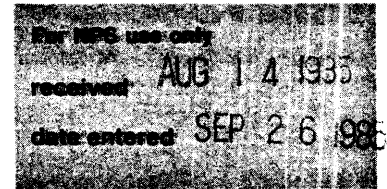


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

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#2023 Truder Park, triangle bounded by 2nd, Washington and Grand, ill. 73.

4. Owner: City of Las Vegas, P.O. Box 179, Las Vegas, N.M.
7. Description: Retaining walls 6" to 40" high, concrete (along Grand and Wash.), random ashlar sandstone (along 2nd); cottonwoods forming triangle, ca. 35-50 years old, younger ones near corner of Washington and Grand. Located at edge of a residential area (ills. 3-6) next to strip commercial buildings along U.S. 85 (Grand).
8. Significance: Railroad era town developers often ended up selling off blocks which were at first described as parks. Las Vegas was fortunate that Lincoln and Library Park were maintained. Three of the original five small triangle parks, however, have been given over to other uses: the one at University to a church (since replaced by a convenience store), the one at National to the Chamber of Commerce/Museum Building, and the one at Columbia to the Human Services Building. Fountain Park, of course, was developed in 1896 by the Womens' Christian Temperance Union (see p.11, D-6 nomination).

The triangle at Washington was to the north of the heaviest development and was informally considered a park. In the early 1930's, a group of citizens decided to improve this park to honor Tom Truder. As mayor of the city in the late 1920's, he had championed the cause of the little guy against what he saw as the special interests--a later-day Populist or proto-New Dealer, if you will. Cottonwoods were planted and a bust of Truder placed facing Grand, although it has since disappeared. A portion of the retaining wall used the style of rusticated random ashlar sandstone work seen in the WPA projects of the same era: The Rough Riders Museum Building, the North Grade School in Old Town, and the New Mexico Avenue Bridge over the **Arroyo Gabonito**, for example.

10. Acreage: under 1. UTM Reference: 13 480790 3939490

Boundary: Unplatted. The triangular block bounded by Washington, 2nd and Grand.