

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 04001065

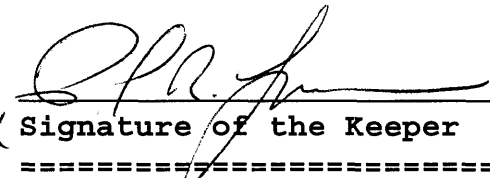
Date Listed: 9/22/2004

Mount Tabor Park
Property Name

Multnomah OR
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

9/22/04
Date of Action

===== Amended Items in Nomination: =====

Location:

The street location should read: *Roughly bounded by S.E. Division Street, S.E. 60th Avenue, S.E. Yamhill Street, and S.E. Mountain View Drive.*

Classification:

The Category of Property is: *District*.
The Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the National Register should read: *12*
[Reservoir #1, Reservoir #5, Reservoir #6, Gatehouse #1, Gatehouse #5, Inlet Gatehouse #6, Outlet Gatehouse #6, Weir Building #1, Weir Building #5, Covered Storage Tank Building, Covered Storage Tank, and Reservoir #1 Fountain.]

Significance:

Entertainment/Recreation is added as an area of significance.

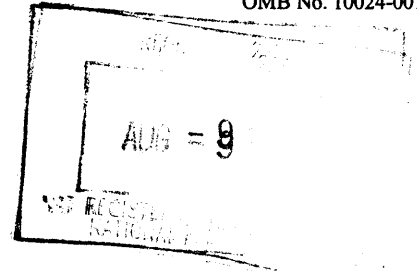
These clarifications were confirmed with the OR SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 classifications, 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 Mount Tabor Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 6325 S.E. Division Street not for publication

city or town Portland vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97215

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.

James Hamrick
Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO

30 July 2004
Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office
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): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper
Edson Beall

Date of Action
9/22/04

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (check as many 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	
7	10	buildings
1		sites
5	6	structures
1		objects
14	16	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1 (Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic District)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (enter categories from instructions)

- Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation
- Landscape: park
- Agriculture/Subsistence: horticultural facility
- Industry/Processing/Extraction: waterworks

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

- Recreation and Culture: outdoor recreation
- Landscape: park
- Agriculture/Subsistence: horticultural facility
- Industry/Processing/Extraction: waterworks

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

- Late Victorian
- Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: CONCRETE
- walls: STUCCO; WOOD: plywood, weatherboard; CERAMIC TILE; CONCRETE
- roof: CONCRETE; WOOD: shingle; ASPHALT
- Other: EARTH: BRICK; STONE: granite, basalt; METAL: bronze, aluminum, iron, steel

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

See continuation sheets.

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Mount Tabor Park

Multnomah County, Oregon

DESCRIPTION

Mount Tabor Park is a 196-acre city park located in a residential area of southeast Portland, about three miles east of the Willamette River. The park encompasses most of a volcanic butte, with four peaks. The tallest summit rises to an elevation of 643 feet, making it a prime landmark visible from points all around the city. The terrain of the park varies from a limited number of level areas, especially around the reservoirs, to gentle hillsides and steeper slopes. The towering Douglas fir forest is punctuated with big deciduous trees and some glades. Large areas of the forest floor are kept mowed while steeper areas tend to have a predominance of native understory plants. Ornamental non-native shrubs and trees are found throughout the park, especially at buildings, entrances or other features. Non-native invasive species are also present.

Portland Parks and Recreation Bureau has authority over all but approximately 146 acres of Mount Tabor Park. The remaining 50 acres is under the jurisdiction of the Water Bureau. Mount Tabor Park is the site of three open reservoirs and a small concrete water tank. Mount Tabor Park, like Washington Park on the west side of the Willamette River, became a distribution site for Portland's gravity fed, mountain source drinking water in 1894 with the construction of the first reservoirs, two at Mount Tabor and two at Washington Park. Two additional Mount Tabor reservoirs, on the western slope, were constructed in 1911 soon after the time Mount Tabor Park became officially designated. All of these open reservoirs represent some of the finest examples of intact, still-in-use City Beautiful public works remaining in the nation. Because of their high integrity and historic significance to the city's water supply and development of Portland, and because they are outstanding examples of intact historic architecture and engineering, the reservoirs were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004 as the Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic District and the Washington Park Reservoirs Historic District. A majority of the reservoirs' features have been kept intact and contribute greatly to the integrity of Mt. Tabor Park. The surface of the water held in the reservoir basins represents approximately twenty acres, about one tenth of the entire park acreage. The deep, open water provides a chiaroscuro effect to the landscape and is an integral part of the experience of Mount Tabor Park. The lighted walkways around the perimeter of each parapet wall and wrought iron fence, the cleared, grassy areas associated with the reservoir basins and the outstanding views provide important park amenities.

Mount Tabor Park is a scenic reservation. The height of the various peaks allow for grand vistas in all directions from viewpoints attainable by auto, foot or bicycle. Two views on Mount Tabor have been rated by the City of Portland's Scenic Resource Inventory as among the top seven in the city and have been incorporated into the Scenic Resources Protection Plan.

The design principle of subordination is a key element of Mount Tabor Park. The historic drive and pathway system respects the topography, allowing accessibility without overwhelming the picturesque and pastoral landscape. The more than three miles of drives are popular destinations for local and out-of-town visitors to take in the views of the park, reservoirs, city skyline and surrounding mountains. Autos can still encircle the butte on the historic drives, arriving at one entrance and leaving at another. Since vehicular access has been restricted to certain areas in the park's interior since the 1970s, some of the paved drives provide popular routes for bicycles, skateboards, roller blades and baby carriages. Walking, jogging and bicycling are the primary activities noted in

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the park. Many visitors arrive from the surrounding neighborhoods on foot or bicycle. These drives are conducive to the park being a popular site for various types of races including foot, bicycle and adult soap box derby tournaments. The wide, well-graded unpaved paths were in the original design and, like the drives, were added over a period of years when funds became available. The path system travels over the entire park. In recent years, more unofficial paths have been made by mountain bikes and hikers.

Adding distinctive charm and illumination is the period lighting system comprised of eighty-eight single concrete standard lampposts that follow the drives and some of the main interior pathways throughout the park. These lampposts give off a soft, friendly light, reminiscent of gaslights, especially in the interior forested areas where they serve as a reminder of the original design of accessibility. The lighting encourages pedestrian exploration of the hills and dells throughout the park even in the short days of the colder months. Originally topped with a single, white, glass globe, polygonal lantern-style shades have replaced the globes. In 1911, Superintendent Mische requested of the Park Board, lampposts with glass globes to be serviced by an alternating current feed. He also requested underground conduits. The lampposts are serviced via underground conduits. The lighting system dates from 1924 and 1925.

A variety of amenities have been added to the park over the years. These include picnic areas, playgrounds, an amphitheater, tennis courts, a soapbox derby track, and comfort stations (only one in service.) Most of these amenities can be accounted for during the period of significance and are described in the descriptions of the quadrants of the park. The varied topography and forest cover of the park has allowed the amenities to be tucked in here and there so that they do not dominate the general feel of the park as a forest retreat. As was the Olmsted counsel, the park's styles allow respite from urban life and a connection to the rural roots and historic and natural resources of the area.

As much as Mount Tabor Park is a forest refuge in an urban environment, it is also a pivotal "work-horse" park, not only for the Water Bureau, but also for Portland's Parks and Recreation Bureau. Superintendent Emanuel T. Mische was, above all, a horticulturist, and he established a nursery to supply trees and other plants to city properties, including tens of thousands of street trees, at the south end of the site soon after the property was acquired in 1909. The nursery and greenhouse complexes still provide stock for all the city's properties, including all of the parks.

Though Mount Tabor Park's grandeur is striking, closer observation reveals modern projects and alterations, fortunately few and small, which have not adhered to the graciousness of the historic understated features. No attempt has been made to utilize period light fixtures attached to buildings and around the reservoirs. Recent Park Bureau signs are at odds with the historic feel. The maintenance yard's hodge-podge of buildings displays the largest array of unaesthetic alterations, however, this area is separated from the recreation area and so does not pose a problem of aesthetics for the park at large.

The entire park is being nominated. The general outline of the park is a rough rectangle with irregular protrusions such as Mount Tabor Nursery and maintenance yard due south, the finger of nursery on the west boundary, and two narrow irregularities to the north and the east owned by the Oregon Department of

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Transportation. It is roughly bounded by S.E. Division Street to the south, S.E. 60th Avenue to the west, S.E. Yamhill Street to the north, and S.E. Mountain View Drive to the east. The attached boundary map illustrates the current property lines.

Resource Count

Mount Tabor Park contains one contributing site, seven contributing buildings, five contributing structures, and one contributing object. In addition, Mount Tabor Park contains ten non-contributing buildings and six non-contributing structures. A sketch map and key delineate these features. The park land was counted as one contributing site; infrastructure such as driveways, paths, maintenance yard, and the lighting system, as well as those areas with loose physical definition such as play and picnic grounds, and the nursery, are included as part of the site. Substantial or distinctive buildings, structures, and objects were counted as contributing or non-contributing as follows:

Summary of Contributing Features

Site:

Mount Tabor Park site, including the circulation system: Drives (original names): Reservoir Loop Drive (Cascade Drive & Interlink Drive), East Tabor Drive (Woodland Drive), North Tabor Drive (East Overlook Drive), Tabor Summit Drive (Overlook Concourse), Lincoln Street Entrance (Linden Entrance), Salmon Street Entrance, and 69th Avenue Entrance; the historic lighting system; the Mount Tabor Nursery and maintenance yard, parking lot, and three play areas: 69th Avenue playground and group picnic area, Harrison playground and main playground.

Buildings:

Office-Horticultural Services Building
Administrative Building & Additions
Mechanical Offices Building (Community Gardens Building)
Caretaker House-Mount Tabor House
Volcano Comfort Station
Summit Comfort Station
Northeast Entrance Comfort Station

Structures:

Crater Amphitheater
West Tennis Court
East Tennis Court
69th Avenue Stairs
Southside Stairs

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Mount Tabor Park
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Object:

Harvey W. Scott Statue & Terrace

Summary of Non-Contributing Features

Buildings:

Garages/Shops-West Side Row
Garages/Shops-Eastside Row
Lathe House
Equipment Building
Pole Barn building
Duplex Screen House
50" Meter House
44" Meter House
56" Meter House
Maintenance Building and Park Office

Structures

Summit Radio Tower
Additional Greenhouses
Picnic Shelter
Greenhouse Complex
Basketball Court
Soap Box Derby Track

Regions and Features of Mount Tabor Park

Mount Tabor Park has four public vehicular entrances located roughly in the four corners of the rectangular property at S.E. Salmon Street (Salmon Street Entrance), S.E. 69th Avenue (69th Avenue Entrance), S.E. Harrison Street (Harrison Street Entrance) and S.E. Lincoln Street (Lincoln Street Entrance). Numerous pedestrian or bicycle entrances exist from footpaths on all sides of the park. Neighborhood streets dead end at park boundaries, especially at the north, west and south sides. The east side is steep and rugged and adjoined by a newer housing development with private properties abutting the parkland along Mountain View Drive. The southeast corner of the park property adjoins a small private college, Warner Pacific College. The far southwest corner now abuts the private apartment and nursing care facility, Courtyard Plaza, a five-acre parcel formerly occupied by one Mount Tabor Park's first two reservoirs. The reservoir gatehouse, now privately owned and listed in the National Register, remains at the corner of S.E. 60th Avenue and Division Street.

Many maps exist for Mount Tabor Park and over the years, vicinities, drives and features have been delegated various names. This has contributed to some difficulty in creating clear descriptive statements and guidelines for the photographers and other volunteers involved with the preparation of this nomination. The predominant

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park boundary has a roughly rectangular shape. For the sake of clarity, this nomination has the park divided into quadrants based off the four park entrances described above. The site, buildings, structures, and objects in each quadrant are described as follows:

Lincoln Street Entrance

The earliest development of the land now designated as Mount Tabor Park happened in this area of the park. The city acquired land in this quadrant to build the first two reservoirs, then known as Mount Tabor High and Low Service Reservoirs respectively, in 1888.

In between Reservoir 1 and 5 is one of the four peaks, which Mische called the Hilltop Grove. At the summit of this small peak is a grove of large big-leaf maples and Douglas firs. On the south slope of the Hilltop Grove, just above the Reservoir Loop Drive, is a small grove of digger and ponderosa pines. The north slope of the hill is popular on the rare snowy day as it is used for sledding and other snow play. A 1954 map shows a ski tow at this location. A well-graded path encircles this rise as Mische had planned. Another path leads up and over the summit from north to south.

Where Harrison Drive meets Lincoln Drive at the south base of the dam face of Reservoir 1, the Southside Stairs climbs north from the roadway up to the reservoir basin. Lincoln drive continues west winding down the southwest slope of Mount Tabor past the Water Bureau entrance to the park south of Reservoir 6. At this junction, laurels and a cornelian cherry grow to the north and a weigela and several large lilacs to the west. flanked to the southeast with a row of mature fuchsia-colored double flowering cherries that create a dramatic display in mid-spring. The west side is a mixture of tall well-established shrubs and trees, some deciduous such as lilacs and hawthorns and others evergreen conifers and laurels. Continuing south, the drive intersects the nursery sites at the S.E. Lincoln Street Entrance and the north service entrance into the maintenance yard.

It was approximately here that Emanuel Mische designed his formal entrance scheme: the Maple Entrance arriving from the south from S.E. Division Street and the Linden Entrance from S.E. 60th Avenue coming from the west into a circle. A photograph circa 1920 depicts S.E. Lincoln Street lined with trees, as it is today on the north, nursery side. A traffic circle of sorts, does exist approximately where Mische's circle was to be but it is much more informal and less aesthetic. It is a widened area that serves as an intersection for a service road leading south into the maintenance yard, a small gravel service road going east into Mount Tabor Nursery, the Lincoln Street Entrance drive running straight west to S.E. 60th Avenue, and the drive into the park climbing north and then east. Today a touch of Mische's more formal scheme remains with some interesting, primarily non-native plantings. A large fragrant viburnum, Thunberg's barberry, a large strawberry madrone and other ornamental shrubs grow on the east side of the intersection and plantings of red osier dogwood, oriental maple, cotoneaster, and other shrubs are planted across the drive on the northwest corner of this intersection. S.E. Lincoln Street, as it runs west, has private homes constructed in the 1980s and 1990s on the south side of the street. The north is bounded by the nursery property fully planted with a variety of trees. This north side of the Lincoln Street Entrance is flanked by ornamental pear trees that replaced the double flowering cherries in the 1990s.

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The Mount Tabor Nursery includes a large tree and shrub planting area and a maintenance yard historically associated with the nursery, which is currently used to store and maintain park vehicles and equipment. The nursery and maintenance grounds together comprise 14 acres. While not indicated specifically on Mische's 1911 plan for Mount Tabor Park, park archival records state that the Mount Tabor Nursery dates from 1908-1909, and both the nursery and maintenance yard are located within the historic boundaries of the park. Located on the sunny, well-drained lower southwestern slope of the butte, the nursery also covers a long finger of land extending east and west between S.E. Lincoln Street and S.E. Harrison Street due south of what Mische had called the Linden Entrance (Lincoln Street Entrance). On the north side, the nursery is flanked with climbing roses on trellises and on the south, along the Lincoln Street Entrance drive, a row of ornamental pear trees. At the east end of this finger of nursery, two other nursery plots exist. These rise up further on the slope of the butte, in a wide, south-facing sloped area. These plots are also planted with tree and shrub species and are divided by an east-west service road that ends at a concrete patio area used for storage of soil amenities below Harrison Drive. The nursery has supplied street trees and other plants for the City of Portland continuously since the earliest years of Mount Tabor Park, propagating native species as well as those from around the world. Presently, the over 70 species of trees growing in the nursery provide visual interest, especially seasonally, and encourage various species of birds.

Inside the maintenance compound are a variety of buildings dating from various periods and serving a variety of functions to park maintenance for the Park Bureau. Park vehicles and machines, such as mowers and other tools are stored and maintained at this site. Offices and greenhouses are also located here. From the back of the compound, a maintenance vehicle exit ties into the Lincoln Street Entrance drive and the tree and shrub nursery areas. The main entrance to the maintenance yard is marked by a lawn with a row of large Atlantic blue cedars, shrubs and a bed of seasonal flowering annuals. Upon entering the maintenance grounds, the asphalt roadway is flanked by two rows of buildings. To the east is the Administration Building along with garages and shops. To the west is a long row of attached garages and shops. The Administration Building is the most formally designed building on the site. All other structures are of a functional nature and house offices, greenhouses, machine shops, paint shops, garages, and storage. Dates of construction range from pre-1918 through 1989. The back entrance of the yard leads out to the north, through the nursery stock onto S.E. Lincoln Street. A chain link fence encloses the entire maintenance grounds. The yard layout appears to be unplanned with buildings constructed when needed wherever space was available. Verbal interviews with park employees indicate that horses were kept at the compound for mowing and other work. Some of the buildings are reportedly converted stables. The grounds are primarily asphalt-covered with the exception of some landscaping around the Administration building and various trees near the Community Garden building. The eastern border of the yard is lined with a dense cedar hedge.

Contributing Features

Horticultural Services Building

This small office building appears to be the oldest remaining building, dated "pre-1918" on various Parks' sketches. It is located in roughly the center of the maintenance yard, facing south. The Horticultural Services Building is a small rectangular one-story building with a hip roof. The siding is horizontal shiplap. The corners

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are finished with a narrow board. A gabled dormer defines the front entrance. Wood shingles and a lunette window fill the gable end. No porch overhang exists currently. Windows are multi-over-one, double-hung wood sash of varying sizes. The foundation is concrete. There is a large brick chimney rising from the rear of the building venting the underground gas boiler. The boiler that heats the greenhouses was originally coal-burning. It continues to function as the boiler for the greenhouses. The chimney towers over the other structures in the yard, and has been extended to nearly twice its original height according to historical photographs. There is a greenhouse attached to the building.

Administrative Building and Additions

The most visible building on entering the maintenance grounds, and one of the most aesthetic, is the Administrative Building. Built in 1938, the Art Deco-styled, single-story, flat-roofed concrete building has a long rectangular plan with attached garages. In 1958, a two-story addition was added to the east facade. Both the 1938 building and the 1958 addition include a basement. The 1938 building was originally a combination of offices and garages. The front entrance is on the west elevation. It is defined by a slightly projecting bay decorated with telescoping vertical lines above the entrance. A flat concrete porch roof covers the entrance. Above this porch roof is a three-light, steel-sash window. To the south of the entrance is an unusual projecting triangular steel sash window; apparently a dispatcher's window overseeing the vehicle entrance. To the north is a series of garage entrances. Between the garage bays, at the top of the building, are a series of six-light, steel-sash windows. A decorative cornice is done in the Art Deco style. The garage bay immediately north of the front entrance has been in-filled and a new aluminum slider window replaces the original overhead garage door. Four garage bays remain intact. Beyond the garage bays, the building facade becomes slightly recessed, but the Art Deco cornice continues to the end of the concrete portion of the structure. Extending north, the structure changes to wood frame with metal siding and the roof becomes a gable roof covered with standing-seam metal. A series of metal-covered, wood, side-opening garage doors open into areas now used for storage and shops. According to verbal interviews with long-time parks' employees, this area once served as stables for the city's horses. According to park records, these attached garages were constructed over a three-year period from 1938 - 1941. The 1958 two-story addition was designed to match the original building, including the Art Deco cornice. The windows are a different type of steel sash. Typical of 1950s industrial buildings they are eight-light steel-sash with a center hopper window.

Mechanical Offices - Community Gardens Building

Located north of the Administration Building, this building is labeled mechanical offices on Parks Department sketches. It now functions as the "Community Gardens" office. According to park records, it was built before 1938. This is a one-story structure with a concrete foundation and a gable roof. It is sided with wood horizontal lap siding. The corners are finished with vertical boards and the roof is composition shingle. Many of the windows have been replaced by vinyl sliders. The remaining original windows are small four-light wood sash. A shed-roof addition was added to the east facade at an unknown date. Wide wood lap siding covers the extension.

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Southside Stairs

On Mische's preliminary plan, a long flight of stairs was designed to climb from the south park boundary up to the Reservoir 1 terrace garden to tie into the pathway network of the park. Construction of 500 tread of stairs, location not given, were under construction in 1913. The lower flight of stairs between the Lincoln Street Entrance drive and the south boundary of the park no longer exists. There is a rough path there and there are metal pipes in the ground that could be remnants of earlier construction. There have been apparent excavations, perhaps on water pipes from Reservoir 1 directly above, following the line of the mapped stairs. The section of the Southside Stairs that is intact starts at the Lincoln Street Entrance drive and climbs up to Reservoir 1. The top of the stairs yields an impressive front-on view to the north of the 1894 Reservoir 1 and its associated gatehouse and weir building. To the south, the view is of southeast Portland, distant hills and the grounds of Warner Pacific College.

Noncontributing Features

Garages and Shops-West Side Row

Also built in 1938 and located across from the Administration Building is a row of attached shops and garages. They are covered with a gable composition shingle roof. The garage doors and siding are covered in standing-seam metal. Some original windows remain and are eight-light wood sash. Some windows have been replaced by aluminum or vinyl sliders. Uses for this structure have varied over time; currently the spaces are identified as "Turf Maintenance, Building Maintenance, Ballfield Maintenance, Irrigation." Although falling within the historic period, it is considered a noncontributing building due to numerous alterations.

Garages and Shops-East Side Row

Roughly forming an L-shape, this group of buildings is located at the eastern border of the maintenance grounds. Built between 1950 and 1961, they are comprised of a series of attached buildings, all with gable roofs and concrete foundations. All roofs are covered with standing-seam metal. Siding is either wood board and batten (1961) or wide horizontal lap siding (1950s). Gable ends are filled with horizontal lap boards. Windows are identical to those in the 1958 addition to the Administration Building: twelve-light metal sash with center hoppers. This grouping has had numerous functions: paint shop, electric shop, storage, etc. The construction dates of these buildings fall outside of the historic period so they are considered noncontributing.

Other Buildings and Structures

An Equipment Building is located at the far north end of the maintenance yard. Built in 1971, it is a 1-1/2 story "tilt-up" building with metal siding and roof. Gas pumps are located in front. The Pole Barn building dating from 1987 is located at the south end of the yard adjacent to S.E. Division Street. Near the Horticultural Services Building to the west is the Lathe House. Built in 1963, it is a shed-roof building with horizontal lap siding. Directly behind the Horticultural Services Building is a Greenhouse Complex. According to sketches from the Parks Bureau, these were constructed in 1981, 1988 and 1989. Additional greenhouses dating from 1973 are located at the northwest corner of the maintenance yard. All of these buildings and structures are noncontributing because they fall outside the period of significance.

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Water Bureau Buildings and Structures

Below and to the south of Reservoir 1 are four small buildings associated with the Water Bureau and piping from the reservoirs. The Duplex Screen House is a three-sided building with a shed roof. The small concrete building is situated into the slope. A metal door bears the building name. Dating from 1967, it is void of ornamentation. Southwest and below the Duplex Screen House is the 50" Meter House, a small shed-roofed concrete utilitarian building. The only slight embellishment is the projecting concrete door and window lintels and sills. The construction date is 1967. At the foot of the concrete steps up to Reservoir 1 is the 44" Meter House. The south elevation of this building abuts Harrison Drive. The metal door faces east and is accessed by concrete steps. The shed-roofed concrete building is the largest of the meter houses with screened windows on all four sides. To the west of these buildings along a wooded path, is the 56" Meter House. This small shed-roofed concrete utilitarian structure has a slight embellishment in the projecting concrete door and window lintels and sills. It matches the design and feel of the other 1967 building. All of these buildings and structures are considered noncontributing because they fall outside the period of significance.

Salmon Street Entrance

The main vehicular entrance to the park is the S.E. Salmon Street Entrance. Accessed from S.E. 60th Avenue, this entrance was another of Mische's formal entries into the park. Presently it is marked with a basalt retaining wall on the steep north side and a park sign on the south side. A basalt wall acts as the gatepost for the metal swinging gate that can close off the driveway. The historic Caretakers House - Mount Tabor House (presently a rental property), is situated on slope to the immediate south of the Salmon Street Entrance overlooking the west side tennis courts and Reservoir 6 further to the south. To the north of the entrance is the steep forested slope of Foothill Overlook rising up to the S.E. Yamhill Street service entrance.

Here the park entices visitors into the interior as the driveway curves and gently climbs through one of the groomed forest areas of the park. At the line of sight where the driveway curves is a lovely ravine, called Sweet Briar Vale by Mische. John C. Olmsted called this area out in his Report to the Park Board in 1903 saying,

“West of the summit ridge, it may be impracticable to take any considerable areas except in the ravines, which apparently have little value for residential purposes, and yet are very picturesque and would make attractive features in a public pleasure ground.”

An important and picturesque trail network converges at Sweet Briar Vale, part of the inviting enticement of this region. Three paths climb up the ravine at this point. The one on the north side ascends the volcano through a large grove of tall rhododendrons beneath the overstory of Douglas firs. In the late winter or early spring the ground is covered with sweet violets. Passing historic lampposts standing in the forest, this path climbs occasional railroad tie steps (Mische had designed concrete steps) and arrives at the newly refinished basketball court at the south end of the Crater Amphitheater. An unofficial trail continues up the cinder cone, known as Foothill Overlook on the original map. Here also, the path intersects with a graveled east-west service drive that accesses the trash dumpsters to the west and continues out of the park onto S.E. Yamhill Street. Just to the east,

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this drive intersects with the main Reservoir Loop Drive at this pivotal access point with the main parking area, Maintenance Building-Park Office, Volcano Comfort Station, Picnic Shelter, and main playground.

The newest path follows the cleavage of Sweet Briar Vale where recent work was done to attempt to channel seasonal water down through a naturalized ditch of rock and earth to a small wetland area at the base of the ravine. On the higher ground near this area, old plantings of large heather family shrubs such as kalmia, rhododendron, and andromeda dominate. There is also the only sourwood tree, native to the southeast United States located here. This touch of formality continues as the path crosses the Salmon Street Entrance road with large mature azaleas and other shrubs marking the path that leads down the railroad tie steps to the west tennis courts passing to the south of the Caretakers House-Mount Tabor House, both constructs from the 1920s. This trail once led to the comfort station alongside the main entrance drive. All that remains now is a concrete foundation accessed with steps to a picnic table. The building was demolished when a tree fell on it in the 1990s.

One of the most popular trails in the park follows the south side of Sweet Briar Vale through native forest with an intact understory. This trail was on Mische's original plan and was apparently also included in the bridle path system established in 1929. Along the path grow a variety of tree species including numerous bitter cherries, a California buckeye and one of the largest alder trees in the park. It arrives at an eastern junction of several trails and the Reservoir Loop Drive.

Crossing the paved Reservoir Loop Drive, the path continues to the south, up railroad tie stairs, (stairs were originally designed here by Mische) passing by two immature ginkgo trees and a row of young, recently planted alders. Picnic Grove is at the top of the stairs. A modern drinking fountain and barbeque structure were recently removed from this area. Two picnic tables remain. To the south, this area overlooks the starting point for the Soap Box Derby Track. The groomed forest spot also provides a view of Reservoir 5 and the southwestern cityscape through the Douglas fir boughs. Picnic Grove, with its southwestern aspect is one of the nicest places in the park. It has hosted weddings and other gatherings in modern times.

The eastern path from Picnic Grove intersects with Reservoir Loop Drive below the Mountain Crest Summit. An unofficial trail climbs straight up the summit arriving to the north of the backside of the Summit Comfort Station. Two other trails descend down from Picnic Grove to Reservoir Loop Drive. One to the north follows the contour of the hill wrapping around from the north to the south. The other drops down directly from the summit. Both reconnect, arriving at the more formalized region with plantings of star magnolias, hawthorn, flowering crabapple and young sequoias just to the northwest of Reservoir 5.

This point intersects with the boundary of the Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District. Here another well-used pathway intersects at the northwest corner of Reservoir 5 and travels west on the grassy grade completely encircling the basin of the reservoir. This path parallels the lighted sidewalk around Reservoir 5 and defines part of the boundary of the Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic District. The path comes to a junction with three other pathways and the paved Reservoir Loop Drive and the Soapbox Derby Track below the summit of Hilltop Grove. From this point, the Reservoir 1 basin and its northern glade is visible further to the southeast.

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This area is part of the narrowed, linear boundary defined by the underground tunnel that connects the waters of Reservoir 1 and Reservoir 5 of the Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic District. This junction is a popular meeting ground and the lawn shows signs of wear and tear primarily because it has become a dog play area. Its popularity is understandable since the views of Reservoir 5 and the western cityscape are outstanding. In recent years, a bench has been placed northeast of this junction to take advantage of the fine vistas. The areas close to Reservoir 5, like those around Reservoir 1, are graced with the water sounds generated from the small cascades that feed into the reservoirs.

A west bound path continues along the southern boundary of the reservoir historic district south of Reservoir 5 to arrive at the top of the dam. Here Mische requested that the dam be widened so that visitors could have access the area and the views. This design created one of the most popular gathering places in the park and in the city to watch sunsets, fireworks over the Willamette River and to simply enjoy a sweeping, inspirational view of Portland. The view is enhanced by the twelve acres of the deep water reflecting from Reservoir 6 below. This is one of the protected views noted in the City of Portland's Scenic Resource Protection Plan and is within the boundaries of the Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic District.

The Soapbox Derby Track runs north and south due east of Reservoir 5. Though seemingly not currently used by soap box derby aficionados, the south end of the track is located in a particularly scenic airy site overlooking Reservoir 5 with sweeping vistas of the cityscape. This site attracts many park visitors, both human and canine.

From the gate at Reservoir 5, going northeast on the Reservoir Loop Drive is a lovely curvilinear perfectly graded drive into the heart of the park. The forest dominates and every other distraction falls away, illustrating a chief Olmsted design principle. Passing by the top of Sweet Briar Vale at the base of two summits the road curves up to Mische's Foothill Overlook and the area to the west that is now called the "volcano" area or "crater." It is denoted with a tablet embedded in a stand of basalt rock that was erected in 1952 by the Oregon Society of the Geological Country of Oregon giving a brief summary of the volcanic activity.

This location, with its private feeling, lends itself to a natural amphitheater and has become the site of some of the amenities that the Mountain Crest Summit area hosted in the past. On the east side of the small peak, excavations unearthed a cinder cone in 1913. The east face of the cinder cone now comprises the west wall of the amphitheater. Excavations of rock for various city and private enterprises, created a quarried area that was eventually utilized as an outdoor amphitheater, the Crater Amphitheater. This is a defining and attractive feature of Mount Tabor Park.

Due south of the Crater Amphitheater and still within the volcanic crater is a regulation-sized basketball court, recently resurfaced with an orange substance made from recycled tennis shoes.

A path, from the original park design, surrounds the cinder cone, called Foothill Overlook on original maps. It is well graded and travels through an upland forest terrain that is mowed occasionally. The mid spring brings a carpet of yellow wood violets along the western slope interlaced with the earlier sweet purple violets. True

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dandelions are abundant here. This part of the park adjoins a donation land claim of a botanic physician trained at the Baltimore Botanic Institute, Perry Prettyman, who reputedly introduced dandelions to use as medicine.

Directly above and to the east of the Crater Amphitheater is the main parking lot for the park. This modest-sized parking lot, the largest in the park, was designed in 1971. At the north end of the parking area is the non-historic Maintenance Building and Park Office. To the east of the maintenance building is the Volcano Comfort Station, the only current serviceable restroom in the park. This pleasingly designed comfort station appears to date from 1928. Due south of the parking lot, across Reservoir Loop Drive, is the non-historic thirty-four square foot Picnic Shelter open on four sides. The Picnic Shelter appears to have been constructed in approximately 1974. The main playground with a few remaining older metal structures and an elaborate modern plastic structure is adjacent to the Volcano Comfort Station, parking area and Picnic Shelter. Benches overlooking the play area have been provided at the top of the slight rise accessible by a brick ramp. The bricks are stamped with the names of benefactors who purchased a brick for \$50 to help pay for the remodel in 1999. The ramp area is landscaped with miniature azaleas and other common ornamental shrubs. A row of young native red alders are planted to the south behind the benches. Paths lead up to the Mountain Crest Summit to the south and in every direction at this point.

Contributing Features

Caretaker House - Mount Tabor House

The house is situated at the base of Mount Tabor at the Salmon Street Entrance with a southern view overlooking the west tennis court and Reservoir 6. The house is accessed from an unpaved driveway, S.E. 63rd Avenue, off of S.E. Salmon Street. Facing west on a slight rise, it is of an unassuming design and does not dominant the landscape. It is surrounded by a wide expanse of shady lawn under towering Douglas fir trees with perimeter plantings. Originally it served as housing for the park caretaker but it is now rented out to a private individual. The house is designed in the Colonial style and is listed in park documents and assessor records as dating from 1920. It is a one-and-a-half story, side-gabled, rectangular house with a concrete foundation. The house is sided with cedar shingles and the roof has composition shingles. The gable ends have no eaves, but the front and rear elevations have wide boxed eaves. An eyebrow dormer penetrates the roof directly over the front porch. The front central entrance porch is recessed under the main roof. Sidelights flank the wood front door. On either side of the front porch are two built-in wood benches. Windows are either eight-over-eight, double-hung wood sash or three-over-three, double-hung wood sash. To the south of the entrance porch is a bay window. Wood shutters with diamond cut-outs decorate every window. An exterior stucco-covered chimney is located at the south facade. The rear facade has an off-set recessed back porch. City records indicate that construction costs of the dwelling were \$3,000 in 1920.

West Tennis Court

The construction dates of the two tennis courts in the park are given in park records as 1923 and 1928. It is unclear which one was constructed when, however, both dates fall within the period of significance. This tennis court is located just north of Reservoir 6; the tennis court on the east side of the park is located at the 69th Avenue playground. Fence and other repairs to the courts are recorded in 1926 and 1932.

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Volcano Comfort Station

Built in 1928 in the English Tudor style, this comfort station is in excellent condition. Park records show the cost for construction to be \$3,843.19. The plan for this building is roughly L-shaped with a combination cross-gable and conical roof uniting three separate functions into one structure; restrooms, storage, and seating. This one-story roughcast stucco-covered building is comprised of two restrooms side by side and a storage area, a covered shelter with bench, and a small turreted storage room at the east end. The building has a concrete slab foundation and wood frame walls and roof. The roofing is composition shingles. Alterations were made to this building in the 1990s. At this time both men's and women's entrances were shifted to the south facade. Originally, the men's entrance was located on the west facade and was sheltered by a small Tudor-style covered porch. The women's entrance was located on the east facade under the attached covered shelter. An original window was removed from the south facade when the men's new entrance was installed. Both original entrance locations were replaced with windows. The porch on the west facade was removed. The gable end on the south facade (the current men's entrance) is filled with a decorative half-timber design. Small arched openings provide ventilation in the smaller gable end east of the men's entrance. A storage room is located to the north of the restrooms on the rear facade. Two entrances are located on the rear facade and retain their original vertical board doors. The attached gabled shelter is supported by a single square post with curved brackets in the Tudor style. The bracketing, exposed beams and cross bracing add to the English flavor. A wood built-in bench rests under the shelter. Seating is located on both sides of the bench. An attached round storage room at the far eastern end is topped with a conical roof that appears more French than English. Atop the roof is an iron weathervane depicting animals at play. It has an original vertical board round arched door cut into a round arch opening. The door has large iron strap hinges. A single step leading into this storage room is comprised of three massive cut stones. The charming nostalgic design is unique in the Portland parks system. Like the other two remaining Mount Tabor comfort stations, this one is set on a slight downhill slope to keep it from dominating the landscape. The approaching path from the south is through a touch of formal landscaping with common shrubs including Oregon grape and azaleas.

Crater Amphitheater

Making the most of the quarry established after the cinder cone was discovered in 1913, construction of the concrete stage and basalt rock retaining walls were apparently underway in 1934 according to archive photographs. A geological plaque on a basalt rock base, installed in 1952, remarks on the volcanic nature of this area. The concrete and basalt rock stage is located at the north end of a grassy "pavilion," with a large cindered area at the base of the stage. In the cindered area, wooden and metal benches are stored in stacks and set up for stage events. The grass pavilion was recently replanted with grass and three low angular curved basalt risers were installed to provide informal seating and enhanced viewing of the stage area. The stage area is wired for electricity. The Crater Amphitheater is accessible via remodeled concrete stairs or a long concrete ramp reconstructed to American Disabilities Act standards. The ramp parallels the high volcanic rock retaining wall all along the east side of the amphitheater that descends gradually to wrap around the back side of the stage. The stage area is accessed to the northeast by a small trail through old cedar plantings that connects with the trail that encircles the cinder cone. Though reconstruction has occurred at the Crater Amphitheater, it was done in a thoughtful manner and most of the historical features, including the stage, rock retaining walls, benches and

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railings are either original or in keeping with the original design of the area. Other amenities here include a modern drinking fountain.

Non-contributing Features

Maintenance Building and Park Office

Situated to the northwest of the comfort station, this building faces out onto the main parking lot. The rear elevation, that drops down from the south façade, is surrounded by fir trees and a footpath. The original construction may be dated to approximately 1965, although a photograph dating from 1953 does show a building close to the current location. This south-facing building is one story with an exposed basement level on the north side. It is covered with T-111 siding on all but the front facade, which is covered with wood lap siding. The gable roof faces south and has imitation half-timbering in the gable end. The front facade is dominated by two garage doors. The entrance is recessed on the east end. All windows are aluminum sliders. This building is considered non-contributing because it is outside the period of significance.

Picnic Shelter

Located midway up Mount Tabor along Salmon Way is a large thirty-four-square-foot picnic shelter. Plans for the structure were drawn by R. George in 1974. The shelter is situated in an open grassy area across from the Parks office building and parking lot. This is the only picnic shelter in the park. It is a square structure with a cross-gable roof supported by four log posts, wood beams and trusses. The roof structure is exposed. The flooring is concrete slab. This shelter serves as a gathering place for large group events with seating for eighty to one hundred visitors. This structure is considered non-contributing because it is outside the period of significance.

Soap Box Derby Track

The Mount Tabor Soap Box Derby Track is a long ribbon of pavement with six faded painted lines forming lanes. It appears as a roadway set in a bowl. The starting trench is on the north end and this trench is covered with a long narrow piece of heavy steel. Just south of the starting trench, on the east side of the track, are large piles of soil amendments used for park maintenance. These piles use the cement retaining wall along the north east edge of the track. The track follows the contours of a bowl-like depression. Historical information is sketchy regarding its origins, however, the first official track in the U.S.A. was constructed as a Works Progress Administration project in 1936 in an Akron, Ohio city park. Oral reports from derby aficionados indicate that the track at Mount Tabor Park was originally designed to official specifications and was very active in the 1940s through the 1960s. Most sources doubt that the track would have been built in the period of significance for this nomination since few communities had official tracks prior to the 1940s. According to City Archives records, the Mount Tabor Park Soap Box Derby Track was apparently refurbished in 1957. During that time, there was a discussion between City Council and the park superintendent regarding complaints of not completing the tract to specifications and of problems with silt deposition onto the apron of Reservoir 5 below it. In 1961, there was more City Council correspondence regarding a design for the track. The Soap Box Derby Track is considered a non-contributing structure because it is outside the period of significance.

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Basketball Court

The basketball court is open air and is bounded on the west by the crater, and to the northeast by the steps servicing the amphitheater. The date of construction is unknown but it has a modern feel and is subsequently considered a non-contributing structure.

69th Avenue Entrance

The northeast area of the park maintains much of its historic feel. Located in an historic and stable neighborhood, the 69th Avenue Entrance invites pedestrians to climb the long concrete stairs up the steep slope of Mount Tabor Butte. Historic drives travel to the southeast and due west. To the southeast, East Tabor Drive climbs gently in a curvilinear fashion past the 69th Avenue playground and group picnic site, eventually encircling the butte. To the west, the drive enters the park paralleling private residences to the north and arrives at the main playground, main parking lot, Crater Amphitheater, Picnic Shelter and Volcano Comfort Station.

To the southeast of the Northeast Entrance is the 69th Avenue playground. This historic playground and picnic area was built to take advantage of this relatively level spot on the steep east side of the butte. It is accessed by the 69th Avenue Stairs dropping down from East Tabor Drive. To the west, the butte rises dramatically upward. A comfort station, the Northeast Entrance Comfort Station, designed in 1916 and constructed in the 1920s, is also located in this area. This site includes an old style swing set, small ball diamond, volleyball court, two horseshoe pits and a group picnic area and drinking fountain. The open-air picnic site, like the entire area, is set amidst the lofty Douglas fir trees. The long tables are situated in close proximity to the recreational amenities. This area with its old-style recreational past-times and near-by historic comfort station, gives the visitor a sense of traveling back in time. Though the construction of every feature at this location cannot be dated precisely, there is a cohesiveness and sense of period that is intact. Also, early records report a high degree of neighborhood interest in recreation services at this entrance.

Mische designed a junction where park drives Interlink, West and East Overlook, Cascade, and Woodland met at the northern base of the park's highest point, Mountain Crest Summit. From this point pathways encircled the highest point and connected with a trail system to points all over the park. At the approximate location of Mische's junction there is now a primary intersection of the main driveways in the park and a small parking lot. A west locked gate at Reservoir Loop Drive (Cascade Drive) and an east locked gate at Tabor Summit Drive (East Overlook Drive) have been closed to public vehicular traffic since the 1970s when "partying youth" were prevalent and many nuisance reports were recorded. These driveways make excellent thoroughfares for bicycles, runners and baby strollers. Northwest of this junction is the main playground. Through the east locked gate, Tabor Summit Drive (East Overlook Drive) climbs the eastern slope to arrive at the summit area. This driveway has been referred to by numerous names on various maps such as Harvey Scott Circle, Mount Tabor Summit Drive, Tabor Summit Circle or simply Summit Drive. At the south end of the summit area there is a divider that directs traffic to the east side of the summit, circling around to the west side, and back down the east slope of the butte on the same driveway. Because this driveway has been closed to vehicular traffic for several decades the summit maintains a protected and peaceful feeling. Pedestrians, bicyclists, skateboarders

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and roller bladders frequent it as do those seeking solitude at the few picnic tables in the groomed forest area or at the overlook benches.

The Mountain Crest Summit is the highest point on the butte. The long flat summit area stretches approximately one-eighth of a mile north and south, sloping gently to the south. The summit is composed of mowed shady lawn with lofty Douglas firs and other deciduous trees. Views to the east and west from the summit have been incorporated into the Scenic Resources Protection Plan adopted by the city in 1991. Although Emanuel Mische preferred to leave the forest intact, he had planned for the views from the Mountain Crest Summit to be kept open. Since the tall trees in the key vista points have not been kept pruned, the views of east Portland, Mount Hood and the eastern foothills and mountain range have now become more or less obstructed from the highest points on the summit's east side. (Dropping down to the East Tabor Drive, however, affords several good views of Mount Hood, Larch Mountain and other peaks and the cityscape.) From the northeast vicinity of the summit, a glimpse of Mount St. Helens can be obtained on clear days. The northwest section of the summit provides a grand vista of downtown Portland and the west hills. With the sparkling waters and picturesque oval gatehouse of Reservoir 5 below, it is one of the finest views available in the city. This is a favorite site for sunset watching and a modern bench has been installed here. Where Mische had planned a modest, airy bandstand at the north end of the summit, two grand big-leaf maples grow. This site is utilized as a meeting ground for many people and impromptu nighttime concerts occur here in mild weather. Benches face east and north, and sunrises and moonrises can be witnessed there. Young beech trees have been set out to the north of the big maples. A brass geological marker reading City of Portland Benchmark number 1876 is embedded in the ground to the north of the large maples. To the west, is the historic 1920s Summit Comfort Station (probably constructed in 1926 according to city records). This comfort station replaced the original one that was remodeled in 1913 from the large J.H. Smith residence that presided over the summit area until it was demolished. To the northeast of the few stairs that access the comfort station, a 135-foot Summit Radio Tower was built. This tower is apparently used as a relaying system for the water system. The date of construction appears to be about 1968. The tower is unobtrusive due to the screening of the tall fir trees. At the south end of the summit is a large bronze statue of newsman Harvey W. Scott, by Gutzon Borglum of Mount Rushmore fame. Mounted in 1933 on a granite base, the statue sits atop a cut basalt rock terrace with steps and two benches.

Besides the asphalted Tabor Summit Drive, the summit area is accessed at the north and south by several pathways. As Mische envisioned, a long flight of concrete steps, the 69th Avenue Stairs, curves down the northeast slope of the butte to the 69th Avenue Entrance. These stairs, like the other long flight between Reservoir 5 and 6 on the west slope, get frequent use for athletic training by school groups and individuals. A short distance down the stairs, another wide trail forks to the north and drops down to the Reservoir Loop Drive above the main playground. At this junction, a small building built into the side of the north slope faces low round cement structures. This small round concrete covered water storage tank is a discontinuous feature of the Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic District. From the Summit Comfort Station, another smaller paved path descends further to the northwest down to this same point. On the south end of the Mountain Crest Summit, Mische planned for another long flight of stairs to descend down to the Old Reservoir, Reservoir 1, site. A short flight of concrete steps descends directly south of the Harvey W. Scott statue across Tabor Summit Drive. From here several trails traverse the steep south side of the butte through some of the most natural forest in the

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park. Native understory, plants including fairy lanterns, trilliums, Solomon's plumes, snowberry, thimbleberry and hazel shrubs grow beneath the predominating conifer forest. One trail takes the steep route down to the north end of the Reservoir 1 site. The main path follows gentler contours of the hillside and is wide and well graded. Where it turns due west at a forest junction lamppost, it offers scenic glimpses of the waters and buildings of Reservoir 1. From this junction of several trails, the main trail turns northeast past another forest lamppost and accesses the eastern side of the summit area continuing either around to the 69th Avenue Entrance Stairs or tying into North Tabor Drive. This area of the park and the steep slope east of there has the most natural feel due to the forest undergrowth being intact.

Beginning at East Tabor Drive (Mische's Woodland Drive) was constructed with great difficulty across the rocky, steep slope of the east side of the butte. The east side of the roadbed has an attractive stacked basalt rock retaining wall. East Tabor Drive climbs and encircles the butte and arrives either at the Harrison Street Entrance, not in the original plan, or the Lincoln Street Entrance as Mische had essentially planned. Mische's 1911 preliminary park plan called for extending the boundary of the park so that the Woodland Drive (now East Tabor Drive) could be built at a more reasonable level farther down the slope. The property and drive he envisioned are analogous to what is now private homes along S.E. Mountain View Drive. East Tabor Drive, however, does provide the wide and inspirational views that Mische wanted to secure for the public. Mount Hood, the Cascade Range and all of east Multnomah County are visible as are the peaks in Washington State across the Columbia River to the north.

Contributing Features

Summit Comfort Station

The Summit Comfort Station is a Tudor-style building located to the northwest of the summit of Mount Tabor Park. It was built either in 1920 or 1926. In keeping with the other comfort station designs, it is located at a slightly lower elevation so as not to compete with the landscape. Several concrete steps and a low retaining-wall terrace landscaped with low ornamental shrubs lead down to the building from the Summit Drive. The one-story red-brick building faces east and is comprised of two restrooms with a storage/concessions area in between. The foundation is concrete and the roof is composition shingle. The plan is comprised of a main rectangular form with a projecting wing at either end. The center volume and wings are side gabled. Original round-arched wood doors to storage/concession are on the front (east) facade and a large central window opening has been boarded up. The gable ends of each of the wings (front facade) are filled with original timber and stucco. The original window openings in the gable ends have been filled in with brick. Restroom entrances are on the north and south facades in the wings. Wood vented window openings flank the entrances. The restroom entrances are sheltered by a small shed roof supported by Tudor-style brackets. Doors are original round-arched vertical board. The women's entrance retains an original curved iron railing. The rear elevation drops steeply down into the forest. The concrete foundation is more exposed on this side. Small boarded up windows are irregularly placed on this facade. The gable ends of the wings contain the same timber and stucco decoration as the front facade. Plans in 1953 were for a slight remodel for the women's side to accommodate a water bureau radio station. Though no longer in use, the building is in good condition and according to park records, can be made available for special occasions.

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Harvey W. Scott Statue and Terrace

At the southern end of the top of the butte, amidst the Douglas fir boughs, stands a full-body bronze statue of Harvey W. Scott, long-time editor of the daily newspaper, the *Oregonian*. Mounted on a granite pedestal approximately thirteen feet tall in total, it faces southeast, looking toward Mount Scott, another of the Boring Buttes that bears the influential man's name and where he once owned sizeable acreage. The statue's right hand points westward toward downtown Portland. An inscription on the base reads: Harvey W. Scott 1838 – 1910; Pioneer, Editor, Publisher, Molder of Opinion. It is among the last works by the sculptor Gutzon Borglum (1867 – 1941), who completed it around 1930 while he was working on the Mount Rushmore Memorial. The name of the artist is inscribed into the metal base on the east side. The statue and its pedestal stand in a small formalized terrace of a cut basalt rock patio with two concrete benches on the east and west sides of the statue. Cut basalt rock stairs and walkways approach the statue from the east and west. A cut basalt rock retaining wall faces south and follows the curve of the Summit Drive between the east and west stairs. The terrace landscape includes hardy shrubs for this south facing aspect. Oregon grape, rhododendrons, red osier dogwood and heather are among them. The statue was a gift from Scott's family and was dedicated at a ceremony at the site in 1933. The family established a maintenance fund, the "Scott Statue Memorial Fund," with \$5,000 in an interest bearing account in the city of Portland's name, in the 1940s.

Northeast Entrance Comfort Station

Plans for this building date from 1916 and were drawn by the architectural firm C. H. Kable & Company according to City Archives documents. The actual construction date is 1926 and the building's construction cost was \$5,049.60 according to inventory records for Mount Tabor Park. Situated in the northeast corner of the park, it services the 69th Avenue Playground area. The front facade of the comfort station faces north. A sidewalk winds around the building and continues up a short flight of stairs to the road. This one-story Tudor-style building is clay tile construction with a concrete slab foundation. The building is situated on sloped ground so that the elevation drops down from north to south and west to east. Thus the foundation is higher on the southeast side. The top of the foundation is capped with a wide curved concrete water table. The exterior is roughcast stucco. Rectangular in plan, the hipped roof is intersected by a large gable-roofed front porch. The roof is composition shingle. The interior plan is comprised of two restrooms side by side and storage areas at the rear. Access to the women's restroom is from the front porch as is access to an ADA restroom. Access to the men's restroom is from a side porch on the north facade. The front facade is dominated by a large front porch. The porch gable end is filled with wood lap siding. Exposed rafters are curved as is the bargeboard. Squared brackets decorate the gable end. Identical rafters also decorate the eaves of the main hip roof. The porch is supported by square posts and is enclosed by a low stucco wall with an arched opening and inset tile and brick decoration. The porch ceiling is beaded board. A small built-in bench is integrated into the wood railing along the south end of the porch. The wood railing is decorated with bell shaped cut-outs. Window openings are located high up on the each of the facades and are filled in with wood vents. Under the hip roof on the rear facade is a recessed area containing a built-in bench. Original vertical board doors provide access to small storage areas here. This restroom is no longer open to the public, but the building is in good condition.

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East Tennis Court

The construction dates of the two tennis courts in the park are given in park records as 1923 and 1928. It is unclear which one was constructed when, however, both dates fall within the period of significance. This tennis court is located at the 69th Avenue playground; the tennis court on the west side of the park is located at the Salmon Street Entrance near Reservoir 6. Fence and other repairs to the courts are recorded in 1926 and 1932.

69th Avenue Stairs

Long flights of stairs are one of the hallmarks of Mount Tabor Park. This concrete flight winds its way with steep grace up the entire northeast slope of the butte arriving at the summit. It begins at the 69th Avenue Entrance west of the playground. It was completed in 1915. Just past the junction with Tabor Summit Drive, concrete restoration work was completed recently on a section of the stairs.

Non-contributing features

Summit Radio Tower

The summit radio tower is a metal structure, 135 feet tall, located on the northwest portion of the Mountain Crest Summit. It reportedly serves the Water Bureau with communications to their various sites. Some of the power components are apparently housed within the Summit Comfort Station that was refitted to accommodate them. The date of construction could not be firmly determined, but through Archives and oral reports, it appears to be about 1968. The Summit Radio Tower is a non-contributing structure because it is outside the period of significance.

Harrison Street Entrance

Mische's preliminary park plan of 1911 had the northern reaches of this region traversed by Woodland Drive and pathways. His plan called for extending the park land to include the steep lower reaches of the butte that are now developed for residences along S.E. Mountain View Drive. The Woodland Drive of Mische's plan was developed higher up the butte in the 1930s and is called East Tabor Drive today. Photographs depict construction on this drive in 1937 by a WPA crew (Project # 869C). This is one of the most scenic drives in the park. It is open to vehicle traffic six days a week and provides some of the grandest views to the east of Mount Hood, Larch Mountain, and the Washington State mountains north of the Columbia Gorge. Pedestrians have a sidewalk up the east side for most of the drive. Heading north, East Tabor Drive intersects North Tabor Drive that travels northwest below the Mountain Crest Summit arriving at a small parking lot bounded by a railroad tie terrace to the south. This terrace is landscaped with a variety of native and non-native plants but of particular interest are the flowering currants that attract hummingbirds. Here, also, is the primary junction of the locked gates to Tabor Summit Drive and the east portion of Reservoir Loop Drive. The main playground and Crater Amphitheater areas are to the northwest.

The Harrison Street Entrance was the last formal entrance developed in the park and not part of Mische's original scheme. The entrance appears to have been an extension of S.E. Mountain View Drive, the residential street paralleling the eastern boundary of the park. This entrance was apparently begun as W.P.A. Project #

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869C, 1/11/37 – 5/4/37 and labeled: 72nd and Harrison St. Approach to Mt. Tabor Park – Removing 1500 cu. Yard.” The estimated cost was \$4,746 and actual cost was \$5,162.56. The drive associated with this entrance is called Harrison Drive because it is an extension of S.E. Harrison Street. It ties into the Lincoln Drive arriving from the west and the East Tabor Drive that curves down the eastern slope of the park. The junction of these drives is below and to the south of Reservoir 1, just east of the Southside Stairs. Harrison Drive is a good example of the difference noted between the newer road construction and the original. Harrison Drive is potholed and not of the same quality of that of the older drives.

The Harrison Street Entrance is flanked by ornamental tree plantings, predominantly flowering plums, on the north slope and the Harrison Playground, distinguished by the variety of lovely non-native shade trees, on the south side slope. The history of the planting of the mature grove of predominating black walnut, black oaks, linden, and other deciduous trees is unknown. They are well suited for this south-facing aspect and well-drained environment. The Mount Tabor Nursery is just to the west of this area, and along the paths in that direction, several other non-native or uncommon tree species are growing and so the area may have received the extra attention of nursery workers. The predominance of large, non-native nut-bearing trees makes this a distinguished site in the park and a favorite hunting ground for the plentiful fox squirrels and various birds. The deciduous trees make the area pleasantly shaded in the summer but well lit after the trees drop their leaves in the winter. The Harrison playground is old-style with several metal structures. The play structures are positioned with great distances between them in the sloped grove. The well-spaced great shade trees lend an airy, playful feel to this pastoral area, even without the play structures. The recent widening of the path that accesses this area from the east and west adds an unaesthetic element. The exact date of the construction of the playground is unknown.

A pathway leaves the playground going west through the primarily Douglas fir, partially groomed forest. It soon divides into a lower path and an upper path. These paths bisect what used to be the lower section of the Southside Stairs, from the southern boundary of the park up to the planned terrace garden of Reservoir 1. This portion of the stairs has been replaced by a rough trail that climbs steeply up to cross Lincoln Drive accessing the remaining upper section of the Southside Stairs. The lower path, bordering Warner Pacific College grounds, passes by two large native madrone trees, uncommon in the park and the neighborhood. The upper path traverses the south face of the slope and crosses a main, but undeveloped path climbing up to the Reservoir 1 area. The upper path passes by a tiny spring, one of the few visible springs in the park, emerging from beneath a big-leaf maple on the north side of the path. The pathway continues into a mature non-native spruce forest. Both of these trails converge into the nursery area where there is a small grove of sizable non-native Coulter or big-cone pines and other notable non-native species such as strawberry madrone. The upper trail arrives into a flat cedar grove that is used as a soil amendment storage area for the nursery. A low cement retaining wall along the north side is crowned with well-established plantings of uva ursi and a prostrate juniper.

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Summary

True to the prediction of John Charles Olmsted, Mount Tabor Park is one of the most important and largest parklands in the city of Portland, and a defining landscape feature of the city's east side. Mount Tabor Park's design retains its historic integrity and the principles of Olmstedian design.

Mische recognized the wisdom of letting the land speak for itself by primarily aiding accessibility with aesthetic drives and pathways. Though a city park in an urban neighborhood, Mount Tabor maintains elements of a forest preserve. The masterful network of drives and pathways fit the needs of the community. The interior of the park remains a sanctuary due to the limited access of vehicles, yet the drives and paths provide recreational opportunities and numerous places to enjoy the powerfully beautiful park landscape and outstanding views of the surrounding city and countryside. The oldest driveways are also testimony to timeless construction techniques. After extensive analysis of the roadways in the park, the City of Portland's Mount Tabor Master Plan of 2000 stated that the historic roads have held up very well for over 50 years unlike the newer constructs. The rock work from local basalt accents drives and other manmade features. Amenities are subordinate to the landscape. All of the comfort stations have maintained a high degree of integrity, though only one is open to the public at this time. As the park master plan points out, the open water reservoirs are, "integral historic and aesthetic elements directly tied to the public's identification with Mount Tabor Park." Ninety-five years after the city purchased the nearly 200 acres that make up the park today, little has been done that alters the experience of Mount Tabor Park.

A PARTIAL LIST OF
Plants Growing in Mount Tabor Park
(alphabetized by most familiar common name)

Alder, red *Alnus rubra* Betulaceae
Andromeda *Pieris sp* Ericaceae
Barberry *Berberis sp* Berberidaceae
Bittercress *Cardamine sp* Cruciferae
Blackberry *Rubus laciniatus, R. discolor* Rosaceae
Buddleia (Butterfly bush) *Buddleia sp* Buddlejaceae
Buttercup *Ranunculus sp.* Ranunculaceae
Burdock *Arctium lappa* Asteraceae
Brooklime, American *Veronica americana* Scrophulariaceae
Bracken fern *Pteridium aquilinum* Polypodiaceae
Camellia *Camellia japonica* Theaceae
Cedar *Thuja occidentalis, Chamaecyparis lawsoniana, C. nootkatensis, Calocedrus decurrens* Cupressaceae
Centaury *Centaurium umbellatum* Gentianaceae
Cherry, wild *Prunus emarginata, P. subcordata, P. virginiana* Rosaceae
Chestnut, horse *Aesculus hippocastanum* Aesculaceae

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Chickweed *Stellaria media* Caryophyllaceae
Chicory *Chicorium intybus* Asteraceae
Clematis *Clematis sp* Ranunculaceae
Clivers *Galium aperine, G. oregano* Rubiaceae
Clover, red *Trifolium pratense* Fabaceae
Clover, white *Trifolium repens* Fabaceae
Cotoneaster *Cotoneaster sp* Rosaceae
Cottonwood *Populus trichocarpa* Salicaceae
Cranesbill *Geranium sp* Geraniaceae
Currant, red-flowering *Ribes sanguineum* Grossulariaceae
Daisy, English *Bellis perennis* Asteraceae
Daisy, ox-eye *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum* Asteraceae
Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* Asteraceae
Dandelion, false *Hypochoeris radicata* Asteraceae
Dock, yellow *Rumex crispus, R. obtusifolius* Polygonaceae
Dogbane, spreading *Apocynum androsaemifolium* Apocynaceae
Dogwood, Pacific *Cornus nuttalli* Cornaceae (in demise)
Dogwood, creek (red osier) *Cornus stolonifera* Cornaceae
Fairy lanterns (Fairy bells) *Disporum hookeri, D. smithii* Lilaceae
Fir, Douglas *Pseudotsuga menziesii* Pinaceae
Groundsel, common *Senecio vulgaris* Asteraceae
Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* Rosaceae
Hawkbit *Leontodon sp* Asteraceae
Hazelnut *Corylus cornuta* Betulaceae
Hemlock, Poison *Conium maculatum* Apiaceae
Hemlock (tree) *Tsuga sp* Pinaceae
Hydrangea *Hydrangea sp.* Saxifragaceae
Holly *Ilex aquifolium* Ilexaceae
Horsetail *Equisetum hymenale, E. arvense* Equisetaceae
Ivy, English *Hedera helix* Araliaceae
Juniper *Juniperis sp* Cupressaceae
Kalmia *Kalmia sp* Ericaceae
Knotweed *Polygonum sp* Polygonaceae
Lambsquarters *Chenopodium album* Chenopodiaceae
Lettuce, wild *Lactuca sp* Asteraceae
Madrone, Pacific *Arbutus menziesii* Ericaceae
Madrone, Strawberry *Arbutus uneda* Ericaceae
Mallow *Malva neglecta* Malvaceae
Maple, big leaf *Acer macrophyllum* Aceraceae
Maple, vine *Acer circinatum* Aceraceae
Mock orange *Philadelphus sp* Saxifragaceae

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Mountain ash *Sorbus sitchensis* Rosaceae
Nipplewort *Lapsana communis* Asteraceae
Oak *Quercus sp* Fagaceae
Oceanspray *Holodiscus discolor* Rosaceae
Oregon grape *Mahonia aquifolium*, *Mahonia nervosa* Berberidaceae
Osoberry / Indian plum *Osmaronia cerasiformis* Rosaceae
Pearly everlasting *Anaphalis margaritacea* Asteraceae
Periwinkle *Vinca major*, *V. minor* Apocynaceae
Pineapple weed *Maticaria matricarioides* Asteraceae
Pine *Pinus sp* Pinaceae
Pittosporum *Pittosporum sp* Pittosporaceae
Plantain *Plantago major*, *P. lanceolata* Plantaginaceae
Poison oak *Rhus diversiloba* Anacardiaceae
Queen Anne's lace *Daucus carota* Apiaceae
Raspberry *Rubus strigosus* Rosaceae
Rhododendron *Rhododendron sp* Ericaceae
Rose, wild *Rosa gymnocarpa*, *R. nutkana* Rosaceae
Rush *Juncus sp* Juncaceae
Salsify/Oyster plant *Tragopogon sp* Asteraceae
Scots broom *Cytisus scoparius* Fabaceae
Sedge *Carex sp* Cyperaceae
Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris* Laminaceae
Sheep sorrel *Rumex acetosella* Polygonaceae
Shepherd's purse *Capsella bursa-pastoris* Cruciferae
Snowberry *Symphoricarpos mollis* Lonicerae
Solomon's seal, branched/false, star-flowered *Smilicina racemosa*, *S. stellata* Liliaceae
St Johnswort *Hypericum perforatum* Hypericaceae
Strawberry *Fragaria vesca* Rosaceae
Sword fern *Polystichum munitum* Polypodiaceae
Tansy ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* Asteraceae
Thimbleberry *Rubus parviflorus* Rosaceae
Thistle *Cirsium sp* Asteraceae
Trillium *Trillium sp* Liliaceae
Uva ursi *Arctostaphylos uva ursi* Ericaceae
Vetch *Vicia sp* Fabaceae
Viburnum *Viburnum sp* Caprifoliaceae
Violets *Viola sp* Violaceae
Weigela *Weigela (Dievilla) sp* Caprifoliaceae
Witch hazel *Hamamelis sp* Hamamelidaceae
Willow *Salix sp* Salicaceae
Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* Asteraceae

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Youth-on-age/Piggyback plant *Tolmiea menziesii* Saxifragaceae

Yellow dock *Rumex crispus* Polygonaceae

Yew *Taxus sp* Taxaceae

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Tabor Park is a 196-acre city park located in southeast Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon. It is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of its association with early park planning achievements in Portland. The birth of this park characterizes the style by which many of Portland's parks, and the nation's parks, were obtained and developed through active citizen involvement in cooperation with the city government. Mount Tabor Park's story also illustrates how park design shifted with national trends, from a formalized European mode to a more naturalistic style, with later accommodations for the recreation/playground movement. The chronicle of Mount Tabor Park falls into the larger context of periods of park creation and development in the history of the United States. The earlier portion of the park's history, in the waning nineteenth century and emerging twentieth century, coincides with the City Beautiful movement's influence regarding the importance of parks and landscape on society. The ideas of these times held sway through the several decades of the Progressive Era. Also important in the park's development were the New Deal work programs of the 1930s, established during the years of the Great Depression.

Mount Tabor Park is also eligible as an example of Landscape Architecture under Criterion C because of its association with John Charles Olmsted, who identified it as a prime park location in 1903. Mount Tabor Park's design clearly exhibits elements that are associated with design principles followed by the Olmsted landscaping firm. John Charles Olmsted was the stepson and nephew of the famous landscape planner Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. Frederick Law Olmsted is credited as being one of the prime instigators of the City Beautiful movement. Commissioned to aid in the planning of Portland's Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905, his firm was also retained to review the city of Portland's existing and potential parklands. After John C. Olmsted's 21-day visit to Portland in April 1903, he produced his report to the Portland Park Board in December of 1903. Thirty-seven park projects were identified in Olmsted's 1903 Report to the Park Board, Mount Tabor Park among them. Olmsted's document has continued to shape the city's park planning to this day. In 1907, the Olmsted firm completed another review of Portland's parks, building on the earlier 1903 recommendations.

Mount Tabor Park's original design was created by Emanuel Tillman Mische, an outstanding horticulturist who had trained and worked at the Olmsted firm for eight years before being referred by them for the position of Portland's park superintendent. Mische was hired by the City of Portland in 1908. Emanuel Mische had a continuing relationship with the Olmsted family beyond that of an employee. On John Olmsted's subsequent visits they collaborated on various aspects of Portland's park planning and implementation. Mische's 1911 park design for Mount Tabor Park stayed true to the recommendations as discussed by Olmsted's report to the Park Board of 1903. Mount Tabor Park has maintained the look and feel of a park designed using the principles touted by the Olmsted firm in part due to the continuity afforded by Mische's assistant, Charles P. Keyser. Hired in 1909, the year of Mount Tabor's official park status, Keyser was made the superintendent of Portland's parks in 1917 where he remained until 1949.

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Criterion A: Mount Tabor Park Development Influenced by the Progressive Era, City Beautiful Movement, and the New Deal

Mount Tabor Park meets the guidelines for Criterion A as an example of the city of Portland's early park planning. This story is not unlike so many other parks across the country. Civic leaders in Portland sought outside council, specifically the Olmsted landscape firm, to plan not only the site for the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition, but to review lands suitable for parks. Mount Tabor Park was one among many identified by John Charles Olmsted's 1903 Report to the Park Board. The active acquisition of the land that makes up the park and the park design occurred with local funding during the Progressive Era and included the influence of the City Beautiful movement at the turn of the nineteenth to the twentieth century. Work on Mount Tabor Park's amenities continued through the next decades with the ebb and flow of local funding. With the Great Depression came federal aid through the New Deal programs of the 1930s. Money was channeled to all levels of government to produce public works projects that would employ millions of jobless people. Mount Tabor Park, like so many other recreation sites around the country, benefited by work crews who created well-crafted infrastructure and amenities. In the case of Mount Tabor Park, Works Progress Administration crews completed the drive system as it was originally designed in the 1911 plan prepared by Emanuel Tillman Mische. Other W.P.A. projects related to the construction of park maintenance buildings, drainage and clearing understory plants were undertaken at Mount Tabor Park.

Progressive Era and City Beautiful Movement Stimulate Park and Urban Planning

The sweeping social and political changes that occurred during the ending years of the 1800s and the early years of the 1900s mark what is called the Progressive Era. Reform movements grew and created policies and institutions still powerful today. Progressive individuals and groups believed that it was possible to improve human nature by bettering living and working conditions. Women, from local civic clubs to scientists like Ellen Swallow Richards from M.I.T., were instrumental in providing leadership for the municipal housekeeping movement that spawned environmental consciousness and general improvements throughout the nation.

The Progressive Era emerged as the United States faced the end of the frontier. Settlement stretched from coast to coast. The population of the country burgeoned, tripling in size from thirty million in the 1860s to ninety million by 1910. Cities rapidly expanded with immigration, and migration from farms to urban jobs. Land became much more valuable as it became scarcer. Progressives grappled with the side effects of an unmitigated free enterprise system. Urban life brought the classes in close contact with each other, though the upper class could retreat to their estates. A compelling sense of responsibility to contribute to the community in positive ways grew, extending from the traditional philanthropy of the upper class to include the growing middle class. Whereas the upper class did not need to rely on public land for their recreation, the growing middle class and the lower classes needed access to land for recreation. Labor unions were edging industry toward providing shorter work hours for laborers thus city dwellers tended to have more time for recreational interests. The subjugation of nature by automobiles and urban development contributed to a growing sense of nostalgia for the lost rural roots of America. Reform movements emerged as the public faced the Industrial Revolution head-on. Among the movements was the so-called City Beautiful movement.

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The City Beautiful movement grew out of this time of reform to address not only architecture but city planning at a time when urban areas were expanding exponentially with little concern for aesthetics or other planning criteria. Advocates of the City Beautiful movement promulgated that beautification would not only provide a more pleasing environment, but that individuals and thus society as a whole, would exhibit greater moral and civic virtues.

The City Beautiful movement's precepts strove to encourage city governments to set aside bountiful land for present and future enjoyment and to build beauty into every development. The movement preached that the incentives for doing so included a better, more affluent society of engaged citizens. There was an agreement that pleasant neighborhoods that included gardens, squares, tree-lined boulevards and parkways or other park-like land, as well as properties overlooking grand vistas and waterscapes, increased real estate value and increased the tax base.

Land use planning had not emerged as a strong feature in the forge-ahead economic development of United States cities in the middle of the nineteenth century. Yet well-established and crowded eastern urban areas had prominent people influenced by the grand beauty of European designed cities, parks and gardens, who demanded and helped to fund, lovely public spaces. Places like New York City, Boston and Washington, D.C. became famous for their parks and landscapes, and the designers of these landscapes found themselves in high demand. There was a sense of competitiveness between cities as they vied for attracting business and residents. This competitive spirit was exemplified by the international events known as the World Expositions.

Designed to promote the latest achievements in industry and technology, as well as to showcase the products and virtues of a region, the expos were meant to inspire the possibilities of creating an aesthetic and healthful city environment. The first were conceived and executed in Europe – London 1851, Paris 1889, London again, and Vienna. Chicago's World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, though not the first expo for the country, was a pivotal event for the United States. Four hundred years after Columbus, the nation was eager to demonstrate its glamour and abilities in comparison with the acknowledged distinction of Europe's far more historic cities. Known as the "White City" due to the extensive use of white paint applied to cover the plaster architectural features, Chicago's expo was a testament to classical Greek and Roman architecture and relied extensively on the elaborate Beaux Arts style, popularized by French schools of architecture. Design guidelines were utilized to create harmonious architectural scale. The highly designed landscape featured the local waterway as an aesthetic component whereas urban rivers and lakes were primarily monopolized by industry and suffered grave environmental consequences. The World's Columbian Exposition put the City Beautiful movement soundly on the map and influenced cities of all sizes across the land to develop beautification programs of their own.

Chicago's Columbian Exposition advanced the field of professional landscape design just as the Progressive Era, in the zeal to outsmart political cronyism, had hatched the trend to hire an outside professional consultant. The City Beautiful married the two and the landscape design field took off. Cities and prominent citizens were anxious to hire experts, like the Olmsteds, to help with urban and estate landscapes. If the city wanted to host an expo, there was even a greater incentive for creating an image of desirability. Such was the case for Portland in

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1903, when John C. Olmsted was commissioned to help the city prepare for the Lewis and Clark Exposition of 1905.

The City Beautiful movement pushed for park planning as part of a national trend toward political and social reform that had grown with the burgeoning of American business, and the swelling population. The influence of this movement went right to the top level of public policy makers. Concern for the conservation of public lands was advanced by President Theodore Roosevelt. While his interests included art (he was an early member of the elite National Arts Club) and general political and commercial accountability, he is credited with championing the conservation of land for public parks. During his time as president, approximately 230 million acres were placed in public protection. His terms in office, between 1901 and 1909, first completing the assassinated William McKinley's three years followed by his own successful four year term, were very instrumental in forming the National Parks and National Monument systems, the U.S. Forest Service, and game and bird refuges. A clear policy of conservation coming from Washington, D.C. helped to foster the state and local park systems we know today. The push to acquire the land for Mount Tabor Park closely corresponds to Teddy Roosevelt's term, and a majority of the land parcels purchased by the city of Portland for Mount Tabor Park and other parks occurred in 1909.

The women's suffrage movement, an important component of the Progressive Era, had a profound effect on park planning. Even without the right to vote, women worked at the local and state levels to promote a common agenda of moral obligations to women and children. Kindergarten and other school programs, awareness of child labor practices and the playground movement came out of these efforts. New Jersey passed the first comprehensive state legislation in 1907 establishing a playground commission. Whereas the City Beautiful movement had emphasized the need for aesthetically, naturalistically designed land separated by space or landscape from the urban environment, a growing number of urban families demanded open space for active recreation.

Post World War I: Recreation Movement Continues

The time between the two Roosevelt presidents, from 1909 to 1933, was pivotal for the nation's evaluation of outdoor recreation. Many parks were established by the first decade of the twentieth century. The population clamored for more park amenities, as well as more parks, but lack of funding, the restrictive atmosphere imposed by World War I and the world wide influenza pandemic, had hampered the development of services on parklands. Nationally, as labor unions and public opinion swayed the labor force toward shorter work hours, people had more leisure time. The predominating urban environments, as opposed to the rural lifestyle, increased the demand by the public for recreational land and facilities. In general, people had more time and more mobility, especially with the private automobile, which also contributed to a declining rate of physical activity.

In 1924 the Federal Government held the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation in Washington, D.C. at the request of President Calvin Coolidge. Three-hundred delegates from one-hundred-twenty-eight national organizations attended. The conference was designed to assist in the formulation of a national policy "to

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coordinate the activities of federal, state, county, municipal and unofficial agencies in the field of outdoor recreation and to promote the development of the recreational resources of the country and stimulate their use.” The conference was also to encourage the promotion of conservation and wise administration of the nation’s natural resources. This conference was followed two years later with the passage of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, through Congress, that authorized the Secretary of the Interior to exchange, sell (at low cost) or lease unreserved non-mineral public lands to states, counties and municipalities for the purpose of recreation.

This time of park acquisition was followed by a time of development during the next decade. While the country suffered economic collapse in 1929 and private development languished, public lands benefited. John Olmsted, in his 1903 Report to the Park Board, had noted that economic hard times could be used for good advantage both in the acquisition and development of parks. The stock-market crash of October 1929 was a major turning point for American life on nearly every front. Desperation was a driving force of individuals as well as all levels of government.

The New Deal: Development of Park Amenities

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR), who served from 1933 until 1945, during the trying times of the Great Depression and World War II, established the work relief programs of the New Deal. In the face of the desperate depression times of the 1930s, FDR’s administration worked to shore-up the economy of the nation by providing jobs for unemployed Americans. By providing funding for public works projects through the Public Works Administration and direct employment through the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, the federal government was able to assist states and local governments proceed with developing public amenities. Many parks, including more than 800 state parks, were developed through the direct employment agencies of the New Deal.

The Works Progress Administration, later called the Work Projects Administration, employed 8.5 million people on 1.4 million public projects to improve America’s infrastructure, arts, history and culture. The Civilian Conservation Corps, under the Emergency Conservation Work program, put men to work developing recreational facilities in forests and parks, preventing soil erosion, and planting trees. Parks around the country were upgraded and Portland’s parks were no exception. Work crews from this era left their mark on Mount Tabor Park, executing Mische’s earlier design intentions from the mid-1930s until 1939.

Out of this period emerged principles regarding parks and natural resources and federal laws, such as Public Law 770 1/2 of 1936 that provided for a comprehensive study of parks, parkways, and recreation programs in the United States. Another federal study entitled, “Municipal and County Parks in the United States 1935” included data on every state including 1,216 cities in seventy-seven counties that was to be compared to the 1925-1926 study on recreation facilities. In 1941, a federal document outlining guidelines for the nation’s recreation entitled, “A Study of the Park and Recreation Problem in the United States,” made strong recommendations that the majority of recreational needs should be the responsibility of state and local governments.

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World War II interrupted the momentum for park planning that had been gained during the 1920s and 1930s. It was not until the mid- to late -1950s that federal efforts pushed forward with the Mission 66 program, spurring once again park planning and development on all government levels. The boom times of the post-war nation encouraged housing developments and a new suburban expansion. Once again, there was much pressure for park land developments as housing and business continued to edge out the rural landscape.

Early Park Development: The Process in Portland, Oregon

The story of the creation of Mount Tabor Park, which was the largest park in Portland until the 1940s, is an illustration of the way many public parks were conceived. Its establishment took the will and the cooperation of civic-minded and influential individuals including members of the mayor-appointed Park Board, politicians and ultimately voters to give the mandate on funding. Very important in this mix were the outside influences of experts in the field, members of the Olmsted firm, including their former horticulturist, Emanuel Tillman Mische, whose vision and expertise helped manifest the beginnings of John C. Olmsted's park plan for Portland. Mount Tabor Park and Portland's entire park system benefited from the continuity of management style carried on by Mische's assistant, Charles Paul Keyser who was park superintendent until 1949.

A clear policy on publicly owned parkland had not developed nationally but it was in process by the turn of the century. There was a sense of rivalry between cities as policy makers tried to determine how much land was appropriate for parks. Hiring the Olmsted firm and hosting a world's fair helped Portland gain a reputation as a city that invested in planning and parkland. Portland began to get inquiries from city governments around the nation, some wanting to "borrow" the Olmsted report. In May of 1907 a letter from H. A. Shatuck addressed to Portland's Park Commissioners said, "We are in the throes of park agitation here in Boulder."¹ Walter D. Moody, the managing director of the Chicago Plan Commission in 1912, requested the total present park area and the total proposed park area (if any) for a national report on park acreage of leading American cities. Philadelphia, Boulder and Chehalis, Washington made similar inquiries to Portland.² Park planning eventually progressed to city planning. In the year 1909, the same year that Mount Tabor Park was pieced together, land use planning emerged as a budding profession. That year the first national conference on city planning was held, Harvard University's first course on city planning was offered, and Wisconsin passed legislation authorizing cities to create planning commissions.

The City Beautiful movement propelled the nation toward park development fueled by expositions like Chicago's in 1893. But expos not only generated models of planning, they also fostered growth in the hosting city as they were extensively advertised and attended by millions of people. Portland's Lewis and Clark Exposition, open from June until October 1905, expanded the city's population and boundaries sizably. Even with design expertise from consultants like Olmsted and planner Edward Bennett, the burgeoning growth made it a challenge to carry the City Beautiful tenets from the fantasy world of the expo to the filthy, crowded streets and waterways of the real urban world. The "White City" and Portland's own exposition of 1905 were artificially produced, short-term fantasies, produced to create wealth for the promoters, as well as for the region and concerns that were featured. The designs and recommendations of the designing consultants seemed far-fetched to some government and business leaders. Land use decisions were complicated by the special interests

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of developers and industrialists who held powerful sway over elected politicians. The amounts of park land, the amenities to develop, the numbers of street trees, while looking good in theory, did not always seem attainable or sustainable. Park acquisition and development were closely tied with fickle economic trends as well as voter attitude. Elections, such as the discouraging ones in Portland in 1912 and 1913, proved that citizens were not entirely sold on the City Beautiful's concepts or if they were, they did not want to put their money where their beliefs were.

Civic Visionaries Guide Park Development Process

The city of Portland's effort at deliberate park planning, like other cities, was the culmination of a process. It involved civic conversation and action between city and state government and principal families of influence or people who were closely allied to them, plus hired professionals such as John C. Olmsted, Emanuel T. Mische and later Edward H. Bennett who submitted the "Greater Portland Plan" in 1912. A precedent had been set for municipal ownership when the Water Committee developed the city-owned Bull Run system in 1894. A number of the same civic elite members served as early Park Commissioners and on the Exposition Committee and they were instrumental in helping to initiate and guide the process toward a public park system. A major win for proponents of parks was the amendment of Portland's City Charter by the state legislature in 1899 and the referendum in 1900 to authorize the Portland Park Association and Board of Park Commissioners.

Portland's far-sighted citizens were able to harness the money and vitality of the city and look beyond its borders for talent, true to the trend of their day. Portland Park Commissioner, the Reverend Thomas Lamb Eliot, of the First Unitarian Church, utilized his connection to the influential east coast park movement and he was integral to the foundation of the parks system that Portland enjoys today. Reverend T.L. Eliot paid a visit to the Olmsted offices and set the deal for John Charles Olmsted, also a member of the Unitarian Church, to visit both Portland and Seattle. The Reverend Eliot's relative was Charles Eliot (1859 -1897) whose father, Charles William Eliot, was the president of Harvard College. The junior Eliot was a member of the Olmsted, Olmsted and Elliot landscape architecture firm in Brookline, Massachusetts. Charles Eliot is credited with helping to craft Massachusetts state legislation for the protection of public lands. This eventually led to the legislation that created the Boston Metropolitan Parks System in a large part due to his 1890 piece entitled "Waverly Oaks," a landmark article defending a stand of virgin trees in Belmont, Massachusetts. Charles Eliot greatly influenced the younger John Charles Olmsted, his business partner. In his plan for Portland parks, Olmsted repeatedly reminds Portland of the value of its forestland: "Many of the older cities would now pay very high prices for land covered with the primeval forest which the early inhabitants destroyed and which might once have been obtained for a few dollars an acre," he wrote. Of Mount Tabor, Olmsted said, "It has been sufficiently cleared to open up all the important views from one point or another of it, yet there still survive considerable groves of the original growth of fir trees, including many tall ones, as well as other trees and shrubs."³ Presently, Mount Tabor Park represents the only sizable, naturalistic forest left in the heart of east side Portland.

While Eliot did the east coast leg-work for orchestrating Olmsted's visit, another member of the Park Commission, Lester Leander Hawkins, bank and electric utility president, escorted Olmsted and his assistant around Portland, including Mount Tabor, in the spring of 1903. Hawkins dreamed of a trail and driveway

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network along the summit and valleys of the west hills from Macleay Park to south Portland. His vision, strengthened by the Olmsted report, has carried through the century. It laid the groundwork for conservationists and preservationists to develop Portland's largest network of trail systems. Nearly half a century later, with the help of a new set of citizens, Hawkins' vision became manifest with an elaborate trail system throughout the west hills. The crowning glory of this system, Forest Park, made official in the 1940s, is a forest reserve of over five-thousand acres that allowed Portland to boast of having one of the largest urban parks in the world. The view of this long, green ridge of parkland running north of the cityscape of Portland's downtown, provides one of the prized sights visible from the west side vista points of Mount Tabor Park.

Funding and Acquisition: Emanuel Mische Takes the Helm

Early correspondence, coupled with officially produced park reports, helps tell the tale of Portland's difficulties in developing a clear and consistent policy on parks. The Olmsted report of 1903 and follow-up report in 1907 chronicle the indecision that existed in Portland. There was a clear hesitation to commit lands to parks by some interests and politicians. There was an unhesitating group of citizens, and some politicians, that were dedicated to the park effort. In between were the vast number of average voting and tax-paying citizens subject to the pendulum of influences, especially economic concerns. To some, parks posed what was seen as multiple problems including the tying up of potentially more profitable land bases, development and maintenance costs, policing and administration costs, as well as liability risks. Those who did not support parks generally saw these same challenges even with donated park land. To others, parks were absolutely necessary for the health and well-being of a community on all levels, including economic.

Portland's records show that, overall, the city needed strong encouragement from civic sources, in addition to public funding, to acquire and develop parks. A major aid to increasing park acreage in Portland came from the Water Bureau's land holdings, some of which, like Mount Tabor Park, served two roles. These jointly owned and managed properties presented challenges to funding and management. The Olmsted and Mische park reports consistently addressed complicated issues in order to help the politicians and the community sort out priorities and options for acquiring, funding and managing parks.

Though John C. Olmsted had given Portland a thorough evaluation of park priorities in his report of 1903, the city had taken little action on his recommendations. Prior to 1909, Portland's parks were limited in size (approximately 165 acres of parkland in 1900) and most were gifted properties on the west side of the Willamette River (approximately 128 acres west, 37 acres east.) Parks were not dictated by a city-led plan. The Park Commissions Report of 1901 rallied a call for action by the citizens and the city to move forward on park development that led to the visit of John Charles Olmsted in 1903. The City Beautiful movement inspired a civic organization, The Initiative One Hundred, that promoted an integrated park system. Together with Portland's Park Board there was motivation to implement Olmsted's plan for parks.

When in 1906, Mayor Harry Lane took the helm of the Portland Park Board, coupled with support from a December 8, 1906 *Oregonian* piece expounding on the benefits of carefully implementing park design in collaboration with a competent engineer, the tide truly did turn toward creating momentum for park

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development. Mayor Lane asked the Olmsted firm for their advice on securing a park superintendent. John Olmsted recommended Emanuel Mische, but Mische had just started a new job as Madison, Wisconsin's park superintendent. The Park Board hired Arthur D. Monteith instead.

Under Monteith's leadership, the Portland Park Association planned a bond issue in 1907 for \$1,000,000 to carry out the Olmsted plan of 1903. It narrowly passed in June of that year. A challenge to the validity of the bond held up the funds, but \$5,000 was allocated to retain the Olmsted firm again, with the anticipation of the eventual availability of the bond funds. Olmsted's colleague and member of the firm, James Frederick Dawson preceded Olmsted's arrival by three weeks in November 1907. It was Dawson who did much of the foot and paperwork in the complicated process of land value assessment. Olmsted's two-and-a-half weeks were spent on private enterprise with some of Portland's most elite families. For the city of Portland, Olmsted focused on defining boundary descriptions for nine parks and parkways. The Olmsted report, delivered by Dawson, was well received by the Park Board in December of 1907 and provided a roadmap to moving ahead with park acquisitions, though elevated property values limited the buying power of the available funds to approximately one-half of the proposed parklands.

By the time the first installment of the \$1,000,000 bond issue became available for use, Emanuel Mische had replaced Arthur Monteith as Portland's park superintendent. Mische brought to Portland a remarkable range of experience and skill. Born in Syracuse, New York in 1870, his training in horticulture included stints at Arnold Arboretum at Harvard as well as the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. He was hired by the Olmsted firm when John Charles and Frederick Law, Jr. began their official partnership in 1898, and stayed on for eight years, becoming a friend and a colleague of the Olmsted family. It was Mische who penned the tribute to John Charles Olmsted in the April 1920 journal, *Parks and Recreation*. He became editor of a department of this magazine the next year. Mische eventually left the Olmsted firm to become park superintendent of Madison, Wisconsin at the recommendation of John C. Olmsted. On a second Olmsted recommendation, Mische landed the Portland superintendent position in the spring of 1908. Emanuel Mische had worked for a limited salary in Madison and regretted the small salary offered by Portland. The perks of a more suitable climate, a rent-free abode in City Park (negotiated by Olmsted) and the hope for private design work encouraged Mische, acclaimed by the Olmsted's as one of the country's most esteemed horticulturists, to move with his family to Portland. The story of his interactions with Portland's Park Board, City Hall, and the voters illustrate the challenges that were presented to park development, even with a highly capable professional such as Mische. He came to Portland with prior knowledge, gained through the previous visits of John Olmsted, of the concern that the city had for expenditures related to park acquisition and development.

The purchasing and condemning process that resulted in Mount Tabor Park, as well as other east side parks and the west side Terwilliger Boulevard in 1909, stirred up plenty of heated dialog as developing neighborhoods jockeyed for parkland. While many thought that it should be a priority to develop parks, others, like Mayor Joseph Simon, elected in 1909, seemed to believe the opposite. He was against tying up private land for public parks since he felt that Portland was, by its nature, a natural park. This attitude, along with the limitation of accessible funding from the previous bond and the threat of a decreased payroll for the Park Department,

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created difficulties for the new Superintendent Mische. Nonetheless, he went ahead with his design of six parks, including Mount Tabor Park, and a boulevard, as well as attending to his regular duties of supervision.

East and West Side Dynamics: Portland's Citizen Groups Encourage Park Development

As the west coast of the United States' population burgeoned, Portland's was no exception. Portland's west side, backed up to the west hills, hosted the old establishment of affluent families and their gifted park properties. The broad, relatively flat plain of the east side of the Willamette River, however, was the fastest growing section of the city. By 1915 sixty percent of Portland's population lived on the east side of the river. Old money land speculation deals were building subdivisions on the eastside, such as Ladd's Addition, Laurelhurst and Irvington. Between the developers' interests, the sheer numbers of residents and the citizen clubs, the east side was developing a strong voice for parks and other public services.

This civic movement manifested itself in the style of "push clubs" that were especially active east of the Willamette River. Letters, petitions, and visits to the Park Board from these groups were continuous. The year 1905, the same year of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, push club activity was escalated with petitions and sizable attendance at Park Board meetings. It was in this year that the first mayor, Harry Lane, was elected from east Portland. The mayor was the official chairman of the Park Board. In November 1905, Park Commissioner Lang tried to assure the east side push clubs that though the present park acreage was three-hundred-seventy-five, the Park Board was planning not only east side parks, but a parkway and boulevard system to connect them. He included in his list Sellwood, Rose City, North Albina, Columbia River and also Mount Tabor parks for a total of one-thousand acres. Lang added that the goal was for three-thousand acres of parks and boulevards and of that, five-sixths should be east of the Willamette River. He suggested that the pending \$1,000,000 bond was but a drop in the \$10,000,000 bucket of monies to be found for parks.

Despite these encouraging words and continued agitation, years passed without action by the city to create new parklands. Land prices and population following the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition rose exponentially. Just as some people were feeling an urgency to put aside national lands, there was a growing concern that the rural-like qualities of large areas of Portland were rapidly being subdivided and urbanized. Emanuel Mische built a case to the Park Board that it was absolutely essential to acquire certain tracts to be included in the park system, "...some are so essential, both as strong local characteristics, distinctively native and excellent landscape features that to exclude them would be to very seriously impair the quality and value of the system. Such an element in the proposed system is the dual knoll eminence known as Mt. Tabor," he said.

An *Oregonian* article ran in November 1908 headlining: "Want Park at Mt. Tabor: East siders think ground should be bought now. Committee to appear before park commission today, setting forth wishes of United Push Clubs" The committee wanted action, "...for it has seemed to many citizens that little or no progress is being made toward securing a park at Mount Tabor, or anywhere else."⁴ The article alluded to the fact that the City was contemplating two new reservoirs in the park. The east side push clubs had had a design in hand for several years amounting to a minimum of 169 acres.

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Agitation finally yielded results as this March 1909 *Oregonian* piece illustrated, "Parks to be Bought: Mount Tabor Property Recommended by Boards. Value is over \$300,000. System of reservoirs to be built to be used with new pipeline that will be constructed – Price agreed on is reasonable."⁵ It is not surprising that Mount Tabor landowner and owner of the *Oregonian*, Henry Pittock, would deem the price reasonable. He and his wife had been paid one of the highest amounts by the city in the scramble to acquire Mount Tabor properties. Having the Water Board responsible for about one quarter of the costs of the land may have helped spur on acquiring additional acres.

The slow acquisition of land dedicated for parks was a source of disappointment for public park supporters and Olmsted, who returned to Portland a number of times between 1903 and 1911. Pressure from citizen groups and the Park Board, coupled with public relations, was pivotal in helping to spur action and get the \$1,000,000 bond measure passed in 1907 that allowed land purchases to commence. Citizen groups were also strong advocates for development money. When finally Mount Tabor Park was beginning to officially materialize, the Mount Tabor Improvement Association passed a resolution claiming that the \$15,000 made available for development of the, "new Williams Park at Mount Tabor... was totally inadequate to do justice to the improvements contemplated on this centrally located and natural park site..."⁶ The resolution recommended \$25,000.

Amidst the planning of the park, a controversy was emerging regarding the naming of the park. Mount Tabor was the traditional name of a large portion of the east Portland area, more than twice the size of the present Mount Tabor neighborhood. The Mount Tabor of Palestine (now Israel) is the namesake of the Mount Tabor in Portland, probably bestowed by an early settler in the 1850s. Many churches, businesses and developments referred to Mount Tabor in their names and by the early 1900s the name Mount Tabor was rooted in the city. In April of 1910, an ordinance provided that the, "public park on Mt. Tabor shall be designated as Williams Park in honor of the late George Henry Williams (1823 - 1910.)"⁷ Williams had served in national and local politics for half a century including being a U.S. Senator from Oregon, U.S. Attorney General, and the mayor of Portland from 1902 – 1905. Influential citizen input kept the name Williams Park from ever gaining a toe-hold, and the name reverted back to Mount Tabor Park.

Mount Tabor Park: Acquisition and Development

Prior to the large-scale acquisitions of land to create Mount Tabor Park in 1909, the surrounding community had unofficially used the land as "park" and for hunting and gathering for decades. Deer and bear were hunted according to accounts of early settlers such as the Kelly and the Prettyman families who had large land claims at the base of the butte prior to 1850. A deed dated July 21, 1888 states that Buell and Helen Lamberson dedicated a tract of land to the city as designated "park." This land may have corresponded to the Water Committee and the early reservoirs completed in 1894. John C. Olmsted used the title of Mount Tabor Park in his "Report to the Park Board" of 1903 and he pointed out that the butte was already being used for recreation. This was one of the facts he promulgated to build a case for the city to acquire the land for a park.⁸ By the time the city moved ahead with land acquisitions for the park several years later, property prices had soared. A sizable chunk of the money garnered through the bond measure was spent on Mount Tabor butte. The city spent approximately \$426,000 on forty or more properties in the creation of Mount Tabor Park in 1909. From 1908 through 1910,

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lots of varying sizes were purchased, with a flurry of activity throughout 1909. Property prices paid by the city ranged from \$1 paid to the Commercial Trust Company, to \$37,500 paid to land speculator Henry L. Pittock, owner of the daily newspaper, the *Oregonian*. Some people sold their deeds for \$10, stipulating that the property was only to be used as a public park. A number of cases went to court in condemnation proceedings. The average price paid per deed, if the two extremely high deals are excluded, was approximately \$6,500. Charles Paul Keyser, in his reflections on forty years in the service of Portland's parks, first as Mische's engineer and later as superintendent, said, "In 1909 most of the high ground was still in more or less neglected ownership following a real estate bust of the nineties."⁹ By December 1909, the Park Board reported, "When the court proceedings are completed, all the top and side slopes of that high eminence rising out of the east side plain will be public property. The views in the four directions on the compass will ever more be under public control. Nothing short of skyscrapers on contiguous property will ever destroy these views."¹⁰ In a personal report in 1961, Keyser said of Mische's involvement with attaining Mount Tabor Park, "In my estimation making Mt. Tabor a most outstanding feature of our park system was his greatest single achievement, even if he was disappointed in failing to acquire the property fronting on S.E. 60th Avenue between Reservoirs #6 and #2, and a more ample margin on the eastern slope."¹¹

Shifting Trends: Active Recreation, Funding Woes, Park Board Abolished

In 1908, Mische began his new job in Portland just in time to face two important changes in park design, the automobile and playgrounds. The automobile was integral to Mische's design of Mount Tabor Park, but it was also the automobile and its potential to do harm to children playing in the streets that helped to prompt the playground movement. Begun in New York City, playgrounds addressed tenement dwelling families with limited access to safe outdoor spaces. In addition, changes in land use and labor laws left children and adults alike with more leisure time. Portland followed the national shift from parks for beauty and passive recreation to an emphasis on active recreation. It was the women of the United States who vociferously lobbied for playgrounds; in Portland, the Play Ground Committee of the People's Institute included the wives of some of the most influential men in the city. Their report to the Park Board in 1907, regarding the new Park Blocks playground, provides valuable insight into Portland's early playground development. A female supervisor, hired by the institute, was responsible for the three months that the facility was open. There were separate girls' and boys' blocks. The average attendance was 40 children of mixed ethnic backgrounds between the ages of 7 and 9 years. Much of the remaining report recites the myriad of park rules per a city ordinance. In May of 1907, the Park Board received a letter from President Theodore Roosevelt as the honorary president of the Playground Association of America, requesting the attendance of the Playground Committee at the first annual meeting of the association in Chicago. Dues ranged from \$1 to \$1000 and members received the magazine, "The Playground." In 1911, the same year that California women gained voting rights (Oregon was the following year), a representative from the Women's Congress addressed the Parks Board regarding creating an exhibit of playground "apparatus" at an exposition to be held at the Armory. Mische was given the authority to act on this recommendation. Mische reported to Mrs. Stella W. Durham in March of 1914, that Portland had twelve playgrounds and he told her, "We spent for playgrounds in 1913, approximately \$25,000."¹²

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The year 1913 saw big changes in Portland's city government as the Parks Board, along with most of the other boards, was abolished. The City Charter was adopted that allowed for a council form of government. This change in July 1913, meant that Superintendent Mische reported to the elected official, Commissioner of Public Works, instead of the appointed Park Board. The Bureau of Parks was created under the authority of the commissioner. It appears that this was an awkward time of transition. In the words of Charles P. Keyser, "He (Mische, ed.) failed to click with the new regime, struggled along bravely for a couple of years longer, and in 1915 stepped down..." Mische was replaced by J.C. Convill, appointed by Commissioner Brewster. Keyser went on to say, "He (Convill, ed.) had been a notable college athlete. His extensive background in sports and savvy of publicity made him especially useful to Brewster who was rather inclined to promoting recreational activities with such appropriations as he could wrangle, until the time would be right to plug for more bond or other capital expenditure."¹³

By this time, the Olmstedian-City Beautiful influence on park planning had begun to shift. Mische and others outside of the political arena hoped to see some of the beautification projects, such as parkways and boulevards outlined in Edward H. Bennett's 1912 "Greater Portland Plan" plan, come to fruition. Though commissioned with money from the "city beautiful fund" established by Mayor Joseph Simon in 1909 during the frenzy of park acquisitions, the Bennett plan's arrival was ill-timed. The new Bureau of Parks pulled away from parks and boulevards for beauty and inspiration and more toward active recreation whose cost and liability could be shared by the developing school system. The national conversation regarding the social benefits of parks had turned its attention more to the value of keeping youth, especially boys, out of trouble with supervised organized sports. The trend centered on recreation centers, and generally smaller parks, featuring sports fields rather than providing inspiration and relaxation within the confines of an aesthetically pleasing, larger park. The new city commissioner echoed this new trend. Visionary superintendents, skilled in horticulture and park design, were not deemed as necessary as maintenance and recreation supervisory personnel. Complicating the parks issues even more was the reluctance of tax-paying citizens to pass the parks' bond measure asking for \$2 million that was brought to the voters and failed in 1912 and 1913.

After the first bond defeat in November of 1912, Mische recommended that a full-scale report be presented to the public as an educational tool and an encouragement to support Portland's parks. Five years of reports were published as the Annual Reports of the Park Board 1908-1912, issued in March 1913. It was an unabashed appeal for funding. The report contained many photographs of Portland's parks and graphs and mapping to illustrate Portland's park deficit in comparison to other cities such as Chicago, Kansas City, Detroit, Cincinnati, San Francisco, Spokane and others. Portland's park acreage, per person, ranked lower than all of those cities. The report emphasized how politically clean the process would be for acquiring parkland. The closing remarks were emphatically pointed along the lines of the precepts of the City Beautiful movement: "Final admonition is given that our rate of progress has not been commensurate with our material or population growth nor has it been adequate to keep us abreast of a financially or economically wise or proper social betterment requirement. The Board would urge that the citizens take such action on the park project as to prove our readiness and our foresight in rising to our opportunities and by demonstrating our public spirit, enterprise and civic courage assist in taking enviable rank among the most favored cities of the nation."

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Mount Tabor Park was to receive a sizeable portion, \$69,800, of the anticipated bond money to get it in "first class condition." In anticipation of the election, an extensive article appeared in the *Oregonian* in the late summer entitled, "Mt. Tabor Park Plans Elaborate. Sylvan paths designed. Slow progress." Complaints of the inaccessibility of the park, especially during the wettest months of the year, led Mische to remark, "With a few improvements such as construction of walks, drives, proper drainage and lighting, the park can be converted into a recreation center second to none in Portland." His preliminary drawn plans, not realized, included a large swimming pool, four separate gymnasiums for men, women, boys and girls, playfields, a wading pool for the smallest children and a pergola for climbing plants and other formal landscaping touches to be located at the site of the original modest playground at the only large flat expanse of the park at the south end near the nursery and Reservoir 2. Mische pushed for acquiring all of the flat land at the base of the butte near adjoining roads and close to the residential areas as it was easily accessible to the children and parents of the community. The site also fit with the principle of separation being within the area he had wanted to make more formal and a good distance away from the more forested region of the butte. The original playground is no longer at the southeast site, but one of the three present playgrounds is due east at the southeast corner of the park and two other playgrounds have been constructed over the years. Portland's records, including mapping, are generally sketchy on details regarding playgrounds.

The End of an Era: Mische Moves On

Mount Tabor never did get the recreation center that Mische designed. (A very similar plan, however, was drawn up when Reservoir 2 was taken off line about sixty years later and the Park Bureau had its own high hopes of finally realizing this long-term recreational goal for the park. Instead the level property was sold to a private developer.) And despite the comprehensive report, the \$2 million was not approved in the June 1913 election.

The defeat of the 1913 bond measure took much of the wind out of the sails of Portland park development and sent a message of dissatisfaction from citizens to the newly formed government. Another byproduct of this bond measure defeat was the gradual loss of Mische. His employment was soon to switch from park superintendent to landscape architect for the parks and finally out of the parks system to follow in the Olmsted's path to private practice with his own landscape architecture firm. Mische did some consulting work with the Park Bureau after the end of his official employment. His influence did live on with Charles P. Keyser, who served as Mische's assistant from 1909 and went on to become Park Superintendent from 1917 until 1949. Keyser deserves much credit for steering the Portland parks down the course set by Olmsted and Mische. Mount Tabor's essential plan of naturalistic forest landscape with the curvilinear road and pathway network was completed and remains in a large part due to these three people's vision.

Although highly dedicated to the city and his work, and extremely qualified, Emanuel T. Mische resigned as superintendent of Portland's park system after only six years. Details of his resignation remain obscure, but it is clear from the records that tensions existed between him and city officials, especially by 1913 when the city abolished the appointed Park Board and established the Park Bureau with the new commission form of government. His outspoken ideas on land acquisition and management, street trees and other civic

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improvements were similar to those of his mentors, the Olmsteds, and though the ideas were influential, they seemed to be at odds with some elected city officials. Like Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr., who established his own private enterprise after soured experiences with city politics, Mische became a consultant in 1914, and worked outside of the park bureau on not only landscape, but larger civic issues concerning conservation.

World War I and the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919 slowed progress on projects as well as record keeping. It wasn't until the early 1920s, under Charles P. Keyser's reign as park superintendent, that substantial progress on Mount Tabor's amenities seemed to take off again with the construction of tennis courts and other active recreational facilities, lighting and comfort stations. Ever continuing was the progression of the drive and path system. Under the supervision of Charles P. Keyser, the 1920s also saw the construction of four comfort stations, two situated near the main entrances, one at the crater and another at the summit, along with a caretaker's house and the erection of eighty-eight concrete single pole lampposts with white glass globes, seemingly the same as those promoted by Mische to the Park Board in 1911. Greenhouses were built in the nursery's maintenance yard. Efforts continued during the 1930s to complete the drives called for in Mische's original plan.

Criterion C: Mount Tabor Park and the Olmsted Influence

Mount Tabor Park meets the guidelines for Criterion C as a park landscape that retains many elements of Olmsted design principles. Identified as a prime park location on John Charles Olmsted's first visit to Portland in 1903, Olmsted continued to work with the city on land acquisitions, park boundaries and as an advisor to his ex-employee and colleague, Emanuel Tillman Mische, between the years of 1906 through 1911. Mische was hired as Portland's park superintendent, on Olmsted's recommendation, in 1908 and remained in that position until 1914. He then continued a relationship with the city as an independent landscape designer. Mount Tabor Park reflects its original design, crafted by Emanuel Mische in 1911, and illustrates the design principles advanced by the Olmsted firm.

Olmsted Landscape Firm: Park Development in the Nation

With the Progressive Era's emphasis on hiring outside professionals as consultants, the emerging field of landscape design captured the attention of prominent citizens and city governments who wanted to hire well-known landscape designers to help beautify their cities and make them as desirable as possible. Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr.'s participation in the design of New York City's Central Park in the mid-1800s and his, and his namesake son's, affiliation with the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, set his Boston landscape firm at the forefront of landscape design. The Olmsted's, and other known designers, found themselves in high demand by cities, other agencies and elite land owners all over the country entranced with the precepts of the City Beautiful movement. The Olmsted firm included his nephew and step-son, John Charles Olmsted, son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and Charles Eliot, all extremely influential individuals who touched hundreds of public parks, and public and private institutions and developments across the nation. An "Olmsted Park" became a hallmark of civil society in the United States. John Charles Olmsted was hired as a consultant to Portland and Seattle in 1903 and these cities, like so many other places, have him to thank for some of their

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most beautiful parks. Because of the influence of the Olmsted firm, and the receptivity of the nation to the ideals they espoused, the profession of landscape architecture was conceived at Harvard University (Charles Eliot's father, Charles William Eliot, was president of the university) and this profession in turn sparked the beginnings of urban planning.

The senior Olmsted was a man of the land, trained by experience and the family's appreciation of beautiful, natural places. Frederick Law Olmsted brought to his work as a landscape architect (he helped coin the term) years of experience and world travel. He, like his colleagues and mentors Andrew Jackson Downing and Calvert Vaux, blended social consciousness with land management. Born of American soil, influenced by the magnitude of the American west's landscape, Olmsted helped foster the idea that landscape could play a healing role on a personal as well as a social level. Rebelling against the tight confines of the Old World's formal landscapes that reflected a sense of opulence, his designs spoke more to the democratic society where large beautiful landscapes were available to all citizens regardless of social standing or race. These concepts became imbedded in the City Beautiful movement's message to civic individuals, policy makers and bureaucrats.

Already having been a reporter, covering Civil War issues in the South, Olmsted was able to sway public opinion. His inspirational appeal, written while serving as chairman of the state's commission for Yosemite, called for legislation to keep Yosemite in the public domain. It was entitled, "Yosemite and the Mariposa Grove: A Preliminary Report, 1865." The suppression of this document for over a century, along with the political hassles he encountered with his work on Central Park, could possibly have been the reason why he and his sons chose to work as consultants outside of the bureaucracies and why their commentaries to the bureaus and policy makers warned of the dangers of politicizing irreplaceable landscape resources.

The Olmsteds have had such a profound effect on American landscape design that the adjective "Olmstedian" has been coined to describe open spaces exhibiting their touch. Subject to interpretation, there are some generally agreed upon components of features that the Olmsted firm strove for and that are illustrated by enduring examples of the landscapes that they designed. The National Association for Olmsted Parks has provided a concise overview using what they describe as the "Seven S's" of Olmstedian design principles: scenery, suitability, style, subordination, separation, sanitation, and service. The scenery, even in small or active spaces, provides passages of scenery and indefinite boundaries. Avoidance of specimen planting and hard edges and the utilization of shadow and light help to enhance the sense of space. The suitability of the design is dependent on respecting and making use of the naturally occurring elements of the topography of the space itself. The style of the design is specific to a desired effect. A soothing pastoral effect is achieved with an open expanse of greensward dotted with small bodies of water, groves of trees or scattered individual trees. The abundant sense of the picturesque style is achieved with mass plantings of trees, shrubs, and groundcovers especially on steep slopes where the play of light can impart a sense of mystery. Subordination of every element to the desired effect of the overall design is a hallmark of the Olmsted principles. A thorough separation of differently designed or incompatible areas insures an intact sense of space. Engineering the design to insure sanitation by planning adequate drainage and other considerations into the features so that the space can be easily managed to provide the user with health of body and mind. And lastly, the designed landscape should be of service with utility that meets fundamental social and psychological needs crafted into the design.

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John Charles Olmsted: Portland Consults

In 1894, Portland had already taken the investment plunge into an efficient public water system that brought pure mountain water down to collect in four grand open reservoirs, two on the east side, on what was to become Mount Tabor Park, and two in one of the earliest gifted park lands, City Park (now Washington Park.) The reservoirs were designed with the harmony of utility and beauty as advocated by the City Beautiful movement. In its continuing quest to get an edge over other developing west coast cities, Portland was busy planning the 1905 Lewis and Clark Exposition. In this time of zeal, park planning and the City Beautiful movement ideals got a substantial push in Portland. As the east coast park and city designers had looked to Europe for inspiration, newly developing western cities depended on the eastern cities not only for inspiration, but expertise.

The Portland Park Association engaged the Olmsted firm to help with the design of the expo grounds and other parklands for the growing city. Though preferring the name association of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., it was John C. Olmsted who made the trip to Portland in 1903, the same year that Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. died. Having lived and worked in the far western regions of the U.S., John Charles was a good, albeit second, choice for Portland and Seattle, who jointly enlisted him in the spring of 1903. Reverend T.L. Eliot made the connection for him in Seattle so that his travel expenses could be shared between the cities and it would be better worth Olmsted's time to have another account.

Portland Park Commissioner Lester Leander Hawkins escorted Olmsted and his assistant from his firm, Percy Jones, to many potential and existing park sites around the region. John Olmsted presented a thorough document to the Park Board commenting on the sites and giving specific recommendations. The team visited Mount Tabor on the afternoon of April 19, 1903.¹⁴ They took photographs and in his report to the Park Board, Olmsted made these remarks regarding the butte known as Mount Tabor:

“There seems to be every reason why a portion, at least, of Mount Tabor should be taken as a public park. It is the only important landscape feature for miles around, and the population in its vicinity is destined to be fairly dense. It is already a good deal resorted to by people for their Sunday and holiday outings, and it will be better known to and more visited by the citizens as time goes on. It has been sufficiently cleared to open up all the important views from one point or another of it, yet there still survive considerable groves of the original growth of fir trees, including many tall ones, as well as other trees and shrubs. There can be but little doubt that public sentiment will cordially support the city government in acquiring considerable land on this prominent and beautiful hill. John C. Olmsted, Report to the Park Board, 1903.

On his subsequent return to Portland, John Olmsted and his colleague Frederick Dawson, developed park acquisition plans and drew up boundaries for some of the parks that had been identified in the 1903 report. Olmsted continued his relationship with Mische over the years that Mische was park superintendent in Portland.

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Emanuel Tillman Mische: Continuing the Legacy of Olmsted Design in Portland

Portland's park system benefited from John C. Olmsted's visits at the turn of the century and his "Report to the Park Board of 1903" provided valuable guidance to Portland, still relevant today. Crucial also to the integrity of Mount Tabor Park and other historic parks in the system, was the actual planning and planting of the parks by former Olmsted employee, Emanuel Tillman Mische, hired as Portland's parks superintendent in 1908. His credentials were strong, and five years after his resignation from the Portland position in 1914, the Olmsted firm attempted to entice him back. But Mische stayed on in Portland, working on private and public contracts and serving as a civic leader in city and park planning, and as a leader in the budding field of landscape architecture.

The hiring of Emanuel Mische as Portland's park superintendent was controversial, as was his leaving due to uncomfortable political developments. During his six years at the helm of Portland's parks, however, he left an enduring mark with his insightful correspondence to the City of Portland that continues to contribute valuable information and insight regarding long and short range planning of green space. Few individuals could have brought such a prestigious array of training to fill a position. His design and drafting skills obtained from the years at the Olmsted firm, coupled with his strong expertise in horticulture gained from some of the most esteemed horticultural institutions in the world made him one of the prime foundations of Portland's park system.

The Olmsted heritage continued with Charles P. Keyser who had trained under Mische and stayed on as Portland's park supervisor until 1949. Though not much has been recorded regarding Keyser's life, he credited Emanuel Mische with teaching him what he needed to know about parks and park planning. Much of the integrity exhibited in Portland's historic parks is testament to the continuity of management he gave with an eye for the distinctive style originally laid down by Olmsted and Mische.

Mount Tabor Park: Design and Implementation

After Emanuel Mische was hired as park superintendent and most of the land that was to make up the park had been acquired, his plan and map were unveiled to the public on May 21, 1911 in the Sunday *Oregonian*. True to his tenure with the Olmsted firm, his design relied on key Olmsted design principles. The most formal, elaborate and costly part of his plan addressed the principle of service. With the two large new reservoirs being built on the west side of the park, facing downtown and the majority of Portland's population, Mische wanted to couple water storage with aesthetics by incorporating a large well-lit, waterfall and spray jet scheme utilizing the fall of water between the upper and lower reservoirs. "To contrast this feature satisfactorily will give this park a most interesting possession and the city a uniqueness not met with in any other park in the country," he said. Not naively, he added, "but its cost will be so great and the needs of the parks now are so urgent that we would specifically urge against any attempt to provide for it in the near future." This design feature was never realized, even two years later when once again, the *Oregonian* presented another spread that touted the continuing design process of the park. Mische still sounded hopeful for the cascade scheme and T.W. Tanner, park keeper, helped support the cause by adding, "It is my judgment that power enough could and should be developed by the falling water between the upper and lower reservoirs sufficient to illuminate Mount Tabor and

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its driveways and Mountain Crest. There is a fall of 85 feet, which is sufficient to develop electric illumination of the entire park, which in my judgment would produce a most magnificent effect.” Seven decades later, a hydroelectric generating system was installed utilizing the fall of water between Reservoir 5 and 6. A small hydro-generating unit is housed in the inlet Gatehouse of Reservoir 6.

The highly defined nature of the concrete reservoir basins surrounded by wrought iron fences with their distinctive gatehouses, lent a formality to the west side of Mount Tabor Park. Mische attempted to address the idea of separation of the incongruous features of this design with the sylvan feel of the rest of the park. “It is contemplated to provide two approaches at the southwest corner formally as a contrast to the native treatment of the remainder of the park,” he said.¹⁵ In keeping with the principle of suitability, his emphasis was on making an already beautiful place, complete with native aesthetic vegetation, simply more accessible to the public. His drive and pathway system, one of the hallmarks of the park, is an excellent example of subordination of features that yield to the overall design, as well as meeting the criteria of suitability. The *Oregonian* quotes him as saying, “The drives are located with a view to requiring the least possible scarring of the surfaces consistent with agreeable alignment and grade, where the distant views are to be enjoyed from the best vantage points or where the local vegetation or surface configuration pointedly suggest a traverse route. In passing over the drives on the ascent to the crest the vegetation is to be developed for its local offerings, with vistas opened only at prominent points. It is both impractical and ruinous to expect to have continuous or even large and abundant sweeps of distant outlooks without unduly injuring the forest. Such views are reserved for the summit concourse...The drives encircle the park on all sides, the east and west and wind their way to the top, where is located Mountain Crest, at present occupied by the old dwelling built there many years ago,” the article went on to say.¹⁶

Mount Tabor Park Design: Shaped by Modes of Accessibility

Two predominating features of Mount Tabor Park bear the mark of Emanuel Mische and the Olmsted influence. One is the peaceful grandeur of the forest and the other is the drive and footpath system. Though the park does have several miles of paved drives and even more in the trail system, they are laid out with a master landscaper’s touch and with a sensitivity to the natural terrain. The curvilinear design is easy on the eye and inviting to traverse. Though the drives are unnatural, they fit into the scenery, providing alluring passages. In many places, especially along Woodland Drive on the steep east slope, cut basalt rock blocks, probably quarried on-site, reinforce the east side of the drive and add to the rustic beauty of the scenery. In most places there is a forest buffer between the footpaths and the auto drives, adding to the sense of separation. In the name of serviceability, the pathways allow a myriad of routes to be taken so that regular visitors can walk for twenty minutes or one hundred and twenty minutes and not traverse the same path. Mische, and later his assistant, Keyser, did an excellent job of making the park accessible to an urban population while yet maintaining the rural feel. The drives and paths pass through the landscapes of the park exhibiting pastoral or picturesque qualities in a suitable and subordinate way. The historic drives and original pathways were very well constructed and conform to the design principle of sanitation in their quality engineering. When the drive and path system was complete, Mount Tabor butte could be scaled in a private vehicle, by foot or bicycle for stupendous views of the surrounding countryside; the high, snowy peaks to the east and the north, the

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surrounding developing neighborhoods and the downtown city skyline backed by the green line of hills three miles to the west. This is one of the features of Mount Tabor Park that keeps visitors returning time and time again.

Mount Tabor Park's design paid homage to a new era of the automobile. In 1912 there were 902,000 registered autos in the United States. By 1913 Portland had approximately 6,000 automobiles in use. Automobiles were considered a source of entertainment. In 1907 the Park Blocks children's festival featured automobile rides as a featured entertainment. City planning, spurred on by the City Beautiful movement, called for creating leisure drives. Mische had a grand plan for a parkway running north from Sellwood along the high banks of the Willamette River. This river parkway was to tie into a tree-lined boulevard that would head east, through the Ladd's Addition neighborhood toward Mount Tabor Park where it would continue north to the meadows of the Columbia River Slough. This boulevard had been the vision of Olmsted when he visited Mount Tabor in 1903. "It appears to be entirely feasible to run a parkway two-hundred feet or more wide out to Mount Tabor," John C. Olmsted remarked.¹⁷ Though the grand boulevard and parkway system was never realized, much money and effort were expended on the drive system within Mount Tabor Park. Grading and paving were completed in sections over many years and were prime expenditures for the park. The geography of the butte, with a primary summit of 643 feet and three smaller rises, stretched from north and south for over a mile. From east and west it measured almost a mile. The winding lanes, each distinctively named, would encircle the butte carrying visitors to a variety of viewpoints over the three-and-a-half miles of paved drive with a five-percent grade.

Emanuel Mische designed the system of drives for a winding but pleasant auto tour. They were to be graded in such a way as to be enjoyable to drive on, macadamized and illuminated. The width would be wide enough for motorcars or wagons but narrow enough to do minor damage to hillsides and forests. The drives would pass by interesting features and views. Visitors could escape from the sights and sounds of the surrounding city but they could also admire it from a high distance. The route could carry visitors in one entrance and out another.

Mische kept at the driveway projects with any funds he could get. A good portion of the drive projects were constructed at times of economic downturns, following Olmsted's advice in his report of 1903: "...it is far more advantageous to employ common labor for park improvement during hard times either to prevent or to diminish the sufferings of the poor and to get the work done at minimum wages."¹⁸ Mische, in his report to the Park Board in 1912 said, "During the winter of 1911 - 1912 the Council appropriated \$10,000 to give employment to idle men. The funds were set aside for charity purposes but good use, though by reason of the very nature of the method of employment and the class secured it was thoroughly efficient, nevertheless over 8,000 feet of 32-foot wide drive were cleared and partly graded...The drive connects the hilltop with the East Salmon Street Entrance."¹⁹ Other such appropriations followed and included Works Progress Administration contracts from 1935 - 1939 when work progressed on East Tabor Drive (Woodland Drive), to Mische's design specifications, at a cost of \$5,163.

"A system of walks supplement the drives and lead to many charming features it is not desirable to approach by a drive," described Mische of his 1911 plan for Mount Tabor Park. The trail system that he envisioned remains as one of Mount Tabor's park's most cherished attributes. Throughout the park pathways traversed areas

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between the drives. Curvilinear pathways paralleled the curvilinear drives. He even provided access to some of the steepest areas with long flights of concrete stairs, some with more than a hundred steps, such as those that ascended the Mountain Crest. There was a type of path for all visitors from adventurers out for real exertion with a steep climb to those wanting a pleasant walk. The reservoirs themselves would, and still do, provide lighted walkways encircling them for easy strolling. Mische asked that the walkways surrounding the reservoirs be wide enough for pleasurable walking.

Summit design: Subordination of Elements

At 643 feet, the summit of Mount Tabor provided a grand panorama of the Portland area and the surrounding countryside both far and near when Olmsted and Mische were working with Mount Tabor Park. On Olmsted's visit to Mount Tabor, he suggested, that at a minimum, the twenty or so acres of the summit should be taken to command the views. Debate carried on for years regarding the grand residence at the top of the butte, commonly referred to as the J.H. Smith Residence. Information on this homestead is sketchy and although there are apparently no photographs of it in city records, a sketch does exist from an early real estate brochure.²⁰ Mische's plan followed the suggestion made in Olmsted's 1903 report, calling for its removal and replacement with a combination shelter, refectory, comfort station and detached bandstand that in his words were, "...all ...to be generally low and rambling and conspicuously modest and subdued in style, materials and color. Other than this the plan intends no masonry construction, such as an overlook tower, large building or other object attractive in itself mayhap, but disturbing in its effect on the beholder as seen amid surroundings of native rural wildness."²¹ These designs followed the Olmsted principle of subordination. The residence was apparently converted to a visitor station in 1913, "Upon the crest, the large old residence has been remodeled and fitted for public use by opening rest rooms, nursery, refectory and comfort features. . . an automatic electric control pumping plant for delivering water from the submerged hill top reservoir to the attic tank in the park house is now being installed," Mische reported to the Park Board in 1913.²²

Two years later the Smith residence was still sitting at the top of the hill and the plans for its removal and replacement with other services still were being contemplated. In 1917, correspondence to the, "...caretaker living on top of the hill in the big house,"²³ thanking them for the opportunity to make baskets, was addressed to the city and forwarded on by Mayor H.R. Albee. Actual demolition of the Smith Residence did finally occur, though the exact date is unknown. A Tudor-style comfort station was built to the west of the summit in the 1920s. True to Mische's vision, Keyser made sure that the comfort station sits down below the summit, in a position of subordination, so that at present the summit and the views are the commanding presence.

Concerts, especially with the municipal band, were an important activity for the parks to host, though not particularly lucrative. Popular outdoor concerts were held in Mount Tabor and other parks during the summer months. In 1913 one concert per month was held during July and August. Possibly these concerts, with attendance of one-thousand or more people, were held at the Mountain Crest Summit where the first public comfort station and refectory were remodeled into the Smith residence. According to the 1915 park report, the long flight of stairs was completed giving "large numbers of visitors" access to the hilltop. By 1917, concert attendance at Mount Tabor Park had more than doubled. Concerts have continued in Mount Tabor Park near

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the area that Mische recommended in the 1913 Report of the Bureau of Parks in what he referred to as “the concert grove on the ridge adjoining Belmont Street.” Present concerts are held in the month of July in the crater amphitheater in this vicinity.

Plantings: A Balance of Native and Non-native Species

Mische was appreciative of the flora in his new Pacific Northwest home. He had also been trained at the hand of people with a deep appreciation of forest preserves. His desire was to keep the natural forest feel of the butte, even reforesting the more gradual western slope, “...where it is now open and the openness severely defined by old property lines. It is both impractical and ruinous to expect to have continuous or even large and abundant sweeps of distant outlooks without unduly injuring the forest. Such views are reserved for the summit concourse,” he reported to the Park Board of his plan in 1911.

Emphasis was put on the over-story of tall Douglas-firs as well as the under-story of natural shrubs and wildflowers. Mowing was to be kept to a minimum. Primary maintenance of the landscape of the park was to keep the grandest vistas cleared of trees. In the first *Oregonian* article of 1911 announcing the big, new east side park, Mische was quoted with this description of his vision for the Mount Tabor Park: “Except at the two formal entrances, at the terrace garden and the cascades, only native material is to be used or suffered to remain. Moreover, the undergrowth is at no time to be entirely removed from throughout the park, as has been suggested by private individuals.” He continued, “This tract offers an excellent opportunity of displaying the exceptional beauty of our native flora. It requires merely the elimination of some sorts, the addition of others or as a whole controlling nature to the extent of determining how her materials shall be massed and arranged.”²⁴

His attention to practicality and foresight was evident when he commented, “In addition, native vegetation is always adapted to this region, can be depended upon to be safe, enduring, easily repaired should damage occur, and above all can be maintained more cheaply than exotic or foreign vegetation.”³⁵ A good deal of the continuing attraction of Mount Tabor Park, to both human and animal visitors, is due to the amount of native plants that have been retained in some sections of the park, but non-natives are a historic feature of the park. Over the years, perhaps due to the wide variety of trees and shrubs propagated at the on-site nursery, areas of the park have had non-natives integrated into the landscape. These vicinities are predominantly in sections of the park that have been disturbed for entrances, drives or other types of construction. Mische was sensitive to quickly replanting any areas on the side of drives that were disturbed during grading operations. Likewise, he preferred to move slowly in removing vegetation as the drives were being laid out. “It is better, by far, not to remove anything,” he said. Many of the non-native trees and shrubs, including many kinds of pines and hawthorns, are mature and add to the historic significance of Mount Tabor Park.

Mount Tabor Nursery: Plant Propagation for the Entire City

In the mid-1800s, orchards predominated in the Mount Tabor vicinity. Apples, pears and other fruits were shipped out by steamer and supplied the California boom towns in a lucrative market. Mount Tabor’s south side had a gentle slope with a perfect aspect for plant propagation, providing adequate sunlight and drainage. The

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butte rising to the north behind the area, provided a weather buffering element. The elevation was modest, serving the purpose of frost pocket protection. These features appealed to Mische as a fine place to site the nursery that he had called for in his first park report of 1908, a nursery that would serve all the parks and other planting needs of the city.

Though Mische appreciated the native plants of his newly adopted western home, he nevertheless continued his interest in non-native species. Large orders with invoices of over \$2,000 were made to east coast nurseries. Invoices to Mische from the United States Department of Agriculture dating from spring of 1909 list plants that were being sent: two *Syringa amurensis*, five *Clematis recta* and three *Clematis species*. Other records indicate his interest in buying shrubs from local growers and wild diggers, especially rhododendrons. Interestingly, a potato crop was recorded as having been grown in 1916 at the Mount Tabor nursery.²⁶ Propagation stock was also brought from the nurseries supplying the Vanderbilt's Biltmore Estate in the Appalachian Mountains near Asheville, North Carolina.

There are references to a "fruitectium" being establishing at Mount Tabor for the cultivation of plants from seeds or cuttings for nursery stock.²⁷ In 1913, Harvard's Arnold Arboretum, Mische's, *alma mater*, sent a gift of five hundred Chinese species to him, probably attributable to Ernest Henry Wilson's two collecting trips to China, most recently in 1910. Among the species sent were rhododendrons, hollies, barberries and rhododendrons. This propagation stock went first to the greenhouse at Columbia Park and then was set out in the nursery at Mount Tabor Park. Mische wanted to use the species to begin an arboretum, an Olmsted ideal for every region in the country. Portland's Hoyt Arboretum, in Washington Park, is a result of Mische's plan and Charles Keyser's management.

The nursery at Mount Tabor Park was an important resource for the planned beautification of the city of Portland. An entry from Park Board records of December 1912 recites, "There are trees now growing in the Mount Tabor Nursery to supply a quantity sufficient to extend planting by about 30-40 miles in the fall of 1913."²⁸ City residents were petitioning for street trees. Mische had a grand plan for the street trees of Portland, an area that the city had been slow to act on, and this may have been one of the thrusts to create a large nursery at Mount Tabor Park. In his Report to the Park Board of 1911, he opened with strong words, "The condition of the street trees are deplorable."²⁹ Street trees represented at least a stab at the grand boulevards and parkways he wanted to see established from the Olmsted plan. It was a daunting task to keep up with road building plantings and Portland had not developed a clear policy on who was responsible for street trees. Power lines created problems and although the Park Board was apparently responsible for street trees, they had no jurisdiction over them. Mische gave specific recommendations to the Park Board regarding the size of the median strip and even designed a different theme of trees from around the world for the various quadrants of the city. Responses to infestations of elm beetles and gypsy moths eventually helped to clarify the importance of municipally controlled street trees. Besides street trees, the nursery at Mount Tabor Park also provided trees for other parks. The *Oregonian* of August 1913 stated that there were 32,000 tree seedlings set out in the nursery at Mount Tabor for supplying all of the parks. Mische continued his advocacy for Portland to become a city of stately trees. He authored an article published in the August 22, 1917, *The Evening Telegram* about shade trees.

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Giant sequoia conifer trees, like those that grow on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada range in California, were brought to Oregon by pioneers such as A. H. Johnson and W. S. Ladd. The Mount Tabor neighborhood has numerous large sequoia *Sequoiadendron giganteum* trees that probably date back to Mische's time. He ordered twenty "sequoia gigantea" in 20"x 20" boxes. Each sampling was reportedly five to six feet tall and cost \$6 each. They were to be shipped by rail for 51¢ per 100 pounds from the California Nursery Company in Niles, California, in 1910.³⁰ It is probable that one of these trees is the giant sequoia, a City Heritage Tree, that towers over the east side of Reservoir 6 today.

Probable references to construction of structures in the nursery area appear in reports from various years, such as advertising for a storehouse and shelter to be built in 1915. Evidently greenhouses were in progress at the nursery site in the summer of 1918 when the city council granted a one-month extension to the builder of the greenhouses. Ten years later, Superintendent Keyser introduced plans for a violet house at the "Municipal Nursery."

The nursery area is comprised of planted grounds and a maintenance yard. Buildings are of mixed time periods with suggested dates of construction ranging from pre-1918 with the greenhouse complex that has had various additions, through the years to the 1987 pole barn. Oral reports of the parks bureau personnel recount the current utilization of refurbished old stable buildings where once the horses that pulled the mowers were kept. Records corroborate that there was a stable at Mount Tabor. Records show that a greenhouse was dismantled in between 1916 and 1917. Columbia Park was the site of the first greenhouses and Mische mentions it in his 1913 report in reference to propagation of the newly acquired stock from Arnold Arboretum. Complaints regarding odors emanating from the manure and compost piles in the smaller Columbia Park may have contributed to moving propagation endeavors to the south side of Mount Tabor.

Reservoirs: Balancing Naturalistic with Formal Design

Included in the boundaries of the Mount Tabor Park nomination is the Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District, which includes the two 1911 reservoirs, Reservoirs 5 and 6, and the one remaining 1894 reservoir, Reservoir 1.³¹ Portland's reservoirs in Mount Tabor Park and those in Washington Park, also listed in the National Register, are some of the nation's most intact, functioning examples of public works projects from the City Beautiful movement. The reservoirs are defining features of Mount Tabor Park. Besides the period architecture, they provide outstanding panoramas of the surrounding countryside as well as a link to the historical significance of the butte to the development of the city of Portland.

Emanuel T. Mische planned to incorporate the two new 1911 reservoirs into his design for Mount Tabor Park as a formal feature. Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. had written an article for *American Park and Outdoor Art Association* entitled, "The Relation of Reservoirs to Parks" in 1899, while Mische was working in the Olmsted firm. Olmsted stated that, "In itself, regardless of its outline or setting, a body of water is beautiful and refreshing, and its value to the public is so well recognized that provision is very often made for giving the public access to the enclosure about a reservoir, whence its surface may be seen."³² The main discussion focused on what he saw as the wasted potential between different municipal organizations in regards to

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reservoir design. In essence he felt that a reservoir in a public park should be designed with cooperation between engineers and landscape designers in order to achieve aesthetics and good value for the taxpayers' investment. In the case of distribution reservoirs, such as the ones at Mount Tabor Park, artificially created with embankments, he suggested keeping to a formal design. The two 1894 reservoirs at Mount Tabor Park followed this precept.

The 1911 reservoirs, constructed when Mische was park superintendent, were also designed to follow a formal theme. Mische attempted to coordinate planning with the Water Board and some of his recommendations were apparently heeded. He paid special attention to the dam face of the Upper Reservoir (Reservoir 5) as this area would be highly visible, illuminated with an open western exposure and a very steep slope. His design called for highlighting the stored water with, as he described it, a "rushing cascade" and "a series of pools..." taking advantage of the drop between them. Gravity pressure could supply several spray jets, adding greatly to the ornamental feature. "To be creditably executed requires considerable massiveness and architectural ornamentation in detail. The lighting must be abundant and some extension work, such as widening the dam and adding balustrades and the like are essential," Mische explained when the *Oregonian* showcased the design in the spring of 1911. To implement this scheme, Mische wanted the Water Board to lay the piping necessary for the cascades when the construction of the reservoirs was undertaken. The cascades scheme was never constructed, probably in a large part due to the lack of funding. According to park reports, as Olmsted had noted in his article, an apparent lack of cooperation did exist between the Water Board and the park superintendent regarding the design of the reservoirs and other park areas.

Mische successfully influenced the design surrounding the reservoirs, such as widening the dam at Reservoir 5 to accommodate the drive across the top that bestows one of the grandest views in the city. Today this view, as well as others on Mount Tabor, are part of the Scenic Resources Protection Plan. The greensward surrounding Reservoir 5 has touches of formality achieved with tree and shrub plantings. He suggested widening the walkway around Reservoir 6, that at present, is one of the most popular exercise and strolling walks in southeast Portland. An unsigned report to the Park Board in 1910 stated, "I have to report that several conferences were had with officials of the Water Board to the end that in constructing the reservoirs at Mt. Tabor there would be a partial carrying out of what would be park plans." As usual, money was a primary concern as, "It has not been contemplated that water funds should be devoted to park construction, but rather that such changes should be made in the purely structural work at this time as would harmonize it with park development whenever the latter is undertaken." In attempting to achieve the design principles of service and sanitation, mention is made of, "a profile and sketch grading plan for the slope between the two new reservoirs." A formal and an informal design for Reservoir 6 were suggested and, "Both propose an ornamental parapet balustrade on the street side of the west walk; Both propose an entrance of some pretension and dignity, with an entrance way rising above the parapet in order to relieve the long, bold sky-line of the parapet."³³ A steep concrete staircase of more than 100 steps climbs up the dam face between Reservoir 6 and Reservoir 5 on the west side of the park instead of Mische's waterfall scheme. A bit of a formal garden is retained with mature shrubs, tree plantings and a lawn area on the top of the dam adjoining the Gatehouse and parapet of Reservoir 1. Concrete steps rise up the south side of the dam face giving access to this area.

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Mount Tabor Park
Multnomah County, Oregon

Mische's planning attempted to strike a balance between naturalistic features in a majority of the park with formality at the entrances and in the approximately 20 acres that harbored the reservoirs. The elaborate waterfall, fountains and walkway system that Mische envisioned up the western side of the butte were not realized nor were either of his entrance schemes, in their entirety, advanced for the west side of Reservoir 6. However, his ideas have held influence over the years, if modified. The creation of electricity generated by the drop between Reservoir 5 and 6 did come to pass seven decades later when the Portland Water Bureau developed a generating system between Reservoirs 5 and 6, which apparently met engineering guidelines but did not contribute a feature of beauty to the park as Mische desired. Although not part of the cascading scheme down the dam face, Reservoir 2 and 6 eventually did get the spray jets (fountains) that would spout high into the sky from the middle of their basins, providing a grand amenity and some water purification. Allegedly, the aeration would help to counteract the rectangular shape of the reservoirs that could contribute to water stagnation in the corners.

Mische wanted to utilize the flat land at the southwest base of the butte near the lower 1894 reservoir, for a major recreation center and for, "picnicking and other pastimes amid sylvan and retired surroundings." Picnicking is integrated into Mount Tabor Park but the formal flat area did not get constructed. His Picnic Grove now Picnic Hill, is one of the great areas he designed and is still maintained as a small picnic area with beautiful interior views of Reservoir 5, and glimpses of exterior views.

Archeological Summary

Though there has been involvement of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at the Mount Tabor site since the mid-1980s due to the hydro-electric generating plant, there is no official state record of cultural resource surveys conducted at Mount Tabor. Further research has revealed a site yielding artifacts dating from the Late Archaic period, 2,000 years ago to historic contact in the late 1700s, on the flanks of the butte, outside of the present park boundaries. These findings included: a moccasin last, arrowheads and the "Mt. Tabor Bowl."³⁴ The bowl got its name from its bowl-like form. It was 21 centimeters long and 14 centimeters wide with distinct depressions on the upper and lower surfaces. The outer edge showed evidence of decoration. Speculation was that it had been used as a grinding bowl or metate.³⁵ Other unconfirmed reports suggest that there are obsidian flakes within the park boundaries.³⁶

Conclusion

Mount Tabor Park is an exemplary representation of a city park developed within the context of the Progressive era and the City Beautiful movement and enhanced with New Deal amenities. The Mount Tabor experience, as called for by Olmsted and Mische, includes the majesty and beauty of mature forest and plantings that yield a sense of stability and mystery. These natural features prevail over subordinated modifications and amenities. The varied terrain and the views yielded, the crater area, and the subtle integration of the buildings and other structures all contribute to make Mount Tabor Park one of the historic treasures of Portland, Oregon.

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Mount Tabor Park is an excellent example of a city park that combines the principal elements that developed during the various movements that shaped American parklands. The recreation movement is represented with tennis courts, jogging and bicycling paths, and horseshoe pits. The playground movement is identified by the three open-air playgrounds. The three remaining reservoirs, with their dignified features and beautiful deep, open water views, provide an outstanding historic resource, a living record of the City Beautiful movement at its finest with their marriage of beauty, utility and the democratic principle of the first municipal service, drinking water. Another element of service, the Mount Tabor Nursery, is important not only to the historic integrity of Mount Tabor Park, but to the entire Portland parks system and, in fact, all city properties, as the continual provider of trees and other plants since it was established early in the park's history.

As defined by the National Association for Olmsted Parks, Mount Tabor Park's design embodies the "Seven S's" of Olmsted design principles: scenery, suitability, style, subordination, separation, sanitation, and service. The park's picturesque scenery provides a sense of passages and indefinite boundaries. The sheer size, nearly 200 acres, as well as the natural softly rugged terrain leave the visitor with a sense of wonder. The temperate rainforest climate nurtures remarkable plant growth, and the towering trees and lush greenery of the understory and grass make at once a soothing and exciting impression. The steep wilder areas are still endowed with seasonal wildflower shows, a rare thing in the midst of the city. The suitable design respected these natural elements and encouraged a "hands-off" policy in much of the park, acknowledging the serviceability of native vegetation for long-term maintenance. Mische's designs, like the Olmsted's, speak to long-term service, and his main aim in Mount Tabor Park was to achieve accessibility. He did so with the path and drive system, so well crafted that they have demanded little maintenance over the years and achieve the goal of not only service but sanitation, as their drainage is well engineered. Mische's thorough respect for the process of constructing without mass destruction set the tone that was followed by Keyser in the years it took to complete the drive and path system. The drives and paths subordinate themselves to the landscape in their position and their grade. Subordination has been used in most of the amenity design, especially of the built features, with the exception of the reservoirs. Their design is one of more formality, and the land around them follows a loosely pastoral theme with the reservoirs and their grassy setting acting as the bodies of water and the greensward. The three reservoirs embody the blending of beauty and utility, and the deep, sparkling water and the romantic period architecture add drama and charm to the park experience. Active recreation is represented at Mount Tabor Park, and although playgrounds, horseshoe pits, tennis courts, basketball and volleyball courts, even a small ball diamond, exist, they do not dominate. These amenities are tucked in here and there, so although the park has experienced, as most open space has, construction of modern features, the landscape allows separation and subordination.

In 1911, Emanuel Mische, Park Superintendent, summed up Mount Tabor Park well when he said to the Park Board, "One of the most pleasing accents of the general landscape of the city is this property, rising with majestic eminence from the broad East Side plain."

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Notes

¹City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center. *Council Documents*.

²Ibid.

³City of Portland, Annual Report of the Park Board, 1903.

⁴The Oregonian November 5, 1908, p. 14.

⁵The Oregonian March 30, 1909, p. 16.

⁶City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center. *Council Documents*.

⁷Ibid.

⁸City of Portland, Annual Report of the Park Board, 1903.

⁹Keyser, Charles Paul. Correspondence to Emily Moltzner, Oregon Geological Society, August, 31, 1961.

¹⁰City of Portland, Annual Reports of the Park Board, 1908 – 1912. March, 1913.

¹¹Keyser, Charles Paul. Correspondence to Emily Moltzner, Oregon Geological Society, August, 31, 1961.

¹²City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center. *Council Documents*

¹³Keyser, Charles Paul. Correspondence to Emily Moltzner, Oregon Geological Society, August, 31, 1961.

¹⁴Guzowski, Kenneth James, "Portland's Olmsted Vision (1897-1915): A Study of the Public Landscapes Designed by Emanuel T. Mische in Portland, Oregon." Thesis, University of Oregon, June, 1990.

¹⁵City of Portland, Annual Reports of the Park Board, 1908 – 1912. March, 1913.

¹⁶The Oregonian May 21, 1911, p. 10.

¹⁷City of Portland, Annual Report of the Park Board, 1903.

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹City of Portland, Annual Reports of the Park Board, 1908 – 1912. March, 1913.

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Mount Tabor Park
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- ²⁰ J.H. Smith Residence, Summit of Mt. Tabor. The Hart Land Co., Brochure of Mount Tabor Views. (ca. 1890's, ed.)
- ²¹ City of Portland, Annual Reports of the Park Board, 1908 – 1912. March, 1913.
- ²² City of Portland, Annual Report of the Bureau of Parks, 1913.
- ²³ City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center. *Council Documents*.
- ²⁴ The Oregonian May 21, 1911, p. 10.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center. *Council Documents*.
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ City of Portland, Annual Reports of the Park Board, 1908 – 1912. March, 1913.
- ²⁹ City of Portland, Annual Reports of the Park Board, 1908 – 1912. March, 1913.
- ³⁰ City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center. *Council Documents*.
- ³¹ Anderson Geller, Cascade, "Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic District, National Register of Historic Places." 2003.
- ³² Olmsted, Frederick Law, Jr., "The Relation of Reservoirs to Parks." American Park and Outdoor Art Association, Paper 32. Boston: Rockwell and Churchill Press, 1899.
- ³³ City of Portland, Stanley Parr Archives and Record Center. Report for Board Meeting, Park Department, January 7, 1910.
- ³⁴ City of Portland. "East Buttes, Terraces and Wetlands Conservation Plan," Ordinance number 166572, 1993.
- ³⁵ Beals, Herb (ed.), "Screenings," The Oregon Archaeological Society. Vol. 22 No. 7; July, 1973.
- ³⁶ City of Portland. "East Buttes, Terraces and Wetlands Conservation Plan," Ordinance number 166572, 1993.

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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape Architecture
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance
 _____ 1888-1939 _____

Significant Dates
 _____ 1903 _____
 _____ 1908 _____

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Mische, Emanuel Tillman
Keyser, Charles P.

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 books, articles, and other sources used in preparing the form on one or more continuation sheets) See continuation sheets

- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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

- Primary location of additional data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 196 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 10 532115 5040065
Zone Easting Northing

3 10 531517 5038988
Zone Easting Northing

2 10 532076 5039181
Zone Easting Northing

4 10 531181 5039637
Zone Easting Northing

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 Cascade Anderson Geller

organization Mount Tabor Neighborhood Association date November 2003

street & number 1934 S.E. 56th Avenue telephone 503-232-0473

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97215

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

name City of Portland

street & number 1221 S.W. 4th Avenue telephone 503-823-4000

city or town Portland state OR zip code 97024

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.460 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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<http://www.ci.portland.or.us>

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Mount Tabor Park
Multnomah County, Oregon

UTM REFERENCES

5 10 531495 5040207
 Zone Easting Northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is bounded beginning at S.E. 60th Ave. on the west at S.E. Lincoln St. north to S.E. Harrison St. east to the approximate location of S.E. 64th Ave. north to S.E. Stephens St. west to S.E. 60th Ave. north to approximately S.E. Madison St. east to approximately S.E. 62th Ave. north to S.E. Yamhill St. east along the south boundary of S.E. Yamhill St. to approximately S.E. 65th Ave. south to S.E. Taylor St. east along the south boundary of S.E. Taylor St. to S.E. 71st Ave. south roughly along S.E. 71st Ave. to Mountain View Dr. south following the east property boundaries of the west side private residences to approximately S.E. Grant St. west along the south property boundary of Warner Pacific College to approximately S.E. 65th Ave south to S.E. Division St west to approximately S.E. 64th Ave. north along roughly S.E. 64th Ave. to S.E. Lincoln St. west along the north boundary of the street to S.E. 60th Ave.

The boundary has some irregularities as shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying map entitled, Mount Tabor Park Boundary Map.

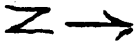
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary represents the present boundary of Mount Tabor Park. It is roughly the same boundary as the original park plan of 1911*presented to the Portland Park Board and corresponds to the original park properties purchased between the years of 1888 and 1922, with the exception of the southwest corner of the property bounded roughly by S.E. 64th Ave. at S.E. Division St. north to roughly S.E. Caruthers west to S.E. 60th Ave. south to S.E. Division St. east to roughly S.E. 64th Ave. that was occupied by Reservoir 2 and was sold to a private individual in the 1990's.

*(Excluding the proposed eastern boundary section. See the Original Plan by Mische 1911)

Mount Tabor Park Boundary Map

Black area:
Environmental
zone overlay



SE Lincoln
St.

SE Salmon
St.

SE Yamhill
St.

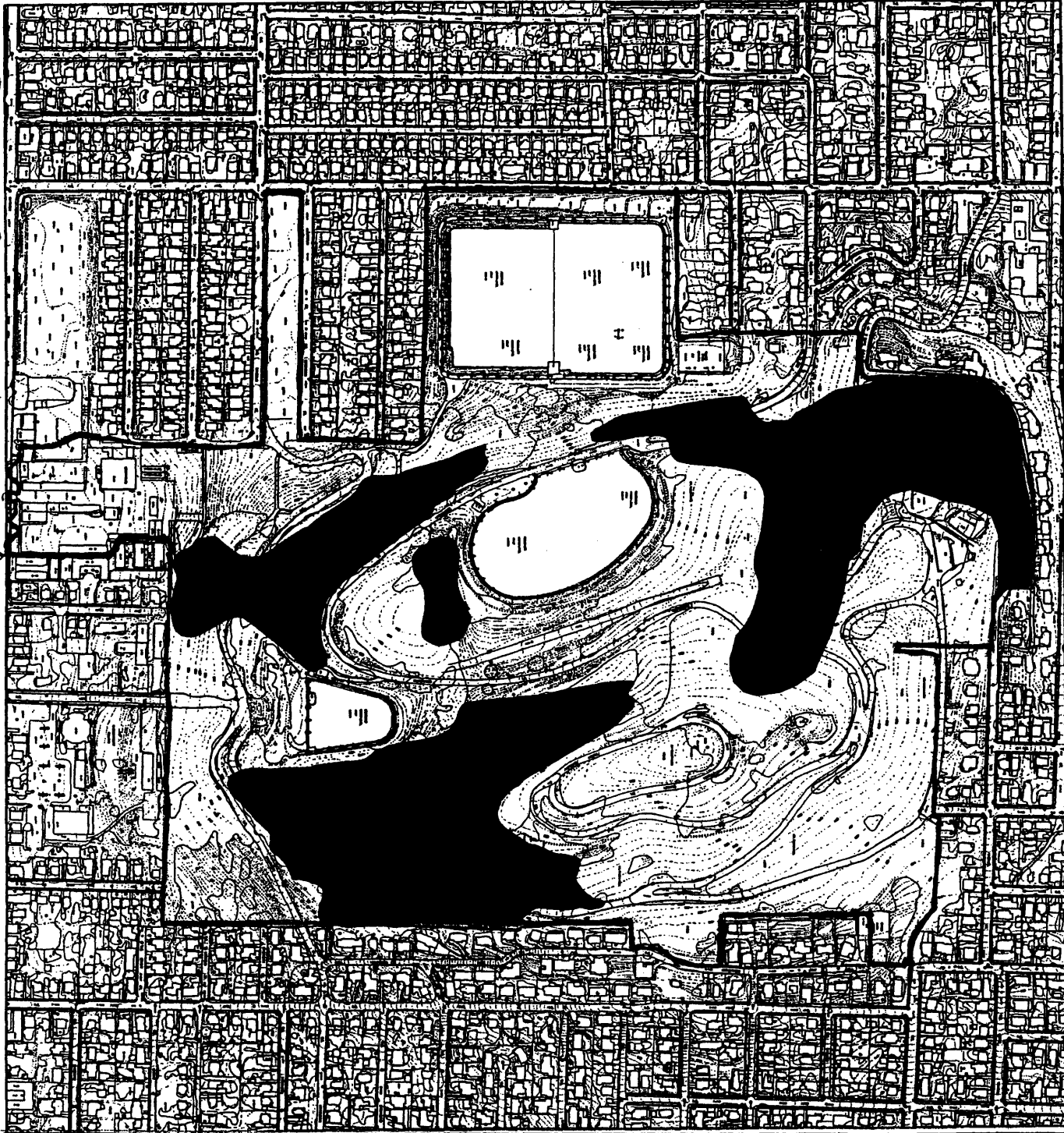
SE Belmont
St.

DRAWING: j:\working\mtlabor\base\bm-site.dgn

PLOTTED ON 07 NOV 2003 PLOTTED BY: PKMCGOW

PLOTTED FROM: PK-P813-0720

S.E. Division St.



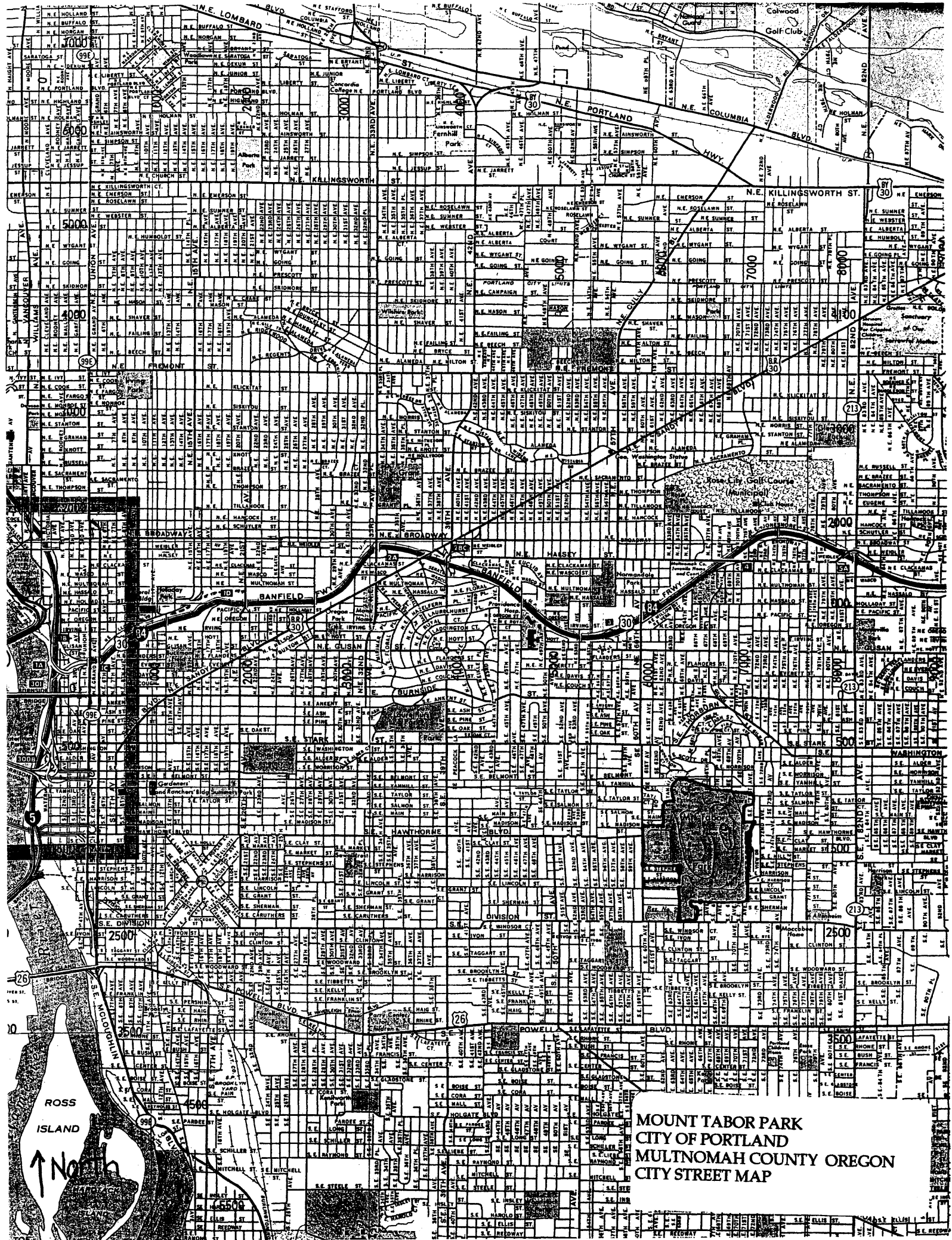
S.E. 60th Av.

S.E. 69th Ave

S.E. 71st Ave.

<p>SI of 1</p>	<p>Portland Parks and Recreation JIM FRANCIS, Commissioner ZARI SAWYER, Director</p>	
	<p>Existing Conditions Mt. Tabor Park Portland, Oregon</p>	
<p>DATE: 07 NOV 2003</p>	<p>SCALE: 1"=50'</p>	<p>PROJECT MANAGER: DRAWN BY: SECTION:</p>

MOUNT TABOR PARK
CITY OF PORTLAND
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
BOUNDARY MAP 2003



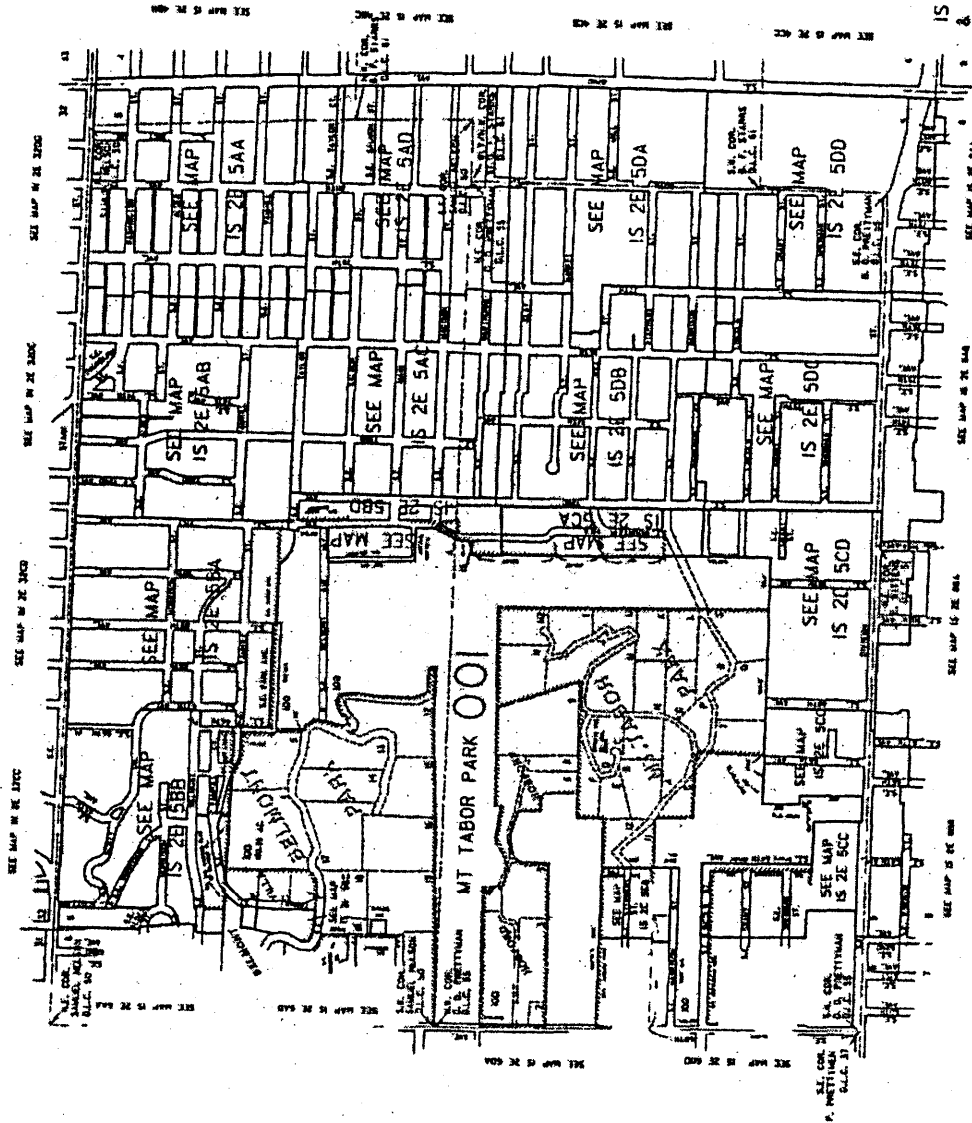
MOUNT TABOR PARK
CITY OF PORTLAND
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
CITY STREET MAP

IS 2E 5
& INDEX
PORTLAND

IS 2E 5
& INDEX
PORTLAND

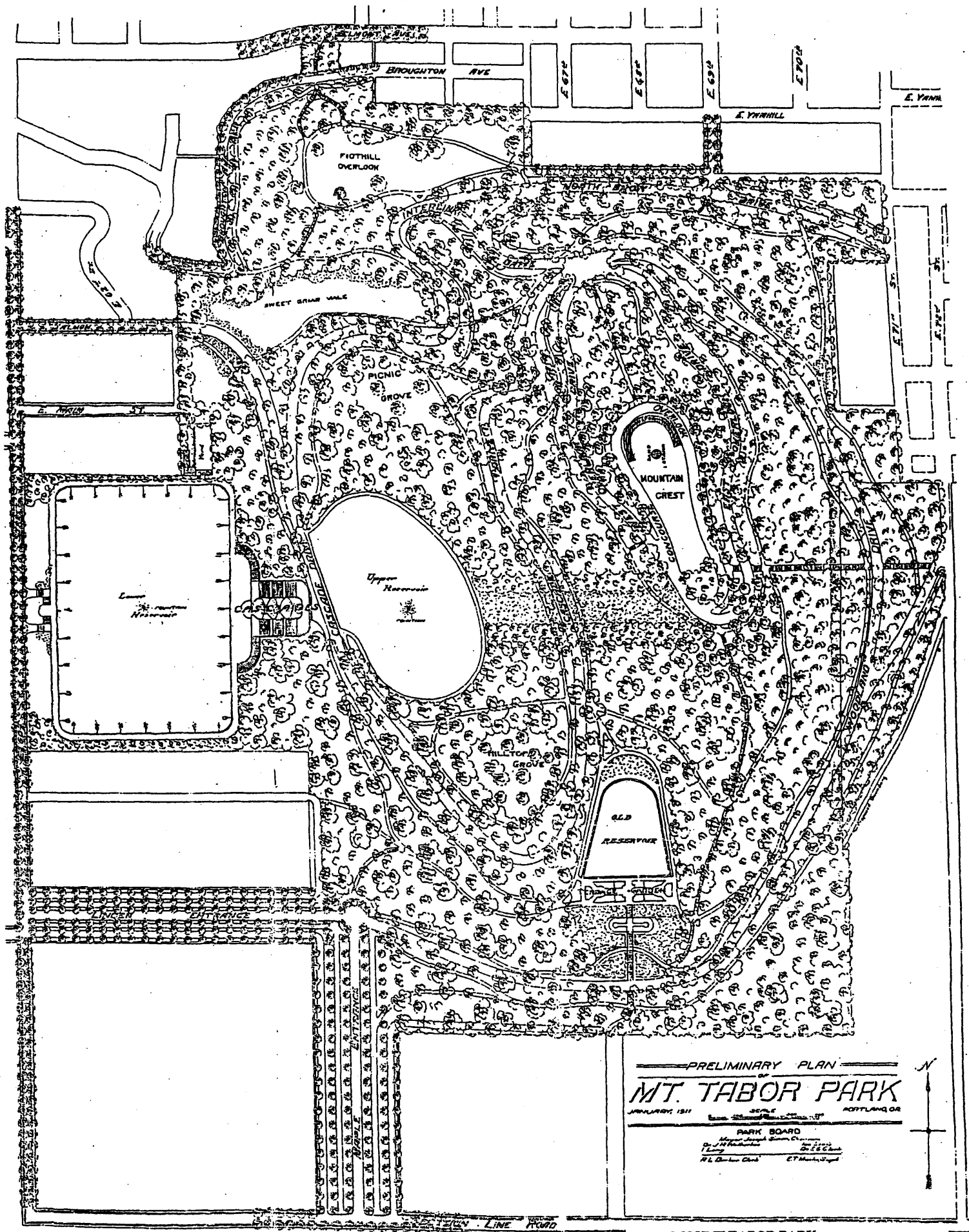
SECTION 5 T.1S. R.2E. W.M.
MULTNOMAH COUNTY
1" = 400'

SEE MAP PREPARED FOR
ASSESSMENT PURPOSES ONLY



9:/mult/1a2a/1a2a05.dgn Mar. 19, 2001 10:21:22

MOUNT TABOR PARK
CITY OF PORTLAND
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON



PRELIMINARY PLAN
 OF
MT. TABOR PARK
 JANUARY, 1911

PARK BOARD
 Mayor
 Aldermen
 City Engineer

MOUNT TABOR PARK
 CITY OF PORTLAND
 MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
 ORIGINAL PLAN BY MISCHÉ 1911

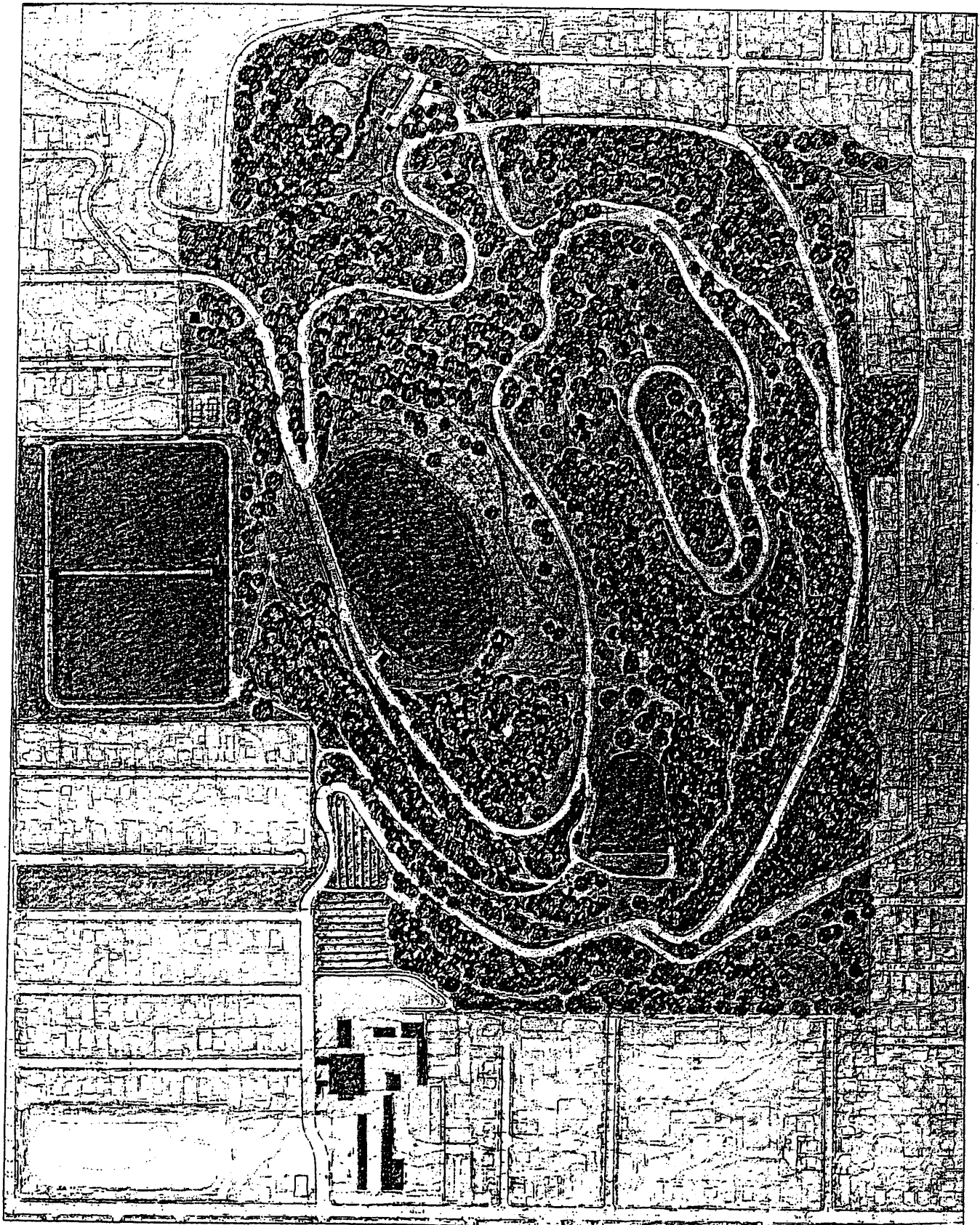
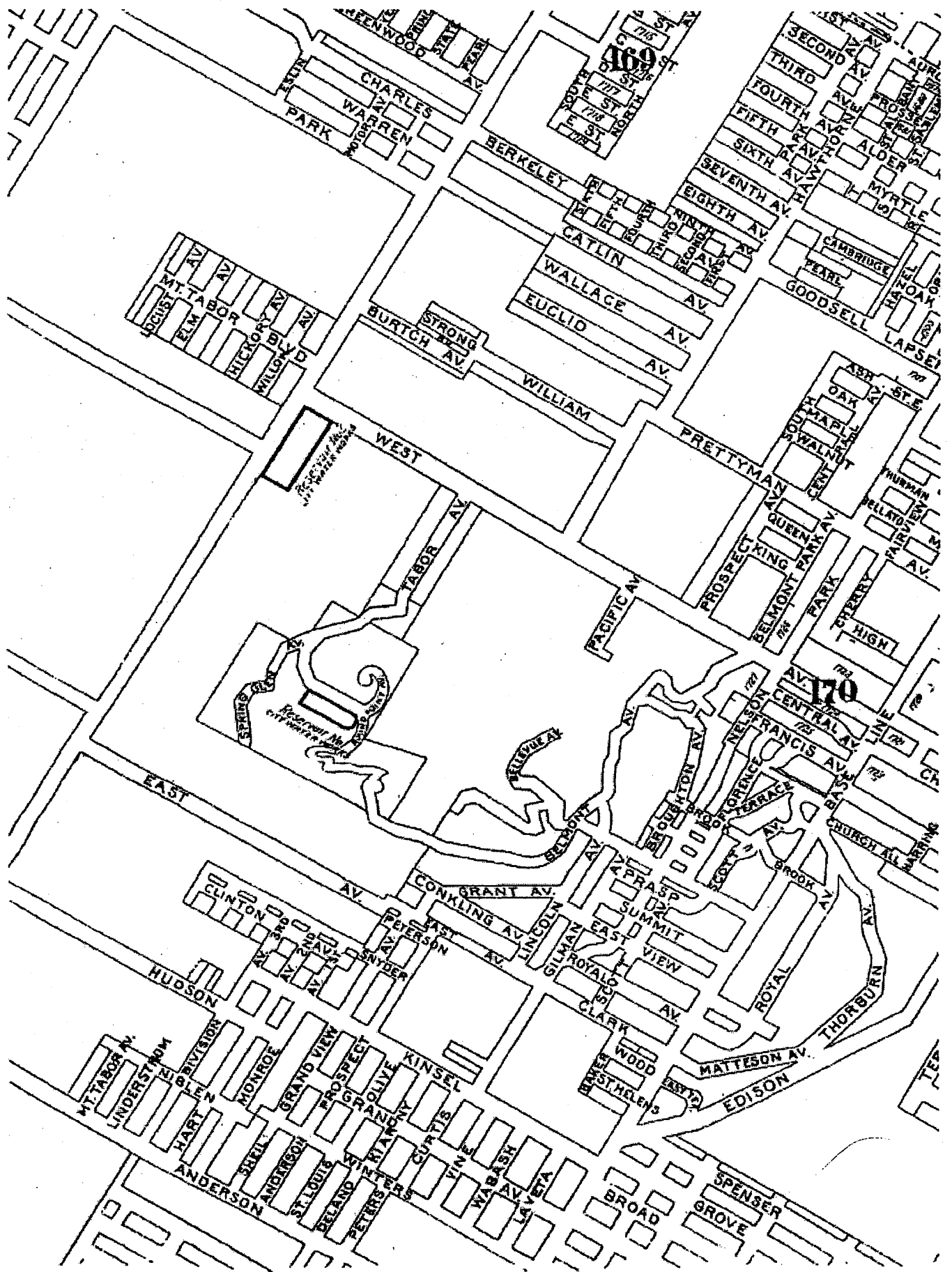
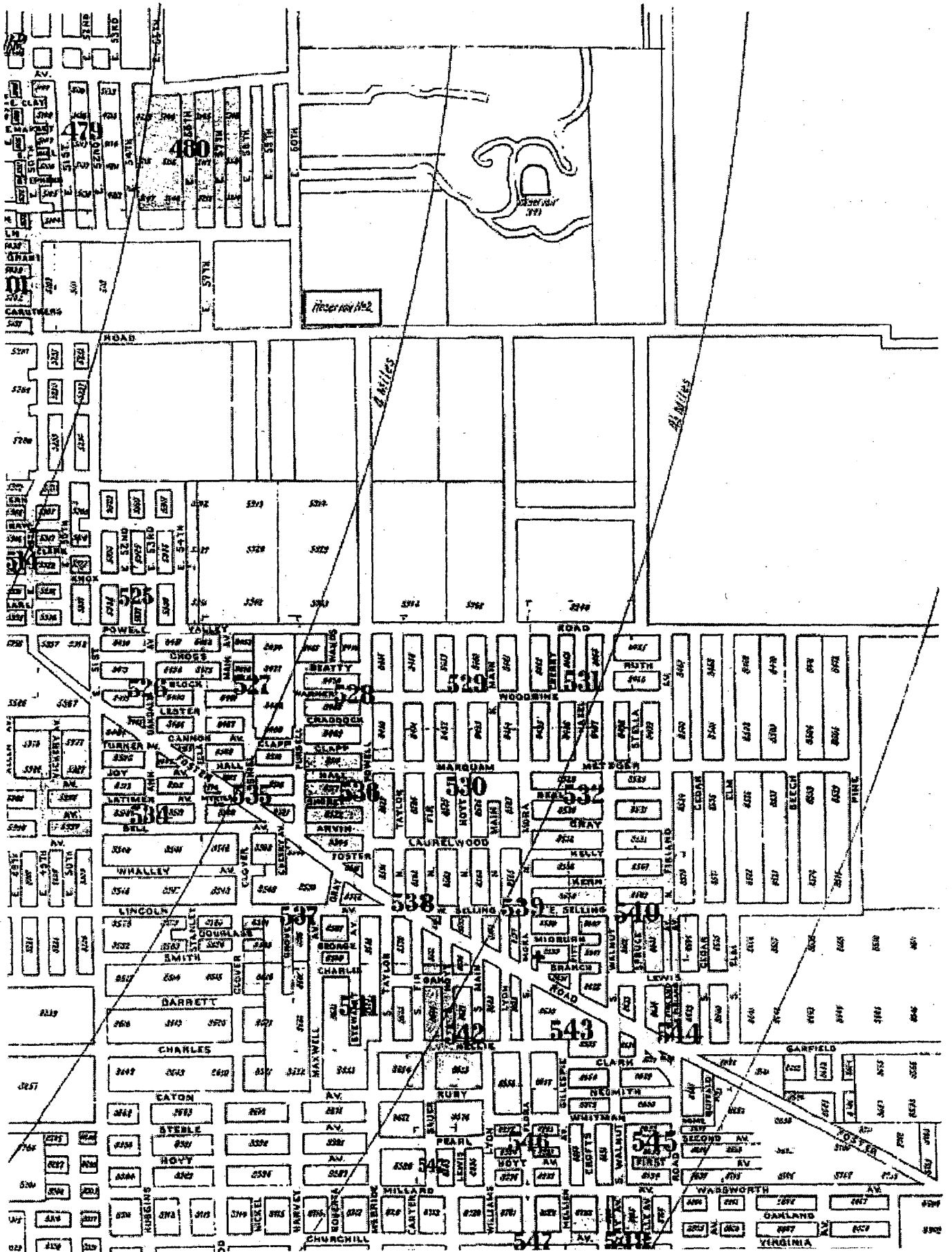


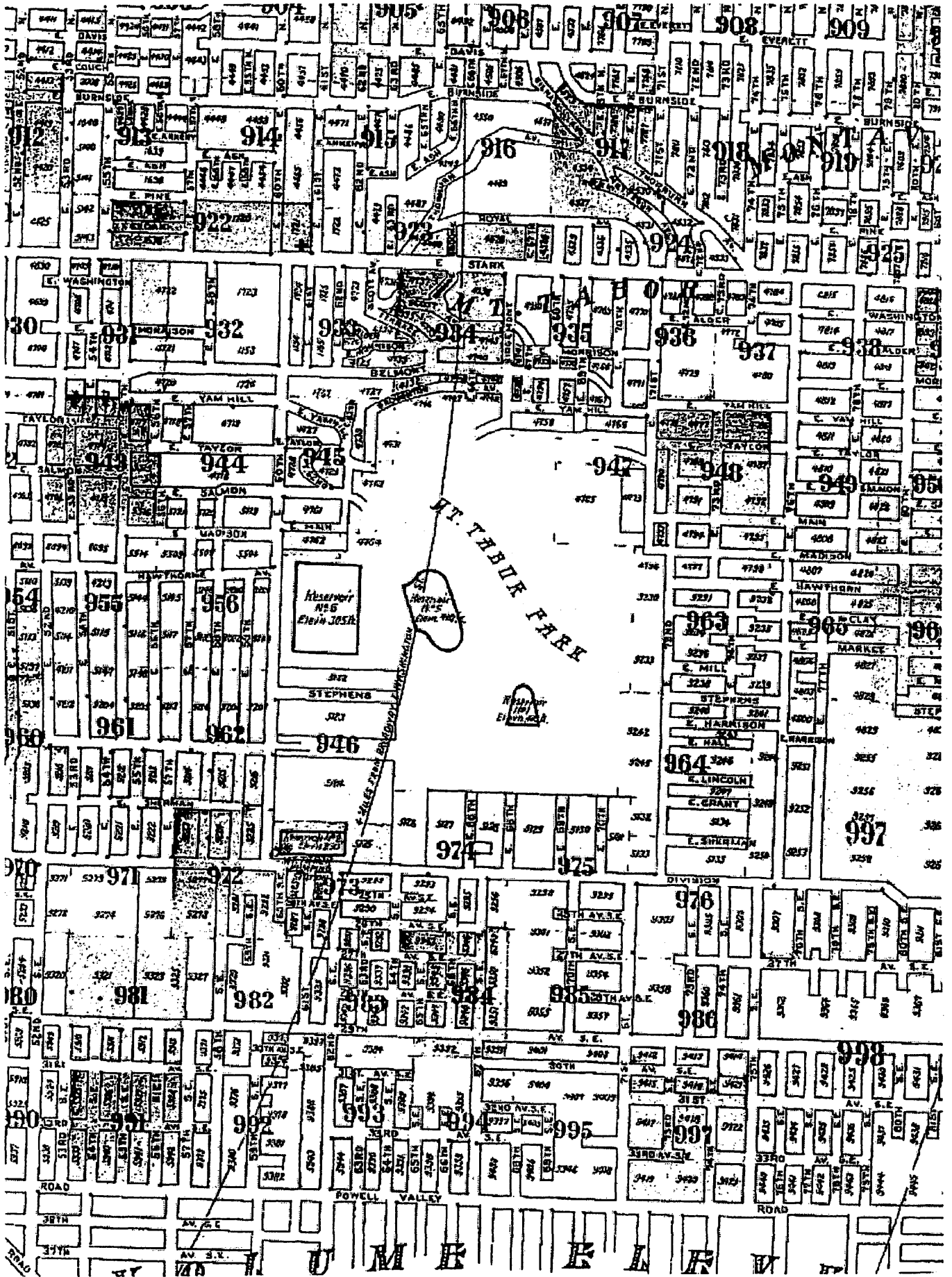
Figure 8 - Illustrative Master Plan

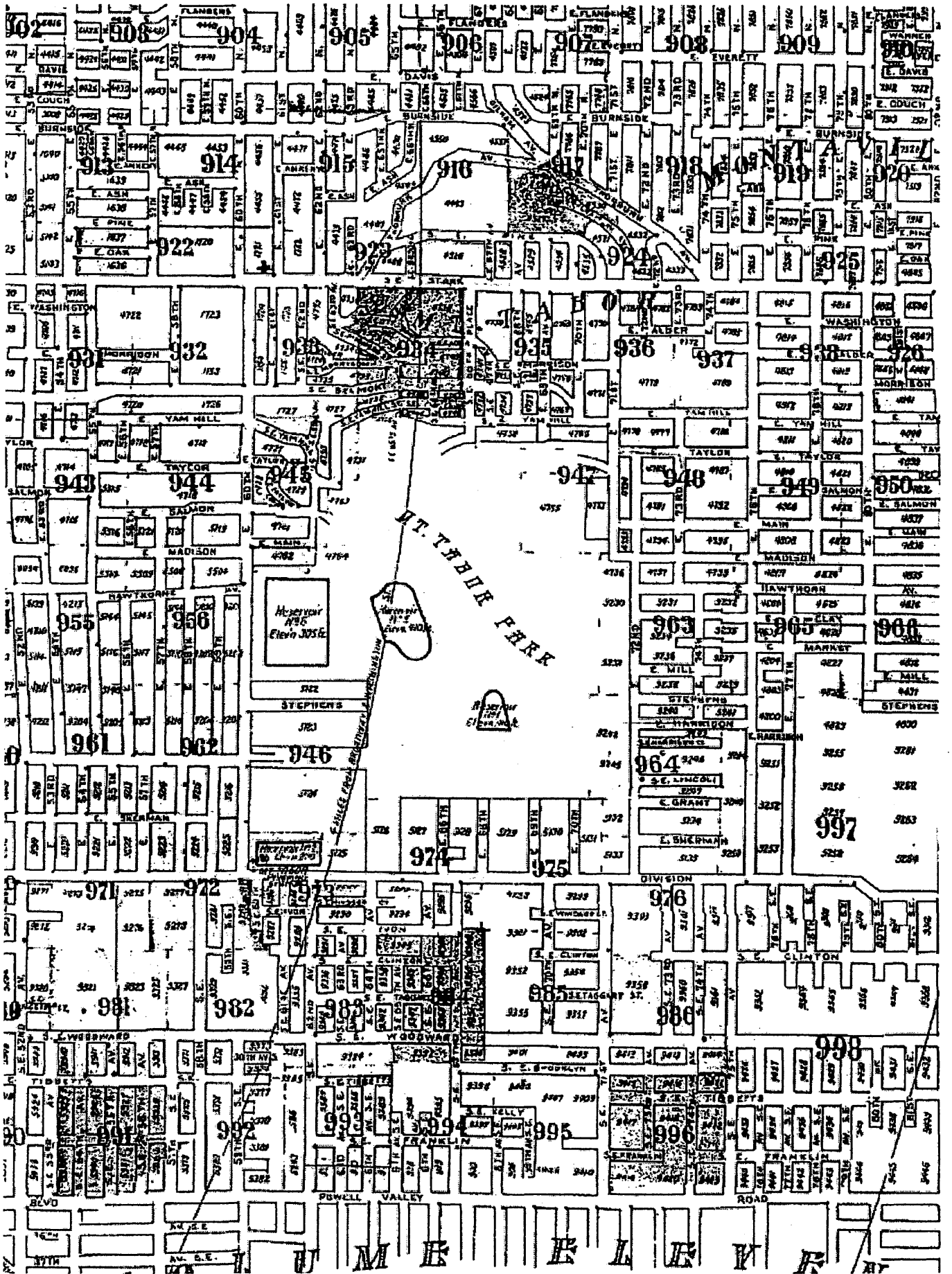


MOUNT TABOR PARK
CITY OF PORTLAND
MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
SANBORN MAP 1901



MOUNT TABOR PARK
 CITY OF PORTLAND
 MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
 SANBORN MAP 1909





MOUNT TABOR PARK
 CITY OF PORTLAND
 MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
 SANBORN MAP 1950

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Mount Tabor Park
Multnomah County, Oregon

Section _____ Page 1

Photo List for Mount Tabor Park

The following information applies to all photographs:

Resource: Mount Tabor Park
Location: Multnomah County, Oregon
Photo date: November, 2003
Negative location: 1934 SE 56th Portland, Oregon 97215

View: Mount Tabor Butte looking east from Washington Park
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 1

View: Mount Tabor Butte looking east from S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 2

View: S.E. Salmon Street Entrance looking east
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 3

View: Caretakers House looking southeast north and west elevations
Photographer: Kimberly Lakin
Photo Number: 4

View: Sweet Briar Vale path at S.E. Salmon St. looking east
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 5

View: S.E. Salmon St. drive with Sweet Briar Vale crossing looking northwest
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 6

View: Reservoir Loop Drive switchback north of Reservoir 5 looking north
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 7

View: Upper path around Reservoir 5 looking west
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 8

View: Looking southwest from Reservoir 5 viewpoint at Reservoir 6, hawthorn grove & sequoia tree
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 9

View: Top of Sweet Briar Vale path & steps to Picnic Hill
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 10

View: Picnic Grove Summit looking southwest toward Reservoir 5
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 11

View: Volcanic crater core & throat from amphitheater looking west
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 12

View: Crater Amphitheater & Stage looking north
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 13

View: Crater Amphitheater Stage rear entrance looking east (Maintenance Building & Office in background)
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 14

View: Crater Comfort Station looking north at south elevation
Photographer: Kimberly Lakin
Photo Number: 15

View: N.E. 69th Ave. Entrance stairs looking southwest
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 16

View: N.E. Entrance Comfort Station looking southwest east & north elevations
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 17

View: Summit Comfort Station looking west east elevation
Photographer: Kimberly Lakin
Photo Number: 18

View: Mountain Crest Summit north end big leaf maple grove looking northeast
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 19

View: Mountain Crest Summit south end east stairs to Harvey W. Scott statue
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 20

View: Harvey W. Scott statue looking west
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 21

View: East Tabor Drive viewpoint Mt. Hood, Boring Lava Buttes, east Portland looking east
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 22

View: East Tabor Drive basalt rock retaining wall looking northwest
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 23

View: S.E. Harrison St. Entrance Drive looking west
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 24

View: From north path above Reservoir 1 looking south
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 25

View: S.E. Harrison Drive switchback at Water Bureau Entrance looking southeast
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 26

View: Water Bureau Service Drive approach to Reservoir 6 southeast side looking northwest
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 27

View: Tennis Courts northeast side Reservoir 6 looking south
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 28

View: S.E. Lincoln St. Entrance at Nursery looking northeast
Photographer: Jeff Lee
Photo Number: 29

View: Mount Tabor Yard from Nursery looking south
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 30

View: Mount Tabor Yard looking northeast
Photographer: Kimberly Lakin
Photo Number: 31

View: Office (Horticultural Services Building) looking northeast south & west elevations
Photographer: Kimberly Lakin
Photo Number: 32

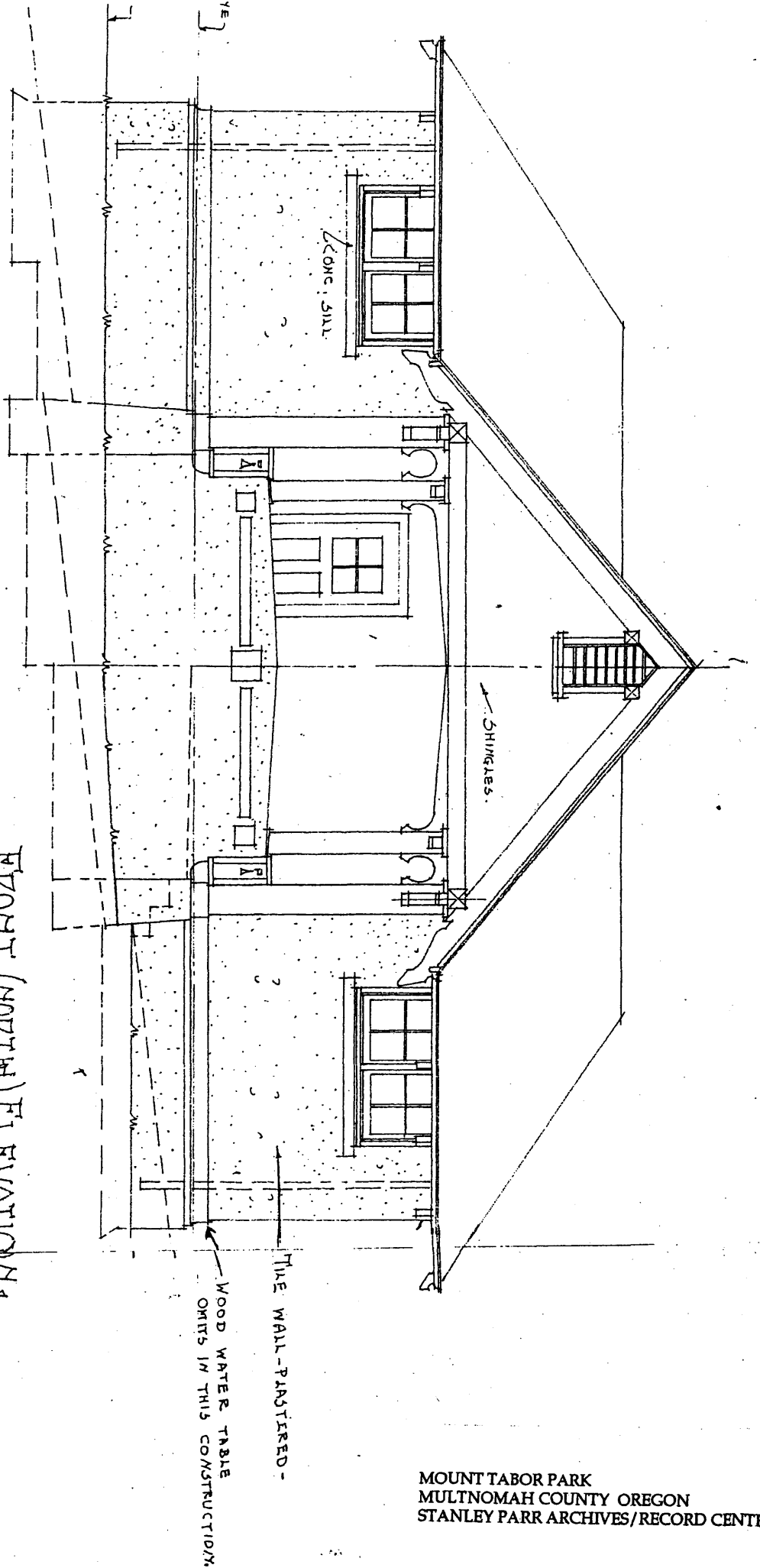
View: Administrative Building & Additions looking east west elevation
Photographer: Kimberly Lakin
Photo Number: 33

View: Mechanical Offices (Community Gardens) looking northeast south and west elevations
Photographer: Kimberly Lakin
Photo Number: 34

View: Nursery finger looking northeast
Photographer: Cascade Anderson Geller
Photo Number: 35

6/13/02 7200-05
 Parks Planning Maps / Drawings
 Mt Tabor Park

OTHER ELEVATIONS ARE TO HAVE
 CHANGED AS HERE SHOWN FOR
 FRONT ELEVATION -



DETAILS SHOWING
 ALTERNATE CONSTRUCTION

FRONT (NORTH) ELEVATION

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0"

JOB #	CITY OF PORTLAND - OREGON -
13	DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
SHEET #	Geo. L. BAKER - COMMISSIONER -
4	FOR
DATE	COMFORT STATION
3-11-16	NORTH-EAST MT. TABOR
	BUREAU OF PARKS & RECREATION
	J. O. COMWILL - CHIEF ARCHITECT

MAP KEY
Mount Tabor Park
Contributing Features

- Buildings:**
- 1) Office-Horticultural Services Building
 - 2) Administrative Building & Additions
 - 3) Mechanical Offices Building (Community Gardens Building)
 - 4) Caretaker House-Mount Tabor House
 - 5) Volcano Comfort Station
 - 6) Summit Comfort Station
 - 7) Northeast Entrance Comfort Station

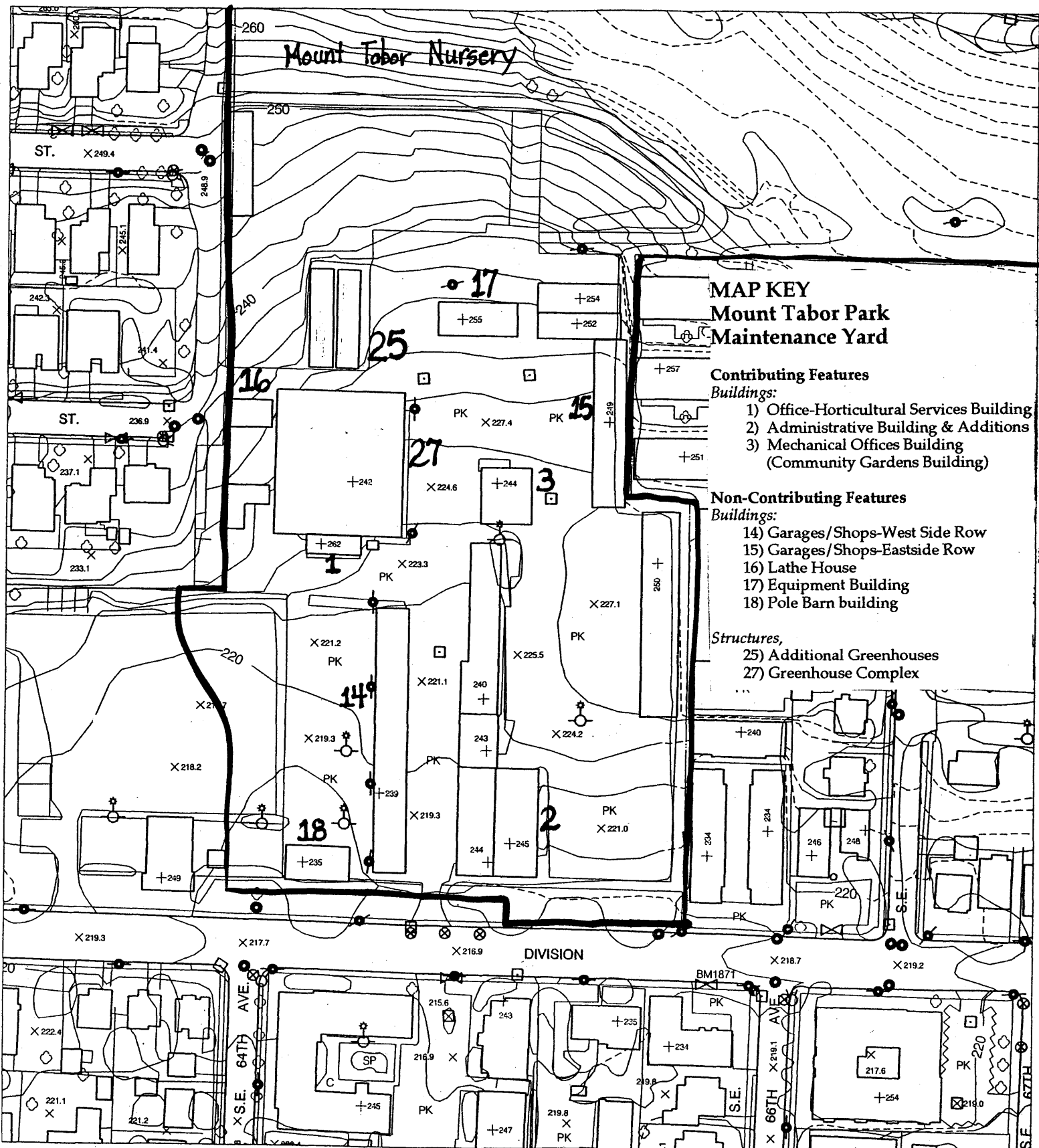
- Structures:**
- 8) Crater Amphitheater
 - 9) West Tennis Court
 - 10) East Tennis Court
 - 11) 69th Avenue Stairs
 - 12) Southside Stairs

- Object:**
- 13) Harvey W. Scott Statue & Terrace

- Non-Contributing Features**
- Buildings:**
- 14) Garages/Shops-West Side Row
 - 15) Garages/Shops-Eastside Row
 - 16) Lathe House
 - 17) Equipment Building
 - 18) Pole Barn building
 - 19) Duplex Screen House
 - 20) 50" Meter House
 - 21) 44" Meter House
 - 22) 56" Meter House
 - 23) Maintenance Building and Park Office

- Structures**
- 24) Summit Radio Tower
 - 25) Additional Greenhouses
 - 26) Picnic Shelter
 - 27) Greenhouse Complex
 - 28) Basketball Court
 - 29) Soap Box Derby Track





MAP KEY
Mount Tabor Park
Maintenance Yard

Contributing Features

Buildings:

- 1) Office-Horticultural Services Building
- 2) Administrative Building & Additions
- 3) Mechanical Offices Building
(Community Gardens Building)

Non-Contributing Features

Buildings:

- 14) Garages/Shops-West Side Row
- 15) Garages/Shops-Eastside Row
- 16) Lathe House
- 17) Equipment Building
- 18) Pole Barn building

Structures,

- 25) Additional Greenhouses
- 27) Greenhouse Complex



MOUNT TABOR PARK
 CITY OF PORTLAND
 MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON
 MAINTENANCE YARD
 INSET MAP
 2004

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: OREGON, Multnomah

DATE RECEIVED: 12/28/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/10/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001446

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

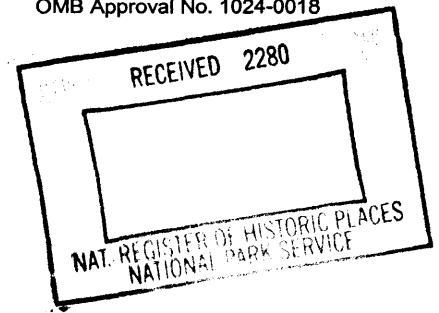
Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

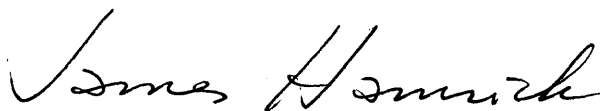
Section number 1 Page Amendment

Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
6325 S.E. Division Street
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

NRIS #03001446
List Date: January 15, 2004

Address Amendment

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to provide a new address for the Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District. The owner of the property, the city of Portland, supplied the correct address after the date of listing. The correct address for the nominated parcel is 6325 S.E. Division Street, Portland, Oregon, 97215.



Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

12/15/05
Date

Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 6 Page Amendment

Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
6325 S.E. Division Street
Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon

NRIS #03001446
List Date: January 15, 2004

Function Amendment

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to amend the Historic and Current Functions to add:
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING: waterworks.


James Hamrick
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

12/15/05
Date

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 instruction 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 classifications, 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 Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District

other names/site number Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs 1, 5, and 6

2. Location

street & number 6325 S.E. Division Street

not for publication

city or town Portland

vicinity

state Oregon code OR county Multnomah code 051 zip code 97215

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally.

Signature of certifying official/Title - Deputy SHPO

Date

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of

 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):

Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many 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	
7	2	buildings
4	1	sites
1		structures
12	3	objects
		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: public works
RECREATION: outdoor recreation
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING: waterworks

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: public works
RECREATION: outdoor recreation
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING: waterworks

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: ASPHALT
CONCRETE
roof: _____
Other: METAL: iron, EARTH

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

See continuation sheets.

Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
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.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development
Engineering
Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1894-1953

Significant Dates

1894, 1911, 1912, 1923, 1951

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

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Smith, Isaac, W.
Oliver, Charles
Schuyler, James D.
Clarke, D.D.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36CFR67) 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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Multnomah Co. Library

Mount Tabor Park Reservoirs Historic District
Name of Property

Multnomah, Oregon
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 40.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>10</u>	<u>531740</u>	<u>5039770</u>	3	<u>10</u>	<u>531198</u>	<u>5039460</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>10</u>	<u>531985</u>	<u>5039245</u>	4	<u>10</u>	<u>531197</u>	<u>5039760</u>
5	<u>10</u>	<u>531845</u>	<u>5039900 (discontiguous element)</u>				

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 Cascade Anderson Geller

organization Friends of the Reservoirs date February 2003

street & number 1934 S.E. 56th Avenue telephone 503-232-0473

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97215

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

name City of Portland

street & number 1221 S.W. Fourth Avenue telephone 503-823-4151

city or town Portland state Oregon zip code 97204

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.460 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, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.