

Rahway River Park, Swimming Pool
Rahway River Park
Rahway Vicinity
Union County
New Jersey

HAER No. NJ-55

HAER
NJ
20-RAH.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
NJ,
20-RAH.V,
1-

Rahway River Park, Swimming Pool

HAER No. NJ-55

Location: Rahway River Park
Rahway vicinity, Union County, New Jersey

Date of Construction: Park Landscaping - 1926
Playground Area - 1927
Pool and Bathhouse - 1929

Architect/Engineer: Architects: Olmstead Brothers,
Brookline, Massachusetts

On-site field assistance provided by Percival Gallagher

Engineers: Hasbrouck, Incorporated
Swimming Pool Engineers
New York, New York

Present Owner: County of Union
Courthouse
Elizabeth, New Jersey 07207

Present Use: Recreational park

Significance: Historic bathing park complex featuring landscape design by the Olmstead Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts. Swimming pool designed by Hasbrouck, Incorporated of New York, New York.

Project Information: Mitigative documentation prepared for the Office of Governmental Relations, County of Union, Elizabeth, New Jersey

Prepared in October 1981 in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in response to proposed pool relocation.

Transmitted by: Jean P. Yearby, HAER, 1985

Rahway River Park,
Swimming Pool
HAER No. NJ-55
(Page 2)

In 1922, the Union County Park Commission hired the Olmstead Brothers as consulting landscape architects to design the Rahway River Park. Mr. Percival Gallagher, one of the partners of the firm, rendered on-site field assistance.

The original design, completed by Olmstead Brothers and signed by Percival Gallagher, is dated March 6, 1925. This also included the design of the Poor Farm Area (deeded to the county on January 21, 1925). The Poor Farm Area was designed as a "playground for women and girls." In addition, the plan included the original design for the football field and track, a number of tennis courts, a mall area and various planted trees.

The construction of Rahway River Park commenced on November 1, 1926. The playground area, which is one of the basic active recreational areas in the park, was constructed in 1927.

The original pool, bathhouse and site plan for Rahway Park were designed by Hasbrouck, Inc., Swimming Pool Engineers, 101 Park Avenue, New York, New York. This contract was entered into in March 1929 and bids on the project were accepted on May 17, 1929.