

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
5JF979  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number ALONG U.S. HIGHWAY #40  N/A not for publication  
city or town MORRISON  vicinity  
state COLORADO code CO county JEFFERSON code 059 zip code 80465

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Edmund Hartman May 17, 1995  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
  - determined not eligible for the National Register.
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 6/30/95  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
National Register

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
Name of Property

JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	5	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	5	Total

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

DENVER MOUNTAIN PARKS

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: Park  
RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE: Park  
RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Wood: weatherboard; shingle

roof Asphalt

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
Name of Property

JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

CONSERVATION

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

**Period of Significance**

1935-1945

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Civilian Conservation Corps

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

DENVER PARKS & RECREATION;  
DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
Name of Property

JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 40

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 3	4 7 5 2 1 0	4 3 9 5 8 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 3	4 7 5 6 2 0	4 3 9 5 8 0 0

3	1 3	4 7 5 6 3 0	4 3 9 5 4 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 3	4 7 5 2 1 0	4 3 9 5 4 0 0

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Maureen Van Norden

organization Denver Parks & Recreation date 10/25/94

street & number 2300 15th Street telephone (303)964-2544

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80202-1139

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Denver Parks & Recreation

street & number 2300 15th Street telephone (303)964-2544

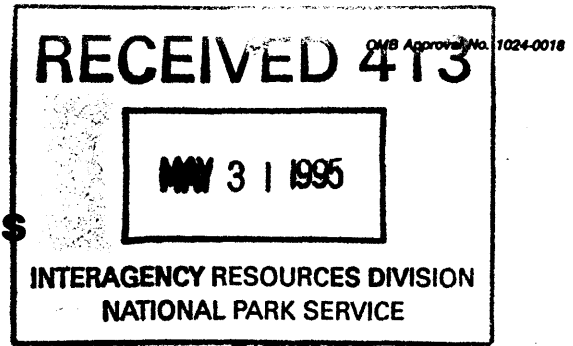
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80202-1139

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number 7 Page 1

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO

## DESCRIPTION

The isolated park consists of gentle rolling mountain grasslands surrounded by spruce and ponderosa pine. The area was originally envisioned by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. as part of the Genesee Mountain Tract and was included in his Mountain Park System Plan of 1914. "The proposed boundaries starting at the head of Mount Vernon Canyon follow the road to the top of the ridge." From the highway, a gravel road meanders through the park past a ball field to a cluster of buildings. Picnic tables are scattered throughout the park. As with the construction of other buildings within the park system, advantage was taken of the magnificent natural setting.

Shortly after the city acquired the land, the area was chosen as a CCC camp site in 1937. The buildings and foundations that remain on the park grounds date from this period. The buildings within the park include the following:

Restroom - a 13'x20' wood frame building with a 6'x8' porch. In 1976, it was moved from another location within the park and placed on a concrete foundation which incorporated modern plumbing.

South Barracks - a 175'x21' wood frame building with a gabled roof entry set on concrete caissons. Sometime between 1965 and 1970, green asphalt shingles were added to the exterior walls.

North Barracks - a 104'x21' wood frame building sitting on concrete caissons. There is an indoor/outdoor fireplace on the east wall that provides heat in the winter and outdoor cooking in the summer. In 1965-70, the exterior walls were covered with lap siding using rough lumber.

Administration building - a 33'x21' wood frame construction with a 14'x6' porch set on concrete caissons. It also has an indoor/outdoor fireplace. Originally twice its current size, in 1965-70, half the building was removed and green asphalt shingles added to the exterior.

Garage - 29'x35' structure with original clapboard siding and a concrete foundation used to house vehicles and equipment. Visible nearby is a concrete loading dock.

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Section number 7 & 8 Page 2

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO

**DESCRIPTION**

While its association with the CCC is recognized, most of the buildings at Katherine Craig were removed and Camp Mount Morrison in Red Rocks Park (listed in the National Register in 1990) remains the better example. Due to alterations to the few remaining camp buildings after the period of significance, these buildings are considered noncontributing. However, the significance of the 40-acre site is not adversely impacted by the five noncontributing buildings that play an important role in the recreational use of the property.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Katherine Craig Park, as a part of the Denver Mountain Park System, meets criterion A for its historical significance to Community Planning and Development, Conservation, and Entertainment/Recreation. The Denver Mountain Parks were an extension of the Denver Parks and Parkways system, which was created in response to the City Beautiful Movement. Essentially, the Mountain Park Systems represented the extension of the City Beautiful Movement into regional planning.

As a continuation of Denver's Park and Parkway system into the Rocky Mountains, the Mountain Parks are significant for their association with the conservation movement in this country. Conservation and preservation of both natural and visual resources was a priority from the beginning in developing the Mountain Parks. The Mountain Park system was designed to construct scenic drives and parks in an effort to preserve mountain views. Prime visual resources were preserved through these land purchases.

Unlike the other Mountain Parks, Katherine Craig was never used as a public park. The city chose to lease it to the Denver Council of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The park maintains a high recreational use with these two Denver organizations.

Olmsted's 1914 Mountain Park study used several criteria for choosing land. These included the natural charm and scenic value of the place, the fitness for park use (i.e., gently sloping or flat mountain land for recreational use), and the ease of access (i.e., relation to main thoroughfares). Because Katherine Craig Park met these criterion, it was chosen as part of the Genesee Mountain Track and was included in the original park system plan.

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Section number 8 Page 3

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO

**SIGNIFICANCE (continued)**

Although envisioned by Olmsted as part of the Genesee Mountain Tract, the land was not acquired by the City and County of Denver until 1935 when 66 acres were donated by the will of Katherine Craig. The will provided that the City and County of Denver receive the land in Jefferson County to become part of the Denver Mountain Parks System and to be known as Katherine L. Craig Tract. (The park now encompasses 40 acres as 26 acres are included in the right-of-ways for U.S. Highway 40 and Interstate 70.)

Ms. Craig was an author and for five consecutive terms, Colorado Superintendent of Public Instruction. She was an active participant in the women's movement as a member of the Denver Woman's Club, the Woman's Relief Corps, the Nonpartisan Women's Voter League and the Rebekah Lodge. She was born and raised in the vicinity of the donated land.

In 1937, a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was constructed on the property to house the workers who were responsible for making extensive improvements in Genesee and Stapleton Parks, as well as in various mountain parks during the depressed years prior to World War II. It remained a CCC camp until the program was discontinued in 1941.

In 1943 the City and County of Denver entered an agreement with the Denver Council of Boy Scouts of America for the use of the existing facilities in the park. Then in 1965 the city was notified that the Boy Scouts no longer needed the facilities and were withdrawing their agreement. Some time after the retraction, the Denver Girl Scouts of America entered into a lease agreement with the city until 1995.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 & 10 Page 4

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Denver Municipal Facts. October 1918; September 1919.

Denver, Colorado. Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Mountain Parks Collection.

Denver, Colorado. Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Mountain Parks Map Collection.

Denver, Colorado. Denver Public Library. Western History Department. Scrapbook of Newspaper Articles, 1919.

Rocky Mountain News. 2, 10, 11 April 1934.

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

A forty acre parcel of land in Jefferson County described as the southeast 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of Section 12, Township 4 south, Range 71 west and outlined on the accompanying U.S.G.S. map.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries encompass all the land owned by the City and County of Denver called Katherine Craig Park.



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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

KATHERINE CRAIG PARK  
JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information will be the same for all photographs:

1. Name of property: Katherine Craig Park
2. Location: Jefferson County, Colorado
3. Photographer: Maureen Van Norden
4. Date of photograph: 1994
5. Location of negatives: Denver Parks & Recreation  
Department

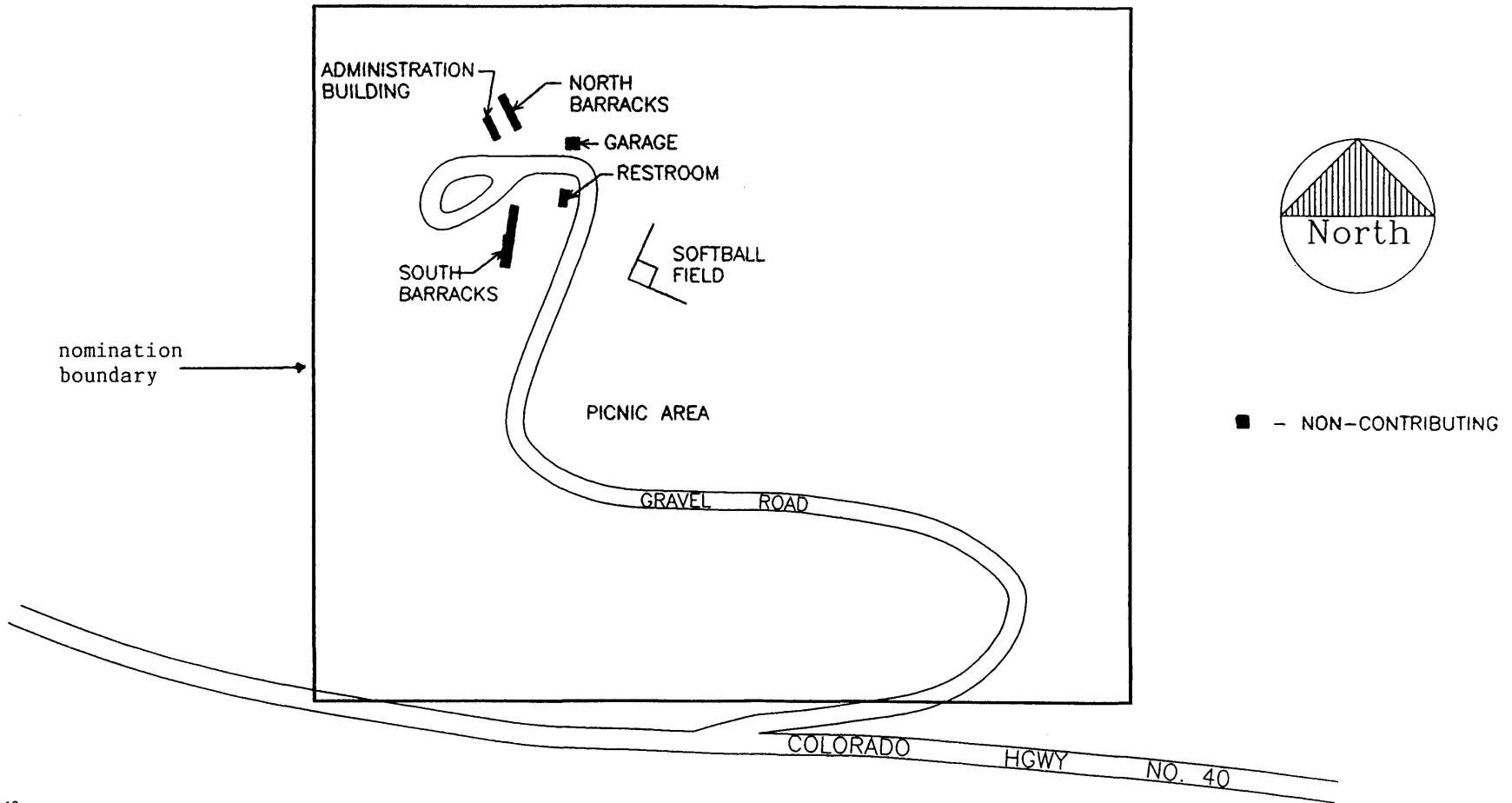
photo #	description
1	camp overview looking west
2	north barracks looking east
3	south barracks looking northwest
4	garage-workshop looking east
5	administration building looking southeast
6	restroom looking north

# KATHERINE CRAIG PARK

A DENVER MOUNTAIN PARK

LOCATED IN THE

SE1/4 OF THE SW1/4 OF SECTION 12, T 4 S, R 71 W, 6TH P.M.,  
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF COLORADO



DWG. NO. 9406-12  
DATE: APRIL 3, 1995  
DRAWN BY: GSN