the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill is high area would be high. Essential features are retained and visible, and most, if not all of the aspects of integrity are judged to be high. Only slight modifications to the wooded park-like setting of Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill have occurred.

Landscape Characteristic:

Archeological Sites

n/a

Buildings and Structures

The buildings at Bromide Springs represent several architectural styles from different National Park Service eras. There are five buildings in the area, including the Bromide Springs Pavilion, the comfort station, Travertine ranger station, and the Bromide ranger station and its associated garage.

Comfort Station: The Bromide Springs comfort station is of the same design theme and

construction as those in Cold Springs Campground. It is located just south of the 12th Street fountain. The building is rectangular in shape—approximately 28 by 32 feet—with massive boulders comprising the walls at the base of the building. The stones in the masonry above decrease in size upwards toward the timber roofline and roof. The entryways are protected and made private by walls that wrap around the doorways. The building has a south-facing exposure. In general, the building is an excellent example of rustic NPS park architecture, and it remains in a condition very close to its condition during the period of significance. Changes to the building include a change from a hip-end gable to a simple gable roof, and historic photos show the roof likely had plain wood shingles.

Bromide Springs Pavilion: As stated above, Bromide Springs Pavilion was the first CCC-era building to be constructed at Bromide Springs and exists today much as it did at the end of the period of significance. The structure is an NPS rustic design, utilizing boulders and large timbers in its construction. Changes include both changes in use and appearance.

Historically, pipes from springs and wells fed the storage tanks and spigots in the Pavilion. The appearance of the spigots changed a number of times; in the 1960s, white porcelain basins were used to dispense the mineral waters. By the 1960s and 1970s, Medicine and Bromide Springs were disconnected due to poor water quality and diminished flow. Well problems then led to the discontinued use of Jack Diamond Well (which provided sulfur water), again sometime in the 1970s or 1980s (date is not exactly clear). Today, the porcelain basins are gone, and typical water fountain spigots dispense city water into the stone basins.

The other major change to the area is the loss of the wooden bench feature encircling the rectangular lily pond. It is unknown exactly when this loss occurred. The stone piers holding up the bench are still extant along the lower wall of the Pavilion Terrace and in the woods adjacent to the Pavilion. A concrete curb has also been added around the flagstone coping of the lily pond itself. Flagpoles were also once extant in the area. These are now gone, and further research should be conducted to determine their precise historic time periods and locations.

Travertine Ranger Station: Known earlier as both the Museum and as the Community House, the present-day Travertine Ranger Station is one of the extant buildings in the Bromide area that were constructed prior to the CCC-era work plan. Located in the eastern portion of the area, the Travertine Ranger Station is roughly 33 by 45 feet and is constructed of wood frame construction. The building sits on a concrete foundation and has a small porch on its south side. Like the other Community House in Cold Springs Campground, the Travertine Ranger Station was built by the Sulphur Chamber of Commerce in the 1920s. The building was slated for removal in 1940s Master Plan documents, but demolition never occurred. Today it is painted brown like most NPS structures, and blends into its surroundings, and it is used as ranger offices.

Bromide Ranger Station: This building, also known as Residence #4, was also built in 1922, prior to the CCC work done in the area. It originally served as a park residence, but today

serves as a ranger station. It is of wood frame construction and has a limestone-faced foundation. It is painted brown.

Bromide Ranger Station Garage: The Bromide Ranger Station has an adjoining garage built at approximately the same time as the ranger station. Connecting the garage to the former residence is a flagstone path. The garage is screened by woody vegetation.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Bromide Springs Comfort Station

Feature Identification Number: 118382

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62871

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Comfort Station

LCS Structure Number: B-022

Feature: Bromide Springs Pavilion

Feature Identification Number: 118384

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62872

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Pavilion

LCS Structure Number: B-016

Feature: Bromide Springs Museum Building

Feature Identification Number: 118386

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62873

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Museum Building

LCS Structure Number: B-020

Feature: Bromide Springs Residence #4

Feature Identification Number: 118388

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62874

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Residence #4

LCS Structure Number: B-004

Feature: Bromide Springs Garage
Feature Identification Number: 118390
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 62875
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Garage
LCS Structure Number: B-010

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Bromide Springs Comfort Station, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph).*



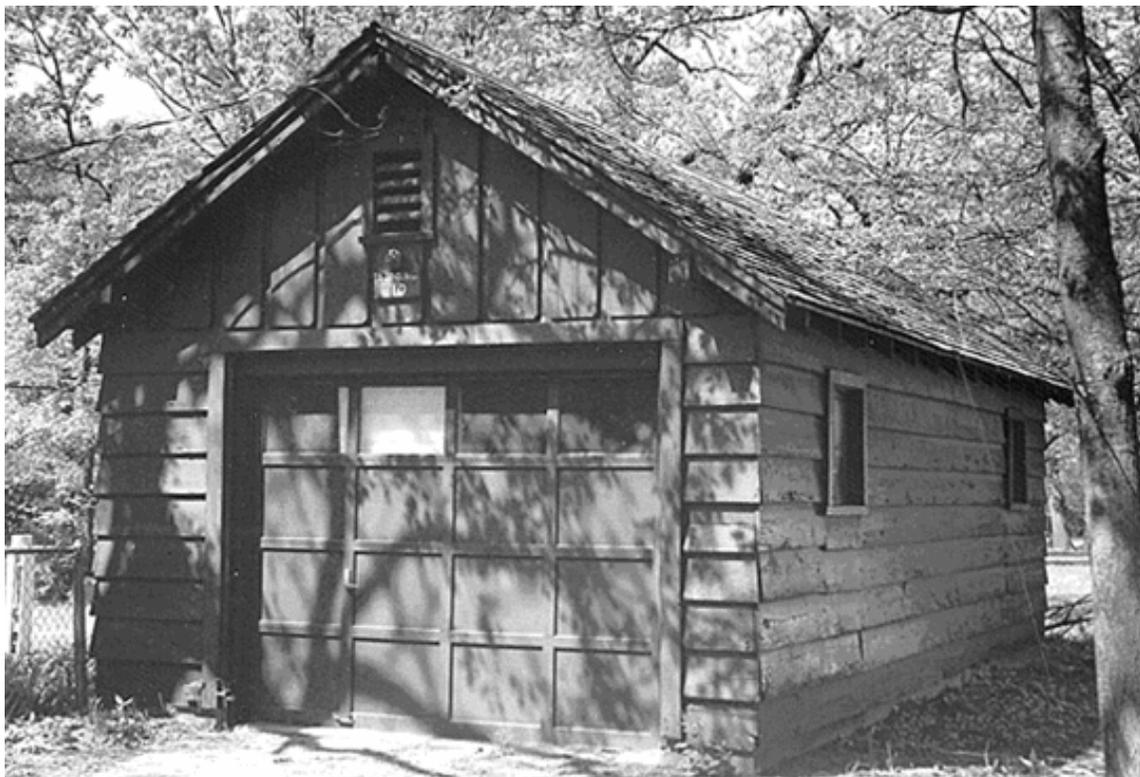
*Bromide Springs Pavilion, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Travertine Ranger Station, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Bromide Ranger Station (former residence), circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Garage for Bromide Ranger Station, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*

Circulation

Circulation systems within the component landscape consist of vehicular and pedestrian circulation. Today, circulation systems exist in a form quite similar to the way they existed at the end of the period of significance.

The vehicular circulation system in Bromide Springs is essentially a two-way, asphalt-paved system composed of two loops, accessed from the district's perimeter road. In addition, there is a formal entry off of 12th street, which is primarily a formal, almost ceremonial type of entrance to the larger area. Roads in this area have a stone curb. The west loop is a single loop that intersects the perimeter road in two places and that provides access to the trailer dumping station, park residence, and Bromide Pavilion. Parking is provided in a widening of the paving along the southern part of the loop. The eastern loop is a wider loop, and is again accessed from two points along the perimeter road. This loop however, has a second roadway that provides access to the ranger station and the comfort station. Parking is provided along the roadways and at two small lots in front of the two buildings. The loop roads generally do not have curbs but are separated from the park areas by large boulders.

Vehicular circulation is provided to Bromide Hill via the perimeter road to the west. A small, one-way loop parking lot is located just south of the overlook. The oval parking area is elevated higher than the road access.

This vehicular circulation system within Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill is quite similar to what existed at the end of the period of significance, as revealed by a comparison of the 1940 aerial photograph and the site plan. It appears that a few “minor” roads for camping access may have existed within the eastern loop area in particular. In addition, the eastern loop’s easternmost access point on the perimeter road has been changed in recent times to be more of a “T” intersection. Some small-scale features of the parking areas, such as timber guardrails defining parking areas, have also been lost. Otherwise the intent and extent of the looping roads remains much as they did in the 1940s.

Pedestrian circulation within the flat terrace of the Bromide Springs area is a series of informal, gravel and fines paths that connect the Bromide Pavilion, 12th Street fountain and the ranger station with parking areas and each other. Despite plans for a more formalized system seen on park master plans, it appears these more informal paths have existed in their current locations since at least the period of significance. A more “engineered” pedestrian system exists on the trail up to Bromide Hill. This trail is known as Cliffside Trail, Bromide Hill Trail, or Trail #1. This trail exists along its original alignment, but alterations to control water and erosion have necessitated minor additions to the uphill portion of the trail. Features of the trail system such as culverts and walls are described in greater detail below under Small-scale Features. A small portion of Trail #2 (Pavilion Springs Trail) is also included in this component landscape.

Character-defining Features:

- Feature: Robber's Roost Parking
- Feature Identification Number: 118374
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- IDLCS Number: 62861
- LCS Structure Name: Robber's Roost Parking
- LCS Structure Number: BROM.213
-
- Feature: Bromide Hill Trail #1
- Feature Identification Number: 118376
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
- IDLCS Number: 62990
- LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail #1
- LCS Structure Number: TR-001
-
- Feature: Bromide Springs Trail #10
- Feature Identification Number: 118378
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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IDLCS Number: 63000
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Trail #10
LCS Structure Number: TR-010

Feature: Bromide Springs Loop Roads
Feature Identification Number: 118380
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 395888
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Loop Roads
LCS Structure Number: BROM.O

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Typical loop road in Bromide Springs area, 2001.
(Photograph by Iowa State University)*



Parking area at Bromide Springs Pavilion, showing timber guard rails (no longer extant), 1937.

(CNRA archives, photograph 965)

Cluster Arrangement

n/a

Constructed Water Features

12th Street Fountain: The 12th Street fountain dominates the entrance to the Bromide Springs area and is a fitting introduction to this landscape of medicinal waters. Built at the same time as the 12th Street piers, it is constructed of the same materials—limestone masonry. Though it exists much as it did at the end of the period of significance, it has seen some changes over the years. First, the flagstone paving around the circular basin was designed and constructed with grass joints. Today, the paving has mortar joints. Second, the fountain once featured a single, central water jet which rose about 30 feet above the circular pool. Today, a jet exists in the center of the pool, but is multi-streamed, and because it is supplied by a city water line, does not have the same water pressure to create such a dramatic flow as existed historically. Third, the drinking fountains located at the ends of the fountain's encircling walls are no longer functioning, as they did historically. According to 1930s-1950s utility plans, these drinking fountains—and the jet of the fountain—were supplied by the Jack Diamond well, which was located in the residential area north of Lindsey Avenue. Despite these changes, the fountain area looks much as it did historically.

Bromide Spring Pavilion Lily Pond: This pond was designed as part of the setting for the Bromide Springs Pavilion, and remains in relatively good condition. It is described in greater detail above, under Bromide Springs Pavilion. Changes have been made to it, including the

addition of a curb around the pool's coping. The pool was recently cleaned out and filled with sand to within 24 inches of the surface and its fountain reconstructed and connected to city water.

Character-defining Features:

Feature: Bromide Springs Fountain

Feature Identification Number: 118430

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62870

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Fountain

LCS Structure Number: BROM.E

Feature: Bromide Pavilion Lily Pond

Feature Identification Number: 118432

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64275

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Pavilion Lily Pond

LCS Structure Number: BROM.F

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*12th Street Fountain, view looking north down 12th Street axis, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*

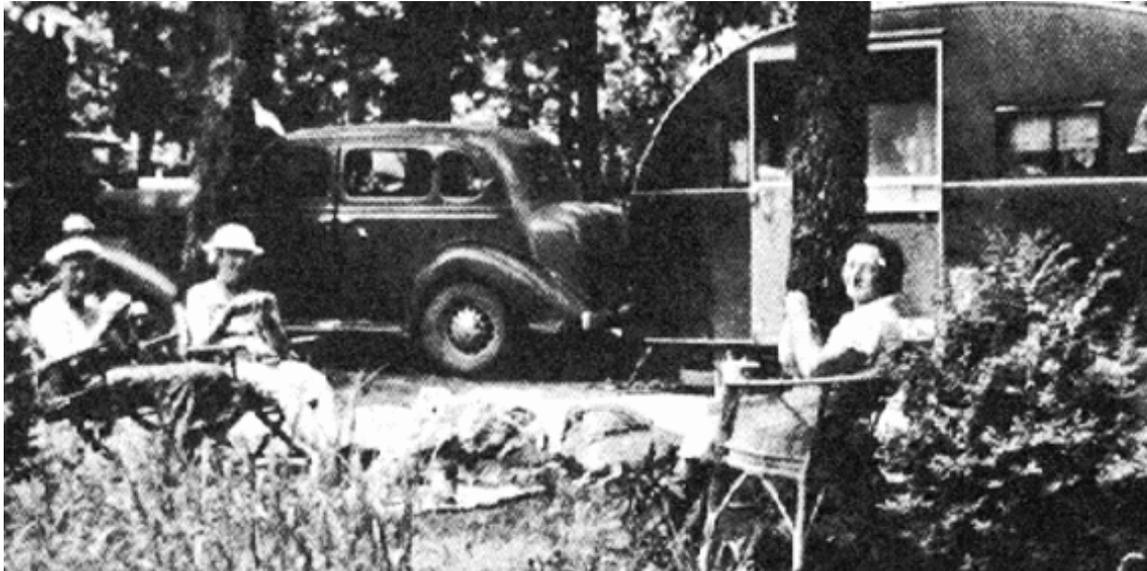
Cultural Traditions

The major cultural traditions associated with this component landscape are camping, picnicking and day use, and drinking mineral spring water. Of these uses, picnicking and day use are still of major importance. The Bromide Springs area retains a feeling of a park or recreational landscape through which people stroll. The extant formal entry enhances the park-like quality of the space. In addition, the Bromide Springs area is still used as a setting for periodic concerts by music groups and for gatherings of large groups of picnickers, much as it was used historically.

In contrast, the cultural traditions of camping and mineral water consumption have faded. Camping in the area became increasingly less formalized over the years. Between 1937 and 1950, the area was primarily used for overflow camping when the other campgrounds were full. Camping at Bromide Springs ceased officially in 1950, with the completion of Rock Creek Campground. The tradition of mineral water consumption remained strong throughout the period of significance, and began only to taper off in the 1960s, when mineral water treatment became less popular. Consumption of mineral water ceased in the 1970's, after Bromide Springs dried up in 1972 and other wells and springs supplying Bromide Pavilion became contaminated. Water is still provided for drinking in the Pavilion, but is now treated city water instead of mineral water. Thus, the tradition of drinking water continues, though the content of the water has changed.

Another cultural tradition is the use of the Bromide Hill area as an overlook. This tradition has existed since Native American times, when the hill was called “Council Rock.” Today, the Bromide Hill overlook continues to delight visitors with a panoramic view of the town of Sulphur and the surrounding countryside to the north, and park to the east.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Camping in Bromide Springs area, circa 1935.
(CNRA archives, photograph OLDCAMP2)*



*Taking mineral water away from Bromide Pavilion, 1967.
(CNRA archives, photograph 633)*

Land Use

Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill have continuously served as a place for leisure and recreational experiences since 1907. The area has been used as a gathering place by large and small groups, as a place for recreational strolling and walking, as a locale for camping, and as a place to drink or gather mineral water. Of these uses, the use by individuals and groups for picnicking, walking, and other passive recreational activities remain primary. One popular recreational use is climbing the trail up Bromide Hill and viewing the panorama from the overlook area.

The other land uses have been lost or changed. Camping in the area ceased in 1950, as described above. Today, the springs that historically fed the Bromide Pavilion have ceased flowing or suffered bacteria contamination, so that water provided for drinking is city water.

Natural Systems and Features

Bromide Springs is set on a flat, heavily wooded floodplain terrace with a south-facing exposure. The major natural feature running through the area is Rock Creek, which is situated at the base of the curving cliff of Bromide Hill, which is characterized by its rough nature and numerous rocky outcroppings. The topography (described below as a separate feature) is another important natural feature within the area. Both Rock Creek and the natural topography

of the area exist in much the same condition as they did at the end of the period of significance.

The area is also known for its natural springs, which have been trapped in pipes and cisterns over the years. These springs, which include Bromide Springs (also known as Bromide #1), Medicine Springs, and Chloride Springs (Bromide #2) are described in greater detail below, under Water Features.

Small Scale Features

Many small-scale features contribute to the character of Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill. These include the 12th Street Entrance, the 12th Street Fountain, and Steps and Culverts at Bromide Hill, among others such as trail retaining walls and drainage structures. The small-scale features are listed and described below.

Bromide Entry Piers: As noted above, the piers at Bromide entrance were constructed during the 4th enrollment period and provide a formal pedestrian entry to the park. Here, 12th street is lined with flagstone curbing. Placed across 12th Street from each other are two sets of large and small piers, constructed of Mississippi limestone. The large piers are 3 feet 6 inches square and stand 11 feet tall. Separated by a flagstone walkway are smaller piers (3 feet square and 4 feet tall). These features appear not to have changed much since the period of significance. The only major change to the area is the addition of the brown and white NPS sign, which was not located here historically.

Bromide Entry Curbs, Walkway, and Culverts: The sandstone curbing along the road and walkways of both the 12th Street Entrance and 12th Street Fountain are elements that define space and enhance the stylistic unity of the entire entry landscape. Culverts are also associated at the edge of these features to allow for roadway drainage.

Steps and Culvert Headwall at Bromide Hill Parking Area: The parking area at Bromide Hill (Robber's Roost) was completed in 1935. The major element of this parking area consists of a retaining wall of conglomerate boulders that lines the northern edge of the parking area. Also, conglomerate boulders spaced some distance apart define the upper/ outer edges of the parking area. Near the center of the retaining wall, a set of limestone steps with conglomerate boulder edging leads visitors and park users up a trail and to the Bromide Hill Overlook. A second series of steps to the east were added in the 1980s and lead to the Cliffside Trail. These additional steps are a non-contributing feature of the component landscape.

Located in an island between the existing entry drive and the parking area is a small culvert with a stone headwall. This vegetated planting island helps define the space of the parking area as separate from the entry drive space.

Bromide Hill Trail Features: The Cliffside Trail or Bromide Hill Trail (Trail #1) runs from the base of Bromide Mountain south of Rock Creek up to the Overlook at Bromide Hill. CCC crews installed a system of stone walls, culverts, and drainage curbs along the trail. Many of these features remain today and include: the retaining walls at the junction of the trail, a log and stone pier Railing; a large bridge culvert, and twelve retaining wall drains. Some changes have

occurred to these features as they have been repaired over the years. One of the most notable changes is the substitution of single, circular timber rails for double, square timber rails along the large stone and pier retaining wall (see earlier photograph in history section). Around 1990, stone swales were added to solve drainage and erosion problems.

Rock Creek Causeway: The Rock Creek Causeway along the perimeter road is located just west of Bromide springs. Some wear has occurred on the bridge, and in particular, the curbing. The essential layout remains the same, though periodic flooding prompts rebuilding. Built in 1937, the bridge has not changed significantly since then. The bridge is notable for its coursed stone piers.

Bromide Pedestrian Causeway: Bromide Trail is connected to the Bromide Springs area by a low water pedestrian crossing located at the base of Bromide Hill. The bridge is accessed from the parking area near the RV dumping station. The low-water crossing connecting is about three feet in width. Built of concrete, it was completed in the early 1930s.

Dumping Station: A dumping station is located in the western loop of Bromide Springs, just southwest of the Bromide Ranger Station. This feature was installed after the historic period, and is a non-contributing feature.

Spring Enclosures and Former Pumphouse: There are three concrete structures located along Bromide Hill Trail. These structures are two spring enclosures and the above ground concrete block structure of a former pumphouse. The structures are approximately three feet square. The pumphouse is exposed about eight feet above grade, while the others are flush with grade. One of the spring enclosures is elevated on a slope above the trail, and may be the spring formerly known as Iron Spring. In the springtime, water sometimes emerges in this area, where soft conglomerate rock meets harder limestone, revealing the former use of the element. These features are remnants of the designed elements used to collect and pipe the springs' mineral waters to Bromide Springs Pavilion.

Interpretive Sign: Along Cliffside Trail and near a spring enclosure is an interpretive sign. As shown in historic photographs, the sign originally was a typical example of rustic signage found in the Platt District, which were large planks with carved letters, anchored at the ends with logs of varying heights and diameters. Today the sign, which appears to be a replacement, is missing its log anchoring ends. The text—describing “Ancient Rivers and Mountains” of the area— is incised with white letters, and is roughly 46 inches by 76 inches.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Rock Creek Causeway
Feature Identification Number:	119584
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	62862
LCS Structure Name:	Rock Creek Low Water Bridge

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

LCS Structure Number: P-Rd.C

Feature: Bromide Springs Entrance Piers

Feature Identification Number: 118392

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 62864

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Entrance Piers

LCS Structure Number: BROM.A

Feature: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Stone Pier

Feature Identification Number: 118394

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64210

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Stone Pier, Railing & Wall 1

LCS Structure Number: TR-001.A

Feature: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Retaining Wall

Feature Identification Number: 118396

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64212

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Retaining Wall & Drainage #3

LCS Structure Number: TR-001.B

Feature: BH Trail #1 Retaining Wall & Drainage #4

Feature Identification Number: 119800

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64221

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Retaining Wall & Drainage #4

LCS Structure Number: TR-001.D

Feature: Robber's Roost Steps at Parking Lot

Feature Identification Number: 118398

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64257

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

LCS Structure Name: Robber's Roost Steps at Parking Lot

LCS Structure Number: BROM.213.A

Feature: Robber's Roost Culvert at Parking Lot

Feature Identification Number: 118400

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64258

LCS Structure Name: Robber's Roost Culvert at Parking Lot

LCS Structure Number: BROM.213.B

Feature: Bromide and Medicine Springs Enclosures

Feature Identification Number: 118402

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64261

LCS Structure Name: Bromide and Medicine Spring Enclosures

LCS Structure Number: BROM.I

Feature: Bromide Springs Area Pump House

Feature Identification Number: 118404

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64262

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Area Underground Pump House

LCS Structure Number: BROM.H

Feature: Bromide Entrance Curbs

Feature Identification Number: 118406

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 64286

LCS Structure Name: Bromide Entrance Curbs

LCS Structure Number: BROM.B

Feature: Bromide Entrance Road Culvert

Feature Identification Number: 118408

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

IDLCS Number: 64287
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Entrance Road Culvert
LCS Structure Number: BROM.C

Feature: Bromide Pedestrian Causeway
Feature Identification Number: 118410
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 64289
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Pedestrian Causeway
LCS Structure Number: BROM.J

Feature: Travertine Ranger Station Wooden
Feature Identification Number: 118412
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 255634
LCS Structure Name: Travertine Ranger Station Wooden Flagpole
LCS Structure Number: BROM.M

Feature: Bromide Area East Loop Road Box
Feature Identification Number: 118414
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 255887
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Area East Loop Road Box Culvert
LCS Structure Number: BROM.L

Feature: Bromide Springs Trail Masonry Headwall
Feature Identification Number: 118418
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 321539
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Springs Trail Masonry Headwall Culverts
LCS Structure Number: BROM.P

Feature: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Overlook
Feature Identification Number: 118420

Bromide Springs/Bromide Hill
Chickasaw NRA - Travertine District

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 322009
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Overlook and Stone Features
LCS Structure Number: TR-001.E

Feature: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Retaining Wall #2

Feature Identification Number: 118422
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 323608
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Retaining Wall #2
LCS Structure Number: TR-001.C

Feature: Bromide Entrance Road 3 Part Culvert

Feature Identification Number: 118424
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 393483
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Entrance Road 3 Part Culvert
LCS Structure Number: BROM.D

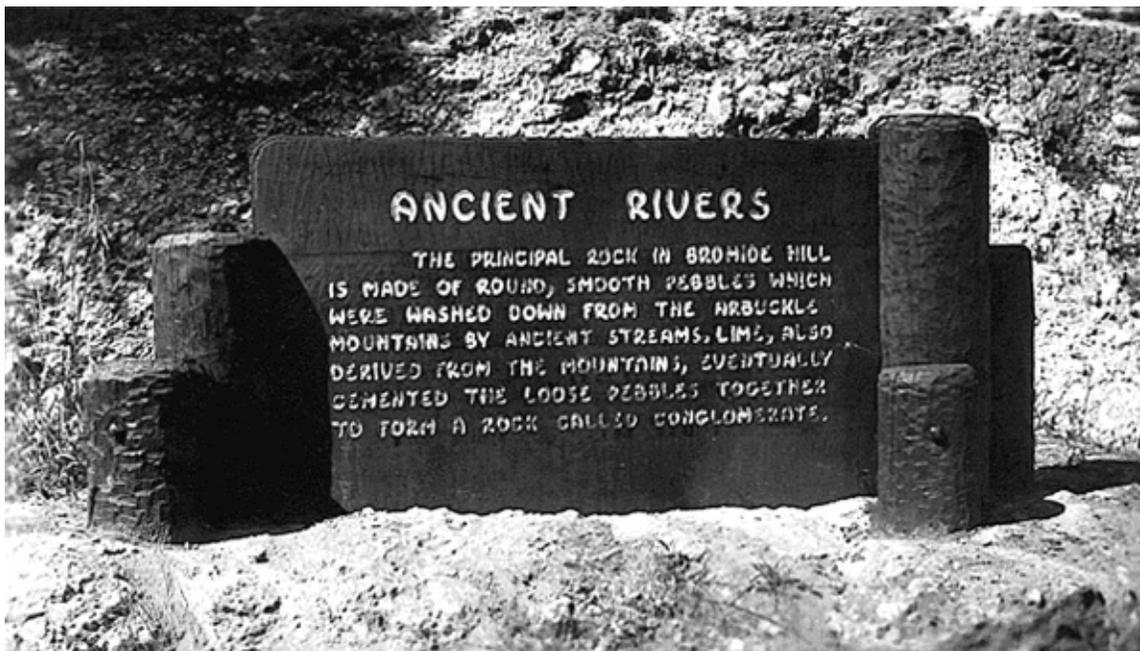
Feature: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Retaining Wall

Feature Identification Number: 118426
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 396745
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail #1 Retaining Wall & Drainage #5
LCS Structure Number: TR-001.F

Feature: Bromide Hill Trail Retaining Wall #6

Feature Identification Number: 118428
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing
IDLCS Number: 396748
LCS Structure Name: Bromide Hill Trail Retaining Wall #6
LCS Structure Number: TR-001.G

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Original CCC interpretive sign along Bromide Hill Trail, circa 1936.

Compare to existing sign, shown in previous photograph.

(CNRA archives, photograph 25)



Flagstone walk and curbing of varied heights at the intersection of the perimeter road and 12th Street, circa 1997.

Note small raised stone edging columns at corners and entry road culvert in tree shadows.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)



Flagstone walk and curbing of varied heights at the intersection of the perimeter road and 12th Street, circa 1997

Note entry road culvert in background.



*Stone steps and conglomerate boulders at the Bromide Hill parking area, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



Stone culvert headwall in island between parking area and entry road, circa 1997.

Note steps in the distance.

(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)



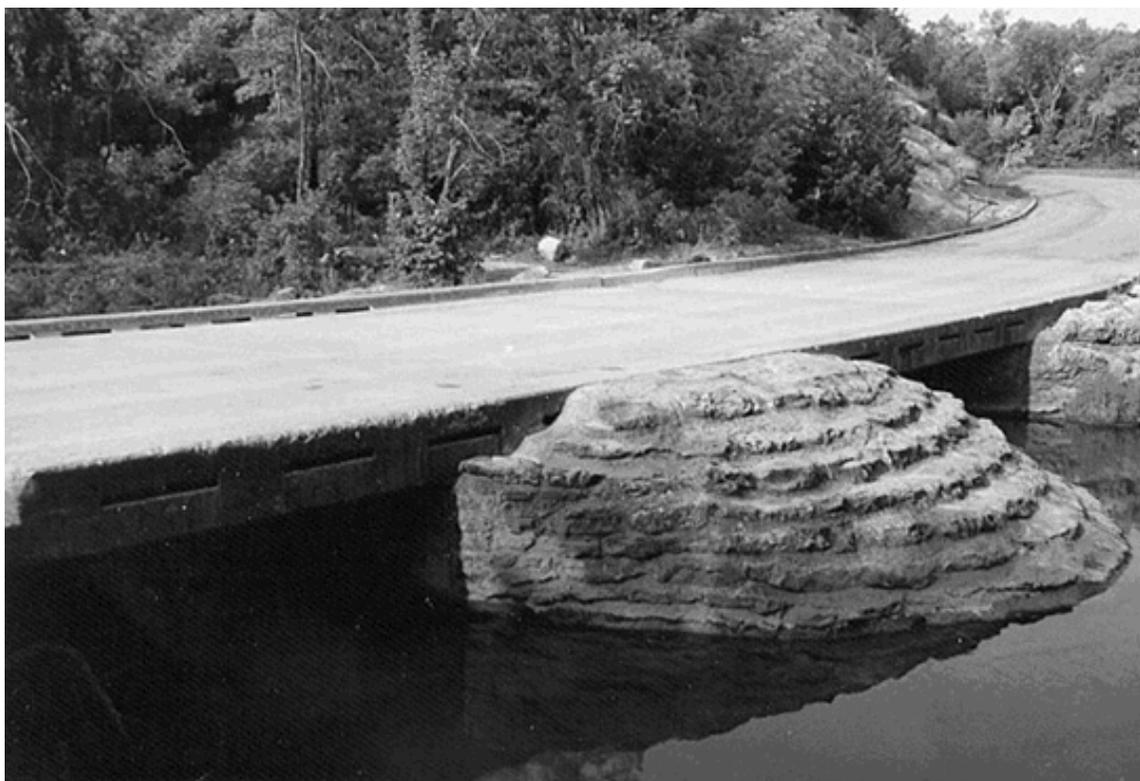
*Trail stone retaining walls along Bromide Hill Trail, 2000.
(Photograph by harlen Groe)*



*Typical retaining wall with retaining wall drain along Bromide Hill Trail, 2000.
(Photograph by harlen Groe)*



*Downslope side of bridge culvert along Bromide Hill Trail, 2000.
(Photograph by harlen Groe)*



*Low water bridge across Rock Creek along perimeter road.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*



*Pedestrian crossing over Rock Creek between Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill Trail, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph).*



*Spring enclosure elevated above Bromide Hill Trail, circa 1997.
(CNRA archives, LCS photograph)*

Spatial Organization

Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill is divided spatially by topography into two major areas: the floodplain and the escarpment rising 150 feet to the south. These two areas have developed into two separate areas with different uses. The lower flood plain area, bounded by Rock Creek to the south and Lindsay Avenue and the park boundary to the north, has developed into a park-like landscape. This flat area is further divided into zones by the vehicular circulation. In particular, the park area north of the perimeter road is perceived as an area quite separate from the area to the south. This is further enhanced by the fact that parking and picnicking activities and all major buildings are located in the area to the south.

The course of Rock Creek, located at some elevation below the floodplain terrace also seems

to be a separate space from the escarpment to the south or the parkland and picnic area to the north. Similarly, the trails climbing the cliff also exist as a separate spatial experience of vertical ascension up the steep cliff. The trail is also quite narrowly defined as a linear spatial experience by its narrow path width and the enclosing nature of the retaining walls, vertical cliff face and railings that define the path.

The final spatial area of the component landscape is the summit of Bromide Hill. This area is further defined into two sections, which are the parking area and the overlook with its associated trails. The parking area is separated from the overlook and trails by being situated lower topographically than the overlook, on the opposite down slope of Bromide Hill. The slope and stairs leading up from the parking lot emphasize this separation, and in addition, the parking area is enclosed by vegetation on all sides. Based on aerial photographs, it seems that the enclosure of this area by vegetation, particularly dense cedar plantings, has increased over the years.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Overall area
Feature Identification Number:	118490
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Topography

As shown in the site plan, the topography of the Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill area varies from a flat floodplain terrace (Bromide Springs) to a steep, vertical escarpment (Bromide Hill) rising 159 feet above Rock Creek. The elevations across the area range from 916 feet at Rock Creek near Bromide Pavilion to 1070 feet at the Bromide Hill overlook to 1073 feet at the summit of Bromide Hill. Topography in the area exists much as it did during the period of significance.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Overall area topography
Feature Identification Number:	118488
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Vegetation

Bromide Springs and Bromide Hill contain both designed and naturalized vegetation. Plant communities were first mapped in 1937. A digital copy of the plan based on this survey is provided below. The plant communities range from mesic communities along Rock Creek to xeric communities on the top of Bromide Hill. These areas are indicated as 7, 8, and 9 on the map by Dale, 1965; see map in the Iowa State CLI hardcopy or park files.

In the level floodplain terrace of Bromide Springs, overstory species near the Ranger Station (former Museum and Community House) consist mostly of *Ulmus americana*, *Quercus texana*,

Celtis laevigata, and *Carya cordiformis*. Understory species in the banks along Rock Creek include *Ulmus americana*, *Celtis laevigata*, and *Cornus drummondii*. Shrub layers include a mixture of *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, *Smilax bona-nox* and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia*.

Near Bromide Overlook overstory species consist of *Quercus breviloba*, *Quercus stellata* and *Fraxinus texensis* and understory species are generally the same species plus *Rhus triloba*. Shrub layers are a mixture of *Quercus breviloba*, *Quercus stellata*, *Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*, and *Forestiera pubescens*. Vegetation composition in a transect along the north side of Bromide Hill varies from mesic species near the base of the hill to xeric species on and near the top, where vegetation cover is 36% plant cover and 64% bare ground.

Historic conditions of naturalized vegetation seem to be similar to those of today as described above. A 1937 topographical survey map for the Bromide Springs area, prior to major CCC crew work shows most trees as oaks, though other species include elm, willow and ash.

Designed plantings were also added to the area by CCC crews. Reports of plantings are vague, consisting mostly of numbers of trees and shrubs, so the specific design intent of these plantings is not clear. However, it is important to note that the vegetation of the area around Bromide Springs and the 12th Street entry have a more park-like quality, different from the naturalized vegetation along the creek banks. For example, soapberry trees are symmetrically planted behind the enclosing walls of the fountain plaza. Similarly, the landscape of the rest of the Bromide area—smooth turf with a canopy enclosure—was similarly intentional. These designed, park-like plantings are retained today. It should also be noted that there are also some beds of lily and iris scattered near the Pavilion. The specific origin of these beds is unknown, but at least one seems to appear on plans from the 1930s. Such details of designed plantings should be researched in the CLR.

Character-defining Features:

Feature:	Canopy over lawn
Feature Identification Number:	118492
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Views and Vistas

The most important vista within the component landscape is the view from the Bromide Hill Overlook. The views from this hill are striking, as the rolling landscape of the Platt District extends for miles to the east. From the summit of Bromide Hill, park users are able to see the rolling horizons of the Arbuckle Mountains to the south. The view has been important since earliest times, when Native tribes used this summit to survey the surrounding country, and the design of the parking area, road, steps and trails in the 1930s were designed to take advantage of and direct park users to this excellent viewing opportunity.

Along Cliffside Trail visitors experience many viewing portals (upward and downwards) through a series of turns and switchbacks. From the base of Bromide Springs, the viewing

window is of the narrow low-water causeway and Rock Creek. Here, the shallow moving water over the walk path presents both mystery and enjoyment. Other viewing windows along the trail look down into the rocky streambed below and of the marvels of the construction efforts by the CCC work crews.

Other viewsheds within the level terrace of Bromide Springs are not so expansive and are mostly views of buildings within the park-like landscape. Views to and from the Bromide Springs Pavilion area, for example, are important but not dramatic viewsheds. However, within this park area, there is one significant viewshed. The first is the view into the park from 12th St. and the residential community of Sulphur. This view, through the formal and symmetrical piers of the entry, provides the visual tie between the community and the park's focal point fountain located along the centerline of the 12th St entrance. Historically, this view was punctuated by the 30 foot water jet rising on the central axis at the circular pool, with the result that visitors were able to see this focal water element and its setting from a distance as they approached the park entrance from the north. While the 30 foot jet no longer exists to dramatize the view, the viewshed still exists. In addition, the water jet could be returned to the composition relatively easily.

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



*Looking down on the Bromide Springs area from the Bromide Hill Overlook, circa 1933.
(CNRA archives, photograph 161)*



*View from Bromide Hill Overlook northeast over Bromide Springs, circa 1973.
(CNRA archives, photograph veg. 986)*



*View from Bromide Hill Overlook in winter, northeast over Bromide Springs, 2000.
(Photograph by harlen Groe)*

Condition

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 07/17/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape was initially assessed in good condition in 2007. The park superintendent concurred on 9/21/2007.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Vegetation/Invasive Plants

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Description: Continuing maintenance necessary to prevent overgrowth of vegetation, which can damage small scale features. Invasive plants need to be kept in check.

Type of Impact: Flooding

External or Internal: External

Impact Description: Flooding can contribute to the erosion of small scale features, the sand beach, and swim area.

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Description: Footpaths are showing deterioration (over-growth and visitor paths) from lack of maintenance.

Treatment

Treatment

Approved Treatment: Preservation
Approved Treatment Document: Cultural Landscape Report
Document Date: 01/01/2004

Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

Approved landscape treatment recommendations are outlined in the Cultural Landscape Report for the Platt Historic District.

Approved Treatment Completed: No

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Date: 01/01/2004

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Year of Publication: 1908
Source Name: Other
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Year of Publication: 1940
Source Name: Other
- Citation Title:** Bromide Area Plan-Part of Master Plan for Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 3002-I-Sheet No.4
Year of Publication: 1942
Source Name: Other
- Citation Title:** Platt National Park Development Outline, 1-1-1940
Year of Publication: 1940
Source Name: Other
- Citation Title:** Platt National Park Development Outline, 1942
Year of Publication: 1942
Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Bromide Springs Area and Tree Size and Location-Platt National Park Drawing No.P 4783

Year of Publication: 1936

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Master Plan

Year of Publication: 1970

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Resources Management Plan for Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Year of Publication: 1992

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Land Protection Plan, Chickasaw National Recreation

Year of Publication: 1974

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: General Management Plan/ Development Concept Plan: Environmental Assessment

Year of Publication: 1994

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Dale, Edward E., Jr.

Citation Title: Checklist of Trees in Platt National Park

Year of Publication: 1965

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: National Park Service

Citation Title: Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes

Source Name: Other

Citation Author: Wilson, James E.

Citation Title: Letter from James E. Wilson, Acting Secretary of the Interior to A.R. Greene, Superintendent of Platt National

Year of Publication: 1988

Source Name: Other

- Citation Author:** National Park Service
Citation Title: Cultural Resource Management, NPS-28, Draft 4
Year of Publication: 1993
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** National Park Service
Citation Title: Management Policies, NPS
Year of Publication: 1998
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** Martin, George C.
Citation Title: Martin, George C., letter to Supt. William E. Branch (July 20,1937)
Year of Publication: 1937
Source Name: Other
- Citation Author:** University of Oklahoma Research Institute
Citation Title: General Survey Report No.5, Oklahoma River Basin Survey Project
Year of Publication: 1965
Source Name: Other
- Citation Title:** Crossing Plan of Proposed Bridge Site at Bromide Springs-Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 5007
Year of Publication: 1935
Source Name: Other
- Citation Title:** Signs and Flagpole Details and Bromide Pavilion-Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 2050
Year of Publication: 1937
Source Name: Other
- Citation Title:** Display Cases and Bromide Pavilion-Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 8007
Year of Publication: 1938
Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Signs for General Park Area-Platt National Park-Analysis and Geology and Identification Signs Drawing No.NP-PLA 8010

Year of Publication: 1938

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Community House and Bromide Springs-Platt National Park-sheet 2 of 2 Drawing No.NP-PLA 5

Year of Publication: 1922

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: General Layout Plan and Bromide Springs Pavilion-proposed water line and concrete pool and piping layout-Platt National Park-sht. 4 of 4 Drawing No.PLA-5030

Year of Publication: 1936

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: General Layout Plan/Bromide Pavilion Springs-Platt National Park- sht. 1 of 4 Drawing No.NP-PLA 3048 B

Year of Publication: 1935

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Spring Development/Bromide Pavilion Springs-Platt National Park-sht 2,3 and 4 Drawing No.NP-PLA 3048 B

Year of Publication: 1936

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Wall and Walks-Platt National Park Drawing No.P-311-2

Year of Publication: 1931

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Layout Plan and Utility/Bromide Area-Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 4979

Year of Publication: 1934

Source Name: Other

Citation Title: Bromide Springs Shelter and Terraces-proposed site-Platt National Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 3-x

Year of Publication: 1935

Source Name: Other

- Citation Title:** Bromide Area Plan-part of Master Plan-Platt National Park
Drawing No.NP-PLA 3002-J
- Year of Publication:** 1950
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Title:** Sulfur Water-Supply and Distribution-Platt National Park Drawing
No.NP-PLA 7103
- Year of Publication:** 1962
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Title:** Bromide Entrance Plan-Platt National Park Drawing
No.NP-PLA 3031 sht.1 of 1 part 2 of 2
- Year of Publication:** 1934
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Title:** Utility Layout/Bromide Area-part of Master Plan-Platt National
Park Drawing No.NP-PLA 5306-B
- Year of Publication:** 1950
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Title:** Reconstruction of Water and Sewer Systems Drawing
No.NP-PLA 5318
- Year of Publication:** 1942
- Source Name:** Other
- Citation Title:** A Cultural Landscape Inventory of Plat District (Level 1) National
Park Service
- Year of Publication:** 1997
- Source Name:** Other

Supplemental Information

- Title:** Cultural Landscapes Inventory of Platt District (Katherine Sallee), 1997 (NPS).
- Description:** Document located in IMR Cultural Landscapes Program files.