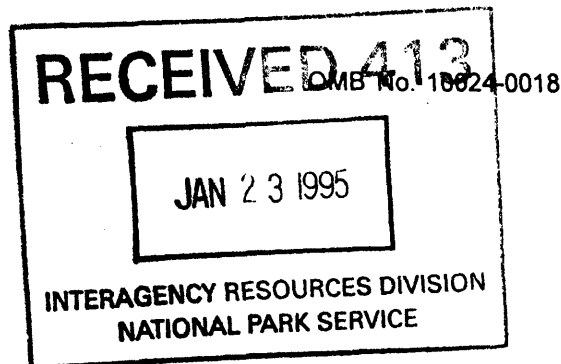


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination 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 classification, materials and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name SUMMIT LAKE PARK

other names/site number 5CC 645

### 2. Location

street & number MT. EVANS ROAD [N/A] not for publication

city or town IDAHO SPRINGS [ X ] vicinity

state COLORADO code CO county CLEAR CREEK code 019 zip code 80439

### 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.  
( See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ].)

James Edward Hartman  
Signature of certifying official/Title

January 17, 1995  
Date

State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Entered in the  
National Register  
Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper Date  
2/24/95

SUMMIT LAKE PARK

CLEAR CREEK/CO

Name of Property

County/State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [ ] private
[X] public-local
[ ] public-State
[ ] public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
[X] district
[ ] site
[ ] structure
[ ] object

Number of Resources within

(Do not count previously listed resources.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing.

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

Denver Mountain Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: Outdoor Recreation
Landscape: Park

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: Outdoor Recreation
Landscape: Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls stone
roof asphalt
other

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

County/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.)

[X] 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.

[X] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

[ ] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

[ ] previously listed in the National Register

[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register

[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark

[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Conservation

Community Planning & Development

Periods of Significance

1924 - 1944

Significant Dates

1924

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Benedict, Jules Jacques Benoit

Civilian Conservation Corps

Primary location of additional data:

[XX] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State Agency

[ ] Federal Agency

[XX] Local Government

[ ] University

[ ] Other:

Name of repository:

DENVER PARKS & RECREATION; DENVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

SUMMIT LAKE PARK  
Name of Property

CLEAR CREEK/CO  
County/State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 160

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A. Zone 13 Easting 444 500 Northing 4383 670

B. Zone 13 Easting 444 900 Northing 4383 670

C. Zone 13 Easting 444 780 Northing 4383 340

D. Zone 13 Easting 445 280 Northing 4383 340

[X] See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

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

#### Boundary Justification

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

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title MAUREEN VAN NORDEN

organization DENVER PARKS & RECREATION

date 2/25/94

street & number 2300 15TH STREET

telephone 964-2544

city or town DENVER state COLORADO zip code 80202-1139

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

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

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

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional Items

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

#### Property Owner

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

name DENVER PARKS & RECREATION

street & number 2300 15TH STREET

date 2/25/94

city or town DENVER

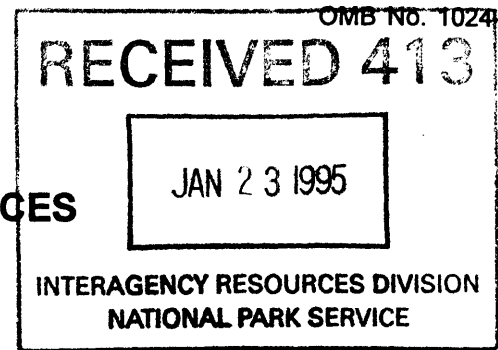
state COLORADO zip code 80202-1139

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**



Section number 7 Page 1

**SUMMIT LAKE PARK**  
Name of Property

**CLEAR CREEK/CO**  
County/state

**Narrative Description**

Summit Lake, the largest lake in the region and the highest mountain park in the Denver Mountain Park System, was acquired by the City and County of Denver in 1924. That same year the Mount Evans Drive, an integral part of a series of scenic routes, stretched from Bergen Park to Summit Lake Park. The construction of this scenic roadway was a remarkable feat and has been used as a model for the construction of other roadways throughout the country. Because safety was the foremost consideration, at no point is the road over a six percent grade. Above the timberline where the trees have disappeared, there is a magnificent and uninterrupted view of all the land features which lie below and beyond.

This high cirque lake area supports an extremely rare assemblage of Arctic-alpine plants occurring here at their only location outside the Arctic Circle. The area represents a high degree of scientific and educational value. Expert botanists from all over the world have visited the lake to study new and exciting alpine rarities. The list of famous arctic and alpine botanists who have visited the site has made Summit Lake one of the most popular places in America for these rarities. Unlike most alpine cirque lakes, it has an extensive inlet area consisting of gentle slopes with meandering streamlets, sedge hummocks, frost-punch ponds, boulder fields, and a large continual snowbank at the upper end. The aspect presented by the cirque wall and the summit area ensures that the lake receives little or no sunlight during the day resulting in slow and gradual snow melt and moister substrate throughout the year.

Along the beds of the streamlets, exposed gravel covered with various mosses supports one of three different disjuncts from the Arctic. The hummocks have vertical sides with a cover of mosses, hepatics and small vascular plants. The small ponds support dense floating stands of mosses. Scattered boulders support assorted lichens and bryophytes.

The south side of the lake is bounded by a steep slope at the base of which are massive barren granite boulders that form a stabilized talus extending beyond the water's edge. The north side of the lake is usually very dry, supporting a typically dry tundra. The site is relatively well insulated. The outlet of the lake is bisected by the highway. A portion of the outlet adjacent to the lake shore, noted for rarities, was once heavily disturbed from access, but is now saturated tundra with pools and hummocks and numerous typical wet-tundra species.

Alpine wildlife existing in this series of mountain phenomena include: ptarmigan, mountain sheep, elk, and rosy finches. There are also similar rarities in the butterflies and craneflies.

Summit Lake Park essentially is a scenic area served by a paved highway which crosses the outlet en route to the summit of Mt. Evans. The park includes a shelter house, picnic area, botanical area, fishing site and trail that goes to the overlook of the Chicago Basin. Two trails, the Chicago Basin Overlook Trail and the Timberline Trail were recently built by the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado. The small one story square building constructed of rubble masonry is often used for emergency situations. The interior features a single, large fireplace and a dirt floor. There are two small (2' x 3') windows on either side of single heavy door. The door has a counter-weight arrangement which allows it to be opened easily, but closed when unattended. The roof has recently been restored with asphalt shingles. The foundation is concrete.

Summit Lake Park, consisting of 160 acres is located 62 miles west of Denver, 15 miles up the Mt. Evans road. The lake is of 40 acres in size.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

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**SUMMIT LAKE PARK**  
**Name of Property**

**CLEAR CREEK/CO**  
**County/State**

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**CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES (2)**

Site (1): Summit Lake Park

Building (1): Shelter House

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Page 3

**SUMMIT LAKE PARK**  
Name of Property

**CLEAR CREEK/CO**  
County/State

### Narrative Statement of Significance

Summit Lake Park meets criterion A for its historic significance to Entertainment and Recreation, Community Planning and Development and Conservation and meets criterion C for Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The park meets the registration requirements for parks as instituted in the Denver Mountain Parks Multiple Property Submission.

Summit Lake Park, the largest lake of its altitude (12,800 feet) in the region and the highest mountain peak in the mountain park system, is located along the nation's highest paved road. In the fall of 1924 the Mount Evans Drive, an integral part of a series of scenic routes, stretched from Bergen Park to Summit Lake Park. The construction of this scenic roadway was a remarkable feat and has been used as a model for the construction of other roadways throughout the country. Because safety was the foremost consideration, at no point is the road over a six percent grade. Above the timberline where the trees have disappeared there is a magnificent and uninterrupted view of all the land features which lie below. The park provides an important recreational and rest area along the Mt. Evans road, currently a nationally designated scenic byway. It also provides easy access to the Mt. Evans wilderness and is the final major stop before reaching the summit of Mt. Evans. In addition to providing back-country trails, the vast expanse of spectacular views provides a unique feeling of breathtaking solitude.

The park is significant to Community Planning and Development as an extension of Denver Mountain Park's loop system. Reaching this site was the last major stepping-stone in the completion of the Mt. Evans Highway before the final ascent to the peak.

Like many other structures in the Denver Mountain Parks System, Summit Lake is important to architecture because it contains a shelter designed by J. J. B. Benedict. Constructed by the C. C. C., the structure is an example of the rustic style of architecture and the design philosophy emphasized by the National Park Service. This includes the use of native material in proper scale, the avoidance of undiluted hard lines and over-sophistication to ensure harmony and continuity between the natural and man-made elements. The location of the structure within the park and the use of native materials expresses an assimilation with nature.

Its significance within Landscape Architecture is as a major component within the Mountain Park System. Located within the alpine zone, it is renowned for its unique, tundra-like plants and lichens. Summit Lake Park is a designated National Natural Landmark, the only Denver Mountain Park with this distinction. The park provides users with an open and sensational experience in which distant views and spaciousness is abundant. The lake is the source of Bear Creek stream which Olmsted designated as a major component of his scenic drive loop system.

The park serves as an expansive outdoor laboratory for scientists to collect and compare data. Their research helps provide information to preserve and protect the natural systems of the area making it significant for Conversation. Visitors to the park are provided with extraordinary opportunities to view rare and sensitive plants and wildlife in their native habitat including relict Pleistocene vegetation. During early June and late July the plants present a splendid floral display.

The period of significance is arbitrarily ended at 1944 to meet the National Register's age criteria.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Page 4

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SUMMIT LAKE PARK  
Name of Property

CLEAR CREEK/CO  
County/State

### Newspapers and Magazines

Weber, William. The Alpine Flora of Summit Lake, Mount Evans, Colorado, No. 4, Volume 15, Boulder: Colorado

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, April 1918.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, July, 1918.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, August, 1918.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, October, 1918.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, September, 1919.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, October, 1920.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, August, 1921.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, March, 1925.

Denver, City and County of Denver Municipal Facts, March, 1926.

### Collections

Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Mountain Parks Map Collection.

Denver, City and County of: Parks and Recreation Department. Denver Mountain Parks Collection.

Denver Public Library, Western History Department. Scrapbook, Newspaper articles. 1919.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10 Page 5

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**SUMMIT LAKE PARK**  
**Name of Property**

**CLEAR CREEK/CO**  
**County/State**

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### U.T.M.'s

E. 13	445 280	4382 940
F. 13	444 120	4382 930
G. 13	444 120	4383 320
H. 13	444 500	4383 320

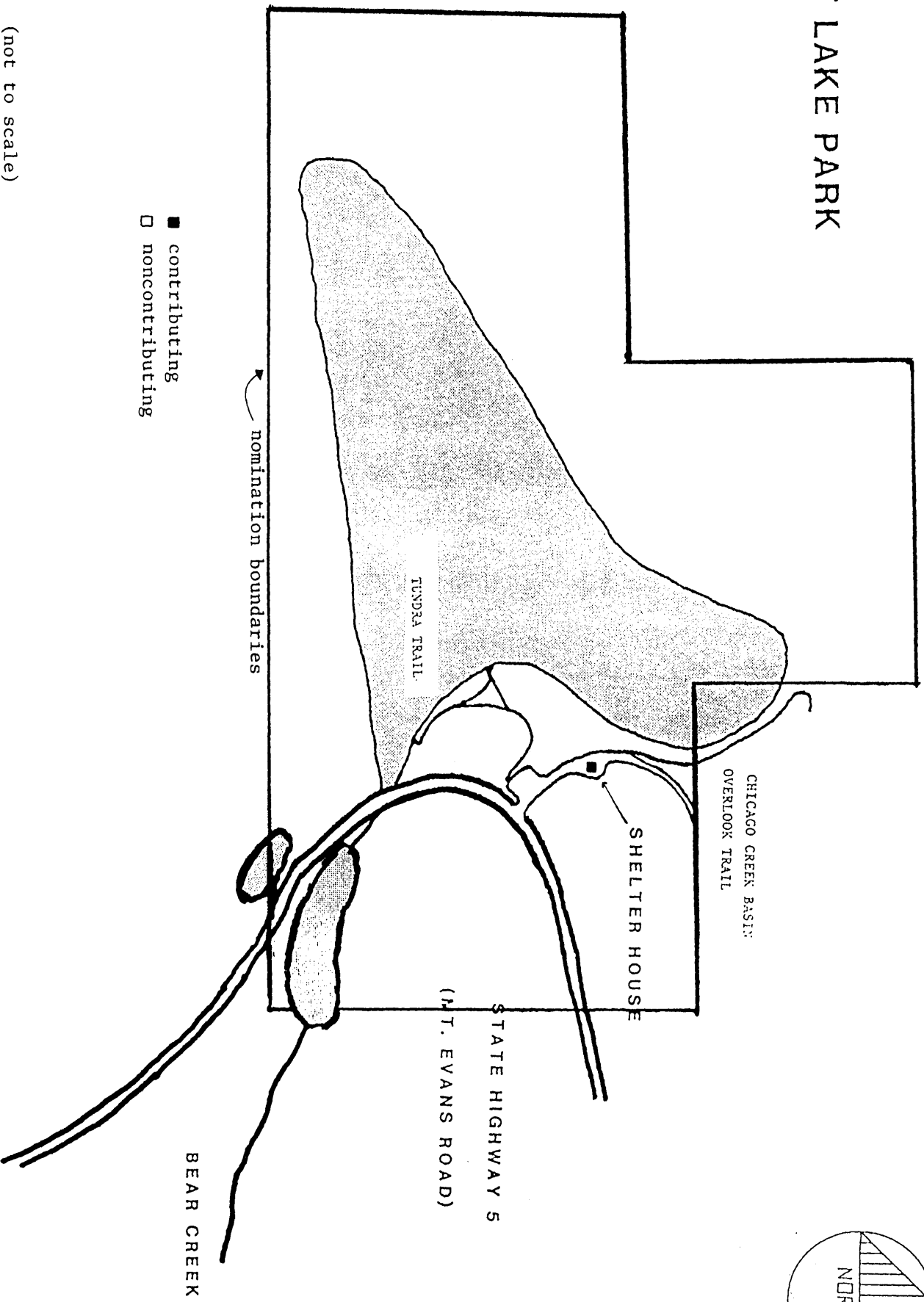
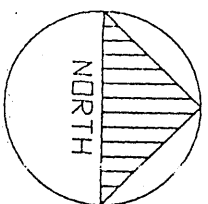
### Verbal Boundary Description

The NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 and the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4, and the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 23 (projected by the U.S. Forest Service), Township 5 South, Range 74 West of the 6th P.M. as marked on the USGS map.

### Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass all the lands owned by the City and County of Denver called Summit Lake Park.

# SUMMIT LAKE PARK



(not to scale)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number \_\_\_\_ Page 6

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**SUMMIT LAKE PARK**  
**Name of Property**

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**CLEAR CREEK/CO**  
**County/State**

### PHOTO LOG

The following information is the same for all photographs.

1. Name of Property: Summit Lake Park
2. Location: Clear Creek County, Colorado
3. Photographers: Maureen Van Norden
4. Date of Photographs: 1994
5. Location of Original Negatives: City and County of Denver, Parks & Recreation Dept.

#### Photo # Description

1. Entrance to Park looking W.
2. Shelter looking NW.
3. Shelter in the park looking W.
4. Shelter in the park looking W.
5. Park site looking NW.