NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Kimmell Park

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 2014 Oliphant Drive ☐ not for publication

city or town Vincennes ☐ vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Knox code 083 zip code 47591

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this __x__ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property __x__ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** __x__ **local**

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana DNR – Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Kimmell Park
Name of Property

Knox County IN
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
x	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

	building(s)
x	district
	site
	structure
	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1	0	sites
6	0	structures
1	0	objects
9	1	**Total**

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE:
outdoor recreation

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE:
outdoor recreation

Kimmell Park
Name of Property

Knox County IN
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY

MOVEMENTS: Park Rustic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: STONE: limestone
CONCRETE
roof: ASPHALT
other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Kimmell Park is located along the Indiana side (essentially the east bank at this point) of the Wabash River about two miles north northeast of downtown Vincennes. Situated within the earthen floodwall constructed in 1952, the terrain of the 22-acre park slopes downward from Oliphant Street to the river's edge. Large trees, primarily cottonwood and sycamore, dominate the southwest end of the park, while a large rectangular open shelterhouse is the most significant feature toward the northeast end, which is dotted with unique circular picnic patios that feature seating all around and built-in fireplace ovens. A double pedestrian entrance leading from the street to the shelterhouse boasts relief sculptures celebrating themes of pioneer settlement. A modest public campground lies at the far northeast end of the park, bordering a wooded area.

Narrative Description

Kimmell Park is a roughly triangular plot of land, narrow at the bottom and wider at the top, located along the Indiana side of the Wabash River about two miles northeast of downtown Vincennes. The river forms the park's west boundary. A heavily wooded area, known as Cooper's Woods (decades earlier known as Riverside Park), lies to the northeast. To the east and south is an area that is a mix of industry, abandoned land, and a scattering of very modest dwellings. Directly southeast across Oliphant is the former Vincennes Bridge Company (today, Wabash Steel), which long predates the park. To the southwest along the river is an area of mixed use, including lingering industry, while immediately south southwest is the growing campus of Vincennes University.

Along Oliphant Drive (the old Terre Haute Road, later called Memorial Drive for a few years), which borders the southeast edge of Kimmell Park, is a sidewalk dating to 1938, bordered by a short concrete wall (also 1938), about two feet high, behind which is an earthen floodwall (visible in photo 1). If driving, one enters Kimmell Park off Oliphant Drive through

a concrete entrance gate (photo 1) at the southwest end, which is at the terminus of Red Skelton Drive, formerly West Portland Avenue. The drive essentially follows the line of the river northeast then turns eastward back out to Oliphant Drive at the corner of the park just at the edge of the property. Originally there were two other automobile entrances in between these, but the construction of the earthen floodwall in 1952 eliminated them. Those two entrances had flanked the still-extant pedestrian entrance (photo 2) and connected with an inner curved drive that has long been completely obliterated.

To the immediate southwest of the south entrance gate is a rectangular concrete block building with a hipped roof and stone fireplace chimney belonging to the Vincennes Boat Club (see photo 3), which is not part of the district and is not considered part of the park. (The city owns the property but the club has a longterm lease.) As one follows the paved drive into the park, it follows the riverbank under a canopy of very large trees. To the east is a concrete pillar that appears to be a former gatepost (see photo 4). Nearby is a slightly tapered pillar faced with random ashlar limestone (photo 5) in a similar style to that of the shelterhouse farther to the north. On it is a tablet in relief "In Memory of the Ladies of the G.A.R./Daughters of the Civil War Veterans" with the words flanking the G.A.R. medal. The date of this monument is unknown, but its stonework does match the stonework of the WPA in 1938. Farther up along the riverbank is a lightly graveled area for parking and an unobtrusive concrete boat ramp, originally built in 1963, with some modifications within the last ten years. The trees gradually give way to open space (see photos 6,7), except along the river's edge, and a total of four unusual picnic patios are randomly scattered in this area (photos 6,7,8,9,10). The patios are all the same size: circular paved areas surrounded by a low wall for seating. Halfway around each, the wall is taller, crenellated and capped with finished limestone slabs, featuring two built-in fireplace ovens--at least this was how they looked originally. Through flooding and vandalism, the walls in some the patios were badly damaged over the years and have been repaired by mortaring the loose stones atop the walls where the caps once were. The walls and fireplaces are finished in random ashlar limestone. The southernmost is fairly close to the floodwall and still largely sheltered by trees; a sidewalk begins southwest of it and continues past it on the northwest with three short concrete walks leading to it. All the patios have sidewalks in this manner. The next patio northward (photos 7,8) is closer to the river and more in the open. Nearby is the ruin of a single fireplace oven (photo 11); the only one in the park. It is unknown how many more there may have been originally.

At this point, northeast of the middle of the park, is a terraced area roughly the same level as the street (photos 6,12), marked by riprap on the slopes (southwest, northwest, northeast). Intended strictly for erosion control, the riprap is comprised of rough chunks of limestone in mortar, which may not be original. Riprap usually is not mortared, but accounts of the time identify it as such, although mortar is not mentioned. More mortar may have been added over time, presumably after floods. The sidewalk continues around it on the northwest, as does the park drive, which then turns eastward between the shelterhouse (photos 12,13,14) atop the terraced area and the campground to the north. The shelterhouse, finished in random ashlar limestone, is of open construction with a hipped roof supported by very slightly tapered piers. A wall with a large fireplace chimney flanked by horizontal window openings is centered on the southeast. The fireplace inside is raised and the mantel features what appear to be three small lion's heads, although they

are so eroded as to be unrecognizable. The roof is supported with three iron trusses and the floor is concrete. Originally the shelter had a basement with restrooms and showers, all of which has been filled in. Immediately southeast of the shelterhouse, between it and the pedestrian entrance from Oliphant Drive, had been a rectangular pool with a fountain. Unfortunately, when the basement restrooms were buried, a new concrete restroom and shower building (see photos 6,12), completed in 1982, was constructed exactly where the fountain had been. A flagpole that had been centered between the pedestrian entrances still stands.

The pedestrian entrances (photo 2), treated as one resource, are each a pair of curved random ashlar walls. Between them is a decorative stone wall. Each entrance has a large relief sculpture on each side, a total of four different reliefs. The reliefs are six feet high and just shy of four feet wide; all portray the theme of settling the West. The northernmost relief (photo 15) features a Conestoga wagon drawn by oxen, accompanied by a pioneer walking westward. Opposite it is a relief depicting a native American holding a bow, standing under a tree as he gazes into the sunset. In the southward entrance, the north relief (photo 16) shows a pioneer seated on a stone with his rifle. A dog is nearby; in the distance is a cabin and beyond, the sunset. The last relief depicts a native American holding a bow and arrow, behind him is the sun setting behind a mountain. Above each relief incised in the stone is "KIMMELL PARK." Northeast of the entrance near the floodwall is another of the circular picnic patios.

North and northeast of the shelterhouse is the campground (photos 9,17). A drive heads northeast off the main drive through the campground. There are six gravel pull-in spaces on the east side of the drive; to the west is yet another of the circular picnic patios, this one the most intact of the four in the park (photos 9,10,17). The drive then makes a sharp curve southeastward heading back to the main drive. Along it are four more gravel pull-in spaces, for a total of ten. Shortly northeast of where the campground drive joins the main drive, the latter turns sharply southeast to Oliphant Drive. The low concrete wall that runs along the sidewalk ends immediately southwest of the exit.

The contributing resources are counted as follows: one building, the shelterhouse; one site, the entire park grounds including the drive, a fireplace ruin, a surviving gatepost, sidewalks, concrete wall, flagpole, and riprap; six structures, four picnic patios with seating and fireplace ovens, the double pedestrian entrance, and the 1952 earthen floodwall including the concrete automobile entrance; one object, the GAR monument.
The non-contributing resources are counted as follows: one building, the concrete restroom building. (A boat ramp is not counted owing to its unobtrusive nature.)

Kimmell Park
Name of Property

Knox County IN
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance
1938-1962

Significant Dates
1938

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
n/a

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Architect/Builder
Sutton, Byron & Routt, Lester W.

Period of Significance (justification)
The park was dedicated in1938, and, with occasional alterations and improvements, continued to be a popular spot for picnicking, camping, fishing, and contemplation of the river through the entire period and through today.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
n/a

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Kimmell Park Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion C for its architecture, the attractive limestone shelterhouse and picnic patios that embody WPA park structures. The circular patios with the seating and built-in fireplace ovens are unusual; only one other park in the state, Otis Park in Bedford, also a WPA project, has anything that is even similar in concept. The architects were Sutton and Routt, a prominent Vincennes firm that worked on the designs of other WPA projects, but apparently only one other park, Gregg Park, a mile southeast of Kimmell. The district is also significant under Criterion A in the areas of social history, for its association with the Works Progress Administration, and entertainment/recreation. Kimmell is one of the finest parks in the state entirely developed by the WPA, a New Deal work program that achieved great success in Indiana. Most of the prominent original features are intact. From its promising beginnings in 1938 as a park designed to take advantage of its site along the beautiful Wabash River, Kimmell was very popular. In its early decades, the park was the site of numerous large gatherings. Camping was encouraged and continues to this day. Despite the ravages of flooding and vandalism, Kimmell continued to be and is still a popular place to fish, launch a boat, picnic, camp, or simply watch the river go by.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Democratic Mayor Joseph Kimmell (1887-1971), known as "Jitney Joe" for his penchant for campaigning in a Model T, took full advantage of the New Deal programs that became available during his nine years as mayor (1930-1938). Vincennes was a growing city and the mayor believed it needed more recreational facilities. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs gave Kimmell the opportunity. He applied to the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to fund any number of projects around the city, starting with improvements to Harrison Park (transferred in 1944 to the campus of Vincennes University), a new boulevard and landscaping along Kelso Creek, and several improvements to the new Gregg Park that had opened near the beginning of his administration. Other WPA projects in the area included a new tuberculosis hospital and landscaping around the new George Rogers Clark Memorial. Mayor Kimmell had many detractors to his plan for a city park along the flood-prone Wabash, but he persisted in his desire to open up a vista and people's playground along the city's most beautiful natural asset. With great celebration and ceremony that lasted two days, the park was dedicated in September 1938. Governor Clifford Townsend spoke, and state WPA head John K. Jennings formally presented the park to the city. The crowd of onlookers later enjoyed fireworks and dances by a troupe of Sioux Indians. The park boasts a large attractive limestone shelterhouse reached from the street through a large limestone double pedestrian entrance, featuring four relief sculptures created by unemployed stonecarvers. Originally between the entrance and the shelterhouse was a reflecting pool with a fountain, removed in 1982 when a new restroom/shower building was constructed on the exact site. The park also originally had two more or less concentric drives, but the one closer to the street was removed when the earthen floodwall was constructed in 1952. All traces of that drive have been obliterated

over time. The large picnic patios (four in all) with their built-in seats and stone ovens are virtually unique in Indiana; only Otis Park in Bedford, also a WPA project, has anything that is remotely similar in concept.

Vincennes architects [Byron] Sutton and [Lester W.] Routt designed Kimmell Park and its structures. Before the Depression, the firm had designed several notable public buildings, such as the Fortnightly Club building in Vincennes and the Daviess County Courthouse in Washington, Indiana, and continued to do so for several years. They created numerous schools, churches, and residences in Vincennes and the surrounding region, including Illinois, as well as several buildings in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Kimmell Park was not the only WPA project with which they were involved; besides Gregg Park about a mile to the southeast in Vincennes, Sutton and Routt also designed the Dupont School in Jefferson County, among others. The shelterhouse, the most prominent structure in Kimmell Park, is a beautiful concrete-and-limestone building at street level atop a terraced and riprapped slope, the idea being to keep it above flood level most years. (This was proven to be inadequate in that department the very next year, when the new park was inundated in the spring of 1939. There was no permanent damage, however.) The beautiful pedestrian entrance with its impressive relief sculptures and the four picnic patios artfully scattered about are unique to this park. All structures are unified through the use of random ashlar limestone.

The city council named Kimmell Park even before it was opened in honor of its greatest advocate, the mayor, who was absent at the time. Its riverside location was and is clearly the key to Kimmell Park's popularity and importance as a recreational space over the decades. It differs from Gregg Park, also developed in the 1930s, which is a more formal park with more specific recreational facilities (tennis court, swimming pool, bandshell, etc.) As a pleasant place simply to sit and watch the fabled Wabash, whether or not one drops a fishing line into its waters, Kimmell Park can hardly be surpassed. The sizable picnic patios allowed for large family and other group gatherings, and–unusual for a city park–Kimmell allowed camping from the beginning. At first this activity was allowed anywhere in the park, chiefly at the northeast end, but in the 1960s the city established actual marked campsites with electrical hookups, although tent camping was and is still allowed virtually in any suitable space. Many families set up camp and stayed for weeks, even some who lived in town. In the 1960s Kimmell Park often hosted weekend encampments sponsored by the Indiana Campers and Hikers Association. Later decades saw the park fall prey to vandalism and successive damage, cosmetic or worse, from periodic flooding. Indeed, local wags sometimes referred to it as "Swimmell Park"! The restrooms beneath the shelter became virtually unusable owing to vandals destroying or stealing the plumbing, ultimately resulting in the basement's being abandoned and filled in. Still, the draw of the river kept people coming to Kimmell Park even in its sadder days. Replacement facilities in 1982 were constructed with practicality in mind and little thought to esthetics; the concrete block building is visible from the street. The little campground still is often full in summer and any sunny afternoon finds in Kimmell Park anglers, walkers, and people enjoying the presence of the river, all proving the validity of Mayor Kimmell's vision.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

SOCIAL HISTORY: the Works Progress Administration

After suffering through three years of the Great Depression, the American people in 1932 eagerly listened to a man who offered them a "new deal" and swept Franklin D. Roosevelt into his first term as President of the United States. Immediately after his inauguration in March 1933, Roosevelt and his team of advisors began to effect several innovative battle plans to fight the depression and restore the health of the nation's economy. They created numerous "alphabet agencies," known mainly by their acronyms, that launched a mind-boggling number of programs during the administration's first one hundred days. Overcoming the multiplicity of problems facing the country required a variety of imaginative tactics involving relief, recovery, and reform, the "three Rs" of the New Deal.

In the same election that ushered Roosevelt into the presidency of the United States, the people of Indiana in 1932 selected Democrat Paul V. McNutt to be their governor. McNutt took office in January 1933, more than two months before his national counterpart, and set out immediately to restructure the state government. Among other things, he established the Governor's Commission on Unemployment Relief (GCUR) under director Wayne Coy. This created a framework for receiving, administering, and distributing statewide the benefits of federal relief and work programs soon to come under the New Deal. Cash-strapped local governments began to set up their funding priorities, and Vincennes was no exceptions.

Many influences combined to produce the various programs of the New Deal; the emphasis on creating or expanding parks is a useful example. In the midst of a demoralizing depression, the need to increase public recreational facilities seemed all the more acute because of the abundance of forced leisure time during lengthy periods of unemployment. Also still influential was the notion, popular during the Progressive Era before World War I, of the restorative power of the great outdoors along with a growing public interest in active pursuits in open spaces. Related to outdoor recreation as well were the numerous programs to give city dwellers, especially children and youth, opportunities for healthful exercise, sports participation, and various arts and crafts programs. All these needs might be met with sweeping plans for park development that figured in a number of New Deal programs from the start. The high visibility of such projects was surely not an insignificant factor either. Only street and road construction or improvement--even more conspicuous public projects--took a higher percentage of New Deal work relief project funds.

After experimentation with work programs under the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) and the short-lived Civil Works Administration (CWA), President Roosevelt introduced the Works Progress Administration (WPA) headed by Harry Hopkins in the spring of 1935. With the establishment of the WPA, the federal government undertook a vast and comprehensive program to create jobs of all sorts that would as closely as possible match the skills of the unemployed. Such work, however, would not compete with whatever jobs the private sector might be able to offer. Wages, paid in cash (as opposed to commodities), hovered above the average amount of direct relief payments but below

roughly comparable work in private industry. The idea was to create incentive to get off the dole and, should it become available, to accept private employment. Administration of direct relief would now come under state and local governments. The dole under FERA was discontinued.

Much criticized and often controversial, the WPA achieved uneven success in giving jobs to the unemployed, depending upon the type of work involved and on local cooperation. No doubt the successive Democratic administrations in Indiana during the New Deal years helped WPA programs as a general rule to flourish in this state. Wayne Coy headed it first, followed by John K. Jennings. The WPA, under its later name of Works Projects Administration, began to wind down in the late 1930s as war drums sounded in Europe, and America's entry in World War II ended it in early 1942.

THE ARCHITECTS:
Byron Sutton (1884-1939), a native of Princeton, Indiana, studied at Chicago Technical College and the Art Institute of Chicago and came to Vincennes in 1904 to work in the office of architect Thomas Campbell, later, Campbell and [Louis H.] Osterhage. Campbell retired in 1913, and a few years later Sutton became a principal in the company now known as Osterhage and Sutton.

Born in Washington, Indiana, Lester W. Routt (1891-1970) was educated at Washington University, the University of Wisconsin, and the University of Liverpool, England. In 1913 he joined the architectural firm of Campbell and Osterhage in Vincennes, and after serving in the army in World War I, Routt returned to Vincennes and rejoined the firm of Osterhage and Sutton. He became a partner in Sutton and Routt in 1923. On the death of Byron Sutton in 1939, Routt established a practice in his own name, and fifteen years later, the firm was incorporated as Lester W. Routt, AIA, and Associates, Inc., designing buildings into the 1960s.

DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY OF THE SITE:
In the nineteenth century, the riverbank north of downtown, beyond most early industrial development, was often used for informal picnics. From time to time there were privately owned picnic groves, often reached by excursion boats. In the very early twentieth century, Frank Thuis, who also owned the first Coca-Cola bottling company in the city, purchased the land across the Terre Haute Road from the Vincennes Bridge Company that ultimately became Kimmell Park. He named it Columbia Park and catered to families, who rode the streetcar to the end of the line about three blocks from the park. Columbia Park's entrance was located approximately where Kimmell's pedestrian entrances stand today. A few years later Riverside Park opened immediately to the north, owned by the flamboyant A. P. Dorris, who offered somewhat more adult entertainment, a tavern and dancing. By the 1920s, both parks had faded, and in 1923 Riverside was purchased by the Knox County Ku Klux Klan, which held meetings and rallies there. When Mayor Kimmell took office, he urged the city to acquire the land along the Wabash, the beginnings of his grand vision to improve the riverfront and make it accessible to all. The coming of the New Deal helped make much of the mayor's dream a reality, and the city council agreed to the purchase of

the former Columbia Park and fittingly named it for him. The former Riverside Park property, which had been taken over by the American Legion for a time and later became known as Cooper's Woods, languished. Its original buildings burned in the 1960s, and the city finally acquired the property only about ten years ago. Little has been done as yet with the land, now heavily wooded. Although immediately adjacent, it is not part of Kimmell Park.

An interesting footnote to the history of Kimmell Park is its use in 1944 and 1945 as a temporary prisoner-of-war camp. German prisoners from Camp Atterbury near Edinburgh, Indiana, were transported to the camp for agricultural labor in August and September, harvest time for peaches and tomatoes. A small contingency of prisoners would arrive in July to erect the temporary buildings and barricades at the northern end of Kimmell Park and the old Riverside Park property, and the rest, some three hundred, arrived in time for the harvest work. Locals accepted them, and the farmers certainly were grateful to have their labor.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Beautiful Shelter House in Kimmell Park," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 8 September 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Beauty Scene to Be Dedicated Today," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 11 September 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Construction of River Levee Nearing End," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 12 September 1952, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Council Names Kimmell Park," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 25 January 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Dedication of 'Folly Park' Opens Two-Day Festivities for Visiting Thousands, Controversial Tract on River Bank Proves a Liability," *Vincennes Post* 11 September 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Funds for Building Boat Launching Ramps at Kimmell Park Approved," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 31 July 1963, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Flood Wall To Be Begun at Vincennes," *Indianapolis Star*, 1 May 1952, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Hyde Park, New York.
Franklin D. Roosevelt Official Files: Works Progress Administration

"Greatest Throng in City's History Jams Parks to Capacity," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 5 July 1939, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Historic Vincennes Park," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 15 September 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Indiana Campers and Hikers Association Has Spring Campout Here," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 24 April 1966, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

National Archives, Washington, D.C. RG69 Records of the Works Progress Administration.

"No Damage at Kimmell Park, Survey Shows," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 23 March 1939, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Park Aid," *Vincennes Post*, 16 September 1937, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Riverside Park Bought by Knox Klan," *Vincennes Commercial*, 23 November 1923, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Riverside Park Is Now Open," *Vincennes Commercial*, 7 June 1912, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Shelter House, Ovens Proposed for New City Park; Ask for WPA Help," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 13 July 1937, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Shelter House Work to Start," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 22 November 1937, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Start Work on Prison Camp," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 25 July 1945, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"State Expert Suggests Riverfront Park next to Kelso Creek," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 29 January 1933, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"The Park Comes Through," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 23 March 1939, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"35,000 Attend Dedication of Park," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 12 September 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Thousands View Parade, Pageant," *Indianapolis News*, 12 September 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Vandals Deface Once Beautiful Kimmell Park," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 2 July 1964, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Vincennes to Join Park Dedication With Northwest Territory Program," *Indianapolis Star*, 4 September 1938, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

"Vincennes Vignette," *Vincennes Sun-Commercial*, 28 November 1966, 29 November 1966, clipping files, Knox County Public Library.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

____State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
__x__Local government
____University
__x__Other
Name of repository: Knox County Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 083-650-29017

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 22
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

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

1	16	454949	4283725	3	16	454767	4282884
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	16	455199	4283311	4	16	454741	4282912
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of Kimmell Park define and enclose the property. The property is bounded on the north by the westward extension of Jefferson Street (which is the southern boundary of Cooper's Woods), on the east by Oliphant Drive, on the south by the westward extension of Red Skelton Drive (formerly Portland Avenue), and on the west by the Wabash River.

Beginning at a point on the north/northwest edge of Oliphant Drive where an imaginary line, the extension of the north/northwest right-of-way of West Jefferson Avenue meets said edge of Oliphant Drive, follow the north/northwest edge of Oliphant Drive southwestward to the southwest side of the main park drive entrance. Follow the west edge of the park drive to a point that is on a line parallel to, but ten feet northeast, of the northeast wall of the Vincennes Boat Club building. Follow said line to the bank of the Wabash River, then follow the east (east/southeast to be accurate) bank of the river north/northeastward then northward to the afore-mentioned imaginary line that is an extension of the West Jefferson

Avenue right-of-way. Turn southeastward and follow said line to the point of origin, a distance of about 485 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These are the historic boundaries of Kimmell Park.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glory-June Greiff
organization Historian-at-Large for Partners in Preservation date 22 May 2012
street & number 1753 South Talbott Street telephone 317-637-6163
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225
e-mail glory@indy.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

PHOTOGRAPHS submitted are archival 5 x 7 black-and-white prints.
The following information is the same for all photographs:
Name of Property: Kimmell Park
City or Vicinity: Vincennes
County: Knox
State: Indiana
Photographer: Glory-June Greiff
Date Photographed: March 2012
Negatives on file with photographer

Description of Photographs and number:
PHOTO 1
Looking N from end of Red Skelton Drive at south entrance of Kimmell Park

PHOTO 2
Looking WSW at pedestrian entrance

PHOTO 3
Looking SW at Vincennes Boat Club (south edge of district)

PHOTO 4
Looking SW toward south boundary of park

PHOTO 5
Looking W at GAR monument

PHOTO 6
Looking NNE from drive at picnic patio, shelter, restroom building, pedestrian entrance

PHOTO 7
Looking SW from floodwall to picnic patio and river

PHOTO 8
Looking W at picnic patio (second from south) and river

PHOTO 9
Looking N from main drive to campground, picnic patio on W

PHOTO 10
Looking N at northernmost picnic patio, detail

PHOTO 11
Looking E at oven ruin, floodwall and former Vincennes Bridge Company in background

PHOTO 12
Looking NE at riprap, shelterhouse, restroom building

PHOTO 13
Looking WSW at shelterhouse

PHOTO 14
Detail, shelterhouse, looking WNW

PHOTO 15
Detail, northward pedestrian entrance

PHOTO 16
Detail, southward pedestrian entrance

Kimmell Park
Name of Property

Knox County IN
County and State

PHOTO 17
Looking N from N of shelterhouse to campground

Property Owner:

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

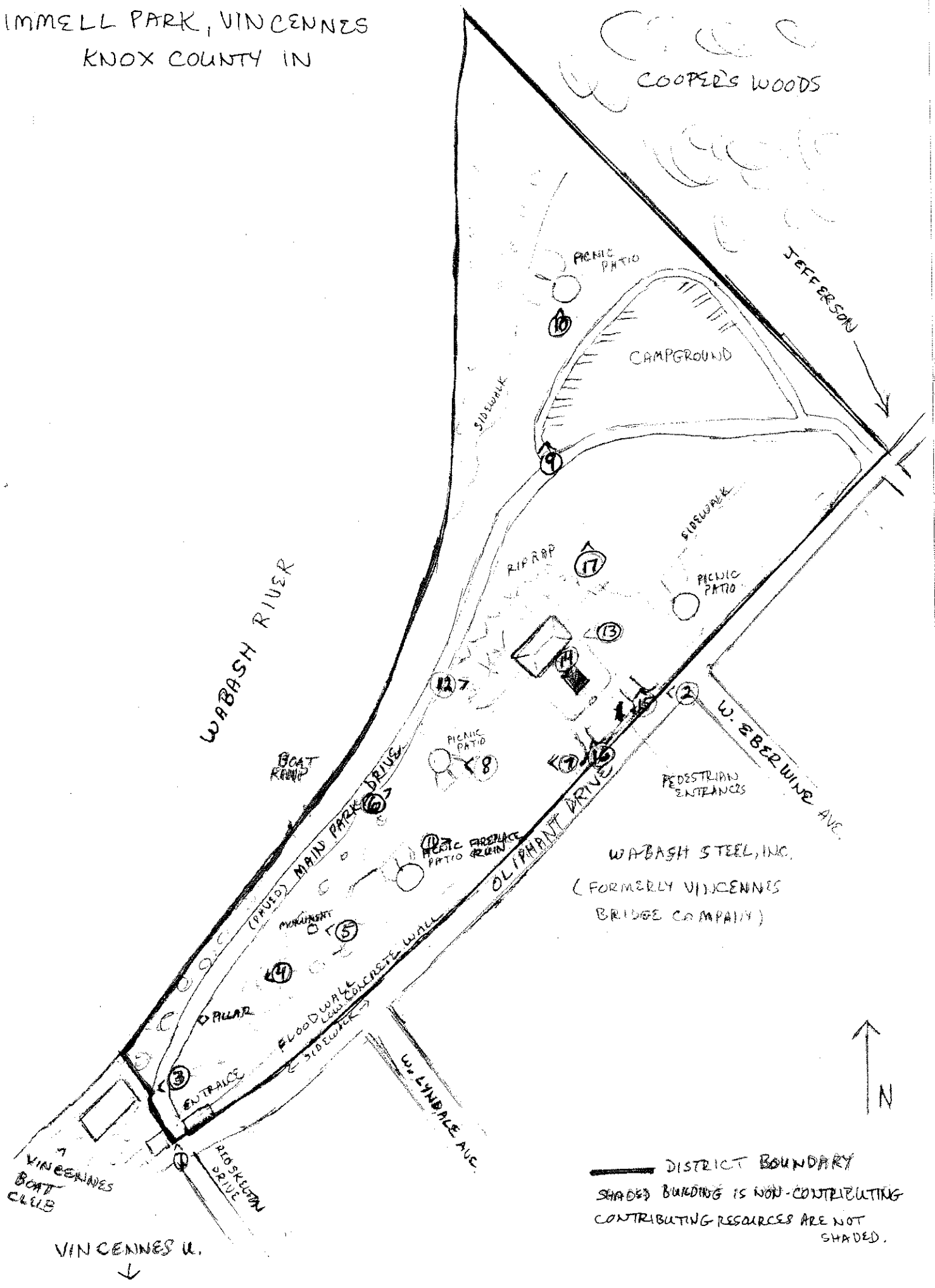
name City of Vincennes Parks & Recreation (Steve Beaman, Director)

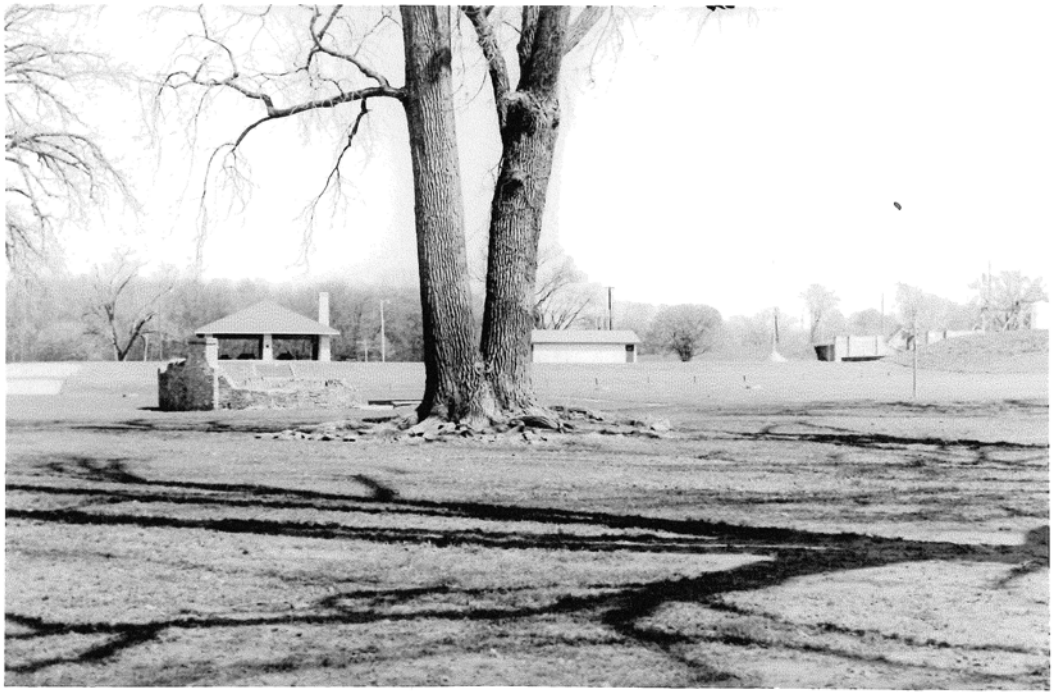
street & number 17 Hart Street telephone 812-882-1140

city or town Vincennes state IN zip code 47591

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

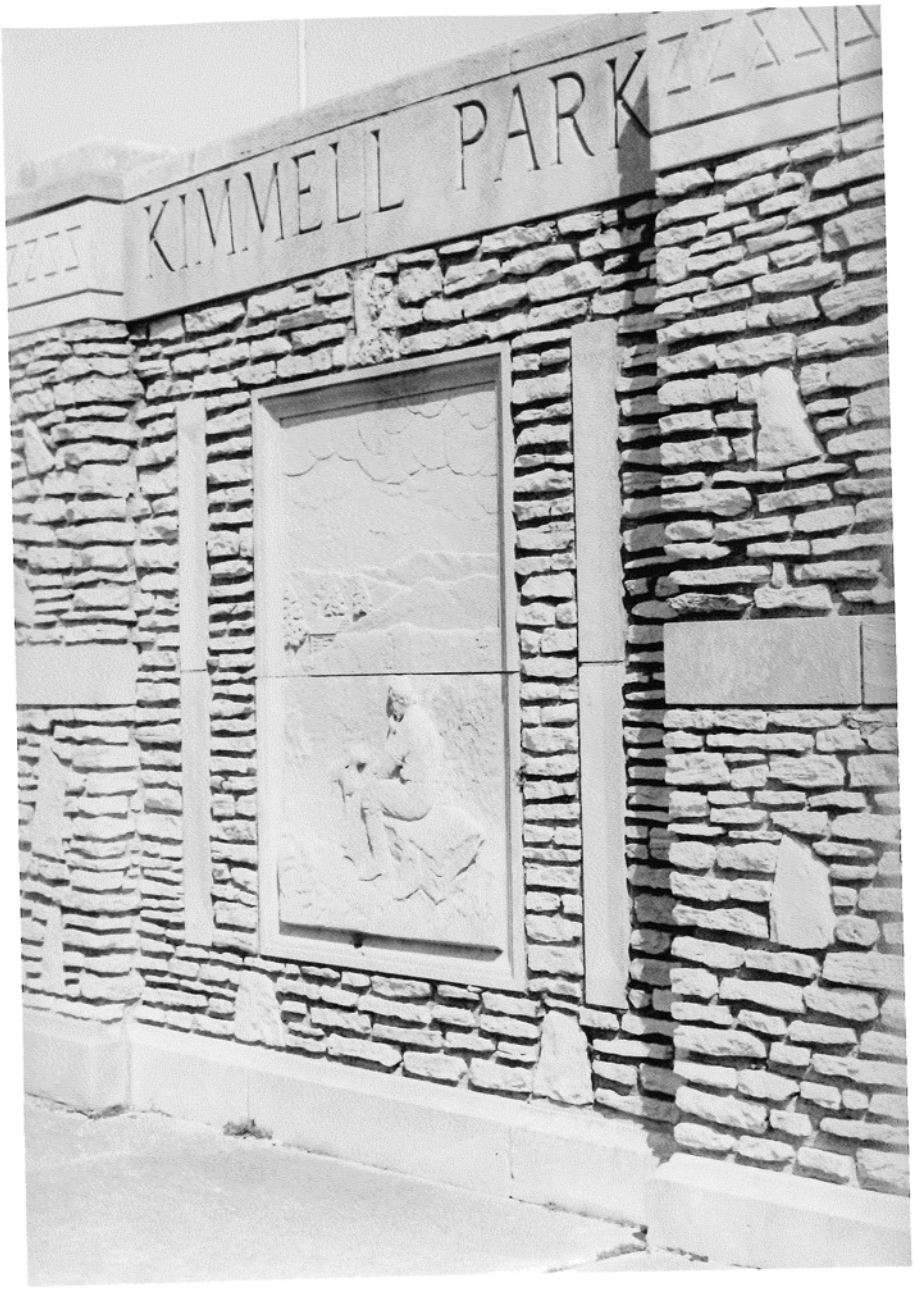
KIMMELL PARK, VINCENNES
KNOX COUNTY IN





Kimmell Park, Knox Co., IN #2 (above) and #6 (below)

Kimmell Park, Knox Co., IN #8 (above) and #13 (below)



Kimmell Park, Knox Co., IN #16