

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Herring Run Park Inventory Number: B-1374

Address: 3700 Harford Road City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21205,06,13,14,18

County: N/A USGS Topographic Map: Baltimore East

Owner: Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks

Tax Parcel Number: _____ Tax Map Number: _____ Tax Account ID Number: _____

Project: Harford Road Bridge over Herring Run Agency: City of Baltimore Department of Transportation

Site visit by MHT Staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____

Eligibility recommended Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Is the property located within a historic district? no yes Name of district: N/A

Is district listed? no yes Determined eligible? no yes District Inventory Number: _____

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: N/A

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)

Herring Run is a linear, stream valley park built by the City of Baltimore over the course of the twentieth century. Herring Run Park was first proposed in the 1904 master plan developed by the Olmsted Brothers. The Olmsted firm updated this plan in 1926 and 1940 as part of the City Plan Committee of the Department of Public Works. Located in the Herring Run stream valley, the park stretches from Morgan State University on the north to I-895 on the south. Herring Run is the centerpiece of the park. The stream banks are heavily wooded while the edges of the park have been infilled for athletic fields and playgrounds.

Herring Run Park was first proposed by the Olmsted Brothers, Frederick, Jr., and John, in 1904 when they completed a master plan for Baltimore parks. The report recommended the city acquire and protect the major stream valleys before development overran and despoiled them (Olmsted Brothers 1904). The proposed parkland was described as "low-lying, cheap, and unsuitable for private occupation for other than farming purposes" due to flooding (Olmsted Brothers 1904:93). As development ensued it would be necessary for the city to "regulate the channel." Therefore, the brothers recommended the city create a long and narrow park or broad parkway (Olmsted Brothers 1904:93).

When Baltimore's park plans were revised in 1926, the Herring Run Park principally consisted of two parcels located on the north and south ends of the present day-park. These parcels were acquired in 1906 and 1925. The north area and south ends were located on either side of Harford Road and between present day-Sinclair Lane and I-895, respectively. The 1926 report urged the city to purchase the land in between the parcels to complete the park. The report noted that the land contained large

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	Considerations: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G <input type="checkbox"/> None
Comments: <u>435 ACRES WITHIN BOUNDARY OF NR-ELIGIBLE RESOURCE</u>	
<u>Jim Janlunn</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>3/4/04</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, NR program	<u>3/5/04</u> Date

2004 00348

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 1

B-1374

areas of meadows suitable for the athletic games and other public recreation requiring large level areas (City Plan Committee 1926:28). Historic maps suggest that these purchases weren't made until ca. 1950.

Although Herring Run Park was described as an ideal picnic park equipped with baseball diamonds and playgrounds, in 1939, these amenities were limited to the north end of the park around Harford Road (Grimm 1939). A field house and playground were built north of Harford Road in 1957. In addition, a new Little League field and backstop were constructed and 24 acres disturbed by the installation of a new 84-inch Bureau of Water Supply water main in Herring Run Park between Lake Montebello and Pulaski Highway were reseeded (Annual Report 1957).

In 1962, a 75-foot-long, 15-foot, wide, prestressed concrete bridge replaced a wooden structure under Harford Road Bridge. The wooden structure was frequently damaged by flood waters. The bridge was necessary to connect the two sides of the river since the field house and the main area of athletic facilities are on opposite side of the stream (Annual Report 1961, 1962).

Through 1962, the area south of Sinclair Lane was described as a "trap for fires, mosquitoes, crime, and lovemaking. (The area contained) stagnant pools, high weeds, and treacherous banks along portions of Herring Run" (Case 1962). Responding to citizen concerns, the city agreed in 1963 to infill and level areas near the ballpark off Pulaski Highway, increase police patrols to discourage private dumping, eliminate "city dumping of garbage but encouraging dumping of trash to fill present chasms", and task twenty men to the clearing the land adjacent to Parkside Drive (Parks Chief 1963).

On Columbus Day 1964, the first monument to Christopher Columbus, erected in 1792, was moved from the estate of the French Consul to Baltimore to Harford Road between Walther Boulevard and Argonne Drive. The monument is a 44-foot-high white brick and stucco obelisk.

On 14 April 1977, the Baltimore City Planning Commission/Department of Planning nominated the Herring Run Stream Valley as a critical area of land use. The nomination stated the "Herring Run Stream Valley Park System is suitable for conservation. Development should be geared to public enjoyment of the park's natural characteristics, recreational, cultural, and educational potentials" (Mayor's Advisory Committee 1978). In 1978, Maryland legislature designated the Herring Run Public Watershed, the first of association of its kind for a local metropolitan stream valley (Mayor's Advisory Committee 1978). In addition, the lower Herring Run/Armistead improvement was completed. The work included major earth work, new access roads and parking areas, signs, storm drainage, water service, tennis court, ballfields, including football, soccer, baseball, and playgrounds, benches, toilets, picnic tables, and plants (Mayor's Advisory Committee 1978).

Herring Run Park was first proposed in the 1904 master plan developed by the Olmsted Brothers, which was updated in 1926 and 1940 as part of the City Plan Committee of the Department of Public Works. Development in the park occurred throughout the twentieth century with later construction occurring in the 1950s and the 1970s. The 1950s construction focused on the development of athletic fields and the construction of a field house built near Harford Road Bridge. Athletic and other recreation facilities in the southern sections of the park were constructed in the 1970s.

Herring Run Park is associated with the development of City of Baltimore parks during the twentieth century. It was one many parks built as part of the 1904 master plan developed by the Olmsted Brothers. Herring Run Park has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association. The urban park possesses the qualities of significance defined in the National Register Criterion A and C.

REFERENCES

Annual Report of the Department of Recreation and Parks
1954-62 Department of Recreation and Parks, City of Baltimore.

Armstrong, Katherine
1959 "The Great Herring Run Flood of 1911." Baltimore Sun. August 30.

Case, Paul
1962 "The "Battle" of Herring Run Park." Baltimore Sun. December 3.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Continuation Sheet No. 2

B-1374

City Plan Committee

1926 Report and Recommendations on Park Extension for Baltimore to the Board of Park Commissioners. City Plan Committee of the Department of Public Works, Baltimore, Maryland.

Grimm, George

1939 "Shelters in Herring Run Park." Baltimore Sun, October 14.

Hall, Clayton Colman

1912 Baltimore, Maryland; Its History and Its People, Volume 1 of 3. Lewis Publishing Co., New York.

Heckel, Charles F.

1952 "The Great Herring Run Flood." Baltimore Sun. October 19.

Mayor's Advisory Committee

1978 Report of the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Herring Run. Prepared for the City of Baltimore.

Olmsted Brothers

1904 Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore. Prepared for the City of Baltimore.

Parks Chief Orders Action

1963 "Development in Works for Herring Run Park." Baltimore Sun. February 4.

Prepared by:

Brian Clevon, M.S., R.
Christopher Goodwin &
Associates, Inc.

Date Prepared: January 28, 2004

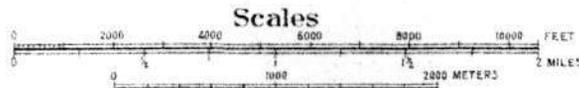
B-1374

Herring Run Park
Baltimore City, MD

Map from Olmsted Brothers 1904 Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore. Prepared for the City of Baltimore.



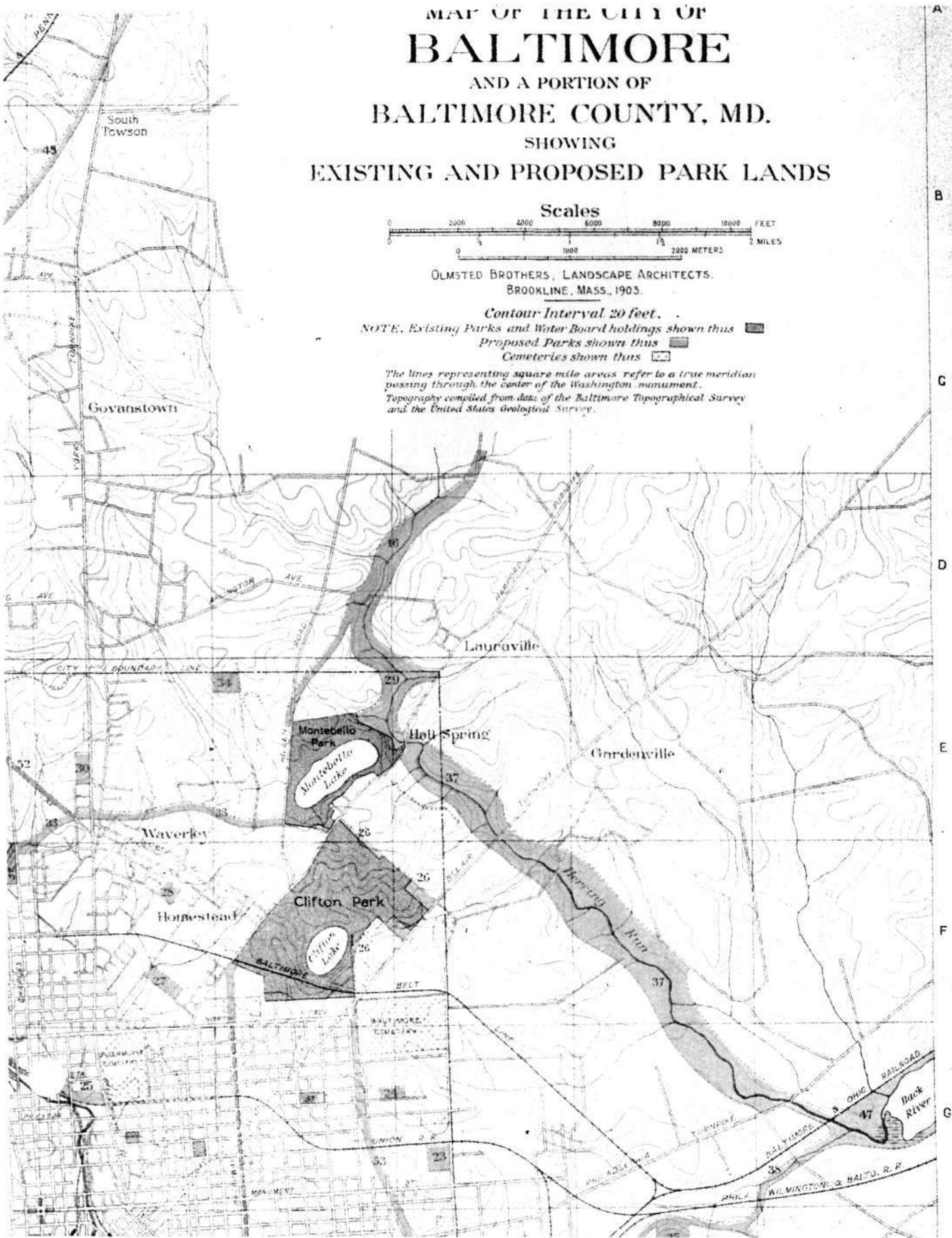
MAP OF THE CITY OF
BALTIMORE
 AND A PORTION OF
 BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD.
 SHOWING
 EXISTING AND PROPOSED PARK LANDS



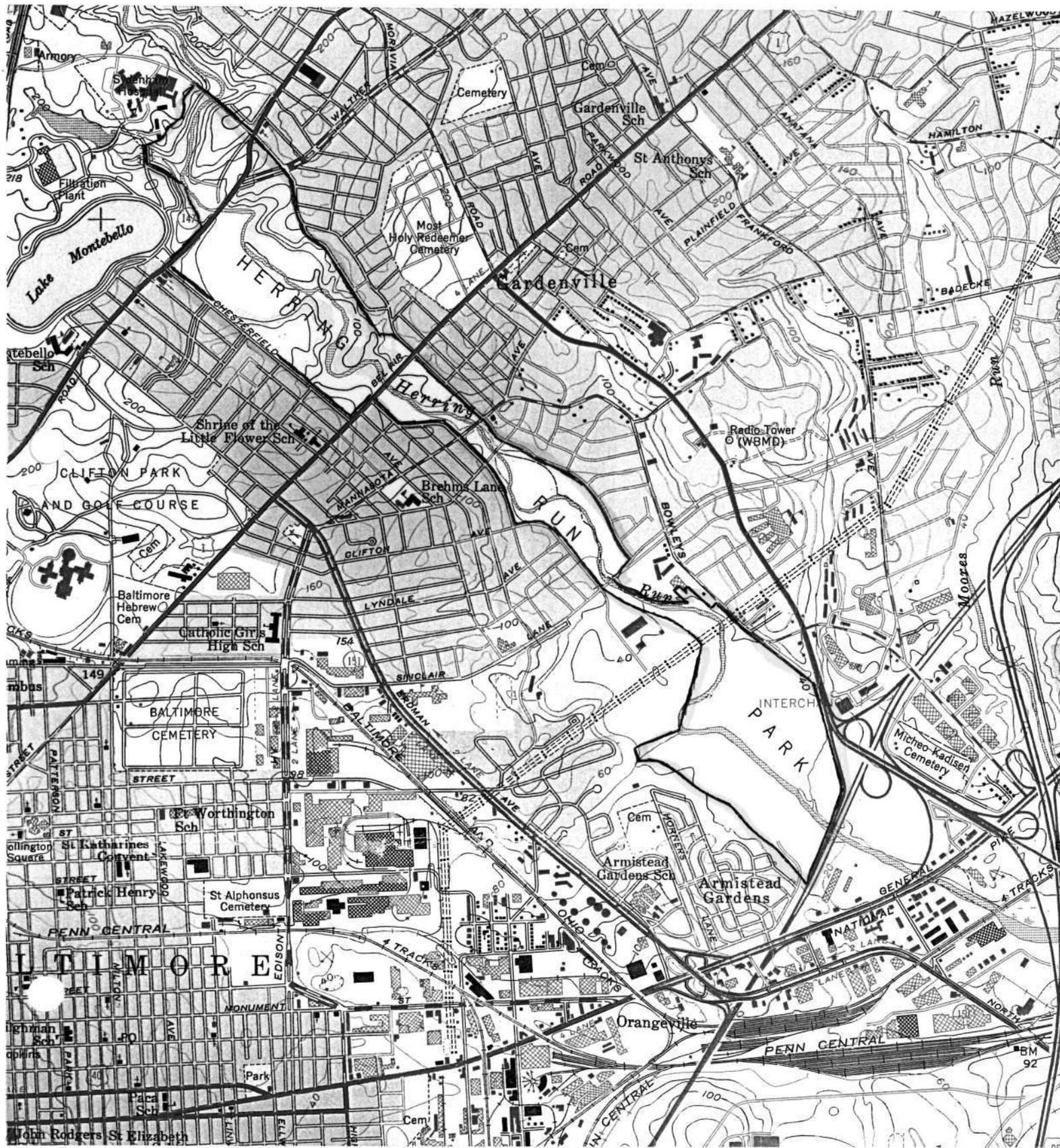
OLMSTED BROTHERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS.
 BROOKLINE, MASS., 1903.

Contour Interval 20 feet.
 NOTE. Existing Parks and Water Board holdings shown thus .
 Proposed Parks shown thus .
 Cemeteries shown thus .

*The lines representing square mile areas refer to a true meridian passing through the center of the Washington monument.
 Topography compiled from data of the Baltimore Topographical Survey and the United States Geological Survey.*



B-1374
Herring Run Park
Baltimore City, MD
Baltimore East USGS Quad
1953 PR 1974
1:24,000





B-1374

Herring Run Park

Baltimore City, MD

B. Clevin

1/19/2004

MD SHPO

Herring Run at Harford Road Bridge, view NW

Photo 1 of 10



B-1374

Herring Run Park

Baltimore City, MD

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HD SHPO

Herring Run and Bel Air Rd Bridge, View SE

2 of 10



3-1374

Herring Run Park

Baltimore City, MD

B. Cleven

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MD SHPO

Overview of Hall Springs Area, view N.

3 of 10



B-1374

Herring Run Park

Baltimore City, MD

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Hall Spring, View SE

4 of 10



B-1374
Herring Run Park
Baltimore City, MD

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MD SHPO
Bathhouse, View E

5 of 10



B-1374

Herring Run Park
Baltimore City, MD

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C. Columbus Monument, view SE

6 of 10



B-1374

Herring Run Park

Baltimore City, MD

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MD SHPo

Service bridge under Harford Rd, View N

7 of 10



B-1374

Herring Run Park

Baltimore City, MD

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Bike path along Herring Run, view NW

8 of 10



B-1374

Herring Run Park
Baltimore city, MD

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Picnic shelter near Parkside and Bel Air Rds, view W

9 of 10



B-1374

Herring Run Park
Baltimore City, MD

B. Cleren

1/19/2004

MD SHPo

Playground, Brehms Lane and Shannon Drive, View N

10 of 10