

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Lithia Park

and/or common Lithia Park

**2. Location**

street & number 59 Winburn Way N/A not for publication

city, town Ashland N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Oregon code 41 county Jackson code 029

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Ashland

street & number City Hall

city, town Ashland N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97520

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jackson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Medford state Oregon 97501

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Lithia Park, a lineal holding of 100 acres in Ashland, Oregon, is laid out along the banks of Ashland Creek, which rises in the Siskiyou Mountains south of town and descends northerly through Ashland to the valley floor occupied by Bear Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River. The area proposed for nomination to the National Register encompasses the initially-developed 42 acres at the lowermost end of the park to include the following: 1) the lowermost 12 acres of the park along Ashland Creek containing the lower duck pond and historic Chautauqua grounds as well as possible untested industrial and prehistoric archeological sites, 2) the adjoining 16 to 18 acres upstream landscaped according to a plan by John McLaren, and 3) a contiguous 12 acres containing the site of the historic free auto camp opened in 1915, improved in 1921 and further developed in the Great Depression.

Little is known about the archeological potential of the lower end of Lithia Park, as the area has never been systematically tested. However, beginning in the 1850s, the town's earliest mills--flour and saw mills--were located on Ashland Creek on the south side of the present Ashland Plaza, which lies immediately to the north of the park entrance. According to local archeologist Joseph W. Hopkins, III, "there is some evidence that an Indian village site lies under the plaza and the lower end of the park. At least one person has reported finding Indian artifacts along eroded stream banks in the lower parts of the park following the 1964 flood."

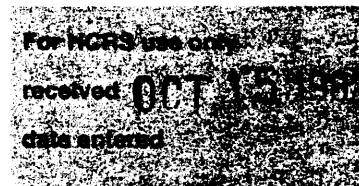
Chautauqua, a traveling program of lectures and entertainment, originated in New York in the later 19th century and was the first mass education-entertainment program to be developed on a national scale. In 1892 a Chautauqua Association was formed to bring cultural events and entertainment to southern Oregon, and Ashland was selected as the site. The following year, the Chautauqua Association acquired eight acres on Ashland Creek southeasterly of Ashland Plaza, and the original shingle-clad dome-shaped Chautauqua Tabernacle was constructed and opened for use on July 5, 1893. Though not yet in City ownership, Chautauqua Park was the germ of Ashland's great public park. People came from miles around to tent on the banks of Ashland Creek and to attend the cultural offerings in the Tabernacle.

Chautauqua prospered in Ashland, and the Association's initial bond obligation was paid off by 1901. In 1905 a new, enlarged Chautauqua Auditorium was erected on the site of the original Tabernacle. The new dome, a circular structure 160 feet in diameter with an intersecting half dome at the west end to house the stage and speaker's platform, was constructed on concrete walls 12 feet in height in which large window openings had tabernacle frames.

In 1903, at the urging of the Woman's Civic Improvement Club, the people of Ashland voted favorably to include park maintenance in the City Charter. A two-acre parcel at the south end of Ashland Plaza which was occupied by the Ashland Flouring Mills, and which had been deeded to the City by W.J. Virgin as early as 1891, thereupon was dedicated to public park purposes. In 1909 the old flour mill was torn down, a five-member park board was elected, and an additional holding of 45 acres bordering Ashland Creek south of Chautauqua Park was acquired for public use. About 1910 the lower duck pond and waterfall feeding into it were constructed on the site of the old flour mill. At this time, City park holdings extended south to include all the land bordering Ashland Creek to the Forest Reserve in the Siskiyou--present day Rogue River National Forest.

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Development of Lithia Park entered a new phase in 1911 when an ambitious local newspaper editor, Bert Greer, conceived of making Ashland a world-famous spa. The idea was not unfounded, because there were numerous mineral springs in the area and a Lithia spring as well. Lithia springs were the raison d'etre of other famous resorts, notably Saratoga Springs in New York. However, problems were encountered. The man who owned the Lithia spring wanted to build a resort himself and was not willing to sell or lease the surrounding land. Two years later, this problem was solved when a second Lithia spring was discovered closer to town.

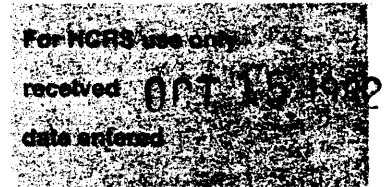
Upon discovery of the second Lithia spring, the people of Ashland began to take a greater interest in the spa concept. Early in 1914, a committee was formed to find a practical way to bring the water supply to the city. The committee approached the taxpayers of Ashland and requested a bond of \$175,000 for the mineral springs project. The committee arranged for several officials of the Southern Pacific Railroad, successor to the Oregon and California Railroad, and John McLaren, the Superintendent of San Francisco City Parks who developed Golden Gate Park, to visit Ashland and help plead the cause. The bond passed and the water was piped to Chautauqua Park. McLaren was hired to prepare a landscape plan for the lowermost 18 acres of the City's holdings adjacent to Chautauqua Park, and thus began the development of modern-day Lithia Park. Certain elements of McLaren's landscape plan showed that the resort concept was still alive. A casino, sanitorium and swimming pool eventually were dropped from the plan, but some more modest recreational features, such as the tennis courts, were carried into effect. Above all, the landscape was shaped to McLaren's design. While the planting key has not come to light to date, McLaren's plan is a part of park records and attests to the faithfulness with which the overall design was carried out.

McLaren's design incorporated natural features of Ashland Creek Canyon and native vegetation. 15,000 ferns and 700 pine, fir and cedar trees were planted throughout the park. Paths were constructed along either stream bank incorporating several footbridges over Ashland Creek. The lower duck pond (Meyer Pond) was improved in appearance and an upper pond with island (Black Swan Lake) was added. One of the focal points of the park was the mineral water station, the dispensary to which Lithia water was piped. Now known as Butler Pavilion, it is an octagonal pavilion in the rustic style with peeled log supports and a conical, shingle-clad roof. Several other gazebos of similar design at various locations throughout the park were specified in McLaren's plan. Those built no longer stand. The plan also incorporated several gifts - a fountain and statue donated by Ashland residents. Historic features of McLaren's plan for Lithia Park which were executed are as follows:

- Parkway (Winburn Way), west side of Ashland Creek, 1915.
- Main pathways on east and west banks of Ashland Creek, 1915.
- Perozzi Fountain Terrace, west side of Winburn Way, 1915.
- Sycamore grove, west side of Winburn Way, 1915.
- Japanese garden, west side of Winburn Way, and tea house (demolished), 1915.
- Formal rose garden, west side of Winburn Way, 1915.

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- Gardener's cottage, west side of Winburn Way (demolished), 1915.
- Auto camp registration and recreation building, east side of Ashland Creek, 1915-1920; remodeled 1961.
- Madrone picnic grove, east side of Ashland Creek, 1915.
- Rustic gazebos, east side of Winburn Way (demolished), 1915.
- Upper duck pond with island, east side of Winburn Way, 1916.
- Waterfall, east side of Ashland Creek.
- Tennis courts, east side of Winburn Way, 1915.
- Central bottling station, east side of Ashland Creek (demolished), 1915. The steps leading upslope to the site are still in place.

Features called for in McLaren's plan which were not executed are as follows:

- Bandstand concourse, west side of Winburn Way.
- Sanitorium, west side of Winburn Way.
- Greenhouse and nursery area, east side of Winburn Way.
- Children's play house and grounds, east side of Winburn Way.
- Swimming pool and bathhouse, east side of Winburn Way.
- Bowling green and handball court, east side of Winburn Way.
- Aviary, east side of Winburn Way.
- Casino, east side of Winburn Way.

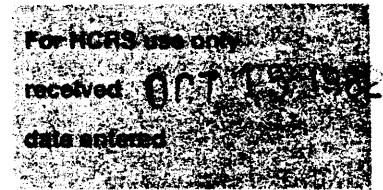
An exceptional feature of the developing park was the free auto camp established in 1915 at the uppermost end of the nominated area. It was a popular attraction and was among the earliest free auto camps on the West Coast. Its focal point was the single-story registration and recreation building, a rustic Bungalow, which still stands fronting an oval turn-around planted in lawn and edged with concrete curbing. In the 1930s, older cabins were augmented or replaced by new bungalows throughout the camp. Only one of these cabins remains to the south of the registration building. In 1961, after the auto camp was phased out of park operations, the other cabins were demolished. Thereafter, the registration building was leased for a time as a natural history museum. Its exterior siding was altered by the Ashland Skills Bank in the latest renovation under lease, but the building's essential configuration is preserved. Now empty, the building's future and that of the sole remaining camper's cabin beside it, is undetermined. The surrounding grove of oaks and madrones is unchanged. Here and there may be found stone benches which date from the initial period of development.

During the Great Depression, between 1935 and 1938, other improvements were carried out under WPA auspices in the upper park area. A more efficient drainage system was built to help eliminate the build-up of sediment and debris after rainstorms. The pathways of McLaren's plan were reconstructed, and new paths were added. A rose garden was established at the intersection of Nutley Street and Winburn Way from an area that had been a weed and bramble patch.

Non-historic structural features found in the lower 30 acres of the nominated area include a concrete band shell dating from c. 1949, a park shop building, children's play ground, toilet building, and various foot bridges which necessarily replaced the deteriorated

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picturesque rustic log bridges of 1915. These later improvements in the park have not significantly affected the overall imprint of John McLaren's design. The basic configuration of McLaren's layout is unchanged, and its scale broad enough that the bandshell, for example, is a minor and not incompatible feature. The appearance of Lithia Park has changed, perhaps, as much or more through the natural maturation of plant materials than by the minor development which has been introduced to date.

Over the years, as Lithia Park was developed, expanded and improved, the Chautauqua Auditorium of 1905 fell into disuse and disrepair. By 1935, only its concrete walls remained standing. On the Fourth of July in that year, the roofless shell became the scene of an historic event--the first open-air production of a Shakespeare play in Ashland. It was organized by Angus Bowmer, an instructor of English at Southern Oregon Normal School, who thus founded the city's Shakespearean Festival and would continue as the guiding spirit of the internationally-acclaimed Festival to his death in 1979.

Like a phoenix rising from the ashes, the Chautauqua Auditorium was reborn for a use akin to its original purpose. A crude stagehouse built in the former speaker's platform area with WPA assistance served until it was torn down during the hiatus of the Second World War. It was replaced in 1947 by a more elaborate stagehouse designed by John Conway of the University of Washington and based generally upon documents concerning theater construction in Elizabethan London. The stagehouse of 1947 was enlarged by backstage areas in increasingly haphazard fashion until, in 1958, it was ordered by the Fire Marshal to be pulled down.

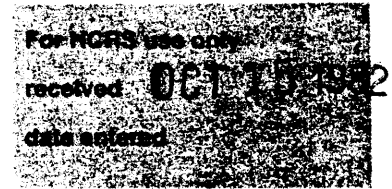
The existing stagehouse, built in 1959, was designed by Richard L. Hay and was based upon specifications given in a contract for construction of the Fortune Theater of 1600 in London, which, in turn, had been patterned after Shakespeare's Globe Theater. The contract, between producers Henslowe and Edward Alleyn and building contractor Peter Street, was found in the archives of Dulwich College, London.

The stagehouse and backstage theater plant form a U-shaped, three-story building with gable roofs and penthouse on a reinforced concrete basement. The superstructure is of wood frame construction in the "half timbered" style and is supported by steel beams and laminated wood trusses. It occupies the historic position of the Chautauqua stage, its polygonal forestage spanning 80 feet at the west end of the old auditorium shell. Permanent open-air seating within the shell is arranged in concentric arcs on a concrete ramp.

To meet the demand both for a longer season and for theater productions outside the Shakespeare canon, construction of an indoor theater was commenced in 1969. The new theater, named for Oregon Shakespearean Festival founder Angus Bowmer, was completed on former Chautauqua Park land adjacent to the north end of the Elizabethan Theater. It was opened for use in 1970. Also designed by Shakespearean Festival designer Richard Hay, the Bowmer Theater has a polygonal ground plan measuring approximately 128 x 152 feet. With its basement and foundation of reinforced concrete and stud walls with expanses of plate glass, the two-story building reaches a height of 38 feet

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above grade. The flat, built-up roof is encircled by a sloping metal canopy with standing seams and is supported by six concrete piers, laminated beams and rafters. The major interior space, that of the theater auditorium, has a seating capacity of 601.

As early as 1917, title to Chautauqua Park was transferred from the Chautauqua Association to the City of Ashland. In 1925, at the direction of the City Council, responsibility for maintenance of the Chautauqua Auditorium was turned over to the Ashland Park Commission. When the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association developed successor facilities, the improvements were held in the name of the Festival. However, in 1968, to facilitate a matching grant-in-aid from the federal Economic Development Administration for construction of the Bowmer Theater, the OSFA relinquished title to its real property and building fund to the City of Ashland, which in turn, commenced leasing the facilities to the Festival on a long-term basis.

The two theaters occupied by the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association are oriented to the east and are related by a common court fronting on Pioneer Street. They form a discrete unit, visually, as they are situated upslope from Ashland Creek Canyon and are separated from the park landscape, for the most part, by a screen of vegetation. Nevertheless, these buildings are included in the nominated area because they stand on the historic Chautauqua ground which was the germ of Ashland's great public park and because they perpetuate an historic function of the park, that of mass education and entertainment. As has been pointed out, the Elizabethan Theater stands within the roofless shell of the Chautauqua Auditorium of 1905, a primary historic feature in its own right.

Following is a list of major structures and landscape features in the nominated area and the historical significance of each based upon the period of development 1905-1938.

Map Key No. 1

Historic sites of Chautauqua Tabernacle (1893) and Chautauqua Auditorium (1905); Ashland Shakespearean Festival (1935-present). Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association Elizabethan Stagehouse (1959) and Shell of Chautauqua Auditorium (1905) - contributing.

Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association Angus Bowmer Theater (1970) - non-contributing but functionally compatible.

Map Key No. 8

Lower Duck Pond (Meyer Pond) and Waterfall (1910) - contributing.

Map Key No. 3

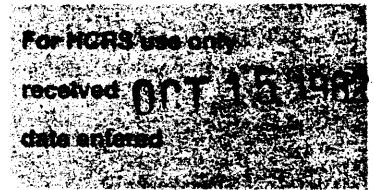
Butler Play Area (1953) - non-contributing but functionally compatible.

Storage Building (post 1938) - non-contributing.

Concrete Foot Bridge with Lamp Posts (1915) - contributing.

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Map Key No. 9

Memorial Rose Garden (1938) - contributing.

Parkway (Winburn Way), 1915 - contributing.

Map Key No. 10

Perozzi Fountain Terrace (1915) - contributing.

Map Key No. 4

Maintenance Shop (post 1938) - non-contributing.

Lithia Water Fountain (Butler Pavilion), c. 1915 - contributing.

Map Key No. 5

Butler Band Shell (c. 1949) - non-contributing but functionally compatible.

Map Key No. 11

Sycamore Grove (1915) - contributing.

Map Key No. 12

Steps to Site of Lithia Water Bottling Station (1915) - contributing.

Map Key No. 13

Tennis Courts (1915) - contributing.

Map Key No. 14

Upper Duck Pond (Black Swan Lake) - 1915-1916 - contributing.

Greenhouse (post 1938) - non-contributing but functionally compatible.

Map Nos. 15 and 16

Auto Camp Site (1915-1938) - contributing. Road layout, curbed turn-around, stone benches and grove of oaks and madrones are extant. Only the cabins are missing.

Auto Camp Registration and Recreation Building (1915-1920) - contributing.

Camper's Bungalow (c. 1935) - contributing.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Outdoor Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates** 1915 **Builder/Architect** John McLaren, Landscape Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Lithia Park, in the historic railroad community of Ashland, situated at the base of the Siskiyou Mountains overlooking the Bear Creek Valley in southern Oregon, is significant primarily as the singular example of landscape design in Oregon by John McLaren (1846–1943), Scottish-born landscape architect who became Superintendent of Parks for the City of San Francisco and was renowned for his development of Golden Gate Park and his landscaping for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco. Also significant, however, is the fact that, in its growth and development from a Chautauqua site in 1893 to an Olmstedian park with parkway and auto camp in 1915—with improvements carried out under WPA auspices between 1935 and 1938—Lithia Park is a complete reflection of the public park movement over a period of 45 years. The park is a manifestation of the town's expectations as a prime mineral springs resort following completion of the Oregon and California Railroad linking Ashland to points north and south in the 1830s and discovery of a lithia spring shortly after the turn of the century.

In early years of the century, when projects were conceived to pipe mineral water into town, the town's slogan was "Ashland Grows while Lithia Flows." While the popularity of Ashland's natural Lithia water did not endure, the town's eventual development as a Shakespearean festival center and tourist attraction following the Second World War proved legendary. The park is heavily used by thousands of visitors to the town of 14,500 each year. With its strong north-south axis and gradually ascending grade, the park is located on the banks of Ashland Creek, which rises in the Siskiyou Mountains south of Ashland and descends northerly through the town to the valley floor occupied by Bear Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River. While current park holdings embrace 100 acres or more, the area proposed for nomination to the National Register encompasses the initially-developed 42 acres at the lowermost end of the park to include the following: 1) the lowermost 12 acres of the park along Ashland Creek containing the lower duck pond and initial Chautauqua site as well as possible untested industrial and prehistoric archeological sites, 2) the adjoining 16 to 18 acres upstream landscaped according to a plan by John McLaren, and 3) a contiguous 12 acres containing the site of the free auto camp opened in 1915 and redeveloped during the Great Depression. This area was determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register on June 24, 1981 in the course of federally-assisted improvements.

Lithia Park embodies the distinctive characteristics of park design in the tradition of Frederick Law Olmsted—a tradition which was perpetuated by his successors in the Olmsted Brothers firm of Brookline Massachusetts, which did considerable work on the northern Pacific Coast in the early years of the 20th century. McLaren's landscape plan for Lithia Park was organic in lay-out, following the natural canyon of the water course, and at the same time it called for cross-axial formal elements, such as a parterre-type rose garden, and numerous features, including bandstand concourse, aviary, swimming pool, children's play area, casino, and mineral springs sanitorium, which were never carried out. The plantings were naturalistic to the extent that native alders, oaks, conifers and madrones were incorporated, but other plant materials, such as willows, maples, sycamores, and numerous ornamental varieties selected for hardiness, form and color, were introduced. The park was redeveloped over the years as need required, and the original rustic foot



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Mahar, Franklyn D. "The Millionaire and the Village: Jesse Winburn Comes to Ashland, Oregon Historical Quarterly, Vol. 64, No. 4, December, 1963, 323-341.
- O'Harra, Marjorie, "Lithia Water Idea Stirs Ashland Tempers," Oregonian, May 12, 1963.
- O'Harra, Marjorie, Ashland: The First 130 Years, Jacksonville, Southern Oregon Historical Society, 1981.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 42.70

Quadrangle name Ashland, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	0
5	2
3	2
7	5

4	6
7	1
4	7
5	

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	0
5	2
3	6
7	5

4	6
7	1
4	7
5	

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

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3	6
7	5

4	6
7	0
2	5
0	

D 

1	0
5	2
3	2
7	5

4	6
7	0
2	5
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E 



F 



G 



H 



### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth J. Mickelsen, Director (with Elisabeth Potter, SHPO staff)

organization Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission date May 4, 1981

street & number City Hall telephone 503/482-9215

city or town Ashland state Oregon 97520

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 13, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Linda McClelland*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-22-82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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bridges and all but one of the spring gazebos have been replaced or dismantled. The nucleus nonetheless retains the outline and large-scale plant materials of McLaren's plan of 1914-1915. Above all, the curving parkway--Winburn Way--which ascends to the upper reaches of the park along the west bank of Ashland Creek, is recognizable as the essence of Olmstedian park design. Lithia Park possesses integrity of location, design, setting and feeling, and sufficient integrity of materials and workmanship to meet the criteria of the National Register. Moreover, it is significant for its association with the public park movement and the civic leadership of Ashland during the Progressive Era.

The entrance to Lithia Park, at the south end of Ashland Plaza, is the historic industrial heart of the community situated at the base of the Siskiyou Mountains, about 12 miles north of the Oregon-California border. Settlement began in 1852 when a sawmill was placed in operation on Ashland Creek by a group of five men headed by A. D. Hellman and Eber Emery. In 1854, these men and others built the Ashland Flouring Mills. "With the nucleus of a town thus begun," states the Dictionary of Oregon History, "the site was laid out into lots, the mills occupying the south side of a plaza marking the town's center." Other buildings were constructed around the plaza, including a store which became an important outfitting center for supply trains to Oregon and California mines. Commerce and industry expanded through the 1860s, and in 1872 there was established Ashland College which later evolved as a state normal school to be succeeded by the present Southern Oregon State College. While some early commercial structures remain on the west side of the plaza, nothing of the original industrial enterprises remains above ground today.

Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), a pioneer in municipal planning, was named chief architect of Central Park in New York City in 1858. Through a great many projects in various parts of the country carried out between 1865 and his retirement in 1895, Olmsted and his associates laid the foundation of American landscape architecture and made the public park an integral part of urban life. The projects ranged from residential development and exposition lay out, such as the Chicago's World Fair of 1893, to park system design and campus planning. Olmsted's successors, F. L. Olmsted, Jr., and J. C. Olmsted, did considerable work on the Northern Pacific Coast.

John McLaren, architect of the Lithia Park plan of 1914-1915, was a Scottish-born horticulturist and landscape architect who nonetheless designed Lithia Park in the Olmsted tradition, making use of the natural wooded setting, circumscribing expanses of lawn with footpaths and plantings, and accenting the whole with special groves and garden areas and other features both formal and rustic.

McLaren, born on a farm near Stirling, Scotland December 20, 1846, served an apprenticeship as a dairyman, became a gardener, and learned the art of horticulture at various estates and the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. At the age of 23, he emigrated to the United States and took passage to San Francisco via the Isthmus of Panama. According to the Dictionary of American Biography, "his earlier success in planting sea bent grass to bind the dunes near the Firth of Fourth led to his first job in California, solving a similar problem on the estate of George Howard of San Mateo County." McLaren continued his gardening on various estates in the San Francisco Bay area, and one of his "notable feats was the conversion of the wheat field

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of Leland Stanford into the garden of ornamental plants which later became the botanic garden of Stanford University." In 1887, McLaren was appointed Superintendent of Parks of San Francisco and became responsible for "half a dozen downtown squares and a thousand-acre area of Sahara-like sand dunes, lying between the city and the Pacific Ocean, which in an earlier attempt at development had been named Golden Gate Park." McLaren eventually succeeded in stabilizing the seafront park area with sea bent grass and anchoring the sands with Monterey pines and cypresses, and general landscaping followed. McLaren's landscaping for the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915 in San Francisco, achieved international recognition, and he was much honored in horticultural circles thereafter. With Eric Walther he "worked out the basic plan for the Strybing Arboretum established in Golden Gate Park in 1937." He continued, "with staunch public support," to superintend the city's parks until his death at the age of 96 on January 12, 1943. His Gardening in California: Landscape and Flower (1909), long considered the "best treatise in the field," went into a third edition in 1924.

The parkway of McLaren's plan was later named Winburn Way in honor of Jesse Winburn, a New York advertising tycoon who retired to Ashland in 1921 and spent thousands of dollars developing his own rustic retreat in upper Ashland Creek Canyon. While Winburn failed in his ambition to take over the town's mineral water project and develop a modern resort hotel, and eventually returned to New York, he did make generous gifts to the city and to Lithia Park in particular during the four or five years he was a resident. When funds ran out, it was Winburn who paid for completion of the clubhouse erected on City-owned land outside park boundaries, on the west side of the parkway near the park entrance. The Woman's Civic Improvement Club bungalow was a complement to the park as it served as a nursery and lounging area for mothers. The property is not included in the nominated area. It was Winburn, too, who started the tradition of keeping swans in the lower duck pond. He imported the first set of six from Holland. Swans have been kept in the pond ever since.

The two theaters of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival Association in Lithia Park are included in the nominated area because the Festival and the old Chautauqua Park are historically and functionally related. Today it is Shakespearean drama which brings tourists to Ashland, rather than Chautauqua or Lithia water, and the visitors make full use of the scenic and recreational assets of the adjoining park. The second Chautauqua auditorium in Ashland was a larger and more permanent structure than was the original wood pavilion erected in 1893. Opened for use in 1905, it had an unsupported circular dome or superstructure atop concrete walls. Ultimately, the Chautauqua auditorium fell into disrepair, and by 1935 only the concrete walls were standing. Angus Bowmer, a professor of English at Southern Oregon Normal School in Ashland, promoted use of the site for amateur productions of Shakespeare's plays. The first such play was performed in connection with the city's Fourth of July festivities in 1935. A rudimentary stagehouse was erected inside the Chautauqua auditorium amphitheater. In 1947, the first Elizabethan stagehouse was erected at the west end of the bowl as a federal work relief project. Today, the Elizabethan Theater incorporates banked seating inside the walls of the Chautauqua auditorium of 1905 and the Elizabethan stagehouse of 1959 which was based on documented measurements of the Fortune Theatre built in London in 1600. The designer of the current Elizabethan stagehouse as well as the nearby Angus Bowmer indoor theater completed in 1970 was Richard L. Hay, resident designer of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival.

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Three phases of development of Lithia Park are described by former Ashland Parks Commissioner Charles E. Scriptor in his account entitled The Lithia Park Story brought out in 1975 by Pilot Rock Publications as part of a series on Southern Oregon history edited by Tom Cleveland.

The story of Lithia Park...starts in September of 1892, when Rev. J. B. Smith, Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Grants Pass, organized a group of 45 individuals to form a Chautauqua Association for the purpose of bringing a wide variety of entertainment to Southern Oregon. Up to that time, entertainment was sadly lacking...

Smith sold a bond issue of \$2500 to purchase land and erect a suitable building. Eight acres were purchased, a part of which is now the site of the Oregon Shakespearean Festival. Lumber was delivered to the site from Grants Pass, 40 miles away, and the first Chautauqua building was erected in a record five days. Evidently they had a pretty large volunteer crew.

The landscaping idea was finally sold to the City and a charter amendment was drawn up. On December 15, 1908, it carried 607 to 138. It provided that a Park Board of five members with jurisdiction over Park land and funds was to be appointed by the Mayor and all City property bordering Ashland Creek up to the Forest Reserve (excluding streets, alleys, the Pest House and rock quarry) was to be dedicated in perpetuity as Park land. A tax of two mills was provided for financing maintenance and improvements. The first board appointed by the Mayor was Mrs. Mary Maikle, Mrs. Ida Gard, H. G. Enders, G. A. Knoblauch, and W. A. Patrick.

The first construction work on this new park area was begun on June 18, 1909. That summer the lower lake was built. The following year saw the planting of rhododendrons and azaleas near the lower lake and these are the plantings that present such a beautiful showing each spring to this day.

The citizens of Ashland admired this new park very much, but because of its beauty and because they had done so for so long, they continued to use Chautauqua Park for their picnics and celebrations. And the women continued to maintain it.

In 1914, the two women's clubs formally requested \$50 per month for six months from the City Council to help with the maintenance and were turned down.

The events up to this point can be considered phase one of the story of Lithia Park.

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The opening session was July 5, 1893, and Ashland was on the way to becoming the cultural center of Southern Oregon and, in the minds of many, cultural center of the State of Oregon.

In 1903, J. K. Van Sant was elected Superintendent of Grounds. He landscaped the property and was also head of the first Chautauqua Association.

In 1904, the Ladies' Chautauqua Club was formed with Mrs. Van Sant as its first president. This club took on as its special project the improvement and beautifying of the Chautauqua grounds. Working in close association with Mr. Van Sant, they undertook the physical maintenance of this very attractive property, much of which was devoted to tent sites for the people who came to attend Chautauqua.

The Chautauqua circuit usually covered only ten days of the summer season in July. They came in wagons and buggies, in carriages and on horseback---and by train. The level area that is now used for the Feast of Will at the opening of each year's Shakespeare Festival held more than a hundred tents, so people came with a season ticket and stayed here 'til it was over.

The parklike area that the Women's Club had developed was opened to the general public and, in reality, became Ashland's first City park, which in time caused the citizens of Ashland and the surrounding area to become park-conscious.

It was the first park in Southern Oregon and was used for all public celebrations. As a result of this the park soon became heavily used and Ashland was soon known not only for its Chautauqua entertainment but also for its beauty.

Financing the maintenance was accomplished by Club dues, dinner parties, and so on. A gardener was later hired for the summer months to help with the work.

The Women's Civic Club joined forces with the Women's Chautauqua Club and pressed for the landscaping of the Flouring Mills tract at the entrance of the park. When the Mill had been in operation, it not only ground grain but the back and sides of the building were used for hogs fed with the bran shorts and waste products. From the pens the hogs were taken across the street to a large shed on the banks of Ashland Creek, used as an abbatoire. The offal was just thrown into the creek...

Phase two began late in 1911 when Bert Greer purchased the Ashland Daily Tidings and began publishing the only local newspaper bi-weekly. No one can say the exact moment the idea developed in Greer's mind to pipe mineral waters into Ashland and develop the

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City into a world-famous 'watering-place', or, more simply, a second 'Saratoga Springs' resort area. But soon he had sold the idea to others.

There were a number of mineral springs in the area, but only one Lithia spring, known locally as the Silver-Gillette Spring. As Lithia water was crucial to a health resort, it was necessary to sell the idea to the City so that negotiations for acquiring the Silver-Gillette Spring could be carried out. The selling job was accomplished and on January 29, 1914, a committee was appointed to arrange bringing mineral waters to the City. On February 16, committee chairman Greer announced that no agreement could be reached with the owners of the Spring for a supply of Lithia water for the City. The problem stemmed from the fact that the owners had plans of their own to develop a resort on the site of their spring but lacked the capital to do so. They were very willing to sell Lithia water to the City for a stiff price but under conditions whereby they would retain control of the amount of water supplied, thereby assuring their own success and relegating the City to no assurance of additional supply if needed. It was decided by the committee to give up the idea of trying to negotiate with the owners of the Silver-Gillette Spring and to make an effort to locate another source of Lithia water.

On February 19, 1911, the committee reported locating a new Lithia spring much better than the Silver-Gillette. The site is now covered up by the lower part of Emigrant Lake. The City's spring is half or three-quarters of a mile downstream on the banks of Emigrant Creek and the City owns some 80 acres around it to protect it. The report also stated that five different mineral waters were available to be piped to the Park.

On March 5, it was reported in the local newspaper that the new spring was flowing at the rate of 150,000 gallons per day. On March 19, it was announced that the City would put water fountains along Main Street and that drilling for an artesian soda well had started.

On April 2, it was announced that waters to be piped to the Park included the new Lithia Spring at its present location; hot sulphur water from a spring near Crowson Road on the Fred Holmes ranch, which is still there and used to irrigate the golf course; mineral water from Shepherd Spring; mineral water with a very heavy carbonic gas flow from Songer Spring a hundred yards above Old Klamath Junction where Highways 66 and Old 99 meet; and an artesian soda spring now covered by Emigrant Lake.

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On April 27, it was announced in the Tidings that a complete analysis of mineral waters in Ashland had been received from a chemist. His report stated that there were none in the world like it and that they were purely medicinal. Excitement and enthusiasm were reaching fever pitch.

Bert Greer, as chairman of the Mineral Waters Committee, wrote the Southern Pacific Railroad that the City of Ashland was about to supply funds for making Ashland a 'mineral watering resort'.

The selling job now began. April 30, at a meeting of taxpayers, it was urged that they approve a bond issue of \$175,000 for the mineral springs project. Of that amount, \$110,000 was to be used to bring mineral waters to the Park and \$65,000 was to be used for fountains and improvements of scenic features. At this point there was no concept of Lithia Park beyond the Flouring Mills tract. We have to keep in perspective what caused it to come here.

The project began to gather steam and start moving. May 11, G. S. Butler and D. [omingo] Perozzi announced donation of a large block of land for Park expansion. This is the first mention of something that was going to create a new Lithia Park. This proved to be a great help in keeping excitement and enthusiasm at a high pitch. However, on May 21, opposition that had been developing surfaced. May 25, it was announced that the Springs Development bond issue election would be held on Tuesday, June 9.

On June 8, the greatest public gathering ever held in Ashland boosted the bond election. John McLaren, designer of Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, was there among the hundreds of Ashlanders. He had toured the park site and was very enthusiastic about its potential. Here he had developed a park for San Francisco from barren sand dunes, now he was looking at a site that was one of nature's best. Everything endowed by Old Mother Nature right in the heart of the downtown area. The opposition to the bond issue passed out handbills and caused neighbor to be pitted against neighbor.

On June 11, the Ashland Tidings announced the results of the bond election: 1206 for, 308 against. It further stated that 'Ashland is now on the Pacific Coast map striding toward her manifest destiny as a greatest American watering and health resort.' A letter from the Southern Pacific to Bert Greer congratulated Ashland on being able to present to the world a new springs resort area.

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These were exciting times for Ashland and the Rogue Valley. New roads were being built as the automobile began to come into general use. June 13 of the previous year it had been announced that the Dead Indian Road project had been completed, opening up an area that had previously been accessible only under the most adverse conditions. November 23, 1914, marked completion of the first hard-surfaced road in the county, connecting Central Point and Ashland.

Communications were rapidly expanding over the rest of the state. In 1913, 33 visitors had been registered at Crater Lake by July 1. The following year saw 564 visitors by the same date. Large picnics in Lithia Park were becoming popular...

On November 29, 1914, the voters of Ashland approved an amendment to the City Charter, 1188 to 221, validating the \$175,000 bond issue previously approved. The bonds could now be offered for sale and an all-out effort was made to speedily complete the project of bringing mineral waters to the Park, and of beautifying and improving the property.

December 31, 1914, a special 'Springs Edition' of the Ashland Tidings was issued and it was something to behold. The future of Ashland as a mineral springs resort area was told in the most glowing of terms. There was a complete review of events to that date and all information regarding the mineral springs was presented. This was the most elaborate issue of the local paper that had ever been published.

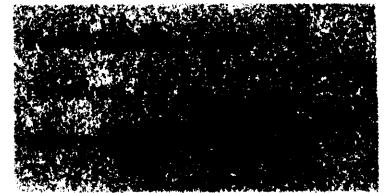
Progress on the springs project now began to slow down. Not much was said as to the reason why the work was delayed a year longer than planned, but by carefully studying the course of events, I discovered that the problem was in the sale of the bonds financing the project. The war in Europe had upset the international financing situation to an unexpected extent and the sale of the bonds languished for some time. However, they were eventually sold, but only after causing considerable delay and anxiety. So you see it was not all a bed of roses in the creation of this park and resort.

July 22, 1915, the Ashland Tidings announced completion of the Lithia Park Auto Campground. It was a modern facility for that day and would compare to the best motels of today. The area was free to the visitor and as a result would have a great impact on the Park and the City in the future. It was in what is now the Cotton Memorial Area.



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On July 29, an item in the Tidings mentioned the Springs project being rushed ahead and that mineral water would be in the Park by September 15 of that year.

On August 5 it was announced that all of the heaviest work in Lithia Park was completed, except for the buildings, and they were now ready to level the land.

On October 11, the tennis courts in the Park were opened to the public for the first time.

On November 18, G. S. Butler and D. [omingo] Perozzi announced the purchase of a fountain at the San Francisco Fair for approximately \$3000, to be erected in the Park as a memorial to themselves as donors of land for the Park. This is the Perozzi Fountain, near Granite Street, where the stairs are.

G. S. Butler also told of the purchase of a statue of Abraham Lincoln for \$2500, to be placed in the Park as a memorial to his pioneer stepfather, Jacob Thompson, who passed away in 1847...

Ashland was growing. The Tidings announced on November 29, 1915, that the population exceeded 6,000.

By December 27, all mineral waters were running at the central station in Lithia Park and the Park Superintendent was busy planting 15,000 ferns taken from Ashland Creek Canyon. Also planted were 700 pine, fir, and cedar trees.

As the new Upper Lithia Park neared completion, more and more people were attracted to the area. Sunday, April 3, 1916, was the first day of beautiful spring weather for that season. Thousands of people and automobiles filled the Park to overflowing that day, giving the populace of Ashland a preview of what was to come.

Dedication of the new Lithia Park was set for July 4-6, 1916. An all-out effort was made to have the area in tip-top condition and for the City to present its best face for the expected crowd of people. Arrangements were made for special trains from Portland, San Francisco and way-stations to bring people in from distances too great for auto travel on the roads available at that time. For weeks in advance of the dedication, movies of Lithia Park and Ashland were shown in Portland, San Francisco and practically all towns with facilities in Oregon and Northern California. Columns of newspaper publicity were enjoyed in both Oregon and California.

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But again, opposition reared its ugly head. The original opposition to bond issues had never died and now, as dedication neared, handbills were circulated accusing the chairman of the Springs Water Commission of unlawful conduct and mishandling of City funds. This body of opposition was successful in mounting a re-call election for the removal of Bert Greer from his office as chairman. Just five days before dedication of Upper Lithia Park, on June 29, 1916, the re-call move against Greer was defeated.

The great day arrived at last. Every detail had been arranged long before and the entire three-day event was carried out with unbelievable smoothness considering facilities available to handle such an enormous undertaking. In order that the entire Rogue Valley could feel it had a part in the celebration, Saturday, July Fourth, was declared Ashland Day; Sunday the fifth was to be Medford Day; and Monday the sixth was Grants Pass and Klamath Falls Day.

To present an accurate picture of events and the obstacles to be met is difficult now, but some statistics printed in the Tidings help to see that picture. Attendance figures were estimated by a number of people of importance, including the Portland Chief of Police, and then they were averaged. Saturday it was estimated a minimum of 30,000 were in attendance, with a total of 50,000 for the three days. The dedicatory address on the lawn near the present Band Shell, given by the High School Queen chosen for the event, was attended by 15,000 persons...

Problems of feeding and housing such a crowd were enormous. All available cots were brought in and every available bed and spare room in town was used, many of them in relays. Chautauqua Park was filled to overflowing with tents as was the Auto Camp and many beds were spread in the open in the Park. Complete meals could not be served to so many people but nobody went hungry. Sandwiches and snacks were always produced from somewhere and the newspapers in other parts of the state commented on the helpfulness and generosity of the citizens of Ashland.

Policing such a tremendous crowd presented a problem all its own, but Ashland's Police Chief, with a force of 15 extra patrolmen, did a commendable job. The Tidings reported that over July Fourth, with a crowd five times that of the total population of Ashland, there was not a single accident and not one arrest.

One might conclude that at this point the story of Lithia Park is complete, but such is not the case.

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When the voters of Ashland created parallel commissions for the Springs and the Park, they didn't realize the great potential for friction between the two. So conflict was inevitable. However, it was unexpected in the way that the conflict appeared. Opposition to the original bond issue had not just disappeared. It was still very active and gradually the idea of the Springs Commission using City funds for private benefit began to hold.

On August 17, 1916, the Tidings presented a proposed charter amendment abolishing the Springs Commission. The election was set for November 24. On November 15, the Tidings said that the erection of a \$50,000 sanitarium depended upon the outcome of the election. The Tidings of November 27 announced the failure of the election to unseat the Springs Commission.

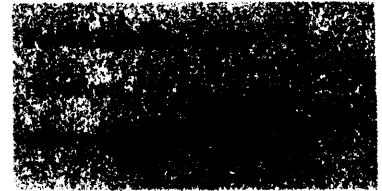
However, the election did not settle the numerous problems and opposition, so another charter election was presented to the voters on December 19. This time three different charter amendments were available to choose from: 1) Abolish the Springs Water Commission and give its powers to the City Council; 2) Abolish the Park Board and give its powers to the City Council; 3) Give the Council the right to lease or sell any mineral waters not needed for drinking purposes in the City of Ashland.

The Tidings issue of December 21 announced that the Park Board had been retained, the Springs Commission had been abolished, and the City Council had been given authority to sell or lease surplus mineral waters. This made it possible for the City to lease the area around Lithia Spring to a company from Washington State to sink wells and pump Lithia water, to be compressed into dry ice. It sank eight wells above the present Spring. Last time I was out there they were producing an 80-pound block of dry ice every five minutes. Although they did not deplete the amount of water coming into Ashland, they did deplete the amount of carbonation in the water. Since then the demand for dry ice has lessened and the plant is no longer there.

A banner headline on the front page of the Tidings dated January 29, 1917, read: 'The Tidings Prediction-Before December 31, 1918, Ashland will have a population exceeding 12,000. It will be brought about by proper and complete utilization of her best resource--mineral waters!' Incidentally, this headline was continued for a number of weeks in each issue of the Tidings.

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On Thursday, February 15, 1917, a meeting in the Armory was attended by 300 people to consider the purchase by the City of Chautauqua Grounds for Lithia Park. The price was to be \$15,000 for approximately 6 3/4 acres, leaving an acre on which by agreement it was provided the purchase price was to be used to erect a new Chautauqua building. The old building was not only inadequate but was considered very unsafe.

On March 22, the bond election carried. The bonds were put up for sale at once and were sold immediately.

Following these charter elections and the bond election, enthusiasm for activities in the Park was again evident. It was now wartime and it was decided to make the annual Fourth of July celebration a patriotic event. For this purpose a number of special events were planned, one of the most notable being the construction of the largest flag ever flown in Oregon. A steel cable was suspended from the Chautauqua Building across the Lower Park to an oak tree on Granite Street above the area now used for parking near the entrance to Nutley Street. It was just above the roof of the Perozzi Creamery which was there then. The flag weighed 100 pounds and measured 75 by 39 feet, with 3-foot stripes and 2-foot stars. After the celebration the flag was hung in the ceiling of the Chautauqua Building to help overcome echoes in certain parts of the structure.

That celebration of July 3-5, 1917 saw an attendance of 20,000 on the third, 30,000 on the Fourth, and between 25- and 30,000 on the fifth. Part of the reason for such a large crowd is that the new Chautauqua Building had just been completed. One of the largest unsupported dome-type structures in the nation, with extraordinary acoustics, it was hailed as surpassing anything of its type in the entire country.

Also contributing its share to the crowd was the free Auto Camp in the Park. It was becoming more and more important to the City as time passed.

Another attraction was Satan's Sulphur Grotto, which was a little cave-like affair dug back into the bank on the east side of Ashland Creek, approximately across from the upper duck pond. This grotto was arranged with rocks in the back in such a way as to appear to be a natural formation. They piped sulphur water into it so it bubbled up out of the rocks just like a natural spring. Then it rode off to

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the side and out into the waters of Ashland Creek. Visitors to the Park always went in to see Satan's Sulphur Grotto. It was particularly used by young fellas. When they wanted to scare their girls, they'd take them up there at night. It was lined with blue lights, which have a tendency to make things look eerie and off in the distance. It was also used by a group called the Ashland Lithians, who worked closely in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce, for initiation ceremonies for visiting VIPs. Chet Corry told me it began to be used as a place to dump refuse, younger kids were using it as a private bathroom, and it became so foul that eventually they just had to fill it in...

In 1919, Bert Greer sold the Tidings.

Immediately following World War I it was still felt that Ashland's destiny was tied to mineral waters. The Tidings issue of May 26, 1920, featured a story that \$200,000 was to be spent promoting mineral waters for commercial purposes. It was further stated that Jesse Winburn was coming from New York to invest in resort business.

On August 10, 1921, the Tidings stated that Lithia Park Auto Camp was to be improved during the coming year. At that time there were 25 double-burner gas plates at various sites in the camp that could accommodate approximately 200 campers. It seems odd now that they could put up 200 campers free.

On October 19, a report in the Tidings said that since March 1 of that year 10,800 cars had used the Auto Camp and that these cars included 43,200 people. That's quite an impact on a town of 6,000. April 12, 1922, it was announced that a 50¢ fee per day was to be charged for each auto using the Auto Camp. July 4 attendance at the celebration was again 25,000. The Tidings of August 8 carried a story that during the month of July that year 2309 cars carrying 9276 people had registered to use the Campground. April 2, 1924, a special issue of \$10,000 in municipal bonds were sold at a premium, the proceeds to be used for improving the Auto Camp.

On November 3, 1925, care and custody of the Chautauqua Grounds and buildings was turned over to the Park Commission by unanimous vote of the City Council. The Park Board was to receive any funds derived from use of buildings.

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This period saw the dream of a nationally-known watering resort gradually evaporate and be replaced with the feeling of pride and generosity that a small community might have for a beautiful asset they were willing to share with all. So phase two of the Lithia Park story came to an end, unnoticed and causing not a ripple in the life of the Southern Oregon community.

In November 1935, Louis Dodge, Chairman of the Parks Commission, announced the hiring of C. E. Corry as assistant Park Superintendent and so began, unheralded and unnoticed, the third phase of the Lithia Park story...

During the year of 1936, landscaping of Root Memorial Area was mostly accomplished as a federal Works Progress Administration project under the direction of Corry.

1937 saw the appointment of Corry as Park Superintendent. His first project was to put the finishing touches on the Root Area, which was completely designed by him. The most popular feature was an island in Ashland Creek reached by a 25-foot bridge or by natural stepping-stones in the Japanese style. The island had a 10-foot square fire pit that was surrounded by five rustic benches. The area was away from Root picnic grounds and afforded isolation from noisy crowds. The island is still there, though it has been badly damaged by floods.

1938 saw another extensive W.P.A. project re-landscaping the Chautauqua Park area and development of the area near the Park entrance. Thirty men were made available for the work, which included a new drainage system from South Pioneer Street to Ashland Creek to help eliminate the filling of the lake and lawn with sediment and debris following major rain storms. Also at this time Corry improved and developed additional nursery facilities with the idea of growing all plants needed for each year. Plants are now bought and the nurseries are no longer used.

From this time on Corry was on a continuous program of gradually improving foot paths and bridges and extending the areas of park use further up Ashland Creek Canyon. All of this was done with the appreciation of an artist for beauty and with a love for his work and Southern Oregon that was his home.

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The 1940s saw a continuation of a Park program slowed by the war years and the aftermath of that war.

The 1950s was a time of consolidation. Revenues compared to requirements were very low. However, a continual program of improvement brought into being the enlargement of the Children's Playground in 1953. Also added was a children's wading pool donated by Harry Harrison and designed by Chet Corry in such a way as it is continuously being cleaned by the sparkling waters of the Creek. 1956 saw the Park Board notifying the lessee of the Lithia Park Auto Camp of its intention to phase out the camp over a period of years, as it had become uneconomical to maintain a facility that was badly needing complete restoration.

During 1938, Corry had developed the Rose Garden area from the weed and bramble patch it was into a beautiful garden. In 1959 that area, donated by the Root Estate in 1926, was commemorated as a living memorial to the men and women who gave their lives for our country. The Ashland Garden Club donated the roses for the memorial.

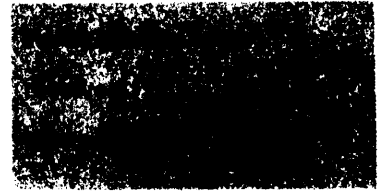
The early 1960s saw the finish of curbs and gutters on Winburn Way, a project begun earlier to prevent as much damage as possible to lawns and shrubs by autos. /All but one of the cabins of the Auto Camp were demolished./ In 1961 the recreation building from the old Camp, the only /sic./ building left, was leased to David Higginbotham to establish a Natural History Museum relating only to plants and animals of the Southern Oregon area.

By 1965, people-use of Lithia Park was at a new high. Not only on holidays, but on all nice days the foot traffic was increasingly heavy, and the serious maintenance problems which developed were dealt with over the ensuing decade.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Charles Eldon Scriptor, The Lithia Park Story, Ashland Oregon: Pilot Rock Publications, 1975. The author was Ashland Parks Commissioner from 1951 to 1967.

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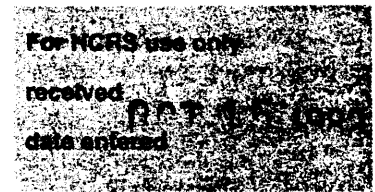
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**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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The area of Lithia Park proposed for nomination to the National Register is located in Sections 8 and 9, T39S, R1E of the Willamette Meridian in Ashland, Jackson County, Oregon and is more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the point of intersection of a line extended from the westerly edge of North Main Street and the southerly edge of Winburn Way at the southerly end of Ashland Plaza, thence westerly along the southerly edge of Winburn Way and southerly along the easterly edge of Winburn Way to the point of intersection with the southerly edge of Nutley Street, extended, thence southwesterly along the southerly edge of Nutley Street to the point of intersection with the easterly edge of Granite Street, thence southerly along the easterly edge of Granite Street to the southerly boundary of the 2-1/4 acre parcel deeded to the City of Ashland by Messrs. Schomp, Stevens and Greer, thence east along said southerly boundary to the east bank of Ashland Creek, thence and northerly along the east bank of Ashland Creek and northerly approximately 1200 feet to include the Registration Building and turn-around of the Auto Camp, to the point of intersection with the westerly edge of North Pioneer Street right of way, extended, thence northerly along the westerly edge of said right of way and the westerly edge of North Pioneer Street, developed, to the northeast corner of the parcel deeded to the City of Ashland by the Chautauqua Association, to include the historic Chautauqua grounds subsequently developed by the Oregon Shakespearean Festival, thence southerly along the north boundary of said parcel and the south boundary of Ashland Plaza to the point of beginning, containing in all 42.70 acres, more or less, to include approximately 12 acres of initial development (including the original Chautauqua grounds and the lower duck pond), 16 to 18 acres laid out by landscape architect John McLaren (including the upper duck pond), and roughly 12 acres associated with the historic Auto Camp.