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an urban park design for a neighborhood environment

AN URBAN PARK DESIGN
FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD ENVIRONMENT
IN LOGAN, UTAH

by
Carol Mayer-Reed


A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree
of

MASTER OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, Utah

1977

Approved:



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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Statement of Purpose

My continued professional and personal interest in the functions and design of public parks influenced me to generate a project thesis that explores various aspects of a park's development. My intent is summarized as follows:

1. investigation of social and physical aspects of public spaces in the urban environment
2. generation of a realistic project program based on the needs and desires of the specific user groups for a case study park site
3. application of a design methodology to the case study park site
4. development of a site design that meets program requirements
5. production of the working drawings necessary for the park's implementation to further investigate construction techniques

This project thesis has little value as a contribution of significant information to the landscape architectural design profession. However, it served as a viable approach for specific and thorough investigation of

public spaces and an application of a park in an urban situation.

Discussion of Procedure

Several methods of investigation were conducted to reveal social and physical aspects of park development in the urban environment. One method was a review of the literature that dealt particularly with parks and open space as unique land use alternatives in the city. Other literary sources discussed more site specific elements of park design and the related effects on the community and neighborhood.

Another method of investigation included personal observation of urban parks and public spaces in Logan, Utah, in other Utah cities, and also in cities outside the state. Understanding the diversity of human activity possibilities within a space was increased through the experience of my observation and participation in parks. My park visits also provided me with a greater awareness of successful functional relationships, site considerations (such as circulation or buffer plantings) and materials usage.

The design experience of a case study enabled me to apply a methodology to a "park" project. In the continuation of exploring various aspects of park development, the case study included the following components of a design process: (1) the gathering and organization of materials relevant to the particular park site; (2) the analysis and interpretation of individual cultural and physical factors;

(3) the explication of a program describing the recreational needs and desires of potential park users and city officials; (4) the development of space standards for various activities and site elements; (5) program and site synthesis to determine capacity of the site to accommodate the desired program; (6) schematic design to analyze functional relationships; (7) design development for investigation of site design alternatives; (8) design evaluation and solution selection; (9) the generation of working drawings; (10) the production of presentation graphics (see figure 1).

Definition of Terms

Open Space: Land and water areas in and around the urban region which are not covered by buildings (Tanel 1963)

Park: An area of land designated by a governmental agency for public recreation

Buffer: An intervening land use or physical site component used as an element separating or reducing conflict between two incompatible land uses or site activities

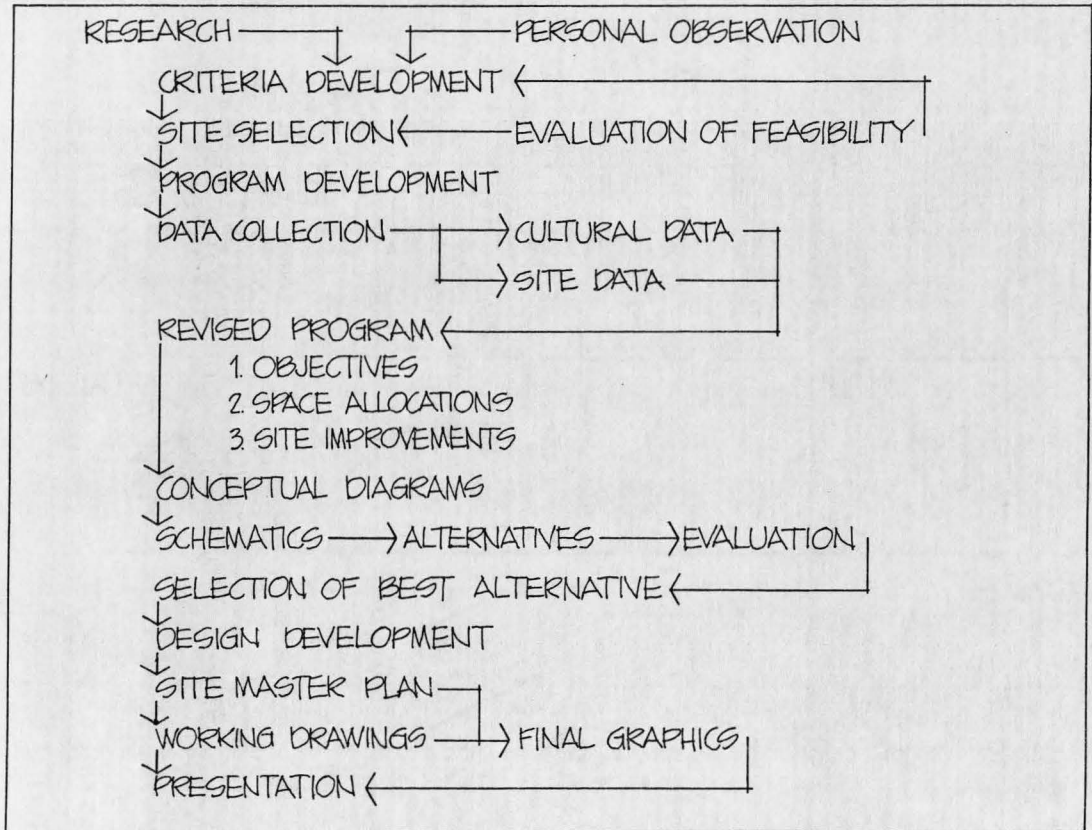


fig. 1 Flow Chart of Procedure

CHAPTER 2

THE PARK IN THE CITY

Public parks as originally developed in American cities during the last half of the nineteenth century, were reminiscent of serene, pastoral landscapes. The parks were intended to be environments of nostalgia and romanticism--places where the stresses of an increasingly chaotic city life of the industrial revolution could be disregarded. An atmosphere of "escape" appealed strongly to the expanding urban middle class society (Tobey 1973). And, in addition, the landscaped park "stood in contrast to the mechanized world as an 'island of nature,' a relief from the too insistently man-made surroundings of civilized life," as Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr., wrote in 1923 (Tobey 1973, p. 171).

While many of today's parks still lend that quality of "escape," they contribute many other advantages to contemporary society. Parks provide greater social and recreational opportunities for the public since they are now more tailored to the particular needs and desires of the user groups. In addition, ". . . lands that might provide the recreational opportunities that are increasingly in demand might also be used for other purposes. . ." (Webber 1963, p. 54). Thus, parks are seen as an important element in city planning (Webber 1963).

In the city plan, parks or open space serve the following valuable functions: preservation of an amenity or resource, restoration of a

landscape or particular feature, linkage of land uses, buffer between land uses, and spatial aesthetic variation. Preservation implies protection of a particular natural or cultural amenity from incompatible land uses or development. A park, as a land use, may be an appropriate alternative in the conservation of floodplains and watercourses, aquifer recharge areas, forest resources, historical districts or other significant visual or environmental zones. An example of park, open space and conservation planning is the "Watercourse Plan for Columbus and Franklin County." The project objectives are summarized as follows:

1. visual exposure of watercourses to public
2. provision of access to watercourses
3. protection and improvement of the surrounding environment
4. establishment of a structural framework for the community using the watercourses as greenbelt linkages (Labrenz Riemer, Inc. 1974).

Park development may be useful as a restoration or reclamation venture. For example, an historic area may become an improved cultural resource. A defunct extractive mineral site that is seemingly unusable may be reclaimed as an important recreation area and visual amenity to the community.

Green linkage of land uses in the urban plan allows a separation of differing traffic types that circulate within the city. An important

linkage is the connection between the residential areas and city business districts. A linear park may accompany a major automobile corridor, thus enhancing the travel experience by the use of planting, view modulation and sensitive highway design. The park may also contain pedestrian and bike trails that allow the user of non-motorized travel modes the advantages of safety, convenience, fumeless air quality, quietude, and, perhaps, greater opportunity for aesthetic appreciation. Other linkages may occur between various social systems, such as neighborhoods, schools, existing or proposed parks and recreation areas. On the regional scale, the green linkages may adjoin to county parks, fairgrounds or public resource areas.

Often a park may be utilized as a buffer zone between incompatible land uses. The park serves as a viable transition and benefits users of both land uses. Examples would be park land located between a major transportation route and a residential area, or between a light industry and a residential neighborhood.

Aesthetic spatial variation relates most vividly to the perceptual pedestrian experience in a highly urbanized district of the city. Enclosures by various forms of architecture modify the pedestrian's horizontal circulation within the city, and often limit the pedestrian to use of the same corridor as the automobile. These spaces tend to be substantially defined with large-scaled walls, yet inarticulated with the confusion of traffic and random signage. An ordering of the pedestrian spatial experience through modulation of corridors and interspaces or parks is termed, "a hierarchy of

pedestrian spaces," by David Kenneth Specter. He writes,

We may conclude that variations in width, perhaps from as narrow as eleven or twelve feet, and occasional irregular broadenings into usable 'piazzettas' are far more interesting and dynamic than a constant width. . .

The hierarchy of pedestrian spaces encompasses a broad range of sizes and shapes. The smallest are no more than street widenings sufficient to accommodate a quiet conversation. Larger spaces may relate to a bridge or a church, and find room for a restaurant in a corner. The hierarchy is completed by a public outdoor space culminating in a spectacular view. . . This is the living room . . . [of a city] . . . a 'space for beautiful doing nothing' (Specter 1974).

Spatial diversification is also influential in residential areas and suburbia. The consistencies of street widths, unvaried plats and all buildings placed at the appropriate property set-back become a source of monotony in certain neighborhoods. The addition of park development, open space and social service buildings with related properties offers spatial enhancement of the community.

In summary, the park or open space is an important land use in the city plan. Park land may be utilized in several ways because of its flexibility and compatibility with other land uses. In addition, parks do not necessarily

require restrictions in conditions of terrain, geologic structure and soils as do other development types. Parks in the city also vary in size from one-quarter acre to several hundred acres, according to available land and particular intended park function. Parks are the most versatile land use.

The Park in Society

The social and personal benefits of parks are perhaps the greatest justification for their development. Lawrence Halprin, in Cities, states,

The life of cities is of two kinds--one is public and social, extroverted and interrelated. It is the life of the streets and plazas, the great parks and civic spaces. . . This life is mostly out in the open in the great urban spaces, where crowds gather and people participate in the exciting urban interrelationships which they seek as social human beings. There is, too, a second kind of life in the city--private and introverted, the personal, individual, self-oriented life which seeks quiet and seclusion and privacy. This private life has need for open spaces of a different kind. It needs enclosure and quiet, removal from crowds and a quality of calm and relaxation. The city should respond to both needs and both kinds of activity for they are equally important parts of the urban environment we are seeking. It is largely within . . . [our urban open spaces] . . . that we can find for

ourselves these variegated experiences which make life in a city creative and stimulating. It is the open spaces which give a character and quality to our life in the city and establish its tempo and patterns (Halprin 1972, p. 11).

More specifically, the urban public park may provide the social opportunities for political gatherings, celebrations and festivals, various forms of entertainment (which may occur as a planned event or a spontaneous "happening"), cultural facilities such as a zoo, arboretum, or museum, and educational projects such as nature study. Games and sports are forms of social recreation in which one may participate as a contender or a spectator.

The personal benefits of recreation, visual refreshment and mental exercise (Rutledge 1971) have a positive contribution toward the city dweller's mental health. In Anatomy of a Park, Albert J. Rutledge remarks,

Behaviorists maintain that surroundings consciously or subconsciously shape our attitudes, breeding tranquillity or tension, pleasure or dissatisfaction. It is, therefore, reasonable to surmise that too much of our present environment adds tension, firing the already hectic stresses of job, home, and everyday modern existence.

. . . [Parks] should be developed to serve as exemplars of what is possible in terms of soul-satisfying environment and catalysts for promoting higher works in other types of developments, toward the day when

everything which man builds contributes to positive physical surroundings (Rutledge 1971, p. 8).

The urban park may provide an individual with opportunities for physical exercise, aesthetic appreciation, contact with nature, and an atmosphere of solitude for reading, contemplation or personal reflection. A park may be enjoyed alone or shared with someone.

The Park in the Neighborhood

Neighborhood parks utilize available outdoor space to accommodate social, personal and recreational needs and desires of the residents in a particular vicinity. The parks provide the public with common facilities and means for recreation that may not be otherwise feasible on an individual basis, such as play equipment, field game space, and fountains or other ornamental elements. The shared space encourages social exposure of the user/residents which, in turn, may aid in the development of neighborhood cohesiveness and identity.

Parks developed in residential areas, however, are subject to particularly intense public judgment by the local community. "Residents are demanding neighborhoods that are well designed or redesigned to be socially suitable, and that meet the needs of the individuals living there," asserts Randolph T. Hester, Jr., in Neighborhood Space. He continues that the neighborhood is viewed,

. . . in terms of its symbolic and cultural

aspects, and emphasizes shared activities and experiences, the resulting social groupings, and common values and loyalties. . . The neighborhood space is that territory close to home, including houses, churches, businesses, and parks, which because of the residents' collective responsibility, familiar association, and frequent shared use, is considered to be their 'own' (Hester 1975, p. 11, p. 20).

Collective responsibility emerges from the residents' communication of common problems, shared values and use patterns of the community. Hester also includes that, ". . . public and ambiguously owned private spaces lend themselves to collective symbolic ownership more than clearly privately owned properties" (Hester 1975, p. 20).

A successful neighborhood park must be user-oriented and tailored to the needs and desires of the residents--their values, interests, status objects, behavior patterns, and lifestyles--and not necessarily those of the designer. Involvement in planning and commitment to park objectives by the neighborhood park users are essential for acceptance and proper utilization of the facilities.

Park designs are a perpetual source of experimentation with the configuration of site elements and materials versus unpredictable human nature. It is impossible for a designer to anticipate all forms of activity that will transpire in a space. However, the rate of success in designing a park that is appropriate for all

the users is increased significantly when residents participate in the planning, design and even construction phases.

Designer Jay Beckwith insists that playgrounds, in particular, should be planned and built by the people who will be using them. In Build Your Own Playground, a sourcebook based on Beckwith's work, author Jeremy Joan Hewes writes,

Probably the most important reason for the people of a community to fashion their own play spaces . . . is the investment their work represents. The value of the playground to both children and adults increases in proportion to their involvement in its creation. And the playground improves the common space of a community because it reflects the unique personality of the people who live there and it is tangible evidence of their belief in themselves (Hewes 1974, p. 5).

Local attitudes toward a public space or park are reflected in the following ways: activities that occur, use intensity and frequency, presence or extent of vandalism and condition of maintenance. Observation of use patterns in a park reveals the extent of success of the design. The degree to which the activity requirements are satisfied is also evident. The presence of vandalism is a difficult factor to account for, but adequate security measures, substantial materials and provision for the particular "user" group to become personally involved in the park's creation, are possible solutions to deter potential destruction.

The condition of maintenance reflects the attitude of the party responsible for the upkeep of the park. Whether a city agency, local citizens' group, or individual is responsible, the attitude toward the park may be indicative of the attitude toward the neighborhood in general, or the particular park design. But facilities designed for low maintenance are advantageous in the encouragement for positive utilization, respect and continued upkeep of the park.

Often the residential park is perceived by the neighborhood, "as part of an on-going user-oriented community development process. It must be maintained, policed and changed to accommodate changing users." However, the designer tends to view the park as a project with a definite beginning and end (Hester 1975). The designer, then, must be aware of the many possibilities for flexibility to accommodate change in the space, according to future user needs. Design for the residents must be based on the inevitable presence of change through physical growth, the maturation processes, various prevalent attitudes, modes of thinking and contemporary social values. In addition, ease of maintenance and facilitation of necessary user and park protection are design considerations that can prevent the neighborhood space from becoming a social burden on the local community.

In summary, the neighborhood park becomes much more than a "place for the kids to play." A common space affects the adjacent neighborhood in that residents exhibit a social phenomenon of "collective symbolic ownership" of the local

public park. That tendency relates directly to territorial instincts and desire for neighborhood cohesiveness. Residents also generate a "collective responsibility" for the space and the activities which occur. They are concerned that the park, through successful site planning, meets their social/personal needs and desires.

The involvement of a park designer includes his or her total commitment to knowing that particular unique community and its residents. Social and historical research by the designer are necessary additions to encouragement of the participation of the residents themselves. It is the responsibility of the designer, therefore, to translate personal perceptual assessments and the verbal communication of ideas by the prospective users into a feasible and viable site design.

CHAPTER 3

THE CASE STUDY

Introduction

Parks and Recreation in Logan, Utah. The city of Logan, Utah, is located in Cache Valley, eighty miles northeast of Salt Lake City. A city of 25,000 people, Logan is located at the mouth of Logan Canyon, which is a part of the Bear River Range of the Wasatch Mountains. Another range of mountains, the Wellsvilles, encloses the southwest end of Cache Valley. Most of the mountainous areas are administered by the U.S. Forest Service, and the Logan Ranger District contributes 259,680 acres of public recreation resource. Some of the possible activities include sightseeing, camping, picnicking, backpacking, hiking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and downhill skiing. In addition, Logan Canyon contains significant geologic features and diverse visual amenities.

The travel time by automobile to participate in a recreational activity in Logan Canyon or elsewhere in the Bear River or Wellsville Ranges, may be from ten minutes to an hour, depending upon the desired access point. There are currently no non-vehicular linkages, such as a hiking or bike trail, between Logan City and Logan Canyon, even though linkage trails are becoming increasingly important. With the greater awareness of society for fuel conservation, future recreation trends are inclined to emphasize non-motorized modes, such as walking,

biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing. The Logan River corridor within the city limits had remarkable potential for becoming a recreational linkage of the Canyon and the Logan city center, but is now developed with single family dwellings that would make a public right-of-way difficult.

As previously mentioned, the National Forest Service Lands provide excellent recreation potentials, but they do not completely satisfy the recreational needs of Logan. In addition, Logan city should not depend on the land administered by another governmental agency for its public recreational use. The U.S. Forest Service has the option to curtail recreation activity within the forest because of overuse, or other administrative or environmental considerations. Consequently, inadequate city park development in terms of convenience or provision of facilities, could contribute to the overuse of the Canyon resources. Thus arises the possibility of limited Canyon use.

The city of Logan does have several existing community parks and open spaces. The parks are used for active and passive recreational activities, as well as for festivals and other social gatherings. Community-oriented parks include Willow Park, Central Park and the Canyon Entrance Park. Major open spaces contribute to the city plan at three locations: the Cache County Courthouse, the LDS Tabernacle and the LDS Temple. The Utah State University also provides the people of Logan with some park-like open spaces. The University's "Old Main Hill" is especially appreciated for its atmosphere of relaxation and recreation, shared by

both students and residents alike. These parks and open spaces endow the city with beautiful expanses of well-maintained grounds and a great variety of large, stately trees (see map 1).

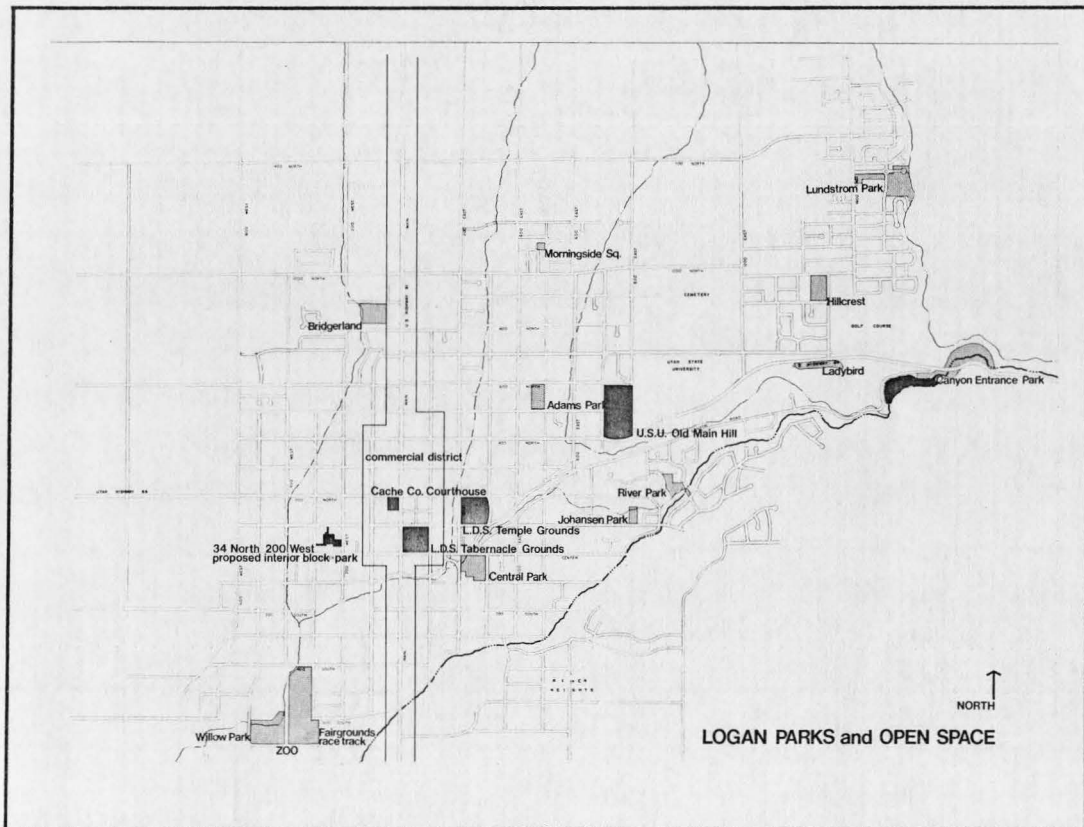
Views of the natural and rural landscape surrounding Logan are available from many of the parks and open space locations. The Bear River Range and Logan Peak to the east; the commanding Wellsvilles to the west; the gentle hummocks of the valley benchlands; the rich farmlands of the Cache Valley floor; and the changing effects of weather and light quality on the diverse land forms, are all a part of the aesthetic experience of life in Logan, Utah. This "borrowed scenery" (Ashihara 1970) is highly appreciated by the people of the city, and should be sensitively enhanced whenever possible.

Parks and open spaces also aid in the integration of the cityscape with the adjacent landscape. Since the views of the landscape outside the city are so readily available, a reinforcement of green space within the urban framework tends to reduce the harsh contrasts of building densities.

Local parks within the neighborhoods create small open spaces that relieve the repetitious configuration and dimensions of the established grid layout of Logan. Currently there are eight residential parks within the city that become focal points for the adjacent neighborhoods. Adams Park is a particularly good example of a center of interest developed within an otherwise unvaried and reiterated housing district.

According to the Logan City Director of Parks, Doug Eames, the existing residential parks are overused. Residents from neighborhoods lacking adequate park facilities travel to the nearest existing park, which may not be large enough to absorb an additional number of people. Mark Brenchley, the City Planner, indicated that more localized parks would be great assets for the residents of Logan.

The neighborhood park in Logan can become an important common space for socialization. In general, many neighborhoods of Logan experience a strong social union as a result of the local Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints (LDS) ward designation. The average ward size includes about 250 families, and the predominance of the religion in Logan entails approximately 80 percent of its residents. Thus, the ward delineation encourages a significant personal interface among neighbors. The church grounds are sometimes utilized by the membership in a park-like capacity, with festivals, money-raising events, and informal games. Yet the church property is not expected to be an adequate substitution for the neighborhood park. The grounds are not designed to accommodate recreational usage, and the church should not assume responsibility to provide the public with park facilities. However, park land adjacent to church or public school property, in many cases, serves the public recreational needs and furnishes facilities for special institutional use. The localized park in Logan may be valuable in the reinforcement of socialization and neighborhood cohesiveness in a non-sectarian atmosphere.



Map 1 Parks and Open Space in Logan, Utah

The personal association within the neighborhood facilitates two aspects of park support: the "policing" of the space, and the cooperative supervision of small children. The size of the neighborhood park and the proximity to adjacent housing encourage residents to "keep an eye on things." The collective responsibility and symbolic ownership of the public space incite a concern among neighbors to prevent abuse of the facilities or the park users. Organization among parents with small children is possible in the neighborhood so that playlots are supervised.

Despite the vast recreational resource of U.S. Forest lands near Logan, residents of the city need additional facilities that are available within walking distance and that are more related to urban life and activities. Neighborhood parks can fulfill many of the physical, social, and personal outdoor requirements. Depending on the size of the proposed park site, many activities may be accommodated that reflect the desires of the particular ages and lifestyles prevalent in the vicinity.

In summary, existing parks and open space in Logan, Utah, are valuable amenities. They contribute important elements to the city plan, as well as provide community and neighborhood recreation, opportunities for socialization, and aesthetic enrichment. Parks and open space offer interesting views of the mountains and farmlands surrounding Logan. They also aid in the integration of the cityscape with the natural and rural landscapes.

Lastly, the neighborhood space becomes a

tangible expression of the residents who live in the vicinity. It can reflect their attitudes, values, and lifestyles. The local park can be a positive influence in the establishment of a neighborhood identity that is unique and individual in the context of the rest of the urban community.

Block Interiors. The original city plan for Logan, designated the "Plat of the City of Zion" by the Mormon Pioneers in 1866, called for 600-foot by 600-foot blocks of land separated by 60-foot wide streets (McNeary 1973). The large block interiors enabled eight farm residences to have a plot of ground within the city for wintering stock, storing feed and gardening. But in the 1920's urban pressures in Logan increased and farm interests relocated farther outside of the city. Infill housing began to occupy the block perimeters, most intensively after 1945, leaving the interiors of the blocks undeveloped (see figures 2,3).

Presently much of the land in the block interiors remains vacant, although some interiors are being utilized with single family residences, apartments and condominiums on cul-de-sacs. However, as new housing is established on the vacant land, some neighborhoods lose an open space that previously served as an informal play area for the local children. In the consideration of development alternatives, some of the block interiors in neighborhoods lacking recreation facilities would potentially benefit the community by supporting a public space that is safe, useful and appealing to a greater number of users.

In a survey of Logan residents conducted in 1973 by a Utah State University graduate student regarding developmental alternative preferences for the interiors of the blocks, Brian McNeary stated,

Some of the residents questioned in the survey felt the block interior was an important part of their neighborhood. For those people the block interior was, (a) an active space of gardens, (b) a play area for their children, or (c) a space that gives a feeling of openness to their yard.

Yet negative opinions were voiced towards the existing block interior. For those people the block interior was (a) a visually disturbing junk space, (b) land that contained fire and health hazards, and (c) unnecessary land to maintain (McNeary 1973, pp. 22, 23).

However, McNeary added, "The residential park consisting mainly of open space, trees, and a few benches was admired by all the respondents."

Many of the respondents eagerly suggested the development of small parks or play lots in the block interiors. With this suggestion came the belief that the block interior should be a space for children and the family. A desire was expressed that the design of the block interiors would retain a private quality rather than to promote the atmosphere of a large public space (McNeary 1973, p. 33).

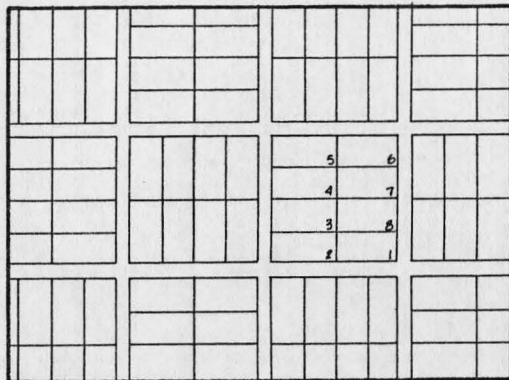


fig. 2 1866 Residential Block Layout of Logan

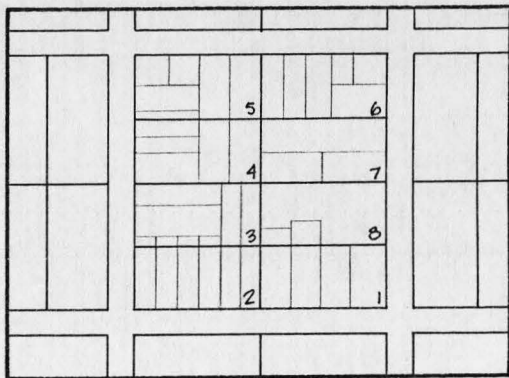


fig. 3 Property Alteration of a Block

According to McNeary, the residential park is "recommended for consideration of implementation within the block interiors" (McNeary 1973, p. 36).

Doug Eames, the Director of Parks in Logan, was not as enthusiastic toward development of residential parks within the block interiors. He described problems in upkeep and maintenance on a site of small acreage. He remarked that the working budget of the city for park maintenance is too low for proper upkeep of facilities that are "overrun" by the public. Eames believes that a park should be developed on less expensive land and on a site greater than ten acres for more efficient policing and maintenance. Eames said that the neighborhood tends to reinforce the idea of a park at first, then after implementation, residents begin to complain about noise, dogs and privacy. Yet he does admit to an increased demand for parks in Logan.

The Logan City Planner, Mark Brenchley, believes that neighborhood parks in the block interiors are generally appreciated and desired among residents. He insists that the residential parks are reasonable and practical if designed for low maintenance. Brenchley also stated that there are many methods of funding for park development and land acquisition. So the obtaining of the interior block land would not necessarily place a burden on the city budget.

In conclusion, the vacant interiors of some of the Logan city blocks are suitable for park development. In accordance with the concerns of the city, the site design must demonstrate

features for low maintenance. It also must reflect a sensitivity toward noise and view control through the use of buffer elements and circulation planning. The residents of Logan generally approve of the idea of neighborhood parks in the block interiors, and the apparent overuse of existing facilities implies more park facilities would be valuable in meeting local recreational needs.

The Park Site

I chose to design a hypothetical park in Logan as a case study for my thesis project. The park site I selected presently exists as vacant land in the interior of a block of a residential area of Logan. The property is neither city-owned nor officially proposed as a park site, yet the vacant space has great potential for serving the recreational and social needs of the related neighborhood.

I selected the interior of the block between 200 West, 300 West, 100 North and West Center Streets because of the site size available, the configuration, and the location. The block center is surrounded by residential housing on three sides, with the eastern perimeter partially vacant and open to 200 West Street beside the LDS Employment Center. Narrow accesses to the block interior are available from 300 West and 100 North Streets. The park name, 34 North 200 West, is the address of the eastern site parcel, and the name is intended to reflect the residential character of the site. The unused land in the block consists of 1.6 acres and its boundary is already partially

delineated with a six-foot chain link fence separating it from other private property. Parcels of the proposed park property are under the ownership of four people and the LDS Church (see map 2).

The neighborhood largely consists of single family dwellings. The multi-family dwellings include such housing types as large older homes divided into apartments, older homes with basement apartments, or fourplex apartment buildings. The housing density is approximately ten units per acre.

The site exists in an older neighborhood of Logan that is beginning to experience a new generation of home owners. An increasing number of elderly people who reside in the area are selling to young families with small children. This turnover trend is expected to continue for ten years or more, especially as a result of the new surge of interest in restoration of older homes in Logan.

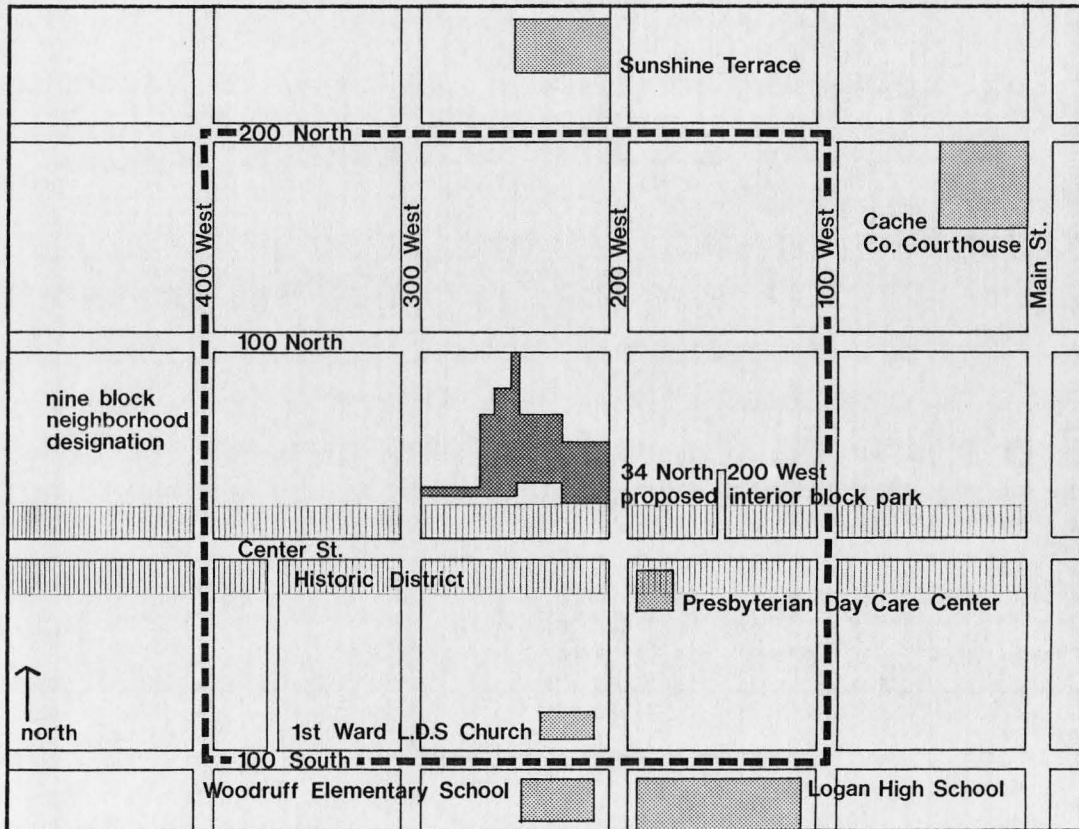
A park development in this particular block would serve two important age groups in the vicinity, the elderly and the pre-school children. These two groups are the least mobile to travel for recreation facilities, so the local park within the walking distance of a few blocks would become an especially important public space in the neighborhood.

The study block is located directly northwest of the Presbyterian Day Care Center. According to Jeri Malouf, the day nursery director, the park would be a tremendous asset to the pre-school programs, since the center presently

lacks sufficient outdoor facilities. She suggested the development of park features that encourages self-motivated activities for the children such as sand and water play, and creative play equipment. With an average enrollment of fifty-five children, the day care center would actively utilize the park during all seasons of the year.

Although the Woodruff Elementary School is located in a block south of the Day Care Center, it is not considered to be an appropriate play area for the pre-schoolers. The steel equipment on asphalt pavement is oversized and dangerous for small children. Also the playground was not designed to separate age group activities.

The Sunshine Terrace Foundation, Inc., a nursing home for the elderly, is located two blocks north of the proposed park site. Helen Saunders, the activity director of Sunshine Terrace, reinforced the park idea. She stated that their residents would really enjoy a public space that was within walking and wheelchair distance. While Sunshine Terrace has a pleasant outdoor patio on its property, a park would provide the elderly with alternative activities. The park size would also afford space for games and activities that are not otherwise possible. In addition, the elderly could become more involved with other local residents through informal socialization or scheduled neighborhood parties and events. Saunders indicated that many of the Sunshine Terrace residents would be pleased to have social exposure to the small pre-school children.



Map 2 Case Study Park Location

Many of the residences along West Center and 100 North Streets are historic homes. Some date back to the 1870's and several are listed on the Utah Historical Society Register. Both sides of West Center are proposed for redesignation as a special historic district of Logan. The redesignation would prohibit certain building types that do not express an historic character. Restoration loans would be available to some of the home owners after the rezone, thus enabling the residents to strengthen the neighborhood identity with various property improvements. The proposed park on the block interior would lend additional character to the historic neighborhood, especially if developed in a fairly traditional style of design.

Logan City Planner Mark Brenchley enthusiastically endorsed the idea of a park in the proposed residential block. He said the park would be a tremendous asset for those residents of the west-central district of Logan, and the park would attract people from a nine-block vicinity. Brenchley estimated the area would include at least 1,400 potential park users (see map 2). He also considered the park development to be a compatible land use for the periphery of the proposed historic designation district.

Favorable opinions toward the proposed park were expressed by nine area residents whom I contacted. Several people of the park block thought a well-designed public space would increase the value of their properties adjacent to the park. Others had concerns regarding potential noise disturbances and privacy, but nonetheless agreed a neighborhood park would be

a highly desirable alternative to the existing vacant land. Young parents with small children concurred that a park was certainly desirable in the vicinity, and many of the people interviewed would consider taking part in a citizens' group to support the development of a park.

In conclusion, the interior of the block located between 200 West, 300 West, 100 North, and West Center Streets meets the physical and cultural qualifications for potentially becoming an important open space, major neighborhood focus, and viable park facility. The site is residential in scale, and park development would maintain a personal quality. The historic district designation of West Center Street would be reinforced with a park designed to retain the historic character of the area. Local residents and the city planner agree a park development would upgrade the neighborhood and would be convenient to serve the recreational and social needs of many people. Although the proposed park is, indeed, a hypothetical case study, many positive attitudes have been expressed, and the general enthusiasm toward a park is very real.

Objectives

1. The provision of recreational facilities shall be tailored to the needs and desires of the residents, and, in particular, the elderly and the pre-schoolers. The elderly desire spaces for active and passive games and a quiet situation for socialization or individual activities such as reading. The pre-schoolers need active games space, self-motivated play equipment, space for creative play and passive quiet places.
2. The desired activity setting shall be evaluated in terms of the site capability to accommodate such activities. Further, adequate space fixed to a dictated use (such as a shuffleboard court) and space adaptable for more diversified activities (such as a large turf area) shall be provided.
3. Physical comfort shall be promoted through development of unpretentious spaces of a personal scale, microclimate control for seasonal use of the park, noise buffers, safety features and site accessories such as restrooms, a drinking fountain and comfortable furniture.
4. The aesthetic appeal shall be based on the preferences of the neighborhood residents for certain qualities such as earth colors, natural materials, cleanliness, and spatial order. Aesthetic enrichment of the space shall be promoted through the use of sequential spaces, visual unity, the enhancement of mountain views and the screening of poor views, the development of pleasing proportions, careful selection of plant and construction materials, and development of special features such as a fountain.
5. The historic significance of the neighborhood shall be reflected through the use of a traditional geometric style of design. Plant and construction materials shall harmonize with existing qualities of the vicinity, without imitating them.
6. The present neighborhood image is one of growth, as exemplified through the many housing types from different periods of building in Logan. Thus, the site design shall include some contemporary design features and materials to illustrate present-day design interests in addition to the historic influences.
7. The establishment of a strong neighborhood identity shall be encouraged through the site design of the proposed interior block park. The local attitudes, preferences and values of the residents shall be represented in the common space through the utilization of design features, plants and construction materials that characterize the neighborhood.
8. The ease of park maintenance shall be an important aspect of site design. The residents are typically very conscientious of their own property upkeep, and, therefore, expect a public space in their neighborhood to meet similar standards. If the site is designed for low maintenance, the park will receive more attentive care, and in turn, more respect and positive use of the facilities.

9. Physical safety shall be an essential design consideration. The proper activity relationships, equipment, materials and furniture selection and expedient circulation patterns shall prevent dangerous situations from arising. In addition, low maintenance features shall aid in the park's facilitated upkeep for safety.
10. Social safety design features shall include lighting and visual and physical access for policing and other supervision by adults.
11. Emergency vehicle access to the block interior shall be provided from several points.
12. Architectural and other types of barriers that prevent wheelchair access shall be eliminated.
13. The park design shall retain qualities of flexibility that will accommodate future changes in provision for activities.
14. The proposed park shall be designed to be compatible with the adjacent residences. Design considerations include the utilization of view and noise buffers, pedestrian and bicycle circulation control, preservation of mountain views from residences, and the appropriate grouping of similar activities or separation of conflicting activities. Clear boundaries shall be delineated between public space and private property.
15. The proposed park design shall be considered economically feasible through the following aspects of site design: minimal earthwork, simplified construction techniques, straightforward design of components such as paving, planting, drainage and special features, and low maintenance characteristics.

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APPENDICES

PRESENTATION OF DATA

Physical Site Inventory

Location: the block interior between 200 West, 300 West, 100 North and West Center Streets in Logan, Utah

Size of site: 1.6 acres

Scale: very residential, due to its small size and close association with adjacent one or two story housing; the site appears to be a spatial extension of the private properties surrounding it

Site configuration: the site shape may be divided into several well-proportioned rectangles that interlock to produce an interesting geometric spatial order; most of the site edges are delineated with a chain link fence along the property lines

Topography: less than 5% slope

Drainage: gentle sheet drainage from 200 West toward 300 West; no subsurface storm sewer system exists within the site, but potential connection to the city system exists on 300 West

Microclimate:

seasonal temperature range: -10° to 95°
average summer temperature range: 60° to 70°
days with temperature less than 0° : 6 to 12
days with temperature less than 32° : 35 to 40
frost free days: 120 to 160
annual precipitation: 16 to 20"
wind: the site is protected from strong canyon or seasonal winds due to topography and housing on the block perimeter
sun exposure: flat topography and lack of tree cover produce full exposure

Soil: Steed gravelly loam
erodibility: slight
fertility: moderate
shrink/swell: low
depth to water table: 60"+
permeability: rapid
depth to bedrock: 60"+
potential runoff: slow
(source: Maas & Grassli 1976)

Vegetation: six large ash in good condition, several black locusts, and several philadelphus; norway maples border the east edge of the site as street trees; no other significant vegetation exists

Cultural Data Inventory

Location: (see maps 1 and 2)

Projected usage of park: 1,400 persons from a nine-block area

Access: from 200 West the approach is a wide vacant lot that is included as a portion of the site; from 300 West an alley extends to the block core; from 100 North a wide driveway that serves a four-plex extends to the site border; accesses would be suitable for park users, service equipment and emergency vehicles

Existing land use on block:

residential: 22 private dwellings, some with basement apartments; three four-plexes

commercial: a small defunct bottling company on the southwest corner; the LDS Bishop's Storehouse and Employment Center on 200 West

Housing density of neighborhood: 10 units per acre

Future land use: residential

Present ownership of proposed site: The LDS Church and four other private land owners

Utilities: sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and water connections are available from 300 West through the existing public right-of-way; electrical service hookup is available from lines in the center of the block

Vehicular traffic in neighborhood: primarily residential and service usage; some high school related use at peak hours

Historic landmarks: several historic homes that date to the late 1800's exist in the immediate neighborhood; many different building periods in Logan represented in the vicinity

Visual quality: the site lacks visual amenities and presently supports an unattractive assortment of discarded materials; foreground views from the site consist of residents' backyards, many of which are not particularly attractive; the Bear River Range east of Logan provides a background view above the street trees

PARK DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Park development will include the following activities and related facilities:

Children's activities and descriptions of related facilities

creative play: 1,000 square feet for location of small scaled play structures with climbing, swinging, and balancing equipment of wood and other natural materials; also some movable equipment such as tires, wood, costumes, etc.

sand and water play: 400 square foot sand pit and 100 square foot wading pool

active lawn games: 4,000 square foot irrigated turf area

craft construction: 800 square foot paved area with tables and benches to accommodate 20 children; also a 50 square foot storage area for supplies

quiet rest area: 500 square foot shaded, irrigated turf area

Adults' activities and descriptions of related facilities

reading: shaded area with comfortable benches to accommodate 12 people

socialization: shaded area with comfortable benches in groupings to accommodate 12 people; adjacent paved area for wheelchairs

table and card games: shaded area with tables and benches to accommodate 6 people

shuffleboard: 2 paved shuffleboard courts, benches

badminton, croquet, etc.: 3,000 square foot irrigated turf area

observation of aesthetic features: seating clustered around fountain or other focal point; also diversity of flowering plant materials

observation and supervision of children: benches facing children's activities to accommodate 6 people; paved areas for wheelchairs

gathering and group socialization: seating clustered around firepit to accommodate 12 to 15 people

The support facilities for the Interior Block Park are as follows:

Pavement

pedestrian and service access to the site:

1. from 200 West, on the east side of site (major entry)
2. from 300 West, on the west side of site at the southwest corner
3. from 100 North, on the north side of site (pedestrian only)

pedestrian and service access within site

fire vehicle access through site

hard surface activity areas

(parking is accommodated on the adjacent streets--no on-site parking)

Structures

shelter

restrooms

storage area

firewood storage

Utilities

culinary water

irrigation

lighting

electricity

Site accessories

site furniture--tables, benches

drinking fountain

trash containers

landscaping

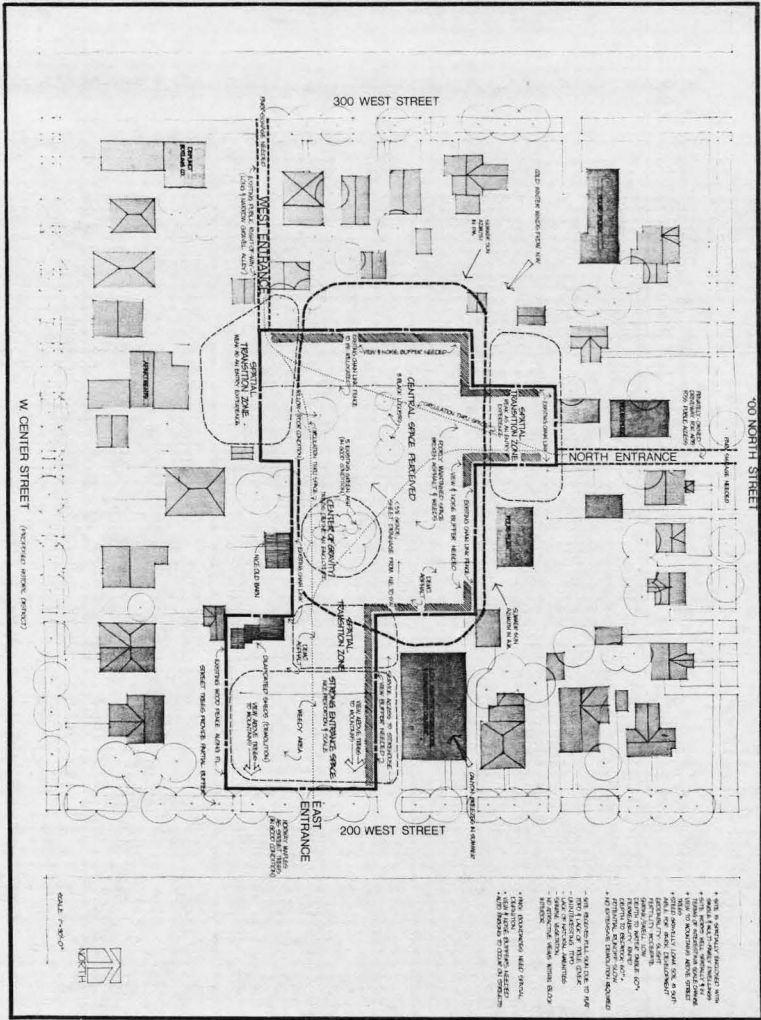
signage

bike rack

INTERIOR BLOCK PARK
LOGAN, UTAH
CAROL MAYER-REED, DESIGNER
master's thesis, utah state university
5 april 1977

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| 6 | layout | 15 | details |
| 7 | demolition | 16 | details |
| 8 | grading | 17 | fountain details |
| 9 | utilities | 18 | fountain details |

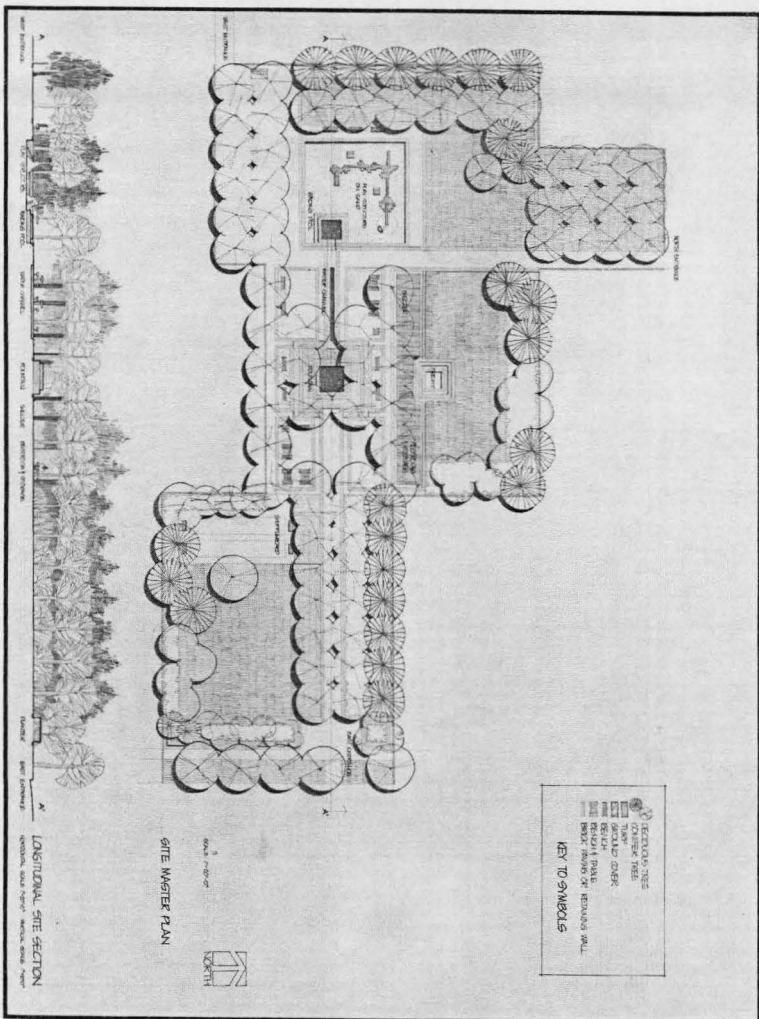


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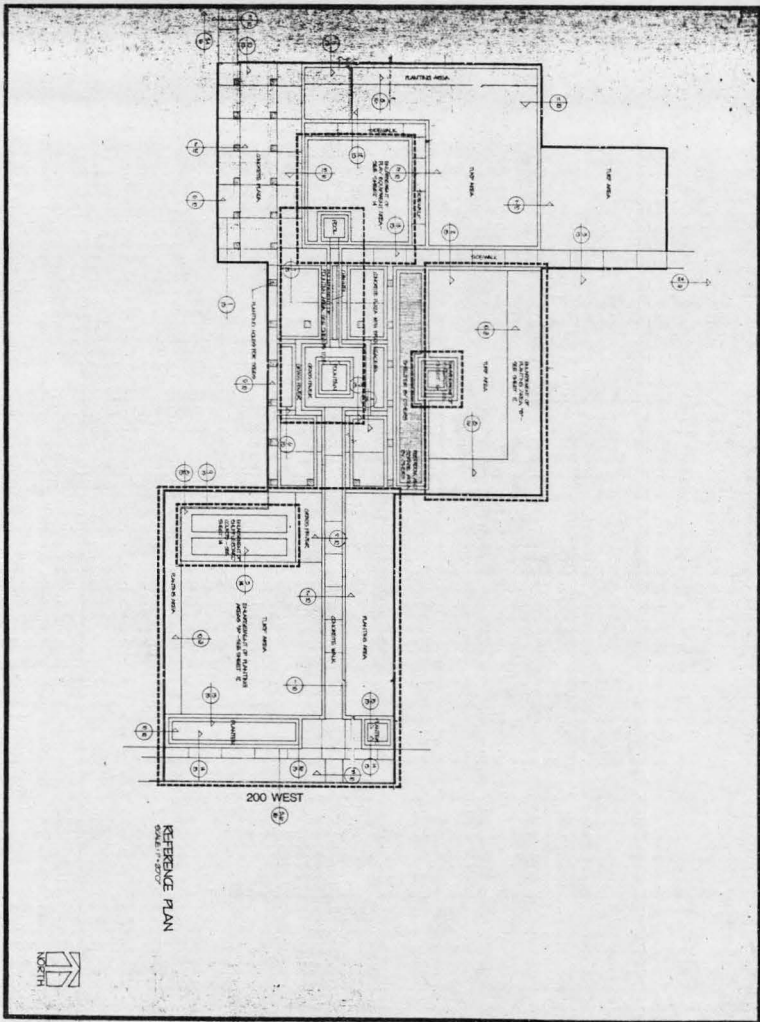
site analysis



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site master plan

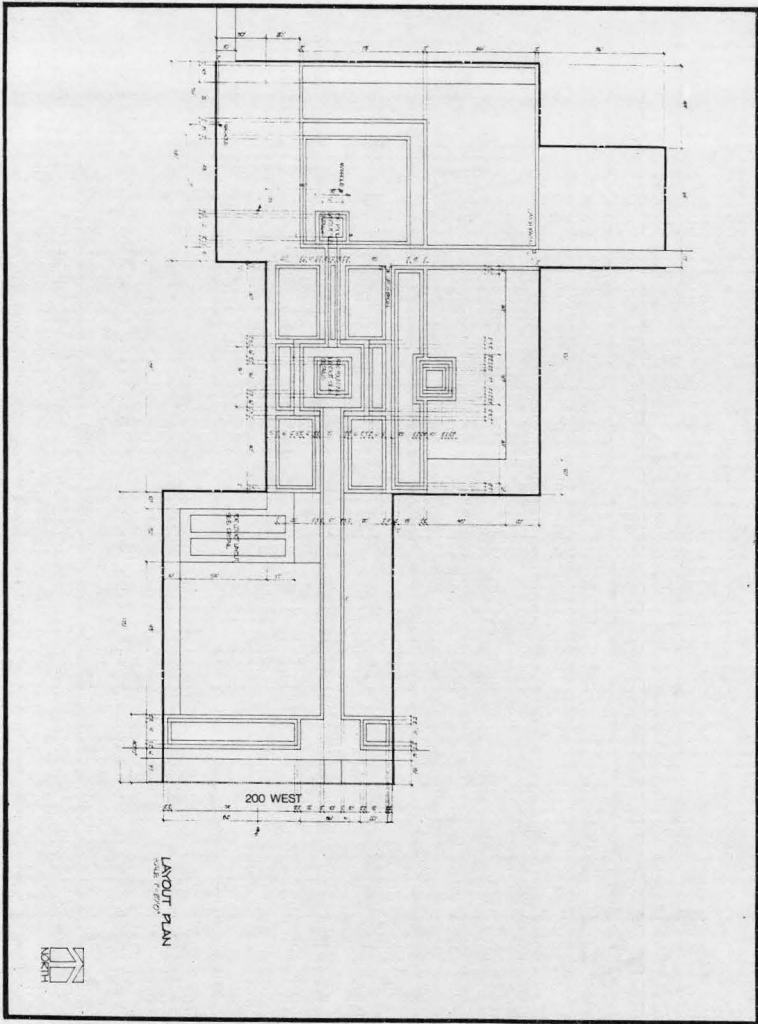


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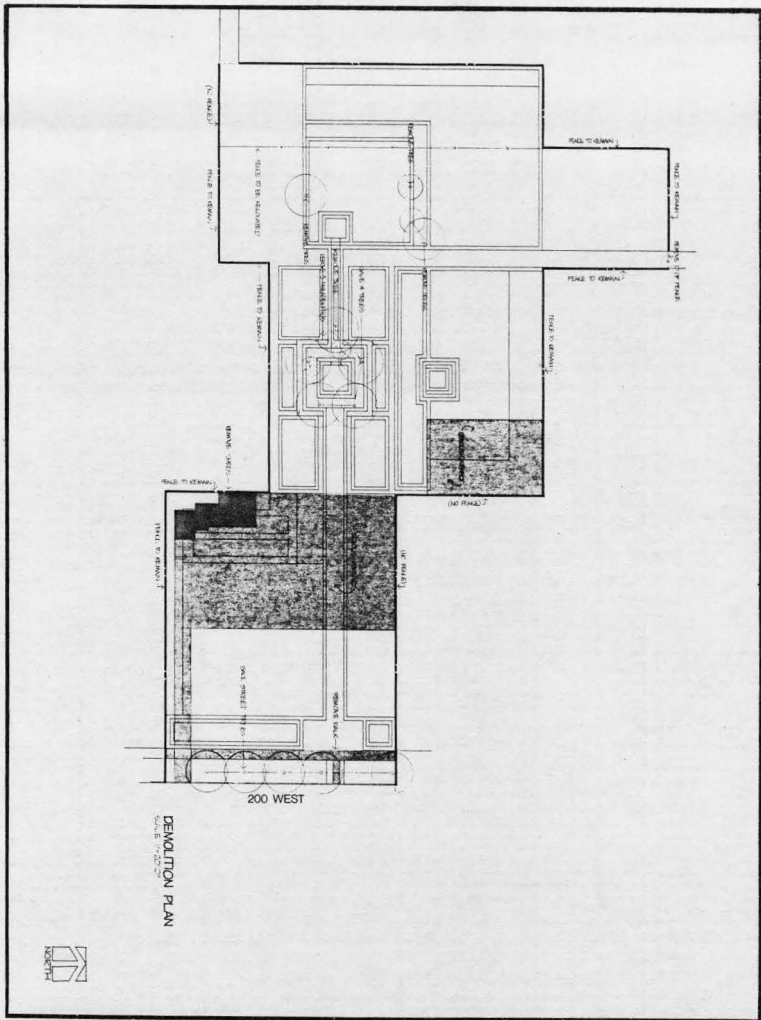
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layout



DEMOLITION PLAN

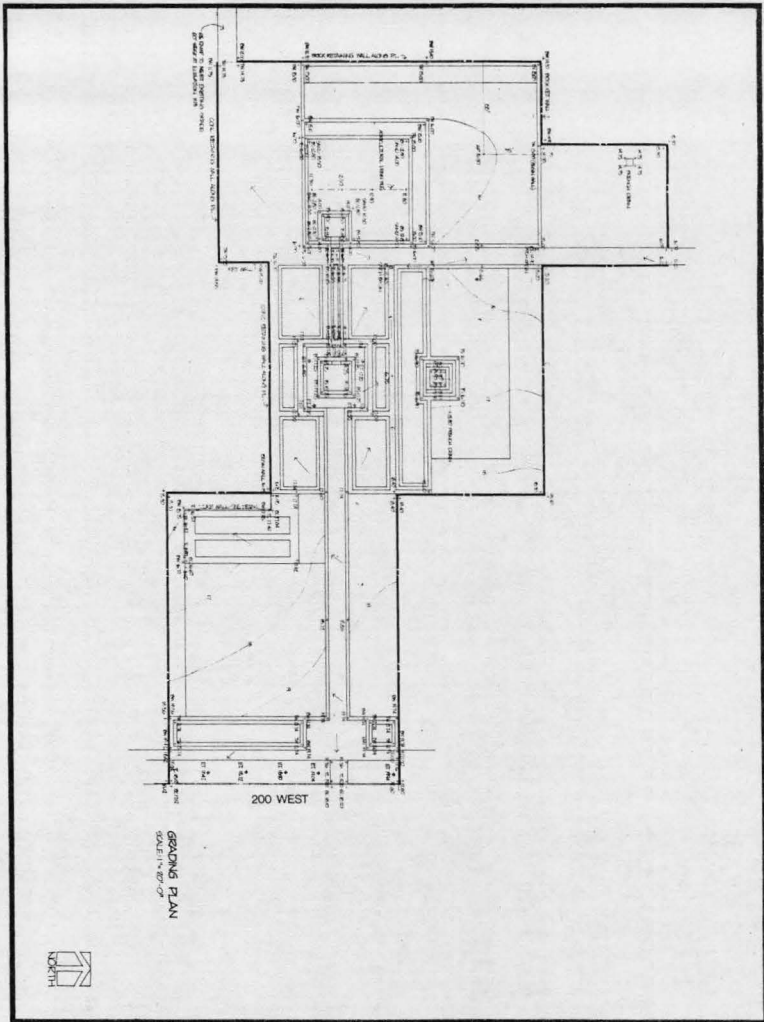
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demolition

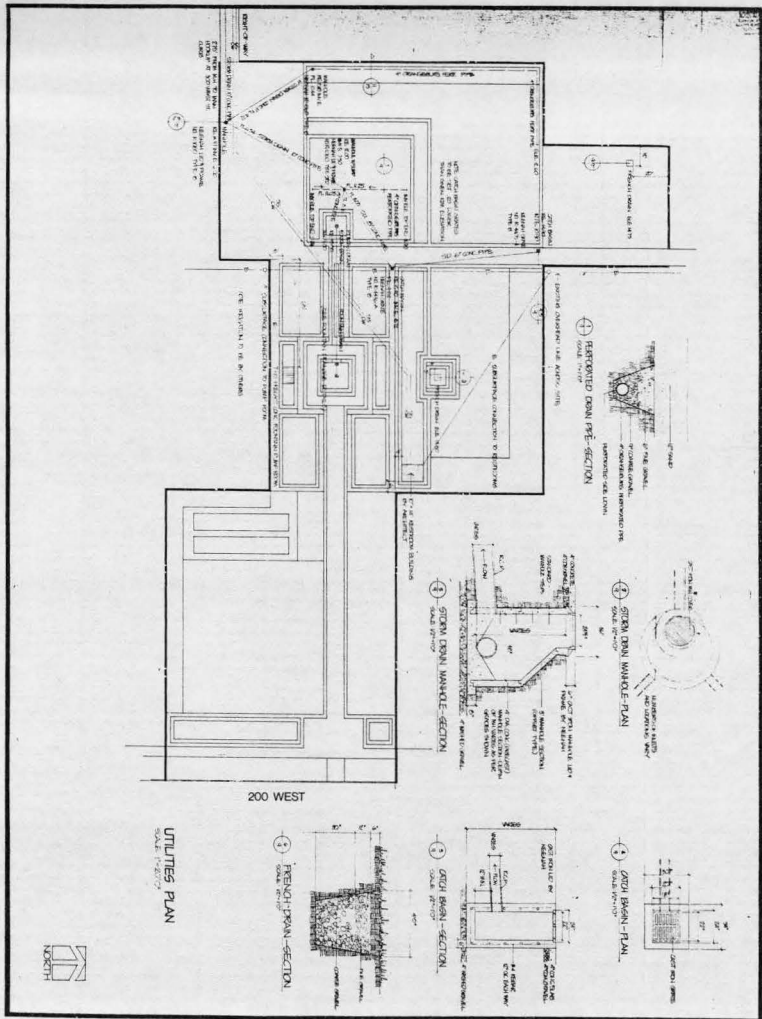


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grading

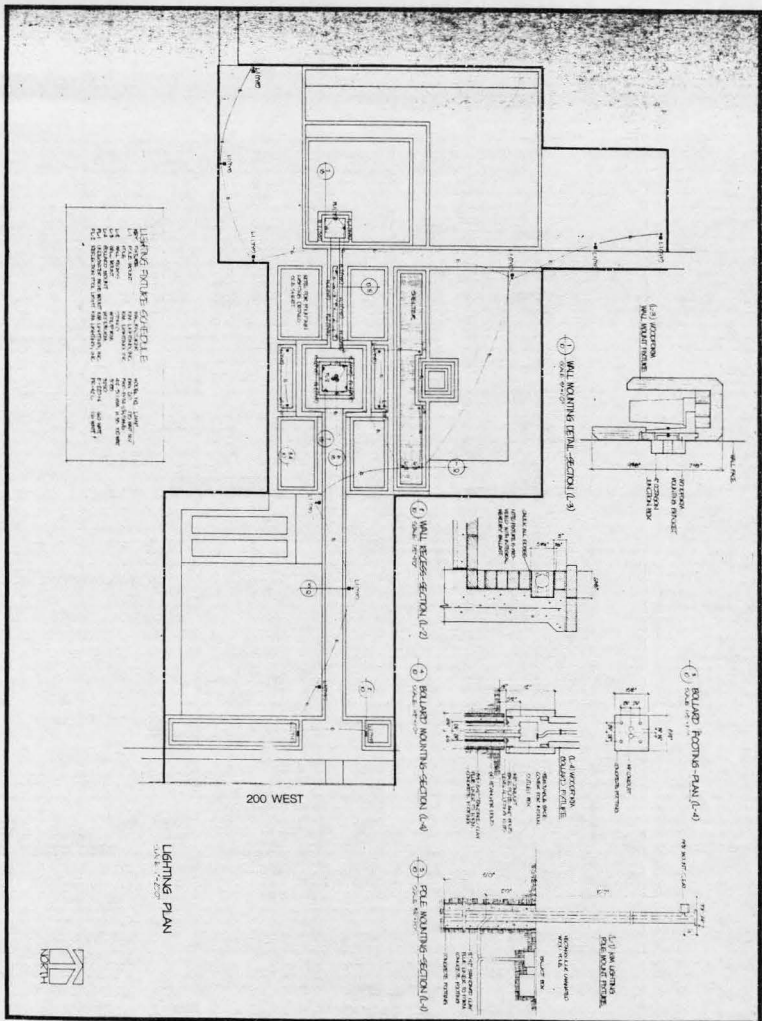


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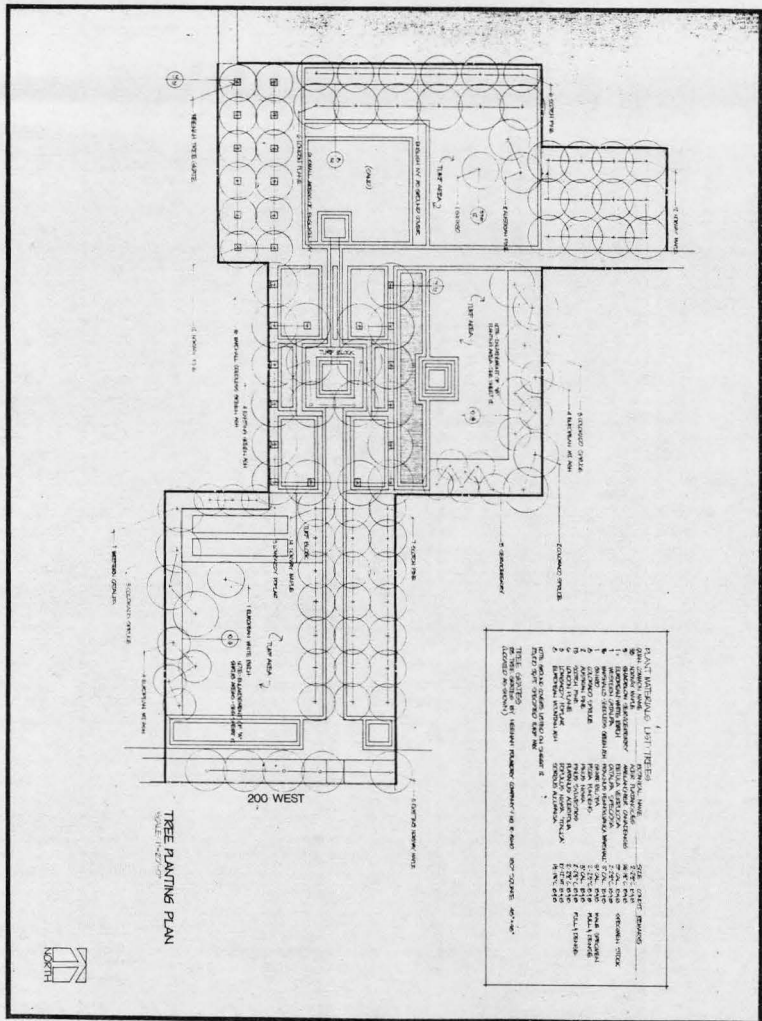
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utilities



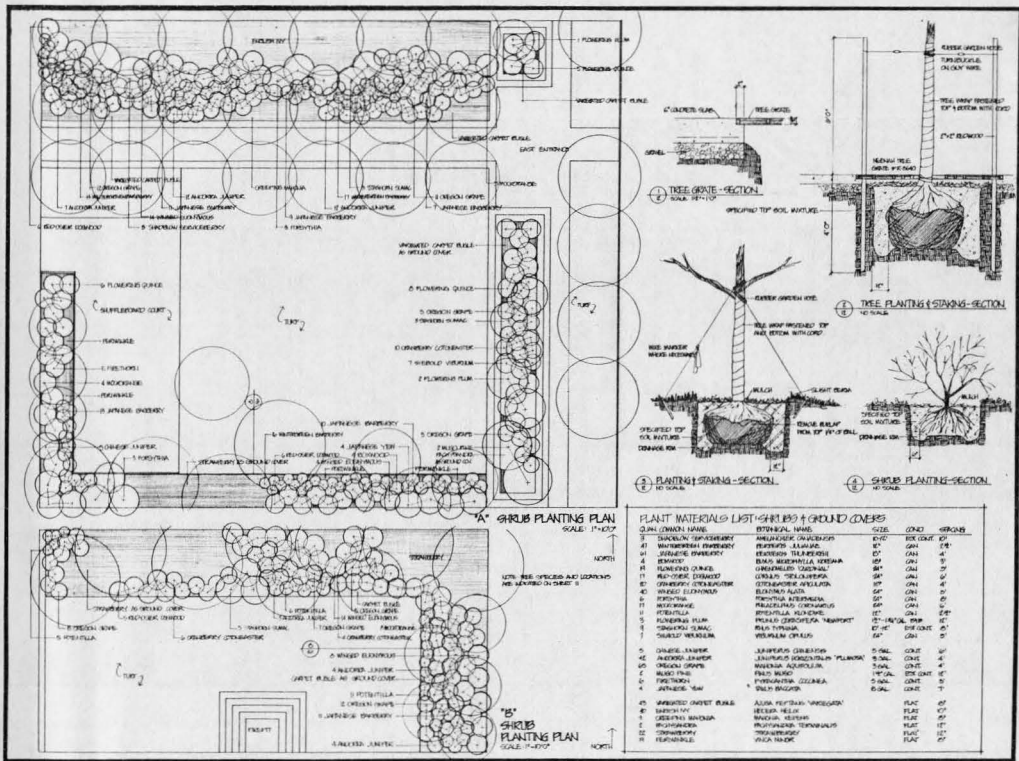
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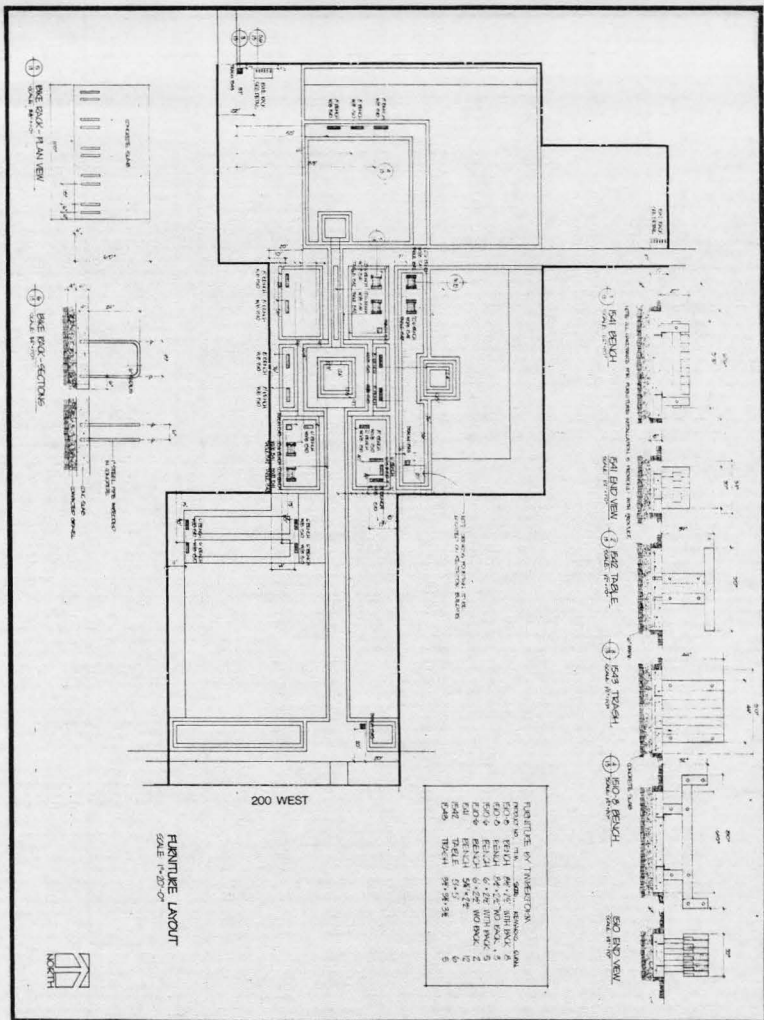
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tree planting



84 NORTH 200 WEST
 INTERIOR BLOCK PARK, LOGAN UTAH
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Sheet 12 of 13 Site Planning Plan

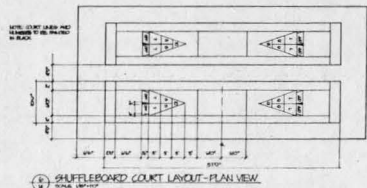
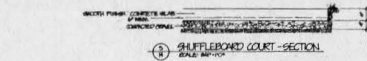
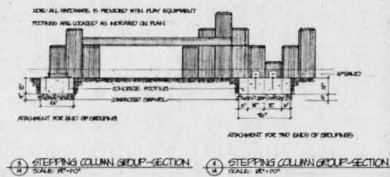
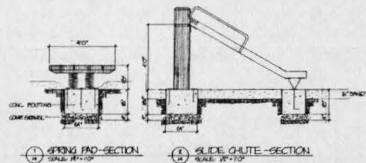
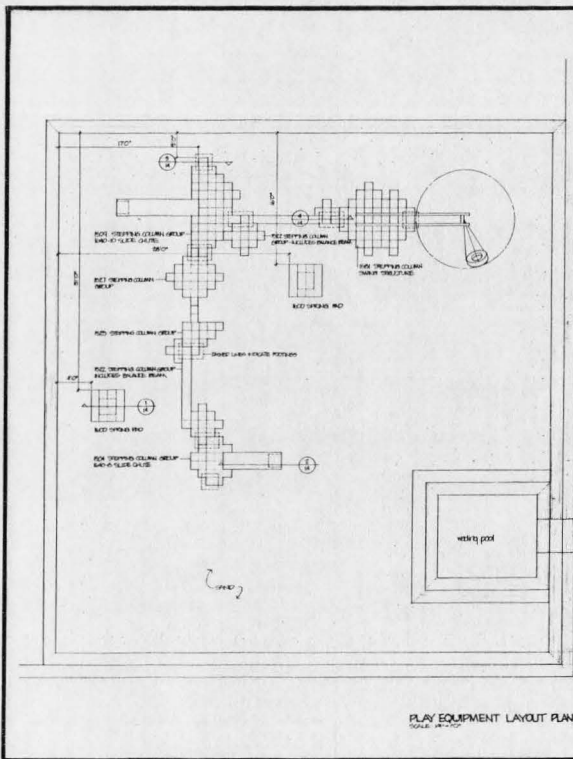


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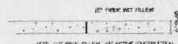
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furniture layout



34 NORTH 200 WEST
INTERIOR BLOCK PARK, LOGAN UTAH
CARRIE WATKINS ARCHITECTS, DESIGNER
520 EAST 100 SOUTH, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84143
playequipmentplan



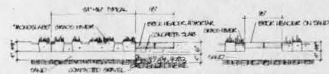
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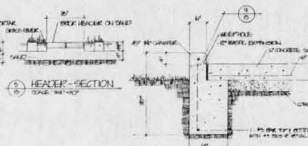
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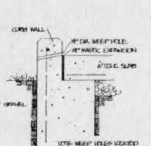
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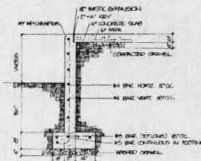
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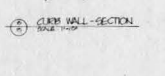
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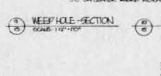
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9 HEADER-SECTION
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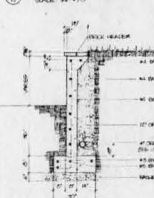
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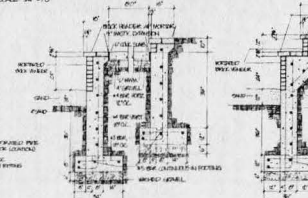
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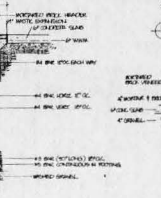
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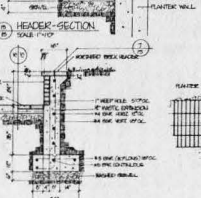
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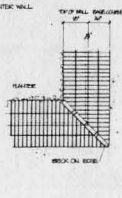
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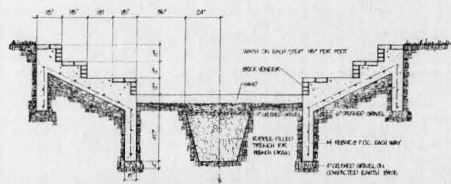


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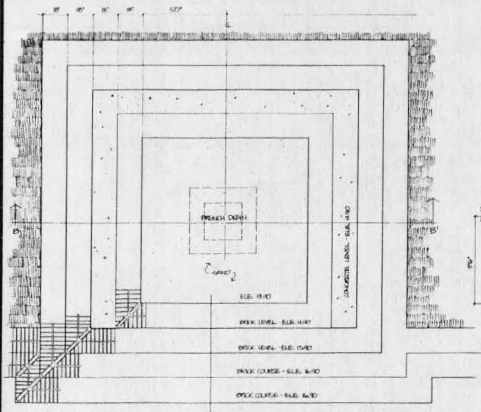
34 NORTH 200 WEST
 INTERIOR BLOCK PARK, LOGAN, UTAH
 CATHOLIC MAYER-REED, DESIGNER
 MASTER'S THESIS, UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
 5 APRIL 1977

details

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① FIREPT - SECTION B-B
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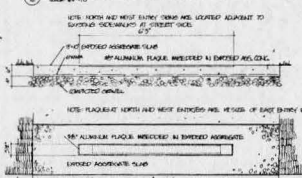


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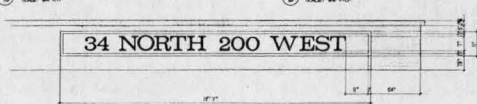
FIREPT - PLAN VIEW
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CORNER FRAMING DETAIL
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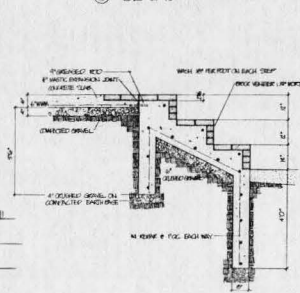
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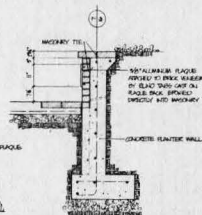
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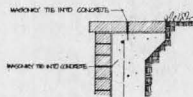
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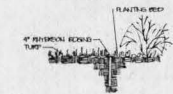
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⑥ EAST ENTRY SIGNAGE - SECTION
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⑦ MASONRY TIE SECTION
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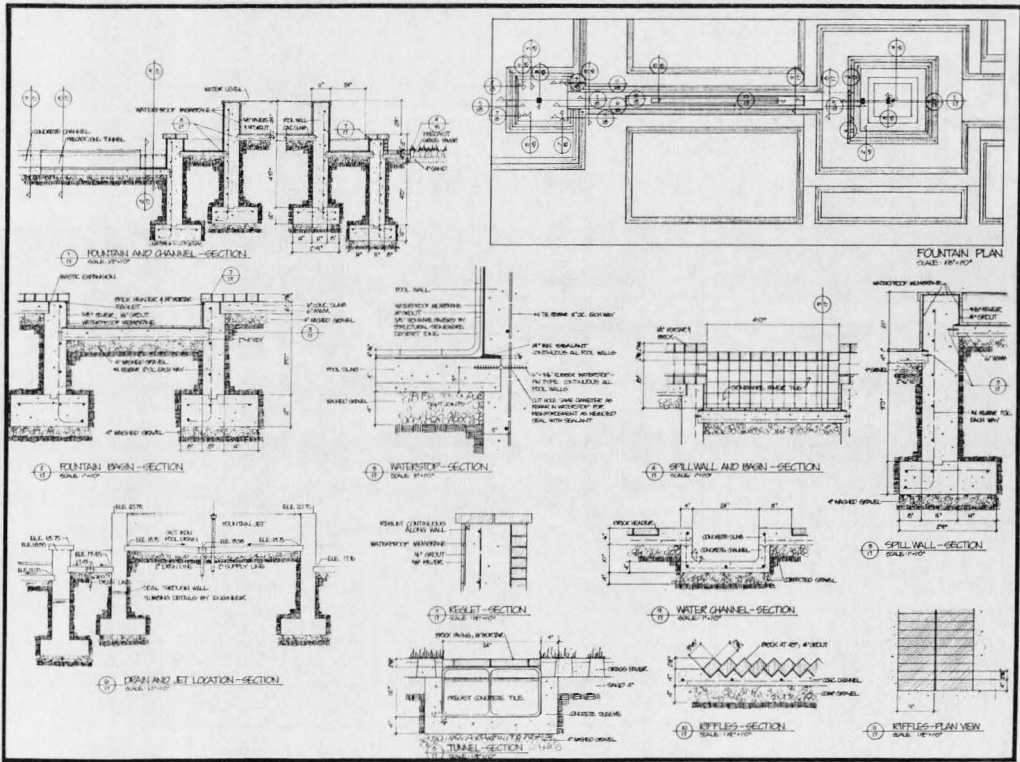


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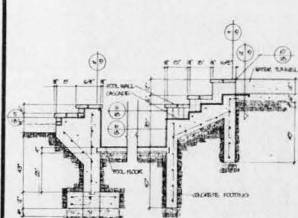
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CAROL MAYER-FEED, DESIGNER
master's thesis, Utah State University
6 April 1977

details

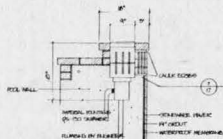
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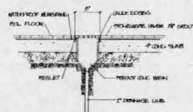
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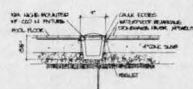
1. ARCADIE AND POOL SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



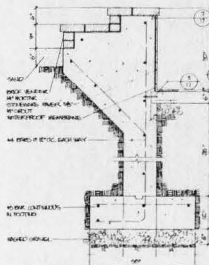
3. POOL SKIMMER SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



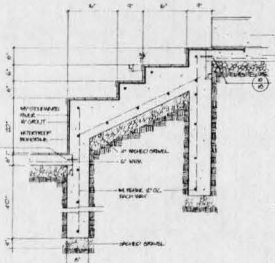
4. POOL DRAIN SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



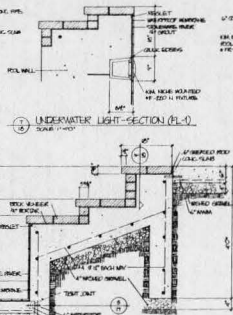
5. UNDERWATER LIGHT SECTION (PL-1)
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



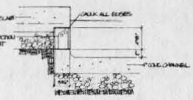
2. ARCADIE SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



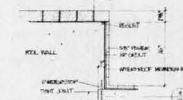
8. ARCADIE SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



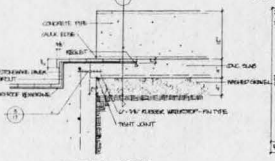
6. UNDERWATER LIGHT SECTION (PL-1)
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



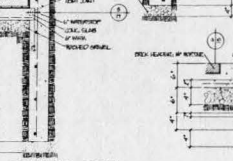
7. UNDERWATER LIGHT SECTION (PL-2)
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



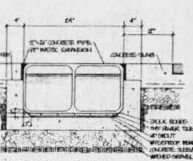
9. POOL SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



10. TUNNEL SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



11. POOL WALL SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"



12. TUNNEL SECTION
SCALE 1/4"=1'-0"

34 NORTH 200 WEST
INTERIOR BLOCK PARK, LOGAN UTAH
CAROL MAYER-REED DESIGNER

Master of Arts, Utah State University 5 April 1977

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UNITED STATES